



Parish Courts of Jamaica

The Chief Justice's Annual Statistics Report for 2018

Prepared by: The Court Statistics Unit with the support of the
IT Unit, Supreme Court of Jamaica
Kings Street, Kingston



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Chief Justice's Message

I have the pleasure of writing this message for the 2018 Annual Report on criminal cases on the Parish Courts. These courts have performed exceptionally well under very difficult circumstances. This is due to the leadership of the Senior Parish Court Judges with support from the other judges, support and ancillary staff. The work of the Police, Probation Officers, and other third parties has contributed to the significant improvement in performance. None of this would have been possible without the cooperation of the Attorneys-at-law and members of the public. I wish to commend every member of staff in the Parish Courts for the improvements which were only made possible by their tenacity.

The parishes that must be specifically mentioned are Westmoreland, St James, St Catherine, and the Corporate Area Criminal Court. These courts carry the heaviest caseloads of all criminal courts and they also receive the largest number of new criminal cases island wide. These four courts have been the best performing courts in the island since 2016.

The Portland Parish Court has improved considerably. Portland and Westmoreland were the only courts that achieved 100% trial date certainty for the entire year of 2018, that is to say, there was not a single adjournment of any case set down for trial. This is an absolutely remarkable development and shows what is possible with firm, effective and fair leadership. In the last quarter ending December 31, 2018, six courts - Westmoreland, Clarendon, Portland, St James, St Elizabeth and Trelawny - had a hearing date certainty of at least 100%. This was followed closely by St Ann at 98.50%. The overall hearing date certainty for the Parish Courts was 80%, an increase of 1 percentage point over 2017. To clear the backlog in six years

the hearing date certainty needs to be 98%, that is 18 percentage points above the 2018 figure.

The parish Courts of Manchester and Clarendon have shown significant improvement. Clearance rates have gone up by 40.72% and 40.33% respectively. Trelawny Parish Court improved its clearance rate by 32.40%. Nine Parish Courts – St Catherine, Westmoreland, St James, Manchester, Portland, Hanover, St Mary, Trelawny and St Thomas - had a clearance rate of at least 90% and of those, five -St Catherine, Westmoreland, St James, Manchester and Portland - were above 100%. The overall clearance rate for the Parish Courts was 94.31% that is an increase of 22.78 percentage points over 2017. To clear the backlog in six years the clearance rate needs to be 135%, that is, 135 cases disposed of for every 100 new case that enters the courts.

It is important to build on these promising statistics. This year will see greater investment and capacity building for Parish Court staff. They will receive training in case flow management, records management, working more effectively as individuals and in teams. We will continue to invest in the leadership core of the Parish Courts, namely the Senior Parish Court Judges, and Court Administrators. With these investments and continued cooperation of all stakeholders, 2019 will be not only be better than 2018, but 2019 will also bring us closer to our goal of being the best Judiciary in the Commonwealth Caribbean in three years and one of the best in the world, in six years.

Bryan Sykes OJ, CD

Chief Justice of Jamaica

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This statistical report on criminal matters in the Parish Courts of Jamaica is for the year ended December 31, 2018. It represents a continuation of the enhanced efforts to measure court productivity with a view to providing a concrete basis for placing the analyses of the judicial system into perspective and for informing the policymaking and operational planning apparatus of the leadership of the courts. This report interrogates a number of vital measures, which provide insights into the operations of the parish courts on both an individual and an aggregated basis. It forms an important basis for understanding criminal case activity and delay factors in the parish courts as well as important characteristics of criminal cases. The statistics reports also provide the foundation for monitoring critical performance metrics which have been set out by the Honourable Chief Justice, among which is the attainment of a court-wide average of a 95% trial date certainty rate over the next 3 - 6 years and a minimum court-wide clearance rate of 130%. The simultaneous attainment of these rates are necessary to eliminate the criminal case backlog in the court system within the next 3 – 6 year period.

The aggregate new case count in the parish courts in 2018 was 27,567 cases, down by 14.56% when compared to the 32,266 new cases recorded in 2017. Interestingly, all parish courts except the St. Elizabeth Parish Court experienced a decline in the number of new cases filed in 2018. The Corporate Area Parish Court- Criminal Division with 5,703 cases or 20.69% of the total, followed by the St. Catherine and St. James Parish Courts with 3,911 cases or 14.90% and 2,507 cases or 9.09% respectively, account for the three largest proportions of the new cases filed in 2018. Taken together, these three parish courts account for 44.68% of the new cases filed in 2018. These courts also ranked first to third in terms of share of aggregate new

cases filed in the previous year. The parish courts of Hanover, Trelawny and St. Thomas accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed each with under 4.0% of the total caseload in 2018.

The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in 2018 was 70.92%, which is an increase of 1.17 percentage points when compared to the previous year. As with 2017, the parish courts of Westmoreland, the Corporate Area Court - Criminal Division as well as the St. Catherine and St. James parish courts had the highest case disposal rates in 2018. The Westmoreland Parish Court disposed of new cases at the fastest rate in the year, with a disposal rate of 80.42%, followed by the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 77.94% and 77.63% respectively. The St. James Parish Court had a disposal rate of 76.11% in the year. These four parish courts are the only ones to exceed the 75% case disposal rate marker in 2018, placing them in line with some of the better performing courts worldwide and firmly on course to be virtually backlog free within six years, if this rate can be sustained. The parish courts of Clarendon, St. Ann and Trelawny had the lowest case disposal rates in 2018, all with rates under 63%. Although the current direction of the courts on this measurement is positive and promising there is still some way to go in getting the court system as a whole to achieve the a point of general equilibrium which will eliminate criminal case backlog. The probability of attaining such standards can be greatly strengthened by continuous improvements in case management across the courts through the optimization of resource alignments and by employing a more scientific approach to both the management of the case backlog and of the scheduling of cases for open court.

A measure, which is closely related to the case disposal rate, is the case clearance rate, which provides a measure of the number of cases disposed (regardless of date/year of initiation) for every new case filed in a particular period. This is a productivity index as many of the disposed cases, which are included in its computation, would have originated before the period of focus and is a more telling statistic on case activity than the case disposal rate. Topping this measurement for the first time since this type of reporting commenced is the Portland Parish Court with a case clearance rate of 107.36%, slightly ahead of the St. Catherine Parish Court with 106.78% and the Westmoreland Parish Court with 106.26%, both of which have consistently been in the highest quintile on this measure. Overall, nine parish courts satisfied the international standard for case clearance rates in 2018 by exceeding the 90% benchmark, five of which were above 100%. The parish courts of St. James and Manchester were the other two courts to end the year above a 100% clearance rate while the parish courts of St. Thomas, Hanover, St. Mary and Trelawny also exceeded the 90% mark. The Manchester Parish Court was the most improved court on this measure in 2018, with an increase of 40.72 percentage points, followed by the Clarendon Parish Court with a 40.33 percentage point improvement and the Trelawny Parish Court with a 32.40 percentage point advance.

The overall case clearance rate for the year was 94.31%, an increase of 22.78 percentage points when compared to 2017. This output suggests that for every 100 new criminal cases that were filed in the parish courts, roughly 94 were disposed (including cases originating prior to the quarter). An indicator of the magnitude of the improvement seen is that in 2018 only

two courts fell below a case clearance rate of 85%, namely the Clarendon Parish Court and the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division. In the medium to long run, there is a direct association between the case disposal and case clearance rates as poor case disposal rates will result from the persistence of poor case clearance rates. It is important to point out that a persistent case clearance rate of fewer than 100%, especially few than 90% will accelerate the case backlog and therefore the standard to be attained on an annual basis, is between 90% and 110%, based on International best practices.

One highly important measure, which is of keen interest to the leadership of the courts and the policy makers, is the case congestion rate. This is a measure of how well a court is doing in managing its pending caseload, relative to its rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The higher the case congestion rate of a court, the more burdensome the caseload, again within the context of the existing rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The rarely attained prescribed benchmark case congestion rate of 100%, which means that a court is operating optimally and that it is realizing its maximum attainable clearance rate potential, was met by the parish courts of Westmoreland and St. Catherine, which both achieved an approximate case congestion rate of 100% in 2018. It is the first time since the commencement of this type of reporting on the Jamaican court system that any court has accomplished this feat. These outcomes are however not surprising considering the high rates of performance on all statistical metrics for these two courts over the past three years. The parish courts of Portland and St. James with case congestion rates of roughly 108% rank next. The Clarendon Parish Court with a case congestion rate of roughly 267% and the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division with

164.84% were the most 'congested' courts in 2018. The overall weighted average case congestion rate for all parish courts in 2018 was roughly 132%, an indication that as a whole the criminal courts are carrying 32% more than their current resource capacities and rates of clearance would suggest.

Another essential measure, which is an important cornerstone in the drive to bring Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world in six years, is the trial date certainty rate. This provides a measurement of the likelihood that dates set for trial will proceed as scheduled (without being adjourned for future dates). The perfect rate of 100% would suggest that all dates set for trial proceed as scheduled in the relevant period. The overall average trial date certainty rate for criminal matters across the parish courts in 2018 was 80%, a 1-percentage point improvement when compared to 2017. The parish courts of Westmoreland and Portland each with a trial date certainty rate of 100% across all four quarters of 2018 and hence overall for the year leads on this measure, while the parish courts of St. Mary, Hanover and St. Thomas rank in the lowest quintile.

On the matter of caseload distribution in the individual parishes, the data shows that in many cases the outstation courts in the respective parishes are carrying a notable share of the caseload. The overall average number of new cases heard in the outstations in 2018 is 28.50%, while 71.50% were heard at the main parish court locations. The variance is however moderately high among the parish courts as while it is seen that in 10 of the parishes, the use of outstation courts is 25% or over, in parishes like St. James and the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, under 5% of new cases were heard in such courts. The evidence suggests that there is the potential in many parishes for outstations to be utilized to a greater degree

to ease the caseload carriage in the main courts, thus potentially enhancing case clearance and disposal rates by reducing the case congestion.

The largest proportion of cases disposed in 2018 was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 46.35% of the cases disposed. This was followed by cases dismissed, which was responsible for 22.71% of the cases disposed. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for roughly 5.10% of the matters disposed while mediated settlements (of various forms) accounted for roughly 7.76%. Taken together, the data therefore reveals a conviction rate of 51.45% for the 2018 calendar year. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over the past 24 -26 months are disposed, roughly 70% were resolved within 90 days, which is quite an encouraging result that is consistent with the generally improved clearance rates seen across the parish courts during the year.

In terms of the distribution of case types, the report highlights that the largest proportion of the criminal cases filed in the courts were Indictments with approximately 37.84% of all matters. This is followed by Summary Matters with a roughly 33.08% and Petty Session matters with approximately 16.91% of the total. It is of note that Committal Proceedings accounted for roughly 9% of all criminal matters filed in the parish courts during the year.

An important delay factor, which affects the efficiency with which cases move towards disposition, is the incidence of adjournments in the parish courts. The data suggests that

the dominant reasons for adjournments for the year were due to the issuance of warrants for defendants not appearing (DNA- warrant issued) with an estimated 19.95% of all adjournments and applications re-issued with roughly 11.66% of the total. Ranking next are adjournments due to mediation referrals with approximately 4.77% and subpoena of an investigating officer with an estimated 3.96% of the incidence of adjournments. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the courts are medical reports outstanding and incomplete files.

The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the parish courts in 2018 were assault occasioning bodily harm with 11.62%, unlawful wounding with 8.63% and armed with an offensive weapon with 6.09% of the total number of charges filed. The vast majority of offences were committed by males, accounting for roughly 81.22% of all charges filed in 2018. The dominant age group of offenders were the 27 – 36 and 20- 26 age groups, accounting for 29.81% and 26.65% respectively of the total number of offences filed in 2018.

The estimated backlog of criminal cases in the parish courts at the end of 2018 is 26,452 cases, which is close to the total number of new cases filed in said year. This represents a notable 11.30% reduction in the criminal case backlog in the parish courts, an improvement that is largely because of the significant improvements in the case clearance rate in 2018. A criminal case is considered to be in backlog if it has been in the court system for more than two years without disposal.

A weighted statistical assessment of all performance metrics decisively suggest that the parish courts of Westmoreland, Portland, St. Catherine and St. James are the top performing criminal courts across the Jamaican judiciary in 2018, in some cases standing out as potential case studies.

METHODOLOGY

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policy making and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been created in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court. At the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in all courts for the past two years. This system captures a wide range of data on the progression of criminal cases from initiation to disposition and is manned by at least one dedicated Data Entry Officer in each court. The Data Entry Officers update the system on a daily basis so that the data produced is as close as possible to real time. The electronic data sheets for each parish court are then validated and backed-up to the network at the end of each month and the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistics Unit of the Supreme Court. A robust data validation mechanism is in place to periodically sample criminal case files in all parish courts on a quarterly basis. A representative sample of case files are taken in each case and crosschecked against the electronic data to detect and eliminate errors of omission and commission.

A monthly statistical report is produced using the data submissions, culminating in Quarterly Reports and eventually the Annual Report of this nature. All Quarterly and Annual Parish Court reports are published on the website of the Supreme Court; however, interim data required by stakeholders may be requested through the Office of the Chief Justice.

Structure of report

The report is divided into two main sections. Chapter 1.0 explores case activity statistics by examining the caseload carried by each parish court in aggregate as well the associated disposal rates, clearance rates and case congestion rates as appropriate. This section also examines the distribution of the different types of cases filed in the respective courts as well as the most commonly occurring charges and the trial certainty ratios. The common reasons for adjournment and the distribution of the methods of case disposition are also examined in this section along with the overall conviction rate.

Chapter 2.0 examines case demographics including age and gender distribution of offenders as well as a sample estimate of the geographical distribution of charges based on the police station where matters are reported. This section also examines the distribution of new cases heard in the quarter by the respective outstations and courtrooms in each parish.

Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for 2018

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the 2018 calendar year. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as cases statuses in the various courts over the period and an assessment of trial credibility ratios, common methods of disposition and reasons for adjournment.

The first section of chapter 1.0 commences with an examination of the aggregate case activity in 2018, which is further subdivided into quarterly activity. In particular, the ensuing tables provide a breakdown of number of new cases filed and the proportion of those, which became inactive, disposed or remained active at the end of 2018 and the individual quarters respectively. These raw scores culminate in the computation of the disposal rate in each table.

Table 1.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the year ended December 31, 2018

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Westmoreland	2012	177	1441	394	80.42
Corporate Area Criminal	5703	1152	3293	1258	77.94
St. Catherine	3911	497	2539	875	77.63
St. James	2507	340	1568	599	76.11
Hanover	1027	0	739	288	71.96
St. Elizabeth	1358	165	795	398	70.69
Portland	1278	146	697	435	65.96
Manchester	2316	344	1149	823	64.46
St. Mary	1190	167	589	434	63.53
St. Thomas	1032	46	608	378	63.37
Trelawny	1058	37	620	401	62.10
Clarendon	1951	172	1003	776	60.23

St. Ann	2224	461	805	958	56.92
Total	27567	3704	15846	8017	
Average/Weighted Average	2121	285	1219	617	70.92
Standard deviation	1352	304	829	294	8
Skewness	1.837	2.135	1.758	0.932	0.204

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court in 2018. A total of 27,567 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts, while 19,550 cases were either disposed or became inactive, resulting in a weighted average disposal rate of 70.92%. In the previous year 32,266 cases were filed and 22,506 cases were either disposed or inactive which resulted in a weighted average disposal rate of 69.75%. When compared to 2017, the data represents a decrease of 4,699 or 14.56% in the number of new cases filed and a decrease of 2,956 or 13.13% in the number of cases, which were either disposed or inactive. Interestingly, all parish courts, except St. Elizabeth experienced a decline in the number of new cases filed in 2018 as compared to the previous year. Among the parish courts with the largest drop in new cases filed were the Clarendon, falling by 27.74%, St. James, which fell by 24.57%, and St. Catherine, which experienced a decline of 18.70%. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division also experienced a notable decline of roughly 14%. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division with 5,703 new cases or 20.69%, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 3,911 new cases or 14.19% and the St. James Parish Court with 2,507 or 9.09% of new cases filed accounts for the top three shares of cases filed in 2018, consistent with the trend in the previous year. It is of interest that these three parish courts together account for roughly 44% of the new criminal cases filed in 2018. On the contrary, the parish courts of Hanover with 1,027 or 3.73%, St. Thomas with 1,032 or 2.74% and the Trelawny Parish Court with 1,058 or 3.84% of the total accounts for the lowest share of new criminal cases filed in the parish courts in 2018.

The courts with the highest case disposal rates for 2018 were the Westmoreland Parish Court (80.42%), Corporate Area Court - Criminal Division with (77.94%), and the St. Catherine Parish Court with (77.63%). The bottom three courts on this measure were the Parish Courts of Trelawny (62.10%), Clarendon (60.23%) and St. Ann (56.92%). The Parish Courts of Westmoreland, the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division and the parish courts of St. Catherine and St. James have sustained their strong momentum in their disposal rates over 2017 and 2018, ranking as the top four performers on this measure over both years. All four courts exceeded 75% in over both years, satisfying the International standard on this measure; the only courts to do so. Based on international prescriptions, such disposal rates, if sustained long enough will eliminate pre-existing case backlog and create a sustainable path to a backlog free court. This is because intuitively, a high disposal rate correlates positively with a high case clearance rate and a reduced case congestion rate in the long run. In most cases, the foundation of strong performances on all of these measures in the long run is a consistently good trial date certainty rate, although the strength of this correlation may vary depending on the ratio of matters proceeding to trial before disposition to those which are disposed prior. The overall weighted average disposal rate of 70.92%, represents an increase of 1.17 percentage points when compared to 2017 and is indicative of a positive direction for the parish courts and if sustained will place the court system in a good position to make significant and sustainable inroads into its case backlog over the coming years.

The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed and the active pending caseload range from moderately positive to strongly positive which is an indication that the majority of the courts fell below the average count in each case. The skewness of the case disposal rates is however close to a symmetric distribution, which indicates that the average differences between the

individual disposal rates of the courts and the overall average rate are not significant. This is affirmed by the relatively low standard deviation for the distribution of the disposal rates.

The below tables provide a quarterly summary of criminal case activity across the parish courts. Some cross quarter totals may vary from the aggregate annual figures due to time period adjustments.

Table 1.0a : Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2018

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Manchester	639	114	374	151	76.37
St. Ann	579	154	277	355	74.44
Clarendon	560	43	319	198	64.64
Westmoreland	448	34	236	178	60.27
Corporate Area Criminal	1671	313	680	678	59.43
St. James	679	80	313	286	57.88
St. Catherine	1018	102	468	448	55.99
St. Thomas	304	1	140	163	46.38
Trelawny	328	4	136	188	42.68
St. Mary	288	40	82	166	42.36
Portland	286	20	97	169	40.91
Hanover	259	0	104	155	40.15
St. Elizabeth	399	29	128	242	39.35
Total	7458	934	3354	3377	-
Weighted Average	574	72	258	260	57.50
Standard deviation	393.69	86.72	175.49	154.19	12.97
Skewness	2.083	2.011	1.229	2.005	0.471

Note: The data in the above table relate entirely to cases filed in the first quarter of 2018.

A total of 7458 new criminal cases were filed in the first quarter of 2018, a decline of 17.45% when compared to the 9034 cases filed in the corresponding period in 2017. The Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, the St. Catherine and the St. James Parish Courts account for the highest share of cases filed in the first quarter of 2018, together accounting for 45.16% of the total number of new cases filed in the quarter. On the contrary, the St. Mary, Portland and Hanover account for the lowest share of new cases filed, together accounting for 11.17% of the total.

The weighted average case disposal rate for the quarter is 57.50%, the highest recorded across the four quarters in 2018. The top performing courts on this measure for the quarter were the Manchester (76.37%), St. Ann (74.44%) and Clarendon (64.64%) Parish Courts. The bottom three courts on this measure for the quarter were the Portland (40.91%), Hanover (40.15%) and St. Elizabeth (39.35%) parish courts. Of note, the three courts with the highest disposal rates in the first quarter of 2018 were the courts with the three lowest disposal rates in the corresponding 2017 period. The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed and the active pending case load are all moderately to highly positive, which is an indication that the majority of the courts fall below the average count in each case. The skewness of the case disposal rates is however close to a symmetric distribution, which indicates that the average differences between the individual disposal rates of the courts and the overall average rate are not significant. This is affirmed by the relatively low standard deviation for the distribution of the disposal rates.

Table 1.0b : Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at the second quarter ended June 30,2018

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Corporate Area Criminal	1591	387	977	227	85.73
Westmoreland	570	52	303	215	62.28
St. James	707	89	342	276	60.96
St. Catherine	1073	86	474	513	52.19
Trelawny	283	3	127	153	45.94
Clarendon	509	27	200	282	44.60
Hanover	218	0	97	121	44.50
Portland	388	34	131	223	42.53
St. Thomas	259	10	93	156	39.77
St. Elizabeth	362	25	118	220	39.50
Manchester	563	38	182	343	39.08
St. Mary	310	32	86	192	38.06
St. Ann	588	68	111	409	30.44
Total	7421	851	3241	3330	
Average/Weighted Average	571	65	249	256	55.14
Standard deviation	383.55	100.74	248.01	110.28	14.43
Skewness	1.849	3.116	2.435	1.188	1.621

Note: The data in the above table relate entirely to cases filed in the second quarter of 2018

A total of 7421 new criminal cases were filed in the second quarter of 2018, a decline of 11.93% when compared to the 8426 cases filed in the first quarter of 2017. As with the first quarter, the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, the Westmoreland and the St. James Parish Courts account for the highest share of cases filed in the second quarter of 2018, together accounting for 45.43% of the total number of new cases filed in the quarter. On the contrary, the Hanover, Trelawny and St. Mary Parish Courts account for the lowest share of new cases filed, together accounting for 10.92% of the total.

The weighted average case disposal rate for the second quarter of 2018 is 55.14%, a slight decline of 2.36 percentage points when compared to the first quarter. The courts with the highest case disposal rates for the second quarter of 2018 were the Corporate Area Court - Criminal Division with 85.73%, the Westmoreland Parish Court (62.28%) and the St. James Parish Court with 60.96%. The bottom three courts on this measure were the Parish Courts of Manchester (39.08%), St. Mary (38.06%) and St. Ann (30.44%). Of note is the fact that Manchester parish court (76.37%) and St. Ann parish court (74.44%) were among the top three performing courts in the previous quarter of 2018.

The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed, the active pending caseload and the case disposal rate are all moderately to highly positive, which is an indication that the majority of the courts fell below the average count on each measure. These inferences are supported by the moderately high standard deviations which indicate some amount of variability of the scores from the mean individual series means.

Table 1.0c : Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2018

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Corporate Area Criminal	1185	197	667	321	72.91
Hanover	335	0	213	122	63.58
St. Catherine	939	80	438	421	55.17
St. Ann	575	125	174	395	52.00
St. James	619	57	259	303	51.05
Westmoreland	511	34	224	251	50.49
St. Mary	288	32	78	178	38.19
Clarendon	415	35	120	260	37.35
Trelawny	248	0	92	156	37.10
St. Thomas	212	10	68	134	36.79
Manchester	588	40	171	377	35.88
St. Elizabeth	313	25	83	205	34.50
Portland	338	23	81	234	30.77
Total	6566	658	2668	3357	
Average	505	51	205	258	50.65
Standard deviation	285.24	55.56	172.81	99.84	12.8
Skewness	1.395	1.834	1.922	0.266	0.866

Note: The data in the above table relate entirely to cases filed in the third quarter of 2018

A total of 6,566 new criminal cases were filed in the third quarter of 2018, a decline of 17.82% when compared to the 7,968 cases filed in the corresponding period in 2017. As with the first two quarters, the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, the Westmoreland and the St. James Parish Courts account for the highest share of cases filed in the second quarter of 2018, together accounting for 41.78% of the total number of new cases filed in the quarter. On the contrary, the St. Thomas, Trelawny and St. Mary Parish Courts account for the lowest share of new cases filed, together accounting for 11.39% of the total.

The weighted average case disposal rate for the third quarter of 2018 is 50.65%, a moderate decline of 4.49 percentage points when compared to the previous quarter. The courts with the highest case disposal rates for the third quarter of 2018 were Corporate Area- Criminal division (72.91%), Hanover parish court (63.58%) and the St. Catherine parish court (55.17%). The bottom three courts on this measure were the Parish Courts of Manchester (35.88%), St. Elizabeth (34.50%) and Portland (30.77%).

The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed and the case disposition rate, are all moderately positive, which is an indication that the majority of the courts fall below the average count in each case. The skewness of the active pending case load is however close to a symmetric distribution, which indicates that the average differences between the individual active pending case load of the courts and the overall average case load in the quarter are not significant. This is affirmed by the relatively modest standard deviation for this variable.

Table 1.0d: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2018

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
St. Catherine	877	79	440	358	59.18
Westmoreland	481	26	257	198	58.84
Corporate Area Criminal	1256	166	546	544	56.69
Hanover	215	0	115	90	53.49
St. James	507	69	201	237	53.25
St. Thomas	251	1	131	119	52.59
Manchester	535	40	213	282	47.29
Clarendon	469	51	154	264	43.71
St. Mary	303	49	78	176	41.91
Portland	265	22	86	157	40.75
St. Elizabeth	284	9	106	169	40.49
Trelawny	204	7	69	128	37.25

St. Ann	482	67	84	331	31.33
Total	6129	586	2480	3053	
Average/Weighted Average	471	45	191	235	50.02
Standard deviation	299.66	45.21	147.5	123.86	8.9
Skewness	1.768	1.634	1.648	1.327	-0.232

Note: The data in the above table relate entirely to cases filed in the fourth quarter of 2018

A total of 6,129 new criminal cases were filed in the fourth quarter of 2018, a decline of 8.12% when compared to the 6,671 cases filed in the corresponding period in 2017. The Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, the St. Catherine and the Manchester Parish Courts account for the highest share of cases filed in the second quarter of 2018, together accounting for 43.53% of the total number of new cases filed in the quarter. On the contrary, the St. Thomas, Trelawny and Hanover Parish Courts account for the lowest share of new cases filed, together accounting for 10.93% of the total.

The weighted average case disposal rate for the quarter is 50.02%, a slight decline of 0.45 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2018. The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the fourth quarter of 2018 were St. Catherine (59.18%), Westmoreland (58.84%) and the Corporate Area- Criminal division (56.69%). The bottom three courts on this measure were the Parish Courts of St. Elizabeth (40.49%), Trelawny (37.25%) and St. Ann (31.33%).

The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed and the active pending case load are all moderately positive, which is an indication that the majority of the courts fall below the average count in each case. The skewness of the case disposal rate is however slightly negative but close to a symmetric distribution, which indicates that the average

differences between the individual disposal rates of the courts and the overall average rate are not significant. This is affirmed by the relatively low standard deviation for the distribution of the disposal rates.

The table below provides summary analysis of aggregate case activity in the parish courts between the latter half of 2016 and the end of 2018.

Table 2.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at December 30,2018

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of Disposed cases in 2018	Number of cases Inactive in 2018	Grand of inactive cases (2016-2018)	Grand of disposed cases (2016-2018)	Active Pending Case Load b/f as at Jan.01,2018	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
St. Catherine	3911	3481	695	1495	7372	262	106.78	99.93
Westmoreland	2012	1916	222	601	3530	113	106.26	99.39
Corporate Area Criminal	5703	3446	1202	2784	8144	413	81.50	131.58
Hanover	1027	961	3	14	1861	111	93.87	118.05
St. James	2507	2185	405	1372	6359	285	103.31	107.80
St. Thomas	1032	923	6	56	2143	128	90.02	124.87
Manchester	2316	1752	650	1244	2809	426	103.71	114.15
Clarendon	1951	1324	199	373	2383	2113	78.06	266.84
St. Mary	1190	947	153	460	1966	207	92.44	127.00
Portland	1278	1113	259	525	2053	202	107.36	107.87
St. Elizabeth	1358	1108	102	428	1841	79	89.10	118.76
Trelawny	1058	906	56	123	1710	190	90.93	129.73
St. Ann	2224	1687	298	1453	2857	1048	89.25	164.84
Total	27567	21749	4250	10928	45028	5577		
Average/Weighted Average	2121	1673	327	841	3464	429	94.31	131.6
Standard Deviation	1352.33	898.12	342.38	792.14	2269.11	565.68	9.8	44.05
Skewness	1.837	1.307	1.588	1.263	1.37	2.631	-0.116	2.774

Note: The figures are computed for the period since the use of the CISS system commenced in August 2016. Not all courts commenced at the same time so the exact time but the variances are small and not statistically significant.

NB. Active case b/f as at January 01, 2018 includes cases originating between August 2016 and December 2017, which remained active as at January 01, 2018.

NB: For the parish courts of St. Thomas, St. Ann and St. Mary adjustments were made to the inactive case count for methodological uniformity.

The table above is an extension of table 1.0. Among the data reported in this table is the case congestion rate across the parish courts. This provides a measure of manageability of a court's existing caseload. In particular, it provides an indication of the caseload burden relative to existing resources and the pace of case disposal. The Clarendon Parish Court has the largest case congestion rate for the year of 266.84% however this represents continued, steady progress at this court in reducing its pre-existing case backlog rate. The parish courts of St. Ann and Corporate Area-Criminal follow with the next highest case congestion rates of 164.84% and 131.58% respectively. High case congestion rates can be a product of resource deficiencies and slow case clearance and case disposal rates along with a rapidly rising number of new cases. Ceteris paribus, it is expected that higher disposal and clearance rates, supported by high hearing and trial date certainty rates will sustainably reduce the case congestion in a court. The parish courts of Westmoreland, and St. Catherine perform best on this measure as they consistently demonstrated some of the highest case disposal and clearance rates throughout 2018, supported by strong trial date certainty rates. Both courts had gross case congestion rates of roughly 100% in 2018, suggesting that their resources and rate of efficiency in processing and disposing of cases was optimal in catering to the criminal caseload throughout the year. The state of equilibrium attained by these courts on this measure meets the prescribed international standard, making them potential operating and judicial model courts. The two courts with the next best case congestion rates in 2018 were the Portland and St. James Parish Courts with rates of roughly 108% each. Caseload and resources does not appear to be a major factor explaining

the differences in performance here as some of the courts ranking on either ends of the scale are among the larger courts in the island and resource endowment do not vary in a statistically significant way among the courts. The overall case congestion rate in 2018 was 131.60%, indicating that as a whole, the criminal divisions in the parish courts are currently carrying a caseload of roughly 32% more than current resource capacity and rates of case clearance can optimally handle.

The results on the case clearance rates are also quite interesting, with the parish courts as a whole recording a weighted average case clearance rate of 94.31%, a notable improvement of 22.78 percentage points when compared to 2017, in so doing satisfying the international standard. This overall case clearance rate of 94.31% suggests that for every 100 new cases filed in 2018, roughly 94 were disposed. It is estimated that if this weighted average clearance rate is sustained in the criminal court system for the next 8-10 years; the occurrence of case backlog will largely be eliminated. The rate average rate required to accomplish a similar feat over a shorter time span of 3-6 years is estimated to be 130%.

Five of the thirteen parish courts exceeded the 100% mark for the annual criminal case clearance rate with the Parish Court of Portland (107.36%), St. Catherine (106.78%) and Westmoreland (106.26%) leading the list. The parish courts of St. James and Manchester were the other courts to exceed the 100% mark. Four other parish courts also met the international standard of 90% to 110%, namely the Hanover Parish Court (93.87%), the St. Mary Parish Court (90.93%), the St. Thomas Parish Court (90.02%) and the Trelawny Parish Court (90.93%). The parish courts of St. Ann and St. Elizabeth, both with clearance rates of approximately 89% fell short of satisfying the international benchmark. The parish courts, which made the greatest strides on this measure in

2018 when compared to the previous year, were the Clarendon, Manchester and Trelawny Parish Courts. The Manchester Parish Court improved by 40.72 percentage points, disposing roughly 41 more cases for every 100 new ones filed in 2018. The Clarendon Parish Court improved by 40.33 percentage points thus disposing roughly 40 more cases for every 100 new ones filed and the Trelawny Parish Court by 32.40 percentage points, disposing of approximately 32 more cases for every 100 new ones filed in 2018. These are quite significant increases, by any measure. An affirmation of the generally positive trajectory on this measure is that only two of the thirteen parish courts had clearance rates of under 85% in 2018, namely Clarendon with 78.06% and the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division with 81.50%.

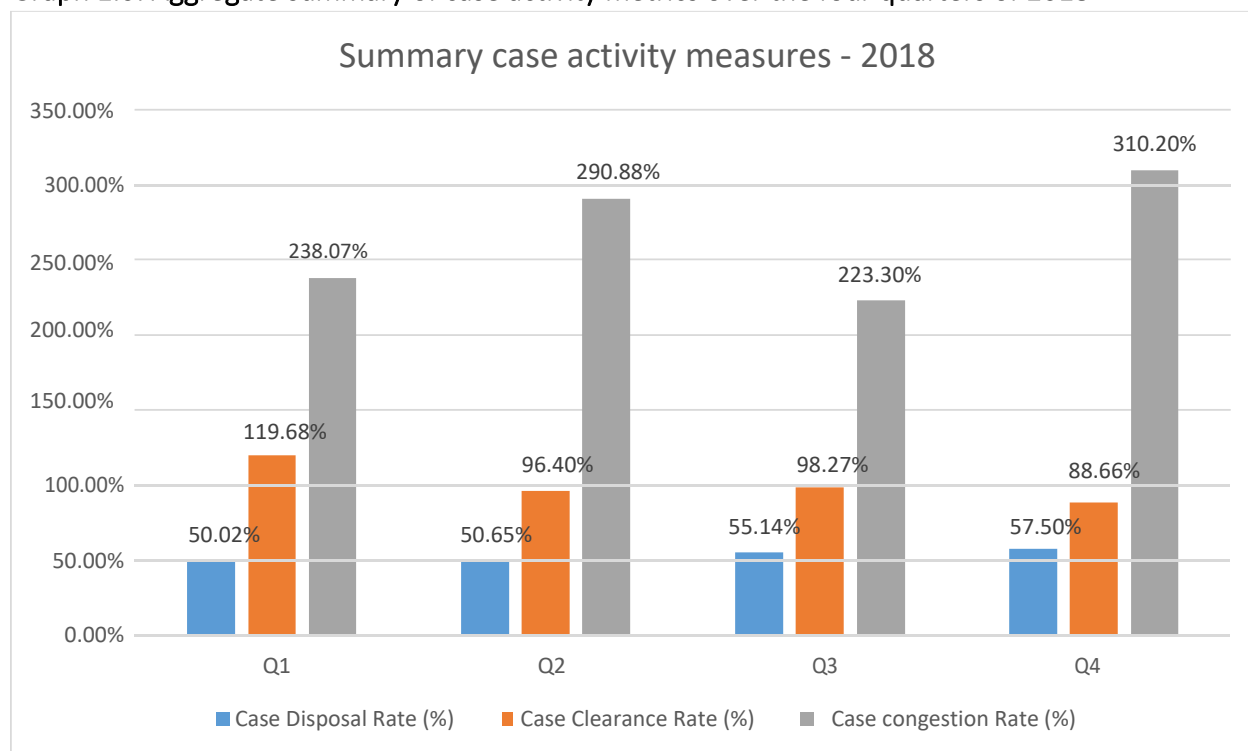
The below table details a summary of some of the main case activity metrics over the four quarters of 2018 for all parish courts, namely the case clearance rate, case disposal rates and the case congestion rates which were discussed above. This table is followed by a graph, which summarizes the aggregate metrics for all parish courts.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S ANNUAL STATISTICS REPORT FOR CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS - 2018

Aggregate case movement performance summary for each parish court for the year ended December 31, 2018

Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q4	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q4	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q4	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q3	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q2	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q1
Corporate Area Criminal	56.69	72.91	85.73	59.43	126.75	111.60	116.20	96.06	152.01	182.91	185.10	171.37
Westmoreland	58.84	50.49	62.28	60.27	116.84	106.65	105.96	108.26	132.21	132.84	133.77	137.11
St. James	53.25	51.05	60.96	57.88	130.18	94.03	102.40	96.61	204.24	253.09	195.44	185.06
St. Catherine	59.18	55.17	52.19	55.99	128.51	118.53	100.37	105.59	104.88	170.98	172.14	160.93
Trelawny	37.25	37.10	45.94	42.68	100.98	89.11	88.69	92.99	362.62	347.51	175.30	252.13
Clarendon	43.71	37.35	44.60	64.64	98.08	67.61	91.75	37.36	672.83	771.25	638.12	1371.43
Hanover	53.49	63.58	44.50	40.15	137.21	86.25	108.26	81.47	144.41	224.57	136.02	222.27
Portland	40.75	30.77	42.53	40.91	152.83	97.63	90.98	126.92	183.70	249.39	215.30	188.71
St. Thomas	52.59	36.79	39.77	46.83	112.75	88.21	108.88	101.97	231.45	316.04	206.03	200.32
St. Elizabeth	40.49	34.50	39.50	39.35	109.86	103.83	93.65	69.67	156.41	204.62	149.56	253.60
Manchester	47.29	35.88	39.08	76.37	124.11	113.44	104.80	69.40	226.81	259.37	247.46	324.28
St. Mary	41.91	38.19	38.06	42.36	94.06	100.69	97.10	93.40	238.25	251.03	159.80	230.86
St. Ann	31.33	52.00	30.44	74.44	123.65	75.68	68.48	72.92	285.07	417.86	288.81	334.52
Average/Weighted Average	50.02	50.65	55.14	57.50	119.68	96.4	98.27	88.66	238.07	290.88	223.3	310.2
Standard Deviation	8.90	12.80	14.43	12.95	16.6	14.94	12.09	22.61	147.99	163.12	132.15	324.24
Skewness	-0.23	0.87	1.62	0.467	0.20	-0.41	-1.08	-0.69	2.38	2.38	2.96	3.40

Graph 1.0: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics over the four quarters of 2018



The above graph summarizes the progression of It is shown in the above chart that the quarterly case disposal rate increased incrementally over the four quarters of 2018 while the clearance rate remained quite high over the period but experienced some fluctuation. Given the intuitive long run correlation between the case clearance and the case congestion rate, it is not surprising that the case congestion rate also showed some fluctuation over the period, reaching its lowest point when the case clearance rate was at its highest and its peak when the case clearance rate reached its lowest point.

Case Types Table 3.0a: Types of charges for each Parish Court for 2018

	Case Types									
Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Petty Sessions	Committal Proceedings	Tax	LRF	Miscellaneous	NS	Traffic	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	4264	3646	1452	775	0	0	0	64	67	10268
St. Catherine	2041	2752	1009	622	183	34	0	0	0	6641
St. James	1154	1698	706	253	0	0	178	0	0	3989
Manchester	1364	742	1229	243	152	99	0	0	0	3829
St. Ann	1394	854	751	329	100	0	0	0	4	3432
Westmoreland	940	1229	413	417	122	0	2	0	0	3123
Clarendon	1197	874	495	314	0	0	0	7	0	2887
St. Elizabeth	959	568	237	270	143	4	0	0	0	2181
Portland	938	519	302	141	0	0	0		0	1900
St. Mary	811	345	304	246	119	0	0	0	0	1825
Hanover	634	612	221	140	0	0	0	5	0	1612
St. Thomas	613	504	182	193	75	0	0	3	6	1576
Trelawny	630	465	267	93	0	48	0	0	0	1503
Total	16939	14808	7568	4036	894	185	180	79	77	44766
Percentage	37.84	33.08	16.91	9.02	2	0.41	0.4	0.18	0.17	100.00

*Total number of charges in the sample = 44,766. **LRF means Law Reform Fraudulent Transaction, ***NS means not stated

The above table provides a breakdown of the different types of new charges filed in each parish court for the 2018 calendar year. For the year, 44,766 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decline of approximately 9% when compared to the previous year. The majority of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (10,268), the St. Catherine Parish Court (6,641), the St. James Parish Court with (3,989) and the Manchester Parish Court with 3829 charges. The majority of the charges were Indictments (37.84%); followed by Summary

Matters (33.08%), Petty Sessions (16.91%) and Committal Proceedings with 9.02% of the total. The Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division accounted for the largest proportion of both Summary Matters and Indictments. This was followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Ann, Manchester and St. James. The largest proportion of Petty Sessions was filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division followed by the parish courts of Manchester and St. Catherine. The Corporate Area Parish Court- Criminal Division followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the Westmoreland Parish Court, accounted for the largest individual shares of Committal Proceedings. As for criminal matters, which are traffic related, the only incidence of these in the year was in the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division and the parish courts of St. Thomas and St. Ann.

Table 4.0: Most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for 2018

Charges	Count	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	5204	11.62
Unlawful wounding	3865	8.63
Armed with an offensive weapon	2726	6.09
Threat	2621	5.85
Malicious destruction of property	2056	4.59
Exposing goods for sale	1858	4.15
Possession of ganja	1290	2.88
Disorderly conduct	1220	2.72
Dealing in ganja	1047	2.34
Resisting arrest	782	1.75
Simple larceny	758	1.69
Sexual intercourse with a person under 16	614	1.37

***Total number of charges = 44,766

The above table shows the distribution of the twelve most commonly occurring types of charges across all parish courts for 2018 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 5204 or 11.62% of the total number of charges is the most frequently occurring. This was followed by unlawful wounding with 3865 or 8.63% and armed with an offensive weapon with

2726 or 6.09%. The top five is rounded off by threat with 2621 or 5.85% and malicious destruction of property with 2056 or 4.59% of the total count of charges filed in the parish courts during the year. These five most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 37% of the total incidence of charges in year. In the previous year, these same charges accounted for approximately 38% of the total number of incidence of charges.

Table 5.0: Average age of active charges for each parish court for 2018

Parish Court	Average Age of Active charges (days)
Clarendon	115.34
Westmoreland	123.38
St. Elizabeth	129.95
Hanover	138.47
Corporate Area Criminal	145.65
St. Mary	146.23
St. Catherine	146.83
Portland	150.11
Manchester	162.83
St. Thomas	164.40
St. James	164.59
Trelawny	166.14
St. Ann	172.41
Overall Average	148.17
Standard Deviation	17.77

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the 2018 calendar year, for charges originating in said year. The average age of active matters originating in the year was approximately 148 days (4.9 months) which is identical to that of the previous year. The parish courts of Clarendon, Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth and Hanover have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed for in the parish courts of St. Ann, Trelawny, St. James and Manchester. There is an intuitive correlation between clearance rates

and the average age of cases in the long run but it does not necessarily manifest empirically in the short-run. This means that in the end, courts with higher clearance rates will in general have a lower backlog and a lower average age of active cases. Courts, which manage to maintain a clearance rate of between 90% and 110% long enough will eventually eliminate case backlog, a feat that is quite conceivable with improved case progression management in the respective courts. In such cases, the average time taken to dispose of cases will experience a natural decline, tapering off at a modest, tolerable rate and improving the efficiency of the courts and the enhancing the timely delivery of justice. The standard deviation of the scores was low (18 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average relatively close to the overall mean.

Table 5.1: Average age of disposed charges for each parish court for 2018

Parish Court	Average Age of Disposed charges (days)
Westmoreland	36.48
St. Catherine	39.69
Corporate Area Criminal	41.39
Trelawny	41.60
St. James	42.06
Hanover	49.52
St. Thomas	51.48
St. Elizabeth	54.19
Manchester	55.85
Portland	58.27
St. Ann	61.65
Clarendon	81.47

St. Mary	90.54
Overall Average	54.16
Standard Deviation	16.23

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal charges filed in the parish courts in 2018 is 54 days or just under 2 months. In the previous year, the average time taken was approximately 87 days or just under 3 months, representing a 37.93% improvement. The standard deviation of roughly 16 days is an indication that there were generally moderate variations in the distribution of the scores, which ranged from a low of roughly 36 days in the Westmoreland Parish Court to a high of 91 days in the St. Mary Parish Court. It is of note that for cases originating in the year, along with the Westmoreland Parish Court, the average age of cases disposed was also under 50 days for the parish courts of St. Catherine, Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, Trelawny, St. James and Hanover.

Methods of Disposal and Criminal Conviction Rate

Table 6.0a: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposal for 2018

Method of Disposal	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Guilty Plea	11346	46.35
Dismissed	5559	22.71
Not guilty verdict	2331	9.52
Committed to Circuit	1294	5.29
Guilty Verdict	1248	5.10
Settlement mediated at Probation	1018	4.16
Matter Transferred	804	3.28
Mediated settlement	572	2.35
Other Mediated settlements	305	1.25
Total	24481	100

Total sample size = 24,481

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts combined for the 2018 calendar year. Using this distribution, it is seen that the majority of matters disposed of during the year were by way of guilty plea with 46.35% of the disposals, followed by dismissed with 22.71%. Not guilty verdict with 9.52%, matters committed to circuit with 5.29%, guilty verdict and matters transferred to other courts with 5.10% and 3.28% respectively account for the remaining methods of disposal in the year. Matters settled by various firms of mediation with a combined incidence of 7.76% provides some noteworthy information. The combined **51.45%** of the cases disposed by way of guilty outcomes represents the criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for 2018.

Common Reasons for Adjournment

Table 7.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment across all parish courts for 2018

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Count	Percentage
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	2810	19.95
Re-issue Application	1642	11.66
Referred to Mediation	672	4.77
Subpoena investigating officer	558	3.96
File to be completed	546	3.88
Subpoena crown witness	486	3.45
Medical report unavailable	484	3.44
For Disclosure	439	3.12

Total sample size =14,084

Note: DNA means that the accused did not appear

The above table shows that from a sample of 14,084 adjournments in the 2018 calendar year, the majority 19.95% were as a result of defendants not appearing (DNA). Matters adjourned due to re-issued applications with 11.66% and referrals to mediation with 4.77% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons. Subpoena of an investigating officer with 3.96% and files to be completed with 3.88% complete the top five reasons for adjournment for the year.

Table 7.1: Distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for continuance across all parish courts for 2018

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Count	Percentage
Sentencing	992	7.04
Bail application	130	0.92
Part heard	123	0.87

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 14,084)

The analysis of adjournments makes a distinction between those incidences, which may be considered avoidable due to either internal or external factors, and those, which are intrinsic to the progression of a case. The above table highlights the primary reasons for adjournment gleaned from the sample during the year 2018, which may be considered as simply intrinsic to the progression of some cases. These reasons are more strictly classified as reasons for 'continuance.' As seen in the above table, adjournments for sentencing and those for bail application and part heard featured prominently among such reasons during 2018.

Table 8.0: Breakdown of time to disposition as at December 31, 2018

Parishes	Time intervals in days					Frequency
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days and over	
Corporate Area Criminal	13146 (73.8%)	2306 (12.9%)	1087 (6.1%)	589 (3.3%)	694 (3.9%)	17822 (100%)
St. Catherine	9854 (72.9%)	1786 (13.2%)	867 (6.4%)	462 (3.4%)	544 (4.0%)	13513 (100%)
St. James	6138 (74.2%)	994 (12.0%)	404 (4.9%)	313 (3.8%)	418 (5.1%)	8267 (100%)
Manchester	3409 (56.5%)	1044 (17.2%)	665 (11.0%)	405 (6.7%)	510 (8.5%)	6033 (100%)
Westmoreland	4377 (75.1%)	754 (12.8%)	288 (4.9%)	190 (3.3%)	228 (3.9%)	5837 (100%)
St. Ann	2628 (56.5%)	754 (16.2%)	373 (8.0%)	311 (6.7%)	588 (12.6%)	4654 (100%)
Clarendon	3121 (84.5%)	240 (6.5%)	108 (2.9%)	72 (1.9%)	153 (3.9%)	3694 (100%)
St. Thomas	2066 (60.6%)	560 (16.4%)	311 (9.1%)	285 (8.4%)	186 (5.5%)	3408 (100%)
Portland	2111 (60.0%)	650 (18.5%)	293 (8.3%)	211 (6.0%)	255 (7.2%)	3520 (100%)
St. Mary	1974 (63.2%)	533 (17.1%)	248 (7.9%)	164 (5.3%)	203 (6.5%)	3122 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	1930 (62.1%)	549 (17.7%)	288 (9.3%)	153 (4.9%)	189 (5.5%)	3109 (100%)
Trelawny	1781 (68.1%)	354 (13.5%)	207 (7.9%)	131 (5.0%)	141 (5.4%)	2614 (100%)
Hanover	1862 (72.3%)	391 (15.2%)	146 (5.7%)	80 (3.1%)	97 (3.8%)	2576 (100%)
% of total	69.59	13.96	6.76	4.31	5.38	100.00
Average	4184	840	407	259	324	6013
Standard deviation	3540	593	291	155	200	4665
Skewness	1.86	1.66	1.47	0.81	0.72	1.84

Number of charges sampled (N) = 78,169

Note: The data in this table covers at least a consecutive 24 months period over September 2016 - December 31, 2018 for each parish court

The table above shows the breakdown of the interval times disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for at least 24 consecutive months over the period September 2016 to December 2018. The results decisively suggest that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 70% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. James and Westmoreland are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed in under 90 days. For the cases disposed over this sample period, the courts as a whole are performing quite creditably with the proportion of cases disposed falling incrementally as the time intervals get larger. Cumulatively, 95.69% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year and the remaining 4.31% took between a year and 29 months across the parish courts. From the data set, the parish courts of St. Ann, Manchester, Portland and St. Mary had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking between a year and 29 months however, the significantly larger proportion took under a year for these courts. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample range from weak to moderate which is an indication that for disposed cases, the times taken are not markedly different across the courts. The difference however is the proportion of cases disposed, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

Table 9.0: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at December 31, 2018

Parish Court	Time to disposition (in days)							Number of Disposed charges (sample size)
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	
Clarendon	47.15	0	0	111.32	3.11	0	756	3694
Westmoreland	69.05	0	22	110.15	2.33	0	710	5837
Corporate Area Criminal	69.71	0	7	114.97	0.02	0	680	17822
St. Catherine	69.97	0	0	120.44	2.39	0	796	13513
St. James	72.83	0	2	124.72	2.35	0	859	8267
Hanover	74.23	0	29	114.74	2.45	0	686	2576
Trelawny	89.67	0	30	137.29	2.21	0	790	2614
St. Elizabeth	99.1	0	49	128.89	1.75	0	713	3109
St. Mary	100.63	0	46	136.69	1.85	0	765	3122
St. Thomas	101.85	0	42	135.83	1.58	0	812	3408
Portland	107.51	0	57	142.26	1.73	0	795	3520
Manchester	119.67	0	63	152.06	1.62	0	860	6033
St. Ann	130.85	0	63	168.16	1.46	0	784	4654
Total/Average	88.63	0.00	31.54	130.58	1.91	0.00	769.69	78169
Std.	23.80	0.00	23.83	17.18	0.73	0.00	59.10	4665.45
Skewness	0.13		-0.12	0.79	-1.19		-0.06	1.85

Number of charges sampled (N) = 78,169

Note: The data in this table covers at least a consecutive 24 month period over September 2016 - December 30, 2018 for each Parish Court

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at December 31, 2018. For each parish court, the estimates cover at least 24 consecutive months spanning September 2016 to December 2018 and it should be noted that these

descriptive statistics are for matters disposed of over that sample period. The output reveals that overall average estimated time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) over the period is 88.63 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is 1.91, suggesting that there were comparatively more times to disposition among the parish courts, which were below the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Clarendon (47 days), Westmoreland (69 days), the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (70 days) and the St. Catherine Parish Court (70 days) take the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The significance of the high ranking of the Clarendon Parish Court on this list is however diminished by the fact that relative to the number of new incoming cases, this court ranks among those with the lowest disposal and clearance rates. Nevertheless, it is instructive that the potential is shown for a shorter than average time to disposition, which is consistent with the strides, the court has made over the past 12 months. The parish courts of St. Ann (131 days), Manchester (120 days) and Portland (108 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition over the period. The variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts are however wide as shown by the relatively high standard deviation (17.18), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. An important finding from these results is that in all parish courts the most frequently occurring time to disposition is 0 days (modal value), which is an indication that across the parish courts over the period sampled, a number of the cases disposed, were done on the first day of court appearance. This result is both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the high conviction rate resulting from the incidence of guilty pleas. This further suggests that mechanisms to encourage guilty pleas as seen with the 'Sentence Reduction Days' policy employed in the

Supreme Court can potentially have a positive effect on improved use of judicial time and more productive courtroom utilization rates. The maximum times to disposition in the sample over the series ranged from a low of 680 days (22.66 months) in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division Court to a high of 860 days (29.66 months) in the Manchester Parish Court. The skewness of the maximum time to disposition is approximately symmetric, an indication that the overall times to disposition were quite similar to the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was 78,169 charges, which is statistically significant and representative.

Methods of Disposal and Criminal Conviction Rate

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposal for the year ended December 31, 2018

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not guilty verdict	Committed to circuit court	Guilty verdict	Mediated settlement	Transferred	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	3441	1499	93	187	397	11	126	5754
St Catherine	2067	860	43	217	30	92	529	4377
Westmoreland	922	1056	222	110	46	-	11	2401
St. James	1225	59	375	69	14	269	8	2020
Manchester	871	590	2	47	12	13	16	1758
Clarendon	446	119	496	199	218	1	8	1487
St. Elizabeth	502	74	180	166	26	340	-	1290
Portland	352	124	337	79	3	7	-	1014
Hanover	267	75	304	28	258	21	5	979
St. Mary	317	328	6	51	9	96	8	944
St. Thomas	396	314	3	101	77	-	4	897
Trelawny	300	120	266	27	153	6	1	887
St. Ann	240	305	4	13	5	18	88	676
Total	11346	5523	2331	1294	1248	874	804	24481
Percentage of total	46.35	22.56	9.52	5.29	5.10	3.57	3.28	100.00

Total sample size = 24,481

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for 2018, using a sample size of 24,481 matters. From the sample, it is observed that the majority of matters disposed during the year were by way of guilty pleas with 46.35% of the disposals, followed by matters dismissed with 22.71% and not guilty verdicts with 9.52%. Matters committed to circuit court with 5.29%, guilty verdicts with 5.10%, mediated settlements with 3.57%, and matters transferred with 3.28% account for the remaining methods of disposal in the

table. The combined 51.45% of the cases disposed by way of guilty outcomes represents the estimated conviction rate for 2018.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the year ended December 31, 2018

	Male		Female		Total	
Charge	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	5388	78.58	1469	21.42	6857	100%
Unlawful wounding	4194	80.56	1012	19.44	5206	100%
Armed with an offensive weapon	3818	94.16	237	5.84	4055	100%
Threat	3124	77.14	926	22.86	4050	100%
Malicious destruction of property	2147	78.33	594	21.67	2741	100%
Possession of ganja	1507	81.95	332	18.05	1839	100%
Exposing goods for sale	1226	68.26	570	31.74	1796	100%
Dealing in ganja	1222	80.66	293	19.34	1515	100%
Illegal possession of a weapon/ammunition	1328	94.65	75	5.35	1403	100%
Assault at common law	999	89.28	120	10.72	1119	100%
Disorderly conduct	779	73.15	286	26.85	1065	100%
Simple larceny	756	81.91	167	18.09	923	100%
Indecent language	684	76.85	206	23.15	890	100%
Resisting arrest	709	84.20	133	15.80	842	100%
Sexual intercourse with a person under 16	756	98.31	13	1.69	769	100%
Wounding with intent	561	91.52	52	8.48	613	100%
TOTAL	44,146	81.67	9909	18.33%	54055	100%

***The gender of offenders was not available for every matter that was filed in the parish courts N = 54,055

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the year 2018. Based on the data shown in chart 2.0, it is not surprising that males account for the dominant proportion of all these charges. Among the offences listed with the greatest imbalance in the gender distribution sexual intercourse with a person under 16, illegal possession of weapon/ammunition, armed with an offensive weapon, wounding with intent and assault at common law for which roughly 98% and 95% respectively of the offenders were male. Exposing good for sale, disorderly conduct and indecent language saw the highest incidence of female involvement among the offences, which appeared most frequently.

Table 12.0: Trial date certainty rate for the Parish Courts for fourth quarter ended December 31, 2018

Parish Court	Trial dates set	Trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio %
Westmoreland	50	0	100%
Clarendon	47	0	100%
Portland	23	0	100%
St. James	40	0	100%
St. Elizabeth	36	0	100%
Trelawny	4	0	100%
St. Ann	30	1	98.50%
St. Catherine	223	27	88%
Corporate Area Criminal	203	30	85%
Manchester	105	24	77%
St. Mary	27	8	70%
St. Thomas	9	4	56%
Hanover	14	13	7%
Total/Average	811	107	83%

The trial date certainty provides a measure of the extent to which trial dates, which are set, are adhered. A result of 1 or 100% indicates that all trial dates which are set are completely adhered to and thus the closer the result is to 1, the better it is. There were 811 trial dates set in the fourth

quarter of 2018, 704 of which proceeded without adjournment. The parish courts with the highest trial certainty rates were Westmoreland (100%), Clarendon (100%), Portland (100%), St. James (100%) and Trelawny (100%). Conversely, the parish courts with the lowest trial certainty rates in the quarter were Hanover (7%), St. Thomas (56%) and St. Mary (70%). Though statistically insightful, the variations in the proportion of matters proceeding to trial across the courts sometimes creates a non-linear association between trial date certainty and clearance rates, making it may not always be totally reliable to predicate the full disposal and clearance rates on trial date certainty rates. It is however intuitive and transitive that in the long run, a consistently high trial date certainty rate will correlate with high clearance and disposal rates as well as a manageable case congestion rates. These are the essential pillars of efficient court performance.

Table 12.1: Comparison of the trial certainty ratio for the four quarters of 2018.

Parish Court	Trial certainty ratio (%) Quarter 4	Trial certainty ratio (%) Quarter 3	Trial certainty ratio (%) Quarter 2	Trial certainty ratio (%) Quarter 1
Westmoreland	100%	100%	100%	100%
Clarendon	100%	73%	100%	100%
St. Ann	98.50%	92%	100%	98%
Portland	100%	100%	100%	100%
St. James	100%	100%	94%	98%
Manchester	77%	91%	84%	72%
St. Elizabeth	100%	68%	84%	50%
St. Catherine	88%	89%	81%	74%
Trelawny	100%	100%	80%	100%
St. Mary	70%	61%	75%	63%
St. Thomas	56%	58%	63%	75%
Corporate Area Criminal	85%	64%	53%	80%
Hanover	7%	60%	32%	18%
Total/Average	83%	81%	77%	79%

**Q4 represents quarter four i.e. October – December 2018*

**Q3 represents quarter three i.e. July-September 2018*

**Q2 represents quarter two i.e. April-June 2018*

**Q1 represents quarter one i.e. January- March 2018*

There was an overall increase in trial date certainty for the parish courts over the four quarters of 2018, starting with an average of 79% in the first quarter and ending at 83%, with a slight dip experienced in the second quarter. The Parish Courts of Westmoreland and Portland with a 100% trial certainty ratio in all four quarters were the best performing courts on this metric in 2018. The parish courts of Trelawny and Clarendon with trial date certainty rates of 100% in three of the four quarters of 2018 and the parish courts of St. Ann and Trelawny with average rates of over 90% are also standouts. It has been estimated that the clearance rate which is required to anchor the required case clearance and case disposal rates over the coming six years is roughly 95%, 15 percentage points

above the average of 80% attained in 2018. The St. Elizabeth Parish Court was the most improved court on this measure throughout 2018 while the St. Mary, Hanover and St. Thomas Parish Courts the lowest averages in this regard. The 80% overall trial date certainty rate was an improvement of only 1 percentage point when compared to 2017.

Chapter 2.0: Criminal Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2018

This chapter provides a detailed account of gender and age distribution of offenders across the parish courts in 2018 as well as the distribution of new cases filed based on the police stations of origin as well as the relative caseload carried by the courtrooms and outstations in each parish throughout 2018, based on open court hearings. The chapter commences with an examination of courtroom and outstation activity in each court followed by age and gender distribution and finally the distribution of new cases filed, by police station.

Table 13.1: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of St. Catherine for the 2018 calendar year

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2018	Number of cases disposed of in 2018	Number of inactive cases in 2018	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	1608	1112	178	41.11	80.22
Linstead Outstation courtroom #1	906	714	62	23.17	85.65
Old Harbour Outstation	217	157	17	5.55	80.18
Petty Session (main court)	260	50	150	6.65	76.92
Courtroom#2 (main court)	224	134	30	5.73	73.21
Portmore Outstation	8	0	2	0.20	25.00
Courtroom#4 (main court)	149	87	10	3.81	65.10
Portmore Outstation (Night court)	77	64	12	1.97	98.70
Linstead Outstation (Petty Session)	67	24	24	1.71	71.64
Courtroom#3 (main court)	48	41	3	1.23	91.67
Old Harbour Outstation (Petty session)	39	12	17	1.00	74.36
Courtroom#5 (main court)	101	39	5	2.58	43.56
Children Court	149	83	10	3.81	62.42
Linstead outstation #2 Courtroom #2	58	25	5	1.48	51.72
Total/Average	3911	2542	525	100	78.42

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the 2018 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish, and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Petty Session and Night Court matters for the relevant locations for ease of comparisons. The data shows decisively that matters entered in the Old Harbour outstation and Courtroom number 1 at the main court in Spanish Town accounts for the largest share of new cases heard in the year with 55.48% and 41.14% respectively. Courtroom 1 at the Linstead outstation with 23.17% of the new cases heard rank next. In terms of cases disposed, Courtroom#1 (main court) accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 178 matters and had the fourth highest disposal rate of 80.22%. The Night Court at the Portmore Outstation has the highest disposal rate with 98.70%. Courtroom number 3 and the Linstead Outstation (courtroom 1) followed with disposal rates of 91.67% and 85.65% respectively. Evidently, the outstations in St. Catherine not only carry a significant new caseload but also appear to be relatively productive with the disposition of cases. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounted for 61.11% of the total number of new cases heard in reporting period and the outstations combined accounted for the remaining 38.89%.

Table 13.2: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of St. James for the 2018 calendar year

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2018	Number of cases disposed of in 2018	Number of inactive cases in 2018	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom#2 (main court	1584	1076	140	69.02	76.77
Courtroom#4(main court)	237	91	128	10.33	92.41
Courtroom #3 (main court)	242	191	5	10.54	80.99
Cambridge Outstation	92	60	12	4.01	78.26
Courtroom#1(main court)	137	124	12	5.97	99.27
Petty Session (main court	3	3	0	0.13	100.00
Total/Average	2295	1545	297	100.00	80.26

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in 2018 at the St. James Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish, and outlines the disposal rates of the various courtrooms and outstations. Courtroom 2 had the largest number of new cases filed with 1584 cases filed in the year. The sample also shows that, courtroom number 2 at the main court in Montego Bay accounts for the highest share of new cases heard with 69.02%, followed by courtroom number 3 with 10.54% and Courtrooms number 4 and with 10.33% of the total number. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 95.99% of the new cases heard in the quarter.

Table 13.3: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of Westmoreland for the 2018 calendar year

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2018	Number of cases disposed of in 2018	Number of inactive cases in 2018	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	789	498	55	39.23	70.09
Night Court (main court)	596	512	73	29.59	98.32
Whithorn Outstation	221	166	10	10.99	79.64
Petty Session (main court)	177	93	39	8.80	74.58
Whithorn Outstation (Petty Session)	29	17	6	1.44	79.31
Courtroom#2 (main court)	181	130	3	9.00	73.48
Courtroom#3 (main court)	19	15	0	0.94	78.95
Total/Average	2012	1431	186	100	80.41

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in 2018 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish, and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Petty Session and Night Court matters heard in each of the relevant locations, for ease of comparison. The data shows decisively that matters entered in courtroom number 1 and the Night Court in Savanna La Mar accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in 2018 with 789 matters (39.23%) and 595 matters (29.59%) matters respectively. The Whithorn Outstation with 221 or 10.99% of the new matters heard in the parish rank next followed by Petty session at the main court with 177 matters or 8.80%. In terms of cases disposed, the Night Court sittings in Savanna La Mar with 512 cases accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed relative to the number of new cases filed and had the highest disposal rate of 98.32%. Whithorn Outstation with a disposal rate of 79.63% and Petty sessions

at the Whithorn outstation with a rate of 79.31% rounds off the top three highest disposal rates for the year reporting period. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 12.43% of the total number of new cases heard, with the main courthouse accounting for the remaining 87.57%.

Table 13.4: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area-Criminal for the 2018 calendar year

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2018	Number of cases disposed of in 2018	Number of inactive cases in 2018	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main court)	3540	2202	905	62.07	87.77
Petty Session Court (main court)	446	246	136	7.82	85.65
Night Court (main court)	339	171	53	5.94	66.08
Courtroom #1 (main court)	245	156	10	4.30	67.76
Courtroom #4 (main court)	146	89	4	2.56	63.70
Courtroom #6 (main court)	184	74	7	3.23	44.02
Courtroom #3 (main court)	198	70	7	3.47	38.89
Gordon Town outstation	75	44	15	1.32	78.67
Courtroom #5 (main court)	139	87	7	2.44	67.63
Courtroom #7 (main court)	173	68	3	3.03	41.04
Drug Court (main court)	18	0	7	0.32	38.89
Plea and Case Management Court (main court)	48	5	1	0.84	12.50
Courtroom # 8 (main court)	77	42	9	1.35	66.23
Fast Track Court	75	55	2	1.32	76.00
Total/Average	5703	3309	1166	100	78.47

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in 2018 at the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish, and outlines the applicable disposal rates. It is seen that courtroom number two accounts for the highest proportion of new cases filed in the reporting period with 62.07% of the total.

Petty Sessions Court with roughly 7.82% follows this and the Night Court with 5.94%, rounding off the top three accommodations for new cases filed in above mentioned period. In terms of disposal rates, the data also shows that Courtroom number 2 with 87.77% and Petty Session Court with a disposal rate of 85.65% account for the highest disposal rates. The Gordon Town outstation with 78.67% rounds off the top three rates of disposal over the period. Courtroom number 2 accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed in the 2018 reporting period with 2202 matters. The main courthouse in Half Way Tree accounted for 97.37% of the total number of new matters heard in the 2018 calendar year. The remaining 2.63% was accounted by outstations.

Table 13.5: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Hanover Parish Court for the 2018 calendar year

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2018	Number of cases disposed of in 2018	Number of inactive cases in 2018	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main court)	484	321	1	47.13	66.53
Sandy Bay Outstation #1	144	118	0	14.02	81.94
Green Island (courtroom #1)	126	105	0	12.27	83.33
Petty Session (main court)	68	47	2	6.62	72.06
Ramble Outstation (Courtroom #1)	77	57	0	7.50	74.03
Sandy Bay (Petty Session)	44	30	4	4.28	77.27
Courtroom #2 (main court)	41	28	0	3.99	68.29
Courtroom # 3	1	1	0	0.10	100.00
Green Island Outstation (Petty Session)	31	20	3	3.02	74.19

Ramble Outstation (Petty Session)	9	6	0	0.88	66.67
Ramble Outstation #2	2	1	0	0.19	50.00
Total/Average	1027	734	10	100	72.44

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Hanover in 2018. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Lucea accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 47.13% of the total. The Sandy Bay Outstation and Courtroom number 1 in Green Island with 14.02% and 12.27% respectively rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Lucea accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 321 matters but had the tenth highest case disposal rate of 66.53%. Courtroom number one in Green Island (83.33%), Sandy Bay outstation (81.94%), and Petty Sessions at the Sandy Bay Court (77.27%), and were among the top five disposal rates. The outstations in the parish account for roughly 25.61% of the new cases heard during the quarter while the main courthouse accounts for the remaining 74.39%.

Table 13.6: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of St. Mary for the 2018 calendar year

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2018	Number of cases disposed of in 2018	Number of inactive cases in 2018	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	399	228	32	33.59	65.16
Courtroom#2 (main court)	129	63	4	10.86	51.94
Courtroom#3	1	0	0	0.08	62.50
Circuit Court	19	19	0	1.60	100.00
Annotto Bay Outstation	160	93	7	13.47	62.50
Petty Session (main court)	157	17	103	13.22	76.43

Night Court (main court)	93	61	6	7.83	72.04
Richmond Outstation	86	47	3	7.24	58.14
Children's Court	52	15	2	4.38	32.69
Gayle Outstation	57	36	2	4.80	66.67
Richmond Outstation (Petty Session)	13	1	6	1.09	53.85
Annotto Bay Outstation (Petty Session)	14	3	2	1.18	35.71
Gayle Outstation (Petty Session)	8	3	4	0.67	87.50
Total/Average	1188	586	171	100.00	63.72

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Mary for the year ended December 31, 2018.

The data shows conclusively that courtrooms number 1 and Annotto Bay Outstation account for the highest share of new matters heard in the year, with 33.59% and 13.47% respectively of the total.

Petty session at the main court with 13.22% of the new cases heard in the period rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 228 matters and had the fifth highest case disposal rate of 65.16%. Although the absolute numbers are proportionately low, matters heard in Circuit courtroom with a disposal rate of 100% as well as matters heard at the Gayle outstation (Petty Session) with 87.50% and Petty session sittings with at the main court with 76.43% have the highest case disposal rates. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 28.45% of the total number of new cases heard in the year. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for roughly 71.55% during the year.

Table 13.7: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of Trelawny for the 2018 calendar year

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2018	Number of cases disposed of in 2018	Number of inactive cases in 2018	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Falmouth Court	427	267	4	40.36	63.47
Ulster Spring outstation	189	114	5	17.86	62.96
Clarks Town (Children's court)	55	27	1	5.20	50.91
Falmouth (Petty Session)	57	13	12	5.39	43.86
Courtroom#1 (main court)	109	80	2	10.30	75.23
Ulster Spring (Petty session)	31	9	14	2.93	74.19
Clarks Town (Petty session)	26	5	7	2.46	46.15
Clarks Town Outstation (Courtroom #1)	157	99	2	14.84	64.33
Falmouth (night court)	7	3	0	0.66	42.86
Total/Average	1058	617	47	100.00	62.76

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed as at December 31, 2018 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows conclusively that matters entered in Falmouth Court and the Ulster Spring Outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 40.36% and 17.86% respectively. Falmouth court accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 267 matters and one of the highest disposal rates of 63.47%. Although the absolute numbers are proportionately low, courtroom number one and the petty session sittings in Ulster rank among the highest disposal rates for the parish in the quarter with 75.23% and 74.19% respectively. The outstations accounts for 32.70% of the new cases heard in the 2018 period.

Table 13.8: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of St. Thomas for the 2018 calendar year

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2018	Number of cases disposed of in 2018	Number of inactive cases in 2018	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main	593	373	13	57.57	65.09
Yallahs Outstation	190	106	4	18.45	57.89
Children's Court	75	39	1	7.28	53.33
Courtroom#2 (main	127	60	32	12.33	72.44
Night Court (main	41	23	2	3.98	60.98
Yallahs outstation (Petty Session)	4	2	1	0.39	75.00
Total/Average	1030	603	53	100	63.69

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed as at December 30, 2018 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that matters entered in Courtroom number 1 at the main court in Morant Bay and Courtroom number 2 accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 57.57% and 18.45% respectively. Courtroom number 1 accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 373 matters and the third highest disposal rate of 65.09%. The Petty Sessions Court at the Yallahs outstation and other Night court sittings with disposal rates of 75% and 72.44% respectively accounts for the first and second highest disposal rates respectively. The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 73.88% of the total number of new cases heard in 2018 while the remaining 26.12% were accounted for by the various outstations.

Table 13.9: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of Manchester for the 2018 calendar year

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2018	Number of cases disposed of in 2018	Number of inactive cases in 2018	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	398	171	54	17.27	56.53
Courtroom#2 (main court)	388	205	37	16.83	62.37
Petty Session (main court)	520	304	118	22.56	81.15
Christiana Outstation	219	128	14	9.50	64.84
Spaulding Outstation	125	49	16	5.42	52.00
Christiana (Petty Session)	113	51	35	4.90	76.11
Tax Court (main court)	68	38	18	2.95	82.35
Porus (main court)	77	44	3	3.34	61.04
Cross Keys (main court)	60	21	5	2.60	43.33
Drug treatment court	14	0	2	0.61	14.29
Spalding(Petty Session)	46	21	10	2.00	67.39
Porus (Children's Court	45	18	6	1.95	53.33
Cottage Outstation	41	25	2	1.78	65.85
Porus (Petty Session	19	6	9	0.82	78.95
Courtroom #3 (main court)	80	32	4	3.47	45.00
Cross Keys Outstation (Petty Session)	15	0	9	0.65	60.00
Children's Court (main court)	16	0	1	0.69	6.25
Night Court (main court)	54	24	6	2.34	55.56
Cottage (Petty Session)	7	1	4	0.30	71.43
Total/Average	2305	1138	353	100	64.69

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Manchester for 2018. The data shows that the Petty session main court accounted for highest share of new matters heard for the year with 22.56% of the total. Courtroom number 1 and Courtroom number 2 accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 17.27% and 16.83% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed, Petty Session sittings at the main court in Mandeville accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 304 matters, and had the second highest case disposal rate of roughly

81.14%. Matters heard in the Tax court with a disposal rate of 82.35% and Petty Session sittings in Porus with a disposal rate of 81.15% has the highest disposal rates in the parish. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 72.06% of the total number of new cases heard in during the 2018 period. The remaining 27.94% were accounted for by the various outstations.

Table 13.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of St. Elizabeth for the 2018 calendar year

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2018	Number of cases disposed of in 2018	Number of inactive cases in 2018	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom #1)	551	369	59	40.57	77.68
Courtroom#2 (main court)	65	42	6	4.79	73.85
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom #2)	160	92	9	11.78	63.13
Balaclava (Courtroom #1)	95	67	4	7.00	74.74
Santa Cruz (Petty session)	81	21	41	5.96	76.54
Courtroom #1 (main court)	244	144	18	17.97	66.39
Santa Cruz (Children's Court)	60	23	4	4.42	45.00
Santa Cruz Night Court	3	3	0	0.22	100.00
Balaclava (Courtroom #2)	14	11	0	1.03	78.57
Petty Session (main court)	55	11	22	4.05	60.00
Balaclava Outstation (Children's Court)	6	4	0	0.44	66.67
Balaclava (Petty session)	21	5	10	1.55	71.43
Courtroom#3	3	2	0	0.22	66.67
Total/Average	1358	794	173	100	71.21

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Elizabeth in 2018. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation and courtroom number 1 at the main court in Black River accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the year, with 40.57% and 17.97% respectively of the total. Courtroom number 2 at the Santa Cruz outstation and Petty Session sittings in Santa Cruz accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in 2018 with 11.78% and 4.79% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom 2 in Balaclava with 78.57%, courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation with 77.68% and Petty Session sittings at the Santa Cruz outstation with 76.54% are among the highest case disposal rates for the period. The Santa Cruz outstation and accounts for the highest proportion of new cases heard in the year with 52.36% while the main courthouse in Black River accounts for roughly 27.54%. The remaining 20.10% is accounted for the other outstation courts.

Table 13.11: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of Portland for the 2018 calendar year

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2018	Number of cases disposed of in 2018	Number of inactive cases in 2018	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main court)	742	376	100	58.06	64.15
Buff Bay Outstation	239	155	35	18.70	79.50
Manchioneal Outstation	149	98	10	11.66	72.48
Children's Court	52	21	6	4.07	51.92
Courtroom #2 (main court)	43	23	1	3.36	55.81
Courtroom #3 (main court)	53	23	1	4.15	45.28
Total/Average	1278	696	153	100	66.43

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Portland for 2018. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Port Antonio accounts for the highest share of new matters heard during the Jan.- Dec. 2018 period, with 58.06% of the total. Buff Bay and Manchioneal Outstations with 18.70% and 11.66% respectively of the total number of the new cases heard in the year ranked next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 376 matters, and had the third highest case disposal rate of 64.15%. Manchioneal Outstation with a disposal rate of 72.48% and Buff Bay Outstation with a rate of 79.50% are the top two on this measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 30.36% of the new cases heard for the year 2018. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 69.64%.

Table 13.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of St. Ann for the 2018 calendar year

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2018	Number of cases disposed of in 2018	Number of inactive cases in 2018	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
ST.ANN'S BAY and the Claremont Outstation					
Night Court	1	0	0	0.05	0
Courtroom #1 (main court)	1054	399	149	47.46	51.99
Petty Session (main court)	311	81	117	14.00	63.67
Claremont Outstation (Petty Session)	35	2	9	1.58	31.43
Children's Court - Claremont	41	16	7	1.85	56.10
Claremont outstation	104	54	8	4.68	59.62
BROWNS TOWN					
Courtroom #1	446	188	83	20.08	60.76
Petty Session	200	49	85	9.00	67.00
Children's Court	29	20	4	1.31	82.76
Total/Average	2221	809	462	100	57.23

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Ann for 2018. The data shows that courtroom 1 in both St. Ann's Bay (the main court) and Browns Town account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 51.99% and 60.76% respectively of the total. The Petty Sessions Court in St. Ann's Bay accounts for the third largest share of new cases heard, with 14%. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 at the St. Ann's Bay Parish Court accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 399 matters and had the seventh highest case disposal rate of 51.99%. Matters heard in Children's with a disposal rate of 82.76% and Petty session in Brown's Town with a 67% disposal rate accounts for the highest disposal rates for the 2018 period. As a whole, the Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 30.39% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann for

2018. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse and the Claremont Outstation together accounts for 69.61% of the new cases heard in the year.

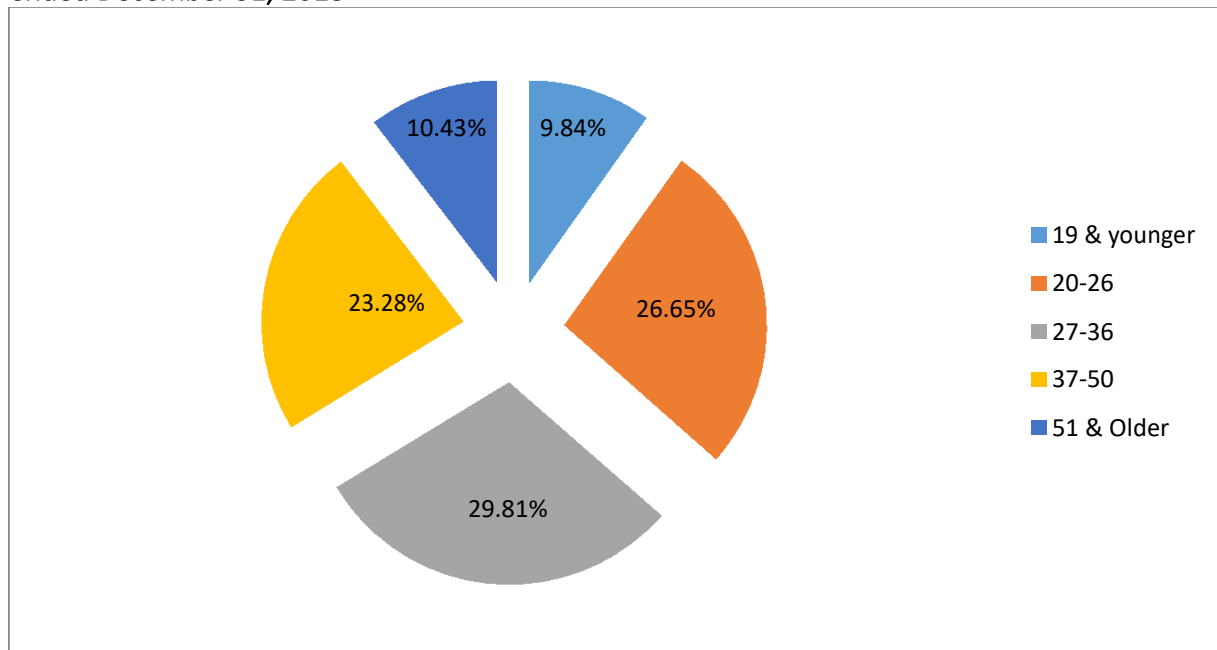
Table 13.13: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of Clarendon for the 2018 calendar year

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2018	Number of cases disposed of in 2018	Number of inactive cases in 2018	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main court)	592	330	48	31.04	63.85
Lionel Town Outstation	271	133	23	14.21	57.56
Courtroom #2 (main court)	254	129	39	13.32	66.14
Chapleton Outstation	255	124	6	13.37	50.98
Courtroom #3 (main court)	98	67	1	5.14	69.39
Petty session (main court)	228	100	57	11.96	68.86
Children's Court (main court)	94	40	3	4.93	45.74
Frankfield Outstation	63	27	4	3.30	49.21
Night Court (main court)	52	41	1	2.73	80.77
Total/Average	1907	991	182	100	61.51

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Clarendon for 2018. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the year, with 31.04% of the total. The Lionel Town outstation and Chapleton outstation accounts for the next highest share of new cases heard in the year with 14.21% and 13.32% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 330 matters and had the fifth highest case disposal rate of 63.85%. Courtroom number 3 (69.39%), Petty Sessions (68.86%) and courtroom number 2 (66.14%) were among the highest disposal rates in the parish. An estimated 30.89% of new cases heard in Clarendon in 2018 occurred in the outstation locations with the remaining 69.11% taking place in the main court in May Pen.

This subsection of chapter 2.0 will examine the aggregate gender and age group distribution of offenders across all parish courts.

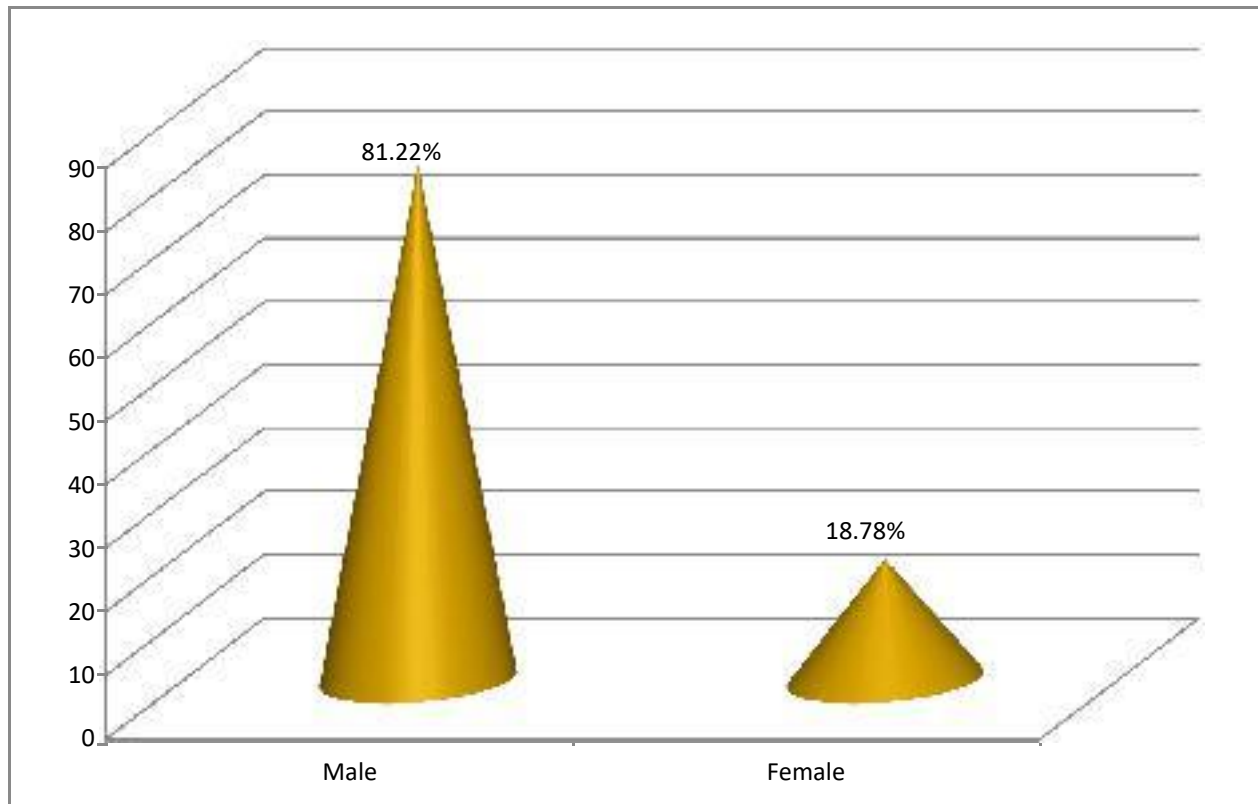
Chart 2.0: Aggregate age distribution of offenders for all parish courts for the period ended December 31, 2018



The above chart shows that of the total number of offenders, for which age data was readily available for the 2018 calendar year; the largest proportion, 29.81% were from the 27-36 age cohorts. This category is followed by the 20-26 age group with 26.65%, the 37-50 age group with 23.28% and the oldest age cohorts 51 and over category accounting for 10.43%.

The youngest age cohort in the distribution accounted for the lowest proportions with the 19 years and younger accounting for 9.84% and of total offenders.

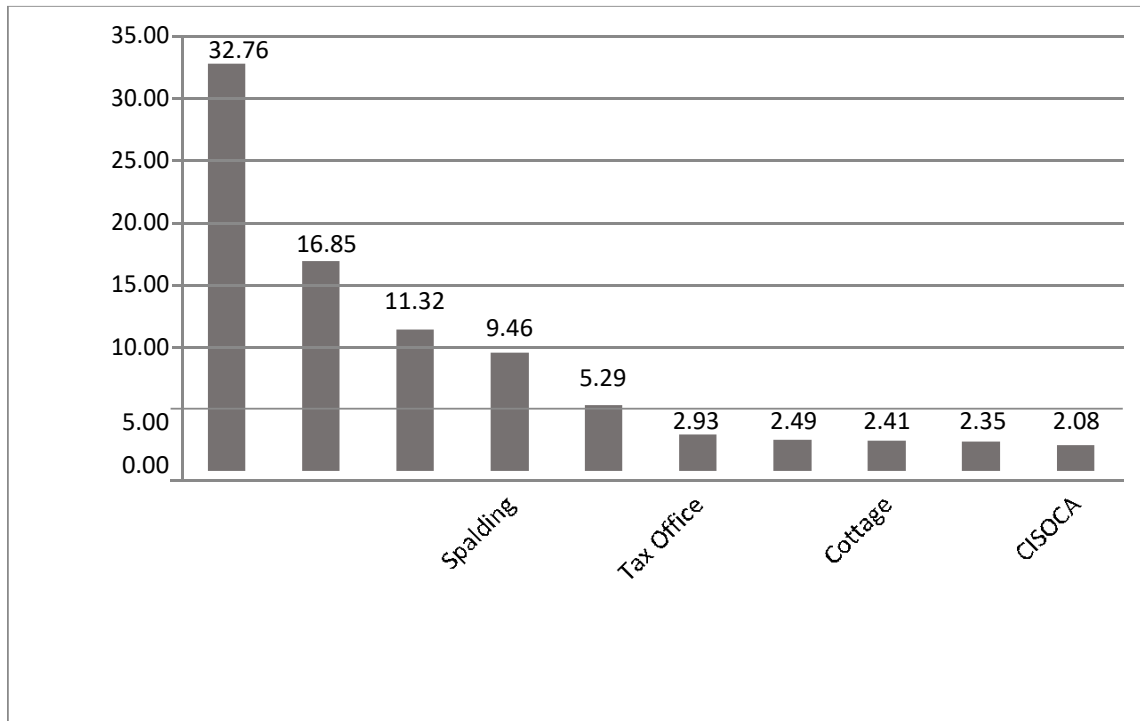
Chart 3.0: Aggregate gender distribution of offenders for the period ended December 31, 2018



The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of offenders for the 2018 calendar year were male, accounting for roughly 81.22% of the total while females accounted for approximately 18.78%.

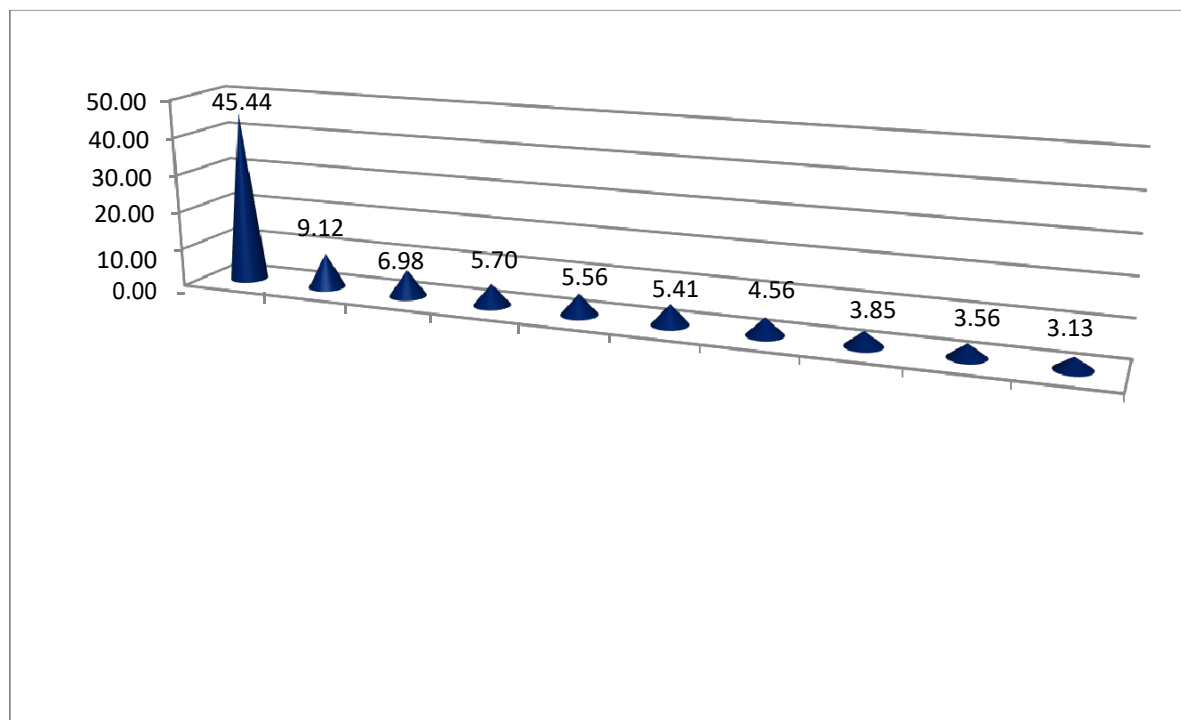
This subsection of chapter 2.0 will examine the distribution of cases filed in each parish court, in accordance with the police stations of origin.

Chart 4.0: Distribution of offences filed by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2018 [in percentages]



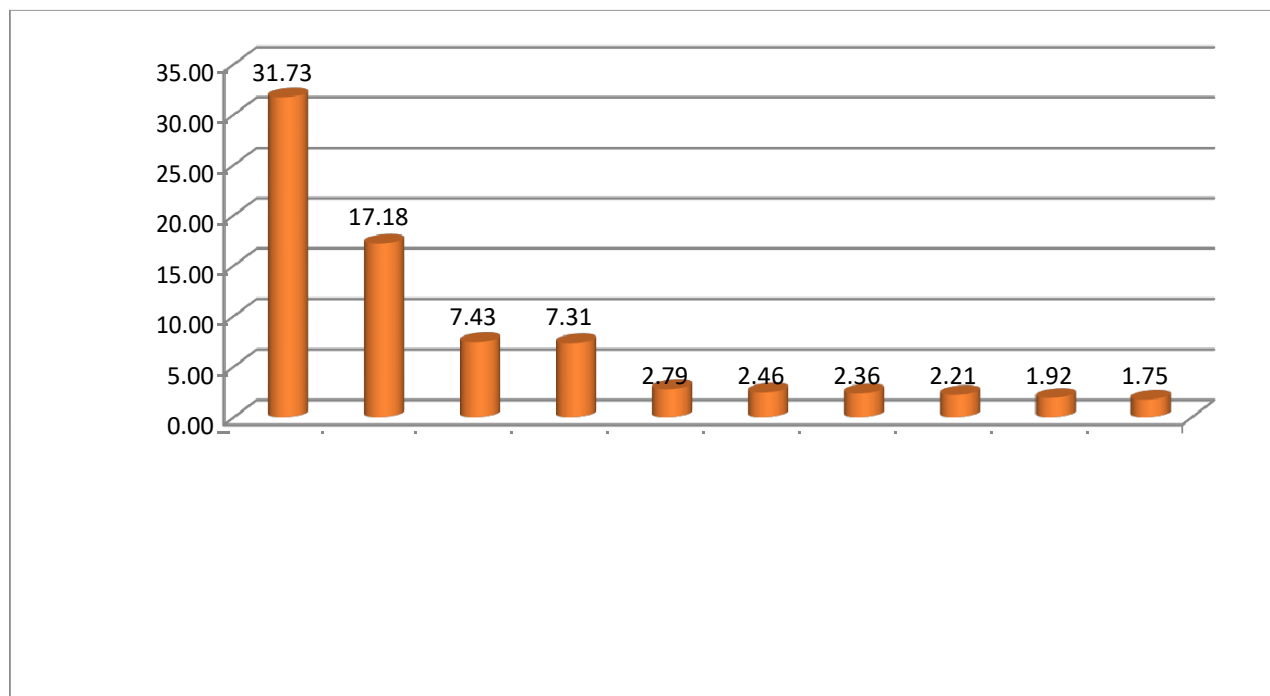
The above chart shows the distribution of offences filed at the Manchester Parish Court using the police stations at which matters were reported in 2018. The data available from a total of 3614 records indicate that for the 2018 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 32.76%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Parish Council which accounts for 16.85% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Christiana Police with 11.32%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 4.1: Distribution of offences by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2018 [in percentages]



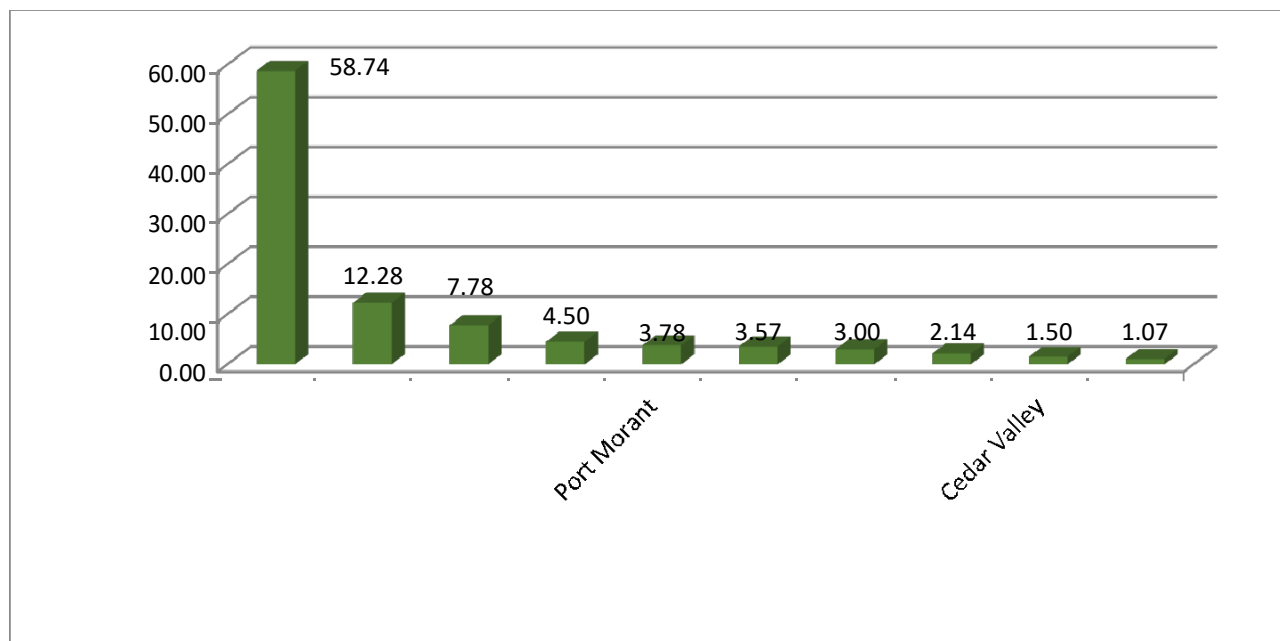
The above chart shows the distribution of offences filed at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported in 2018. The data available from a total of 702 records indicate that for the 2018 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 45.44%, which were brought before the Court were reported in May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Four Paths Police Station which accounts for 9.12% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Chapelton Police with 6.98%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 4.2: Distribution of offences filed by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2018 [in percentages]



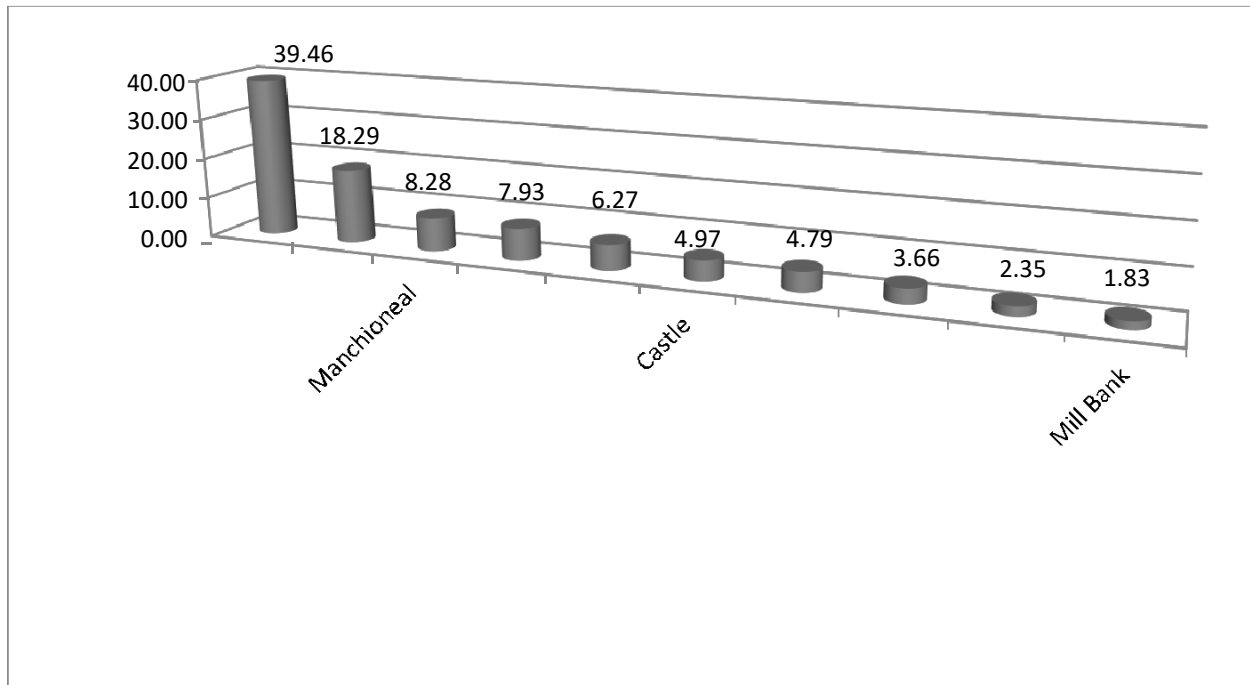
The above chart shows the distribution of offences filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported in 2018. The data available from a total of 6101 records indicate that for the 2018 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 31.73%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Linstead Town Police Station which accounts for 17.18% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Old Harbour Police Station with 7.43%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 4.3: Distribution of offences filed by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2018 [in percentages]



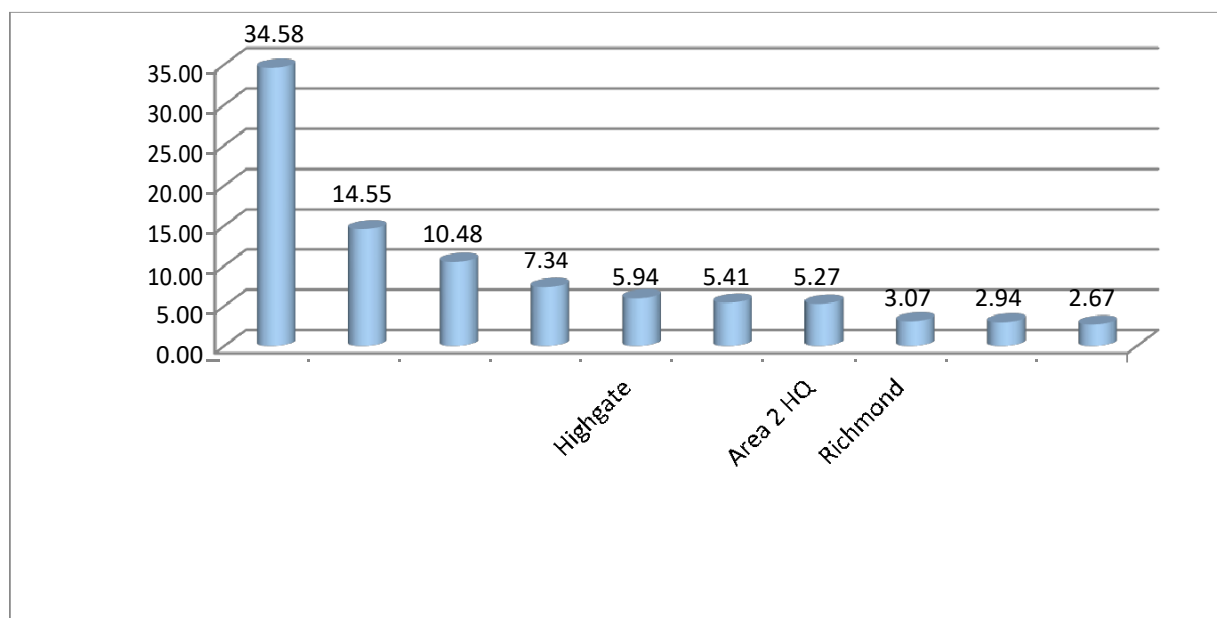
The above chart shows the distribution of offences filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported in 2018. The data available from a total of 1401 records indicate that for the 2018 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 58.74%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Yallahs Police Station which accounts for 12.28% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Seafort Police with 7.78%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 4.4: Distribution of offences filed by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2018 [in percentages]



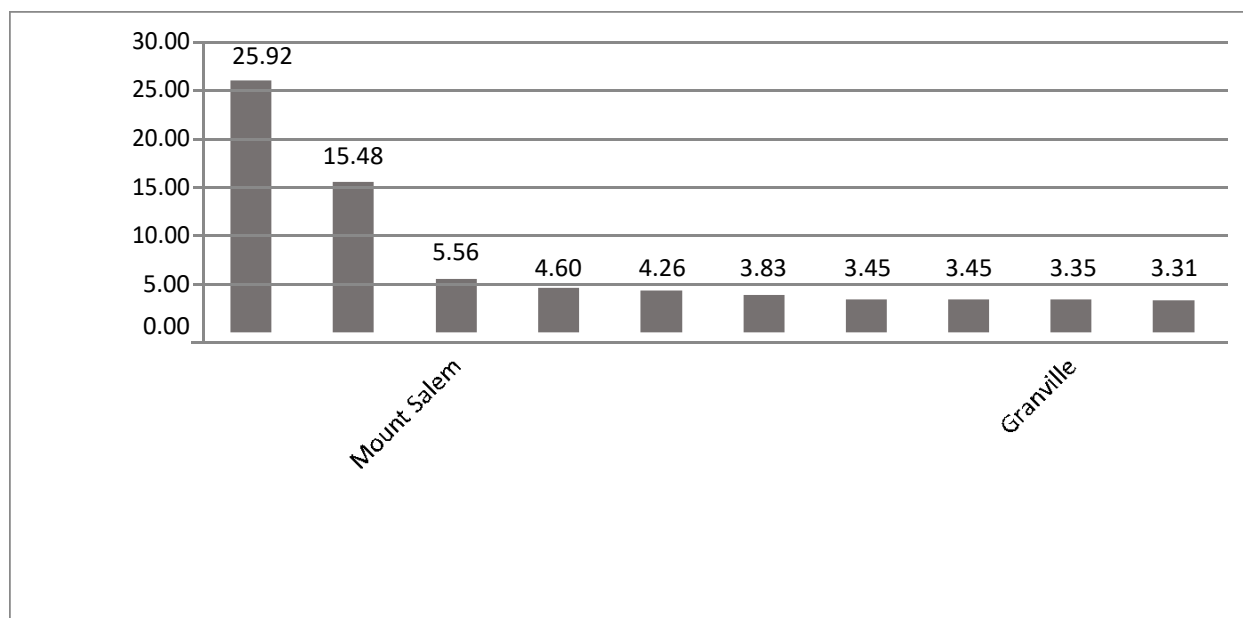
The above chart shows the distribution of offences filed at the Portland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported in 2018. The data available from a total of 1148 records indicate that the 2018 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 39.46%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Buff Bay Police Station which accounts for 18.29% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Manchioneal Police with 8.28%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 4.5: Distribution of offences filed by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the period ended December 31, 2018 [in percentages]



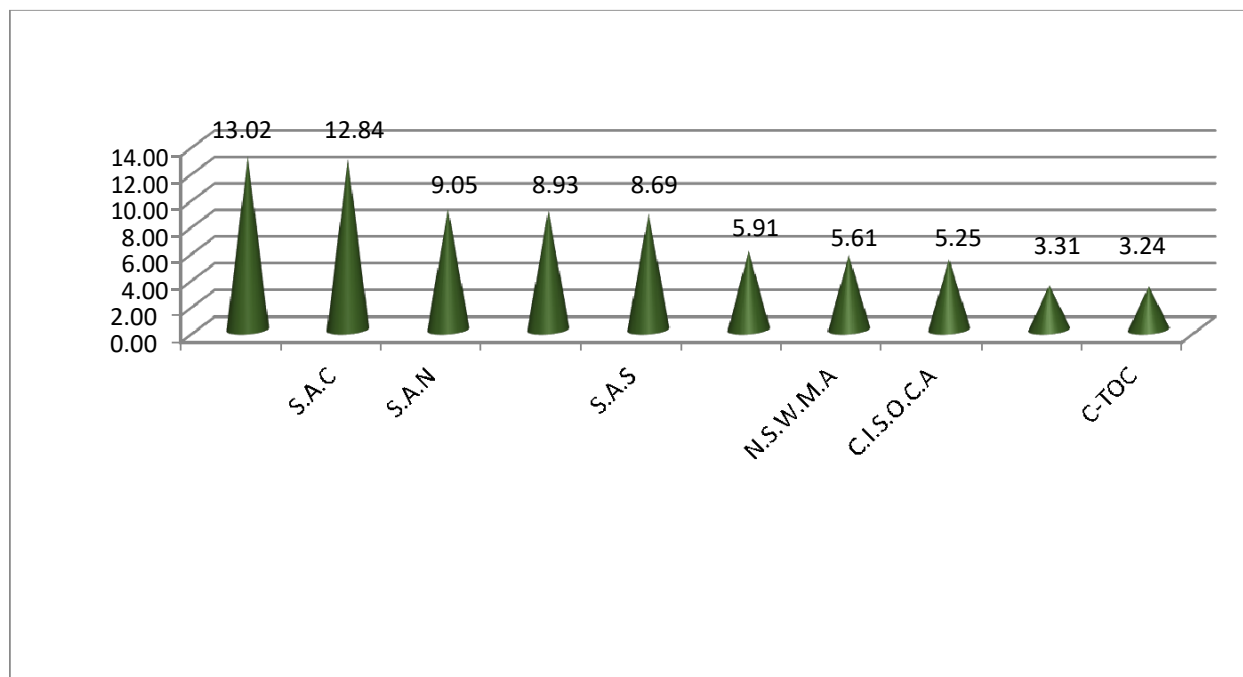
The above chart shows the distribution of offences filed at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported in the 2018. The data available from a total of 1498 records indicate that for the 2018 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 34.58%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Annotto Bay Police Station which accounts for 14.55% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Oracabessa Police with 10.48%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 4.6: Distribution of criminal offences filed by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2018 [in percentages]



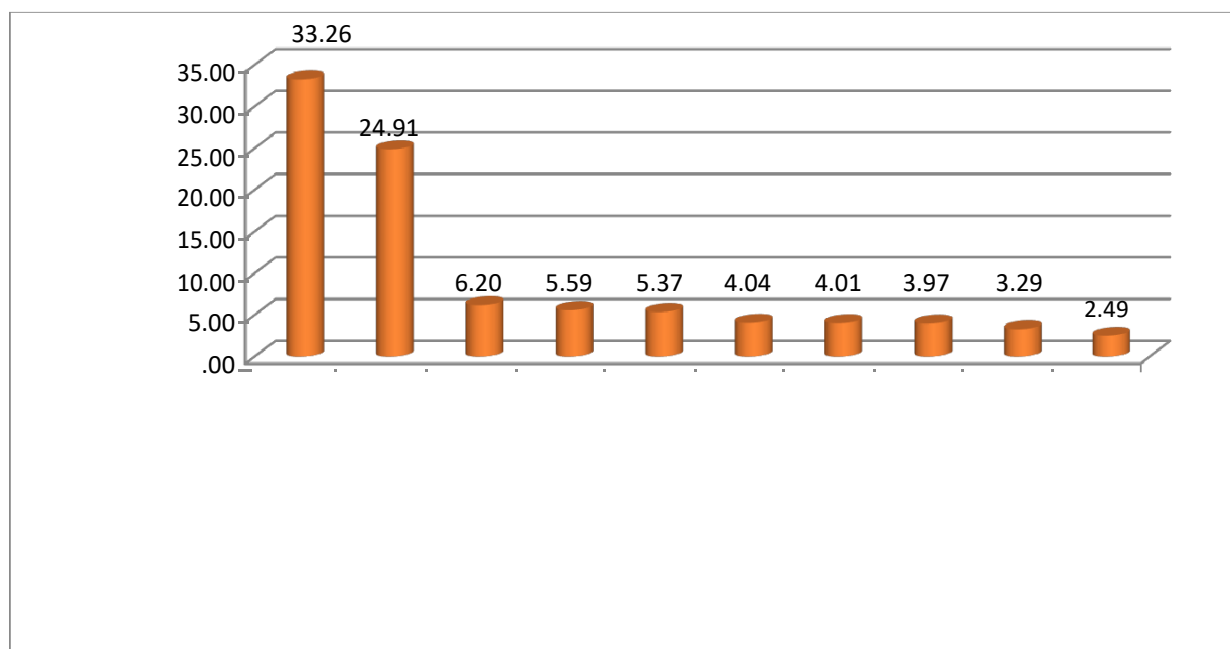
The above chart shows the distribution of offences filed at the St. James Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported in 2018. The data available from a total of 2087 records indicate that for the 2018 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 25.92%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Barnett Street Police Station. This was followed by the Montego Bay Police Station which accounts for 15.48% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Mount Salem Police Station with 5.56%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 4.7: Distribution of offences filed by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2018 [in percentages]



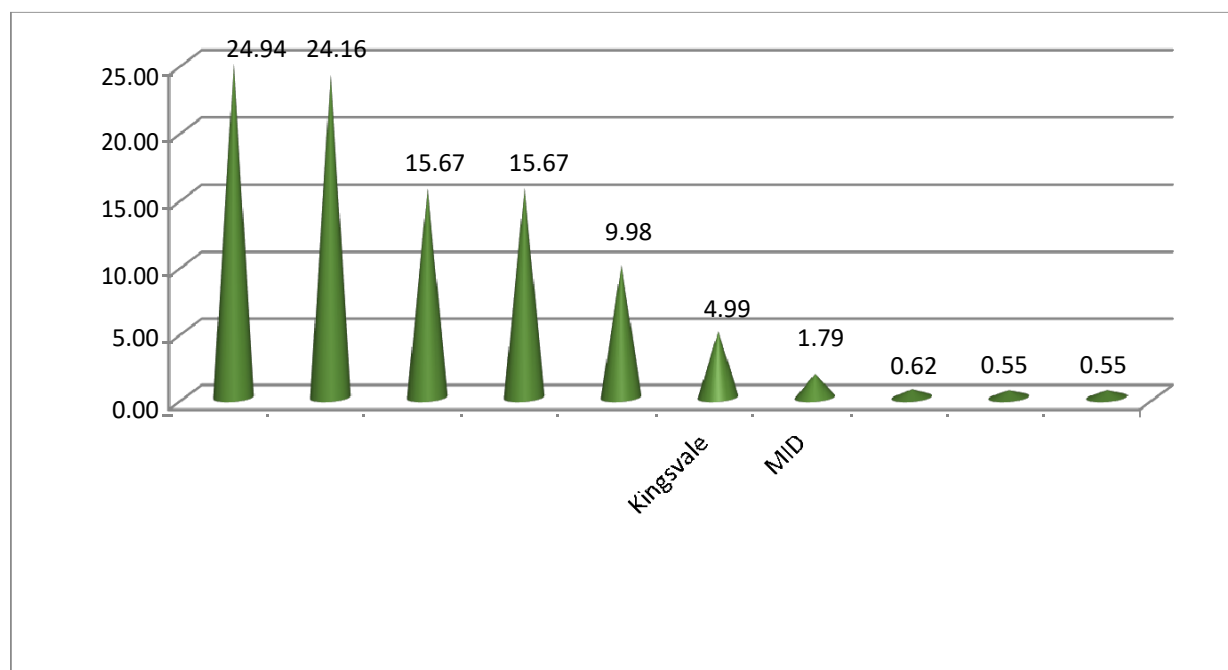
The above chart shows the distribution of offences filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported in 2018. The data available from a total of 10197 records indicate that for the 2018 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 13.02%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Kingston Central Police Station. This was followed by the St. Andrew Central Police Station which accounts for 12.84% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. Andrew North Police with 9.05%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 4.8: Distribution of offences filed by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2018 [in percentages]



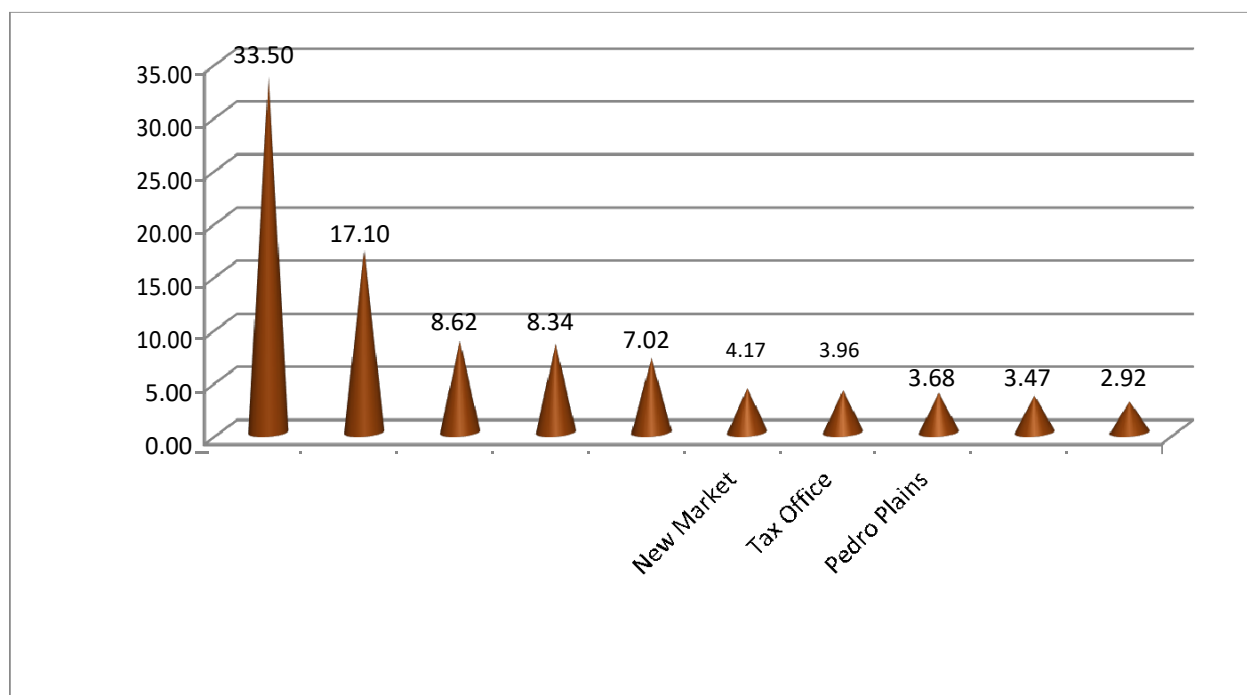
The above chart shows the distribution of offences filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported in 2018. The data available from a total of 2646 records indicate that for the 2018 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 33.26%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Savanna-la-mar Police. This was followed by the Negril Police Station which accounts for 24.91% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Narcotics Division with 6.20%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 4.9: Distribution of offences filed by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2018 [in percentages]



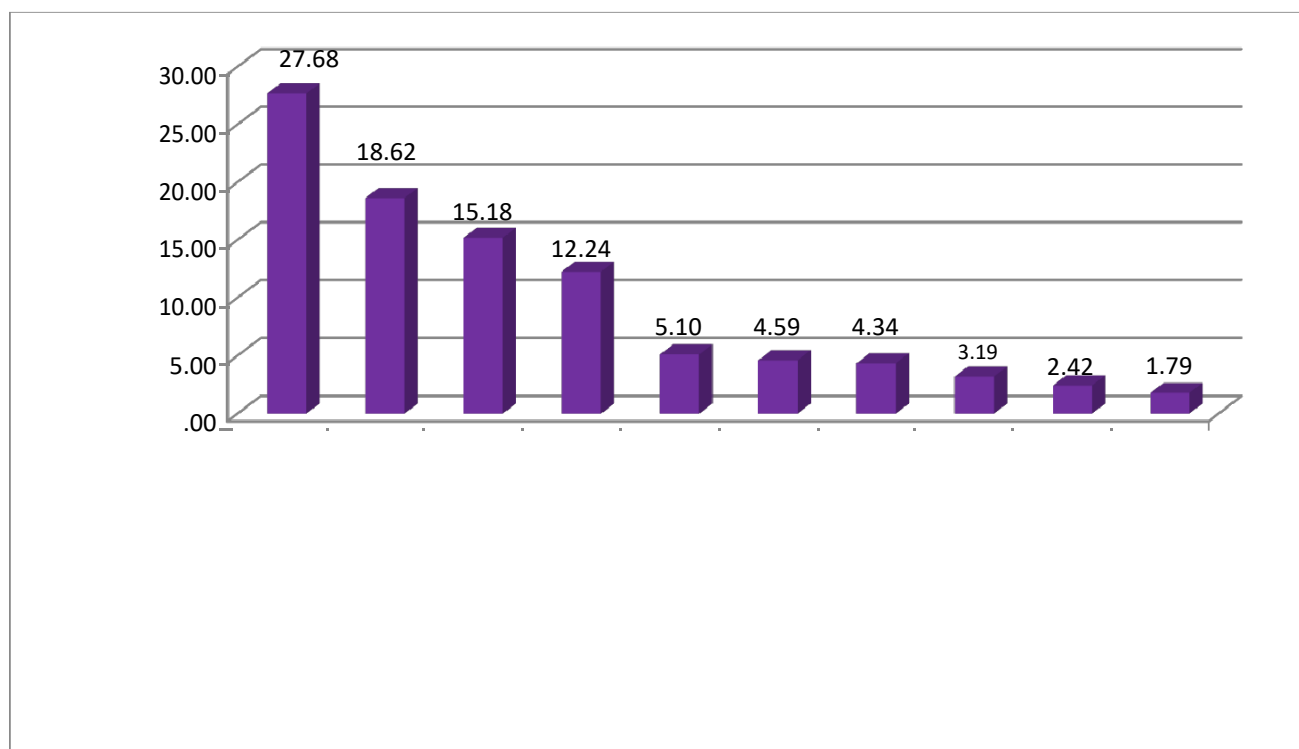
The above chart shows the distribution of offences filed at the Hanover Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1283 records indicate that for the 2018 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 24.94%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Hanover Divisional Headquarters which accounts for 24.16% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Green Island Police with 15.67%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 4.10: Distribution of offences filed by the police station of origin at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2018 [in percentages]



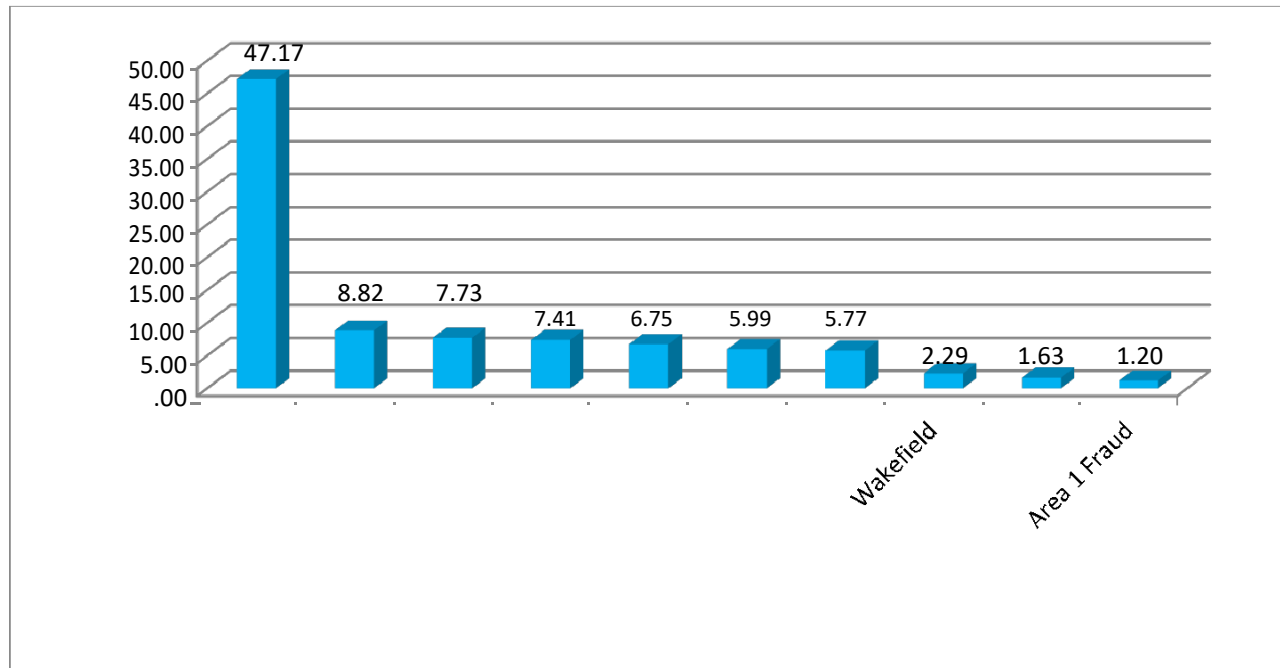
The above chart shows the distribution of offences filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported in 2018. The data available from a total of 1439 records indicate that for the 2018 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 33.50%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Black River Police Station. This was followed by the Santa Cruz Police Station which accounts for 17.10% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Nain Police Station with 8.62%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 4.11: Distribution of offences filed by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2018 [in percentages]



The above chart shows the distribution of offences filed at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported in 2018. The data available from a total of 784 records indicate that for the 2018 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 27.68%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Brown's Town Police Station. This was followed by the Ocho Rios Police Station which accounts for 18.62% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. Ann's Bay Police with 15.18%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 4.12: Distribution of offences filed by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2018 [in percentages]



The above chart shows the distribution of offences filed at the Trelawny Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported in 2018. The data available from a total of 918 records indicate that for the 2018 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 47.17%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by Private entity which accounts for 8.82% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Clarks Town Police Station with 7.73%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This report provides a range of essential insights into criminal case activity in the parish courts for the year ended December 31, 2018 representing a continuation of the trend in comprehensive and consistent reporting on criminal case activity in the parish courts. A number of noteworthy findings have emerged from this report, some affirming the critical trends observed in 2017 and others indicative of new patterns. They provide the basis for important policy and operational decisions. Among these key findings is that the overall criminal case clearance rate across the parish courts meets the minimum prescribed international standard of 90%-110%, netting out at 94.31% in 2018, an improvement of 22.78 percentage points when compared to 2017. This notable improvement had a profound effect on the case backlog rate and case congestion rate in the court system. The overall trends in case disposal rate as at the end of the third quarter are also quite promising. It is further impressive to note that since in 2018, nine of the parish courts met the minimum international benchmark for the case clearance rates, the attainment of which is viewed as the critical foundation for both reducing and preventing case backlog. These results provide a good anchorage for the major effort underway to eliminate the criminal case backlog in the courts within six years. The generally improved productivity of the courts can be attributed to the number of factors, including the strengthening of the case management process through the proactive leadership of the Judges, the work of the case progression officers and the adoption of a data driven managerial approach. In all parish courts, data on the status of the criminal cases as well as key delay factors and complexity indicators are electronically available to multiple internal stakeholders by way of the Case Information Statistical System (CISS). In

reinforcement of the improved results on the case clearance and disposal rates was the finding that sample data on cases disposed over the past 24 - 26 months across the parish courts indicate that roughly 70% were disposed of in three months or less. This statistically significant result is indicative of a generally sustained, though modest to substantial improvements in the overall efficiency in the criminal case progression and productivity in the parish courts.

The data affirms that despite the improvements noted, mathematically all parish courts, based on current rates of clearance and the implied resource endowments are carrying higher caseloads than their existing capacities seem to suggest. This was derived from the analysis of the case congestion rates, which shows that most courts are carrying caseloads, which are well above their current capacity. The parish courts of Westmoreland and St. Catherine with case congestion rates at the ideal rate of 100% are standouts in this regard, constituted potential case studies. The resource constraints faced by the courts are evident from these results; however, there are a number of critical delay factors, which must be addressed in order to improve efficiency. Among these factors are the high incidence of adjournments, which increase the average time taken to dispose of cases and thus foster a sub-optimal use of judicial time. Among the leading delay factors in this regard are incomplete files, outstanding medical reports and the non-appearance of parties for court. Such factors invariably have a direct association with the incidence of mention and trial and thus trial and hearing date certainty, which tends to vary by parish court but overall falls short of the international standards. It is critical that robust interventions be continuously pursued to engage the necessary stakeholders to redress those delay factors that are outside the court's

direct control, for example, outstanding medical certificates for which the Hospitals would be largely culpable and more decisive police action could militate against the frequency of the non-appearance of parties for court. There are however many common reasons for adjournment over which the parish courts have some degree of direct control, such as matters adjourned due to the lack of readiness of case files for court, matters left off court lists or matters wrongly listed for court. These can be mitigated by a more robust system of scheduling matters for court and generally more robust case management practices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The nucleus of improved court performance lies in enhancing the strength of the case management process in the criminal courts. This is necessary to ensure that more sound scheduling practices are employed and that the electronic and other monitoring mechanisms are fully utilized to ensure that the probability of cases lagging in the court system and entering backlog classification are substantially lessened. As mentioned, a strong and direct engagement of external stakeholders, which are at least partly responsible for the lengthy and frequent delays in criminal matters are critical to the way forward. Slow but steady strides are being made in improving the critical performance indicators such as the case clearance rates and trial credibility ratios; however, the system is still a long way from reaching a state of self-sustaining efficiency.

Bolstering the technical and human resources at the disposition of the courts is also vital in realising the desired advances in the near future. Below are two strategies, which can be

employed court wide in an effort to alter the status quo and create new paths to optimizing efficiency, subject to the existing constraints.

Firstly, I propose the employment of a Differentiated Case Management (DCM) mechanism. Differentiated case management is a technique that courts can use to create an efficient, tight-fitting assignment of cases for judges based on the specific characteristics of each case, much like putting a jigsaw puzzle together. By balancing complex cases that involve more time and resources with simpler cases that require less time and resources, a court can better utilize its judges and courtrooms. The way this can work is that when a case is filed, a determination of the expected time to complete the case should be made. Depending on the complexity of the case, it can be assigned to one of four tracks, from the least to most complex. A less complex case would be assigned to an expedited track. Cases in this track would have limited pre-trial deadlines and trials could possibly be set within 90 days of filing. By contrast, the most complex cases would be assigned to an extended track, where the trial date was set at months away. There could also two other intermediate tracks between the expedited and extended tracks, with varying trial date schedules. This kind of approach could potentially enhance hearing/trial date certainty, improve courtroom utilization rates and over time significantly expedite the disposition of cases. For this mechanism to work effectively, it is important that time standards/expected times for the disposition of cases of varying complexity be firmly established. Backlog monitoring groups within each parish court, called the Backlog Reduction, Evaluation and Assessment Committee (BREAC)

– parish court version, could marshal the Differentiated Case Management (DCM) in these courts, forming the ethos of the second facet of my proposal. The purpose of these groups would be to track the aged caseload in the different courts. For this purpose all ‘older’ cases on the trial list of the courts, however aged can be categorized by complexity, state of readiness and age

in the court system. This list can be used on an ongoing basis as the basis of informing the work of the **BREAC** group. The goal is to sustain reductions in the pre-existing case backlog in the parish courts and to marshal the process of revising the scheduling practices of the respective courts, thus making backlog prevention a priority. The Case Progression Officers, under the guidance of the Judges could anchor such groups.

The differentiated case management system can be supplemented by the employment of the Weighted Caseload Model (**WCM**). By weighting different types of cases to account for variations in complexity and the need for judicial attention, workload assessment translates the number of cases that come before the court into the total judicial work required to dispose those cases. The weighted caseload method calculates judicial need based on total judicial workload. This employment of this scientific model can significantly enhance case scheduling practices throughout the courts.

As with the Supreme Court, the parish courts are indeed showing much resilience amidst the constraints experienced however, there is much to be done to accomplish the desired international benchmarks in efficiency and timely delivery of justice, universally. The current operational policy revisions pursued bears much promise in this regard. The parish courts of Westmoreland, St. Catherine and St. James have demonstrated a peculiar consistency over the past three years in meeting the international standards and thus provides the basis for a case study and the exploration of case management and operational best practices which could be widely applied across the judiciary.

Glossary of Statistical Terms

Clearance rate: The ratio on incoming to outgoing cases or of new cases filed to cases disposed, regardless of when the disposed cases originated. For example, in a given Term 100 new cases were filed and 110 were disposed (including cases originating before that Term) the clearance rate is 110/100 or 110%.

Note: The clearance rate could therefore exceed 100% but the disposal rate has a maximum value of 100%.

A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system. The inferred international benchmark for case clearance rates is an average of 90%-110 annualized. This is a critical foundation to backlog prevention in the court system.ⁱ

Disposal rate: As distinct from clearance rate, the disposal rate is the proportion of new cases filed which have been disposed in a particular period. For example if 100 new cases are filed in a particular Term and 80 of those cases were disposed in said Term, then the disposal rate is 80%.

Note: A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system.ⁱⁱ

Trial/hearing date certainty: This is the proportion of dates set for trial or hearing which proceed without adjournment. For example, if 100 trial dates are set in a particular Term

and 40 are adjourned, then the trial certainty rate would be 60%. The international standard for this measure is between 92% and 100%.

Courtroom utilization rate: The proportion of courtrooms in full use on a daily basis or the proportion of hours utilized in a courtroom on a daily basis. The international standard for this rate is 100%.

Case congestion rate: The ratio of pending cases to cases disposed in a given period. It is an indication of how fatigued a court is, given the existing state of resources and degree of efficiency. A case congestion rate of 150% for example, is an indication that given the resources currently at a court's disposal and its degree of efficiency, it is carrying 1.5 times its capacity.

Case File Integrity Rate: Measures the proportion of time that a case file is fully ready and available in a timely manner for a matter to proceed. Hence, any adjournment, which is due to the lack of readiness of a case file or related proceedings for court at the scheduled time, impairs the case file integrity rate. The international benchmark for the casefile integrity is 100%

Standard deviation: This is a measure of how widely spread the scores in a data set are **around** the average value of that data set. The higher the standard deviation, the higher the variation of the raw scores in the data set, from the average score. A low standard deviation is an indication that the scores in a data set are clustered around the average.

Outlier: An outlier is a value that is either too small or too large, relative to the majority of scores/trend in a data set.

Skewness: This is measure of the distribution of scores in a data set. It gives an idea of where the larger proportion of the scores in a data set can be found. Generally, if skewness is positive as revealed by a positive value for this measure, this suggests that a greater proportion of the scores in the data set are at the lower end. If the skewness is negative as revealed by a negative value for this measure, it generally suggests that a greater proportion of the scores are at the higher end. If the skewness measure is approximately 0, then there is roughly equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

Range: This is a measure of the spread of values in a data set, calculated as the highest minus the lowest value. A larger range score may indicate a higher spread of values in a data set.

Case backlog: A case that is in the court system for more than two years without disposition.

ⁱ Source:

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf>

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