



## Parish Courts Of Jamaica

# The Chief Justice's First Quarter Statistics Report on Criminal Matters in the Parish Courts

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### **The Chief Justice's Message**

This Quarterly Report on the performance of the Parish Courts during the Hilary Term is encouraging. The statistics give an insight into what can be achieved through the focused leadership of the Senior Parish Court Judges and cooperation of all participants in the criminal justice system. For the first time since 2016, when collation of data began on the actual productivity of the Courts, the case clearance rate has risen to over 100%. However, in spite of this significant accomplishment, our case clearance rate needs to be increased to and maintained at 130%, or more, over the next six years if Parish Courts are to clear and prevent criminal case backlog.

Some Parish Courts have performed outstandingly and must be mentioned. The St Mary Parish Court achieved the remarkable case clearance rate of 162.12%, followed by Portland and St Catherine with rates of 137% and 129% respectively. All Parish Courts need to perform at similar levels over the next six years so that backlog in criminal cases can be eliminated.

Overall, trial (hearing) date certainty has significantly improved from 79% in the first quarter of 2018 to 82% for the first quarter in 2019. The Parish Courts are gradually moving towards the 95% mark which is necessary to achieve backlog clearance. Once that standard is accomplished, it must be sustained as it is one of the most critical measures that will prevent future backlog.

Special mention must be made of the five Parish Courts that have achieved trial date certainty above 90% this quarter. These are: Westmoreland (100%), Clarendon (100%), St Ann (100%), Portland (100%), Trelawny (100%), St James (98%) and St Elizabeth (91%). This means that of the

thirteen Parish Courts, seven had hearing date certainty rates of at least 91%. The task is now for all other Courts to attain the baseline of 90% or over.

As commendable as these improvements are, there still remains the 27,812 cases that constitute the current backlog. Going forward, these cases will be targeted through effective case management aimed at moving cases towards final disposition.

The year thus far has seen the reinforcement of leadership training undertaken within the last few years. Further training will take place in respect of general court staff throughout the current strategic period of four years. The expectation is that these training programmes will empower our human resources and enhance our productivity, while taking us closer to accomplishing our strategic goals.

I wish to thank all Judges and court staff for their tireless efforts and for embracing this new culture of data collection and analysis. As our statistics continue their upward trend, I anticipate that the vision of becoming the most efficient in the Caribbean in three years and among the most efficient in the world in six years will indeed become a reality.

**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 first quarter ended March 31 2019. This report interrogates a number of vital measures, which provides 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 quarterly and annual 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 six years and a minimum court-wide clearance rate of 130%. The simultaneous attainment of these rates are necessary to eliminate the criminal case backlog.

The aggregate new case count in the parish courts for the quarter was 6787 cases, down by 9.44% when compared to the 7470 new cases recorded in the first quarter of 2018. The Corporate Area Parish Court- Criminal Division with 1625 or 23.94% of the total, followed by the St. Catherine and St. James Parish Courts with 892 or 11.94% and 595 or 8.77% respectively, account for the three largest proportions of the new cases filed in the first quarter of 2019. These three courts also ranked first to third in terms of share of aggregate new cases filed throughout 2018. The parish courts of Hanover, St. Thomas and St. Mary accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed, each with under 4% of the total caseload in the quarter.

The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in the quarter was 50%, an improvement of 4.28 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2018. The year 2019 began where 2018

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left off with the parish courts of Westmoreland, the Corporate Area Court- Criminal Division, the Catherine Parish Court and the St. James parish Court demonstrating the highest disposal rates. The Westmoreland Parish Court disposed of new cases the fastest in the first quarter, with a disposal rate of 64.09%, followed by the Corporate Area Parish Court with 63.75% and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 60.76%. The St. James Parish Court had a disposal rate of 56.97% in the quarter. Since the disposal rate measures the proportion of new cases disposed in the quarter, the top performing courts on this measure demonstrate commendable output. The parish courts of Clarendon, St. Ann and St. Elizabeth demonstrate the lowest disposal rates for the quarter. The St. Ann parish court had a disposal rate of 32.35%, while the Clarendon and St. Elizabeth Parish Courts had disposal rates of 43.69% and 42.11% respectively. As the court system strives towards improving productivity and higher disposal rates, the probability of attaining such standards can be greatly strengthened by continuous improvements in case management across the courts. The optimization of resource alignments and the adoption of a more scientific method of scheduling cases in 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 for every new case filed in a particular period. This is simply a productivity index as the disposed cases, which are included in its computation, could have originated before the period of focus. For the first time, the St. Mary Parish Court emerged with the highest clearance rate with 162.12%, ahead of the Portland Parish Court with 137.01% and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 129.82% rounding off the top three performing courts on this measure for the quarter. The overall case clearance rate for the quarter was a promising 103.46%, the highest overall rate recorded since the commencement of these reports in 2016. This output suggests that for every 100 new cases that were filed in the parish courts, roughly 103 were disposed (including

cases originating prior to the quarter). There is a direct association between the case disposal and case clearance rates as poor case disposal rate 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% will accelerate the case backlog and therefore the standard, which should be attained on an annual basis, is between 90% and 110%, based on International best practices in developed jurisdictions.

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 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 the implied state of resources. The case congestion rate for any single quarter is quite insightful however, a longer time series of typically a year or over is idea when generalizing from this metric. It is not surprising that most of the parish courts, which have demonstrated a longer time series of high case clearance and case disposal rates, are among those with the lowest case congestion rates. In particular, the parish courts of St. Catherine and Westmoreland, which have consistently been among the courts with the highest productivity rates for the past three years, rank among the best three performing courts on case congestion rate for the first quarter. The inverse empirical association between the case clearance and case congestion rates is further depicted by the St. Mary Parish Court, which had the highest clearance rate for the quarter and moved into the rank of courts with the lowest congestion rates, a first for this court in these reports. The rarely attained prescribed benchmark of 100% case congestion rate would mean that a court is operating optimally and that it is realizing its maximum clearance rate potential. All parish courts exceeded

this figure in the first quarter of 2019, an indication that there is either capacity to improve on the efficiency with which existing resources are used and/or in improving the case clearance rates.

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 trial date certainty in the third quarter was 82%, up from 79% in the corresponding quarter in 2018. Five parish courts, namely Westmoreland, Clarendon, St. Ann, Portland and Trelawny had trial date certainty rates of 100% for the quarter while the parish courts of St. Elizabeth and St. James had rates of over 90%. St. Mary, Hanover and the Corporate Area with rates ranging between 28% and 58% had the lowest trial certainty rates for the quarter, consistent with the trend observed in 2018.

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 outstations in the first quarter of 2018 is 31%, while 69% were heard at the main parish court locations, roughly similar to the distribution throughout 2018. The variance is however quite wide among the parish courts as it seen that in parishes like Hanover, St. Catherine, Manchester, Clarendon, St. Elizabeth and St. Ann the use of outstation courts is 25% or over, while in parishes like St. James and the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, under 10% of new cases were heard in such courts. The evidence again suggests that there is the potential



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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 easing the case congestion.

The largest proportion of cases disposed in the first quarter was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 54.15% of the cases disposed. This was followed by cases dismissed, which was responsible for 19.44% of the cases disposed. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for 5.72% of the matters disposed, while mediated settlements accounted for 6.63% and not guilty verdicts 9.20%. Taken together, the data therefore reveals a conviction rate of 59.87% for the first quarter of 2019, a decline of 5.44 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2018. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over the past 28 months which were disposed in the third quarter of 2018, roughly 48% were disposed 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 so far.

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 38.15% of all matters. This is followed by Summary Matters with a roughly 31.60% and Lay Magistrates Court with approximately 16.07% of the total. It is of note that Committal Proceedings accounted for 9.79% of all criminal matters filed in the parish courts during the quarter.

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

dominant reasons for adjournments for the quarter were due to the issuance of warrants for defendants not appearing (DNA- warrant issued) with an estimated 23% of all adjournments, and incomplete files with roughly 8.40% of the total. Ranking next are reissued applications with approximately 6.70% and matter referred to mediation with an estimated 6.65% of the incidence of adjournments. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the courts are medical reports outstanding, subpoenas of investigating officer and fingerprints outstanding.

The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the parish courts in the quarter were assault occasioning bodily harm with 28.19%, unlawful wounding with 20.88% and possession of offensive weapon with 17.18% of the total number of charges. The vast majority of offences were committed by males, accounting for roughly 81.32% of all charges filed during the quarter. The dominant age group of offenders was the 20 - 26 and 27 – 36 age groups accounting for roughly 26.98% and 31.35% respectively of all offences filed in the parish courts in the first quarter.

The most up to date estimated backlog of criminal cases in the parish courts is 27,812 cases, which is marginally below the combined annual criminal caseload. This represents incremental and sustained reductions over the past 24 months. A criminal case is considered to be in backlog if it has been in the court system for more than two years without disposal.

## **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 policymaking 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 based at 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. The primary data used to produce this report is for a continuous period of at least 27 months for each court. The Corporate Area Criminal Court has the shortest time series among the courts. The metrics used in the report adjust for time period variations, thus placing no court at a disadvantage in terms of comparisons.

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 from the Statistics Unit 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 and by quarter 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 date 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 in each parish.

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## Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2019

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2019. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as case statuses in the various courts over the period, assessments of trial certainty rates, common methods of disposition and reasons for adjournment.

**Table 1.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2019**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Westmoreland	582	70	303	209	64.09
Corporate Area Criminal	1625	451	585	589	63.75
St. Catherine	892	118	424	350	60.76
St. James	595	73	266	256	56.97
St. Mary	264	40	93	131	50.38
Trelawny	289	3	139	147	49.13
St. Thomas	264	17	111	136	48.48
Hanover	215	0	103	112	47.91
Portland	281	31	100	150	46.62
Manchester	430	39	155	236	45.12
Clarendon	444	28	166	250	43.69
St. Elizabeth	399	23	145	231	42.11
St. Ann	507	85	79	343	32.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>6787</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>2669</b>	<b>3140</b>	
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>53.74</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>379.92</b>	<b>112.1</b>	<b>145.13</b>	<b>123.69</b>	<b>8.99</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.33</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>1.56</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>0.12</b>

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the quarter ended March 31, 2019. A total of 6,787 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts, while 3,647 cases were either disposed or became inactive, resulting in a gross disposal rate of 53.74%. In the corresponding 2018 quarter 7,470 cases were filed, while 3,656 cases were either disposed or inactive which resulted in a disposal rate of 45.69%, 8.05 percentage points lower than the rate for the current quarter. This comparison reveals that over the corresponding quarter, there was a

decrease of 683 or 9.14% in the number of cases filed and decrease of 9 or 0.25% in the number of cases disposed.

The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the second quarter of 2019 were the Westmoreland (64.09%) Corporate Area Criminal Court (63.79%) and St. Catherine (60.76%) Parish Courts. The bottom three courts on this measure were Clarendon (43.69%), St. Elizabeth (42.11%) and St. Ann (32.35%) parish courts. The four with the highest disposal rates in the first quarter of 2019 were also the leaders on this measure in the first quarter of the corresponding 2018 reporting period while the four bottom courts were also among the courts with the weakest output in the corresponding 2018 quarter.

The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed and the active pending caseload range from moderate to high, which is an indication that the majority of the courts fall below the overall average case count in each case. The skewness of the case disposal rates is however close to a symmetrical 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.

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**Table 2.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at March 31, 2019.**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	Number of Disposed cases in Jan.-Mar. quarter	Number of Inactive cases in Jan.-Mar. quarter	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016-2019)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016-2019)	Grand Active Pending Case Load buff Jan.01,2019	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
St.Mary	264	346	82	574	2208	528	162.12	185.05
Portland	281	269	116	754	2172	662	137.01	244.94
St.Catherine	892	880	278	1501	4860	435	129.82	114.59
Manchester	430	465	49	1607	2683	1313	119.53	339.11
Corporate Area Criminal	1539	1189	451	4248	8249	1785	106.56	202.68
St.James	637	552	115	1787	6719	1056	104.71	253.82
Westmoreland	582	490	76	865	3844	507	97.25	192.40
Hanover	215	208	0	20	2054	403	96.74	297.12
St.Thomas	264	214	35	318	2314	511	94.32	311.24
St.Elizabeth	399	340	24	521	2165	524	91.23	253.57
St.Ann	507	346	69	1557	2203	2166	81.85	644.10
Clarendon	444	274	58	918	2990	2868	74.77	997.59
Trelawney	289	139	3	128	1221	662	49.13	669.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>6743</b>	<b>5712</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>14798</b>	<b>43682</b>	<b>13420</b>	-	-
<b>Average</b>	<b>518.69</b>	<b>439.38</b>	<b>104.31</b>	<b>1138.31</b>	<b>3360.15</b>	<b>382.69</b>	<b>103.46</b>	<b>225.47</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>360.27</b>	<b>295.84</b>	<b>126.08</b>	<b>1100.46</b>	<b>2064.48</b>	<b>784.67</b>	<b>29.00</b>	<b>253.21</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.16</b>	<b>1.69</b>	<b>2.14</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>1.42</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>1.66</b>

*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 times vary but are long enough to make statistically significant inferences.*

The table above is an extension of table 1.0. Among the critical performance measures 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 clearance. As an empirical measurement of case carriage load, the case congestion rate is more meaningful over longer period, typically a year or more. The parish courts of Clarendon (997.59%), St. Ann (644.10%) and Trelawny (669.72%) are the courts with the highest case congestion rates in the first quarter of 2019. The St. Ann and

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Clarendon Parish Courts also ranked among the most case congested courts in 2018. The parish courts of St. Catherine (114.59%) and Westmoreland (192.40%) continue to be among the best performers on the case congestion rates. The St. Mary Parish Court rounded off the top three performers on this metric, netting a congestion rate of 185.05% in the quarter. The overall case congestion rate among the parish courts in the quarter is 225.47%, an indication that the courts as a whole are carrying just over two and a quarter times the caseload that their current rate of clearance and implied state of resources justifies. As with previous reports, variations in caseload and resources do not appear to be a major factor explaining the variances in performance on this measure as some of the courts ranking on either ends of the scale are the larger courts in the island and resource endowment do not vary in a statistically way among the courts.

The results on the overall case clearance rate for the first quarter of 2019 provide interested insights into the court-wide progress being made on this measure. The overall criminal case clearance rate surged above 100% for the first time since this type of statistical reporting began in the Jamaican court system. The overall rate of 103.46% represents an impressive leap of 14.81 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2018. For the first time in a quarter since this type of reporting began, the parish courts as a whole had more outgoing than incoming cases, a positive sign for the targeted court wide clearance rate of 130% which is required to bring the case backlog rate below 5%. The St. Mary Parish Court made the greatest leap, ending the quarter with a case clearance rate of 162.12%, an increase of 68.72 percentage points over the corresponding period in 2018. The Manchester Parish Court with an increase of 50.13 percentage points was the next best mover in the quarter while the Clarendon Parish Court with an improvement of 37.41 percentage points when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2018 came in next. The



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Trelawney Parish Court had the biggest decline in case clearance rate, falling by 43.80 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2018. Six parish courts had clearance rates of over 100 percent for the quarter while 10 met the International standard of 90% and over. The list for the quarter is led by the parish courts of St. Mary (162.12%), Portland (137.01%) and St. Catherine (129.82%). The Portland Parish Court has made impressive strides since 2018 and is now in the firmly in the top quintile on this and other performance metrics. The St. Catherine Parish Court continues its remarkable consistency by ranking in the top three, a feat it has achieved repeatedly over the past two years. Its share case volume makes this particularly noteworthy. The parish Courts of St. Ann (81.85%), Clarendon (74.77%) and Trelawny (49.13%) rank lowest on this measure for the quarter.

The table below provides a comparative summary on all parish courts for the first quarters of 2018 and 2019 using the disposal, clearance and case congestion rates.

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**Table 2.1: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the first quarter ended March 2019**

Parish Court	Q1 Case Disposal Rate (%) 2019	Q1 Case Disposal Rate (%) 2018	Q1 Case Clearance Rate (%) 2019	Case Clearance Rate (%) 2018	Q1 Case Congestion Rate (%) 2019	Q1 Case Congestion Rate (%) 2018
Westmoreland	64.09	60.27	97.25	108.26	192.40	137.11
Corporate Area Criminal	63.81	59.55	106.56	96.06	202.68	171.37
St. Catherine	60.76	55.99	129.82	105.59	114.59	160.93
St. James	53.06	57.88	104.71	96.61	253.82	185.06
Hanover	47.91	40.15	96.74	81.47	297.12	222.27
St. Elizabeth	42.11	39.35	91.23	69.67	253.57	253.60
Portland	46.62	40.91	137.01	126.92	244.94	188.71
Manchester	45.12	34.62	119.53	69.40	339.11	324.28
St. Mary	50.38	42.36	162.12	93.40	185.05	230.86
St. Thomas	48.48	46.83	94.32	101.97	311.24	200.32
Trelawny	49.13	42.68	49.13	92.99	669.72	252.13
Clarendon	43.69	35.41	74.77	37.36	997.59	1371.43
St. Ann	32.35	38.37	81.85	72.92	644.10	334.52
<b>Average/weighted Average</b>	<b>49.81</b>	<b>45.72</b>	<b>103.47</b>	<b>88.66</b>	<b>361.99</b>	<b>310.20</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>8.99</b>	<b>9.38</b>	<b>29.00</b>	<b>22.61</b>	<b>253.21</b>	<b>324.24</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>-0.69</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>3.40</b>

\*Q1- Refers to quarter one (January to March of 2018 and 2019 respectively)

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**Table 3.0: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for the first quarter of 2018 and 2019**

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) Q1 (2019)	Trial certainty rate (%) Q1 (2018)
Westmoreland	100%	100%
Clarendon	100%	100%
St. Ann	100%	98%
Portland	100%	100%
St. James	98%	98%
Manchester	80%	72%
St. Elizabeth	91%	50%
St. Catherine	75%	74%
Trelawny	100%	100%
St. Mary	56%	63%
St. Thomas	75%	75%
Corporate Area Criminal	58%	80%
Hanover	28%	18%
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>79%</b>

*\*Q1 represents previous quarter i.e. January- March 2018*

The trial date certainty rate provides a measure of the extent to which dates, which are set for trial proceed on schedule without being delayed to some future date. The overall trial date certainty rate for the first quarter of 2019 was 82%, a 3-percentage points improvement when compared to the corresponding period in 2018. Six of the parish courts met the prescribed international performance standard of a rate between 92% and 100% in the quarter. Leading the way are the parish courts of Westmoreland, Portland, Clarendon and Trelawney with trial date certainty rates of 100% in the quarter. The parish courts of St. James and St. Ann with rates of 98% also feature prominently on this measure. The minimum-targeted trial date certainty rate, which has been set out by the Honourable Chief Justice for the judiciary for the next six years, is 95%. This is consistent with the push to significantly enhance the efficiency of the court system and hence the timely delivery of justice to the Jamaican citizenry. The attainment of this minimum threshold rate will depress the overall criminal case backlog in the Jamaican court system below 5%.

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**Table 4.0: Types of matters for each Parish Court for the for the first quarter ended March 31, 2019**

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Petty Sessions	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	945	885	349	160	-	-	-	13	-	2352
St. Catherine	286	307	127	150	50	-	-	-	-	920
Manchester	455	187	330	125	40	-	25	-	-	1162
St. James	281	348	116	77	80	53	-	-	-	955
St. Ann	293	232	152	42	50	-	-	1	-	770
Westmoreland	300	296	96	113	33	-	-	-	-	838
Clarendon	284	147	93	78	-	-	-	-	-	602
Portland	231	177	74	34	-	-	-	-	-	516
St. Elizabeth	261	135	59	57	71	-	-	6	-	589
St. Mary	161	91	70	34	29	-	-	-	-	385
Trelawney	122	168	78	34	-	-	-	-	-	402
Hanover	153	104	51	39	-	-	-	-	-	347
St. Thomas	144	166	54	62	-	-	-	-	-	426
<b>Total</b>	<b>3916</b>	<b>3243</b>	<b>1649</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10264</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>38.15</b>	<b>31.60</b>	<b>16.07</b>	<b>9.79</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>9.24</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Total number of matters in the sample = 10,264. \*\*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 first quarter of 2019. For the quarter, 10,264 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decline of approximately 14.77% when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2018. The majority of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (2,352), the St. Catherine Parish Court (920), the Manchester Parish Court with (1162) and the St. St. James Parish Court with 955 charges. The majority of the charges were Indictments (38.15%); followed by Summary matters (31.60%), Lay Magistrates Court (16.07%) and Committal Proceedings with 9.79% 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. James, Manchester and Westmoreland. The largest proportion of Lay Magistrates Court matters were filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division followed by the parish courts of Manchester and St. Ann. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the Westmoreland and Manchester

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Parish Courts accounted for the largest individual shares of Committal Proceedings. As for criminal matters, which are traffic related, the only incidences of these in the quarter were in the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division and the Parish Courts of Westmoreland and St. Catherine.

## Offence Types

**Table 5.0: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**

Parish Court	Assault Occasioning bodily harm	Unlawful Wounding	Threat	Malicious destruction of property	Possession of Offensive Weapon	Exposing goods for Sale
Manchester	101	86	43	65	51	107
Clarendon	115	80	40	33	32	12
St. Catherine	148	89	55	51	83	63
St. Thomas	39	30	17	22	31	9
Portland	73	41	45	39	28	6
St. Mary	67	51	41	29	9	-
St. James	74	67	18	49	105	37
Corporate Area Criminal	252	200	22	95	202	78
Westmoreland	117	79	53	60	78	61
Hanover	49	41	20	27	27	1
St. Elizabeth	94	60	34	58	32	-
St. Ann	74	74	119	37	46	-
Trelawny	46	27	27	21	37	1
<b>Total</b>	1249	925	534	586	761	375
<b>Percentage of total</b>	28.19	20.88	12.05	13.23	17.18	8.47

\*\*\*Number of observations (N) = 10,263

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the six most commonly occurring types of charges across all parish courts for the first quarter of the 2019. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1249 or 28.19% of the total number of charges is the most frequently occurring. Unlawful wounding with 925 or 20.88% and possession of offensive weapon with 761 or 17.18% followed this. The top six is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 586 or 13.23%, threats with 534 or 12.05% and exposing goods for sale with 375 or 8.47% of the total number of charges filed in the parish courts during the quarter. These six most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 43.16% of

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the total incidence of charges in quarter. In the corresponding quarter of 2018, these same charges accounted for approximately 39% of the total number of incidence of charges.

**Table 6.0: Average age of active charges for each parish court for charges filed in the first quarter of 2019**

Parish Court	Average Age of Active charges (days)
Clarendon	72
Trelawny	69
Portland	64
St. Mary	61
Hanover	65
Westmoreland	48
St. Catherine	66
St. Elizabeth	60
St. Ann	53
St. James	60
St. Thomas	68
Corporate Area Criminal	71
Manchester	67
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-1.0</b>

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the first quarter of 2019, for charges originating in said quarter. The average age of active matters originating in the quarter was approximately 63 days or roughly 2 months, roughly 25 days longer than the average in the first quarter of 2018. The parish courts of Westmoreland, St. Ann, St. James and St. Elizabeth have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed for in the parish courts of Clarendon, Manchester and the Corporate Area. 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 case 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

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delivery of justice. The standard deviation of the scores was low (7 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The low positive negative skewness shown is an indication that slightly more of the average age of active cases for the various courts fell above the overall mean.

**Table 7.0: Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the quarter ended March 31, 2019**

Parish Court	Average Age of Disposed charges (days)
St. Catherine	48
St. Thomas	33
St. Ann	26
Corporate Area Criminal	20
Manchester	44
Portland	38
St. James	59
Hanover	33
Westmoreland	35
St. Elizabeth	35
St. Mary	33
Clarendon	38
Trelawny	41
<b>Overall Average</b>	37.15
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	9.74
<b>Skewness</b>	0.577

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the first quarter of 2019, which were filed in the Parish Courts, is 37.15 days or about a month and a week. This is just over twice the time taken to dispose of cases originating in the first quarter of 2018, which were disposed. The standard deviation of roughly 10 days is an indication that there were moderate variations in the distribution of the scores, which ranged from a low of roughly 20 days at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division to a high of 59 days for the St. James Parish Court. The weak positive skewness of roughly 0.58 is an indication that a significant proportion of the scores were clustered around the overall average score.

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**Table 8.0: Breakdown of time to disposition as at March 31, 2019**

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	2275 (63.20%)	759 (21.10%)	283 (7.90%)	72 (2.0%)	208 (5.80%)	3597 (100%)
St. Catherine	272 (25.90)	241 (22.90%)	150 (14.30%)	140 (13.30%)	249 (23.70%)	1052 (100%)
St. James	1480 (43.50%)	743 (21.80%)	439 (4.4%)	380 (11.20%)	364 (10.70%)	3406 (100%)
Manchester	560 (58.7%)	359 (17.20%)	350 (16.70%)	237 (11.30%)	586 (28.0%)	2072 (100%)
Westmoreland	575 (67.20%)	128 (15.0%)	71 (8.30%)	27 (3.20%)	55 (6.40%)	886 (100%)
St. Ann	129 (29.20%)	81 (18.30%)	46 (10.40%)	32 (7.20%)	154 (34.80%)	442 (100%)
Clarendon	748 (75.40%)	102 (10.30%)	42 (4.20%)	40 (4.0%)	60 (6.0%)	992 (100%)
St. Thomas	41 (20.20%)	29 (14.30%)	29 (14.30%)	43 (21.20%)	61 (30.0%)	203 (100%)
Portland	35 (11%)	63 (19.90%)	60 (18.90%)	40 (12.60%)	119 (37.50%)	317 (100%)
St. Mary	117 (34.10%)	90 (26.20%)	460 (13.40%)	23 (6.70%)	67 (19.50%)	343 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	175 (38.50%)	112 (24.70%)	59 (13.0%)	18 (14.0%)	90 (19.80%)	454 (100%)
Trelawny	64 (72.70%)	21 (23.90%)	3 (3.40%)	-	-	88 (100%)
Hanover	404 (68.70%)	125 (21.30%)	51 (8.70%)	3 (0.50%)	5 (0.90%)	588 (100%)
<b>% of total</b>	<b>47.74</b>	<b>19.81</b>	<b>11.31</b>	<b>7.33</b>	<b>14.01</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>1111</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>1221</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>1.92</b>	<b>1.71</b>	<b>1.37</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 14,440*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least a consecutive 27-month period over September 2016 – March 31, 2019 for each parish court.*

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for at least 28 consecutive months over the period September 2016 to March 2019. The results



shown suggests decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 48% of the disposals. The parish courts of Clarendon, Westmoreland, and the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division are among the courts with the largest proportion of cases disposed within 90 days. This trend is broadly similar to that seen over the past 12 months. Cumulatively, 86.19% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six years. This result represents a roughly 10-percentagepoints improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2018. From the data set, the parish courts of Portland, St. Thomas and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample did not vary dramatically either within or across the period, particularly for the higher times to disposition. This 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.

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**Table 9.0: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at March 31, 2019**

Parish Court	Time to disposition (in days)							Sample size (N)
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	
Clarendon	90.45	7	35	146.33	2.729	0	767	<b>992</b>
Corporate Area Criminal	105.27	7	63	135.613	2.60	1	808	<b>3597</b>
Westmoreland	114.59	36	61.50	187.996	6.366	1	1974	<b>886</b>
St. Catherine	287.78	163	187	390.124	5	1	4635	<b>1052</b>
Hanover	81.97	29	28	105.244	5.60	1	1057	<b>588</b>
Trelawny	64.50	63	59	43.862	1.121	2	200	<b>88</b>
St. Mary	90.05	28	42	122.36	1.81	0	686	<b>343</b>
St. Elizabeth	225.02	28	121.50	275	2.176	1	1356	<b>454</b>
St. Thomas	378.54	33	278	403.20	2.0	1	1775	<b>203</b>
Portland	413.22	220	270	428.33	2.207	1	2107	<b>317</b>
St. James	161.88	64	106	146.121	1.59	1	1097	<b>3406</b>
Manchester	277.42	28	198	288.25	3.31	1	2506	<b>2092</b>
St. Ann	352.67	382	352.67	398.421	1.839	1	1950	<b>442</b>
<b>Std. Deviation</b>	<b>125.50</b>	<b>109.40</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>133.80</b>	<b>1.70</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>11129.3</b>	<b>1180.50</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>2.09</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>1.16</b>	<b>-0.26</b>	<b>1.62</b>	<b>1.04</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 14,460*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for a at least a consecutive 27 month period over September 2016 –March 31, 2019 for each Parish Court*

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The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at September 30, 2018. For each parish court, the estimates cover at least 27 consecutive months spanning September 2016 to March 31, 2019 and it should be noted that these descriptive statistics are for matters disposed of over that sample period. The output produces an overall average estimated time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of 203 days over the period, markedly higher than the corresponding period in 2018. The skewness of these times to disposition is 0.49, suggesting that there were slightly more times to disposition among the parish courts, which were above the overall mean. For matters disposed in the period, the parish courts of Clarendon (91 days), Hanover (82 days) and Trelawney (65 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Ann (353 days), St. Thomas (413 days) and St. Thomas (379 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed during the quarter. The variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts are however wide as shown by the relatively high standard deviation (125.50), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. An interesting finding is that the minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was either one or 0 days however; the maximum times are substantially larger, in some cases several years. This result is both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 200 days (16.67 months) in the Trelawney Parish Court to a high of 4635 days (12.70 years) in the St. Catherine Parish Court. The skewness of the maximum time to disposition is moderately positive 1.62, which is an indication that proportionately more of the maximum times to disposition fell below the overall

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average of these scores. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was 14460, 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 first quarter ended March 31 2019**

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated settlement	Guilty verdict	Committed to circuit Court	Total
St Catherine	334	174	-	79	87		5	<b>679</b>
Corporate Area Criminal	444	107	7	7	-	81	-	<b>646</b>
Westmoreland	198	123	57	3	-	8	6	<b>394</b>
St. James	226		33	3	16	3	1	<b>282</b>
Manchester	138	68	-	-	28	2	4	<b>260</b>
Clarendon	37	18	43	-	-	49	15	<b>162</b>
St. Elizabeth	71	2	27	-	39	1	8	<b>148</b>
Trelawney	45	11	44	-	3	23	-	<b>126</b>
Hanover	58	5	41	1	10	11	-	<b>126</b>
Portland	50	20	40	-	5		-	<b>115</b>
St. Mary	43	44	-	-	23		-	<b>110</b>
St. Thomas	52	26	-	1	-	4	-	<b>83</b>
St. Ann	28	21	1	3	-		-	<b>53</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1724</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3184</b>
<b>Percentage of Total</b>	<b>54.15</b>	<b>19.44</b>	<b>9.20</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>6.63</b>	<b>5.72</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Total sample size = 3184

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the first quarter of 2019. From the sample, it is observed that the majority of matters disposed during the quarter were by way of guilty plea with 54.15% of the disposals, followed by matters dismissed with 19.44% and not guilty verdicts with 9.20%. Mediated settlements with 6.63%, guilty verdicts with 5.72%, matters transferred with 3.07%, and matters committed to Circuit Court with 1.22% account for the remaining methods of disposal in the quarter. The

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combined 59.87% of the cases disposed by way of guilty outcomes represents the criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter. This represents a decline of 5.44 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2018.

### Common Reasons for Adjournment

**Table 10.1: Distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Count	Percentage
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	687	23.0
File to be completed	250	8.40
Re-issue application	198	6.70
Referred to other Mediation	176	6.65
Medical report unavailable	175	5.34
Disclosure	166	5.50
Subpoena of Investigating Officer	138	4.63
Fingerprint outstanding	80	2.70
Warrant to issue	78	2.60
Subpoena Complainant	76	2.50
Subpoena Crown Witness	74	2.50
Social Enquiry Report	65	2.20
Legal Representation to be settled	62	2.0
Psychiatric Evaluation to be done	52	1.70
Matter not before the court	36	1.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>2313</b>	<b>77.62</b>

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 2,981). *Note: DNA means that the accused did not appear*

The above table shows that from a sample of 2981 reasons for adjournments/continuance in the first quarter of 2019 across all parish courts, the largest proportion (23.0%) were because of adjournments due to defendants not appearing. Files to be completed with 8.40% of the adjournments and reissued applications with 6.70% rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Matters referred for mediation and medical reports outstanding with 6.65% and 5.34% respectively of the total number of adjournments, rounded off the top five reasons for adjournment for the first quarter of 2019. Four of these top five reasons for adjournment also featured in the top five in the first quarter of 2018.

**The case file integrity rate:**

One factor, which has a significant bearing on the progression of cases through the court system, is the case file integrity rate. A case file is considered to have met the standards of integrity if at the point of a court hearing requiring the use of said file; it is complete, accurate, available and correctly listed for court. Hence reasons for adjournment such as file incomplete, file not ready for court, matter wrongly listed and matter not before the court have an adverse impact on the case file integrity rate of the courts. In the first quarter of 2019, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 86.12% as 13.88% of the total incidence of adjournments were due to one or more of the above named factors which impair the case file integrity rate. This rate is below the prescribed international standard of 98%-100%. Herein lies an area in which major operational interventions need to be undertaken across the parish courts to improve the availability, completeness, accuracy and correct scheduling of case files for court.

**Table 11.0: Distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for continuance for the first quarter ended March 31, 209**

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Count	Percentage
Sentencing	313	7.90
Bail application	35	1.20

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 2,981)

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, which may be considered as simply intrinsic to the progression of some cases. These reasons are classified as reasons for 'continuance.' As seen in the above table, adjournments for sentencing and those for bail application featured prominently among such reasons.

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**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the first quarter ended March 31, 2019**

	Male		Female		Total	
Charge	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	873	79.52	225	20.50	1098	100%
Unlawful wounding	540	76.30	177	23.70	717	100%
Threat	347	77.56	100	22.44	447	100%
Malicious destruction of property	418	82.14	91	17.88	509	100%
Armed with an offensive weapon	466	95.12	24	4.88	490	100%
Exposing goods for sale	209	64.15	117	35.85	326	100%
Disorderly conduct	209	70.67	85	29.33	296	100%
Possession of ganja	215	82.56	46	17.42	261	100%
Simple larceny	76	75.18	25	24.82	101	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	3353	-	865		4218	<b>100%</b>

**\*\*\*The gender of offenders was not available for every matter that was filed in the parish courts hence a sample is used. Sample size (N) = 4218**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the first quarter ended March 31, 2019. 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 are assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, armed with an offensive weapon, malicious destruction of property and possession of ganja for which over 75% of the offenders were male. Exposing good for sale, disorderly conduct and unlawful wounding saw the highest incidence of female involvement among the offences, which appeared most frequently.



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**Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the first quarter-ended March 31, 2019**

Charge	Count	%
Assault occasioning bodily harm	1098	10.88
Unlawful wounding	717	7.10
Threat	447	4.43
Malicious destruction of property	509	5.04
Armed with an offensive weapon	490	4.85
Exposing goods for sale	326	3.23
Disorderly conduct	296	2.93
Possession of ganja	261	2.59
Simple larceny	101	1.00

**NB: Total sample size (N) = 10,094**

The above table shows the distribution of the nine most commonly occurring types of charges across all parish courts for the first quarter of 2019. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1098 or 10.88% of the total number of charges is the most frequently occurring. Unlawful wounding with 717 or 7.10% and malicious destruction of property with 509 or 5.04% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threats with 447 or 4.43% and armed with an offensive weapon with 490 or 4.85% of the total count during the quarter. These nine most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 42.05% of the total incidence of charges in the quarter.

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**Chapter 2.0: Criminal Case Demographics for the quarter March 31, 2019**

This chapter provides a detailed account of gender and age distribution of offenders across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2019 as well as the distribution of new cases filed based on the police stations of origin and the relative caseload carried by the courtrooms and outstations in each parish throughout the quarter, 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 14.1: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the quarter of ended March 31, 2019**

Courtroom/ Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of Cases disposed (of Those Originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	253	111	17	43.47	50.59
Night Court (main court)	195	149	34	33.51	93.85
Whithorn Outstation	62	34	4	10.65	61.29
Lay Magistrates Court (main court)	36	5	3	6.19	22.22
Whithorn Outstation (Petty Session)	8	2	-	1.37	25.00
Courtroom#2 (main court)	21	15	1	3.61	76.19
Courtroom#3 (main court)	7	3	-	1.20	42.86

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<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>64.95</b>
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The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2019 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 Lay Magistrates 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 the quarter with 253 (43.47%) and 195 (33.51%) matters respectively. This showed an increase of 54 cases or 27.14% above the 199 cases heard in courtroom 1 and 59 cases or 43.38% above the 136 cases heard in night court in Savanna La Mar in the corresponding quarter ended March 31, 2018. The Whithorn Outstation with 62 or 10.65% of the new matters heard in the parish rank next, an increase of 16 cases or 34.78% when compared to the first quarter of 2018. In terms of cases disposed, the night court sittings in Savanna La Mar accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed and had the highest disposal rate for the current quarter and the corresponding 2018-quarter with a rate of 93.85% and 94.85% respectively, a 1-percentage point decline when compared to the first quarter of 2018. Courtroom 2 with a disposal rate of 76.19% and the Whithorn outstation with a rate of 61.29% rounds off the highest disposal rates. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 12.02% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, with the main courthouse accounting for the remaining 87.97%.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 253 new cases heard in courtroom 1, 11 were disposed in other

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courtrooms while nine of these cases were disposed in courtroom 3 and two were disposed in the night court. Of the 195 cases heard in courtroom 1, four were disposed in other courtrooms.

Two of these cases were disposed in courtroom 1, while two were disposed in courtroom 3.

**Table 14.2: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the quarter of ended March 31, 2019**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in the quarter</b>	<b>Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)</b>	<b>Proportion of total new Cases (%)</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #2 (main court)	1393	568	380	85.72	68.05
Lay Magistrates Court (main court)	96	49	15	5.91	66.67
Night Court (main court)	1	0	0	.06	-
Courtroom #6 (main court)	55	9	2	3.38	20
Gordon Town outstation	16	10	1	.98	68.75
Courtroom #7 (main court)	49	2	4	3.02	12.24
Courtroom # 8 (main court)	15	5	-	.92	33.33
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>1625</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64.31</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2019 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 accommodated the highest proportion of new cases filed in the quarter with 85.72% of the total. The Lay Magistrates Court with roughly 6% follows this and courtroom # 6 with 3.38%, rounding off the top three accommodations for new cases filed in the quarter. Similarly, in the first quarter of the corresponding period in 2018 courtroom 2 had the highest proportion of new cases with 72.79% of

the total and Lay Magistrates Court and night court rounded off the top three with approximately 7% and 4.89% respectively. In terms of disposal rates, the data also shows that Gordon Town outstation with disposal rates of 68.75% and Lay Magistrates outstation with 66.67% were among the highest disposal rates for the period. However, in the corresponding 2018-quarter Courtroom number 2 and Gordon Town outstation accounted for the highest disposal rates of 69.67% and 53.57% respectively. Courtroom number 2 accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed in the quarter with 568 matters, however there as a decrease of 12 matters or 2.07% compared to the 580 matters disposed of in the first quarter of 2018. The main courthouse in Half Way Tree accounted for 98.95% of the total number of new matters heard in the first quarter compared to the 98.30% recorded in the corresponding period of 2018. Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 1393 cases heard in courtroom 2, 56 were disposed of in other courtrooms. 18 of these cases were disposed in night court while 16 were disposed of in courtroom 1. Courtrooms 2 and 4 each disposed of 8 of those cases and the remaining 6 cases were disposed of in fast track court and courtroom 5.

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**Table 14.3: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the quarter of ended March 31, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of Cases disposed (of Those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#2 (main court)	539	248	50	90.59	55.29
Courtroom#4(main court)	10	4	5	1.68	90
Courtroom #3 (main court)	19	19	-	3.93	100
Cambridge Outstation	18	8	-	3.02	44.44
Courtroom#1(main court)	9	3	6	1.51	100
<b>*Total/Average</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>57.14</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2019 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 amount of new cases filed with 539 cases an increase of 256 cases from the 283 cases filed in the first quarter of 2018. 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 55.29%, followed by courtrooms number 3 and Cambridge outstation with 3.93% and 3.02% respectively of the total number. Courtroom number 2 has a substantially lower disposal rate in this quarter of 55.29% compared to the 97.53% recorded in the corresponding 2018 quarter. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 96.97% of new cases filed in quarter 1 compared to 96.69% in quarter 1 of 2018.

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**Table 14.4: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the quarter of ended March 31, 2019.**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in the quarter</b>	<b>Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)</b>	<b>Proportion of new Cases (%)</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%)</b>
Courtroom#1 (main court)	406	222	42	46.03	65.02
Linstead Outstation courtroom #1	210	128	6	23.54	63.81
Old Harbour Outstation	73	51	-	8.18	69.86
Lay Magistrates (Main Court)	43	1	12	4.82	30.23
Courtroom#2 (main court)	44	27	6	4.94	75
Portmore Outstation (Children's Court)	43	7	1	4.82	18.60
Courtroom#4 (main court)	20	9	-	2.24	45
Portmore Outstation (Night Court)	30	22	2	3.36	80
Instead (petty court)	11	1	1	1.23	18.18
Old Harbour Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	8	-	2	0.90	25
Courtroom#5 (main court)	4	2	-	0.45	50
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60.76</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2019 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 Lay Magistrates and night court matters for the relevant locations for ease of comparisons. The data shows decisively that matters

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entered in courtroom number 1 at the main court in Spanish Town and the Linstead outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 46.03% and 23.54% respectively. Old Harbour with 8.18% of the new cases heard ranks next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 406 matters and had the second highest disposal rate of 65.02%. There was a similar result in the corresponding 2018 quarter, as courtroom number 1 had the highest absolute share of new cases filed of 418 and a disposal rate of 49.76% the seventh highest disposal rate during that period. Courtroom number 1 had the highest number of matters disposed with 222 cases. Courtroom 2 had the highest disposal rate with 75%, an increase of 20.24 percentage points from the 54.76% recorded in the corresponding 2018 quarter. Old Harbour and the Courtroom #1 (main court) followed with disposal rates of 69.86% and 65.02% respectively, Linstead outstation with a disposal rate of 63.81% rounded off the top three on this measure.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 222 cases disposed of in courtroom 1, 11 were disposed in other courtrooms. Five of these cases were disposed of in courtroom 2, 3 were disposed in courtroom #3 and 3 in courtroom# 4. Of the 51 cases disposed at the Old Harbour outstation, one (1) was disposed of in courtroom 1, while two were disposed of in Lay Magistrates sittings. Of the 44 cases filed in courtroom 2, two were disposed of in other courtrooms, one in courtroom 1 and the other at the night court sittings. Of the 43 cases heard in Children's Court one was disposed in courtroom 2. Nine cases were heard in courtroom four, of this number three were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation while two were disposed of in courtroom in courtroom 3 and 1 in courtroom 1.



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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 63.45% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter and the outstations combined accounted for the remaining 36.54%.

### 14.5: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the quarter of ended March 31, 2019

Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new Cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	187	94	5	73.05	52.94
Yallahs Outstation	39	16	3	15.23	48.72
Children's Court	12	3	-	4.69	25.00
Courtroom#2 (main court)	15	2	5	5.86	46.67
Yallahs outstation (Lay Magistrates)	3	-	-	1.17	0
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2019 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 the Yallahs Outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 73.05% and 15.23% respectively. Courtroom number 1 accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 94 matters and the highest disposal rate of 52.94%. Courtroom number 1 at the main court and Courtroom 2 with disposal rates of 52.94% and 48.72% respectively accounts for the first and second highest disposal rates respectively.

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Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 94 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were four cases disposed in other courtrooms while one case was disposed in night court, while three were disposed in courtroom 1.

The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 78.91% of the total number of new cases heard in quarter.

**Table 14.6: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the quarter of ended March 31, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the Quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new Cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Falmouth Court	165	88	-	57.69	53.33
Ulster Spring outstation	37	17	-	12.94	45.95
Clarks Town (Children's Court)	13	5	-	4.55	38.46
Falmouth (Lay Magistrates)	12	5	1	4.20	50
Courtroom#1 (main court)	10	7	-	3.50	70
Ulster Spring (Petty Session)	4	-	1	1.40	25
Clarks Town (Petty Session)	10	1	-	3.50	10
Falmouth (Night Court)	1	-	-	0.35	0
Clarks Town Outstation (Courtroom #1)	34	18	1	11.89	55.88
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50.35</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended March 31, 2019 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows decisively that matters entered in the Falmouth court and the Ulster Spring outstation accounts for the

highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 57.69% and 12.94% respectively. However, in the Falmouth court there was a of 4.2 percentage points when compared to the 61.89% recorded in the corresponding 2018 quarter while on the contrary there was an increase of 2.57 percentage points in the Ulster Spring outstation when compared to the 10.37 recorded in the similar first quarter of 2018. The Falmouth Court accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 88 matters and one of the highest disposal rates of 53.33%. Although the absolute numbers are proportionately low, courtroom #1 and the Lay Magistrates sittings in Clarks Town rank among the highest disposal rates for the parish in the quarter with 70% and 55.88% respectively.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 88 cases disposed in Falmouth courtroom 1, four were disposed in other courtrooms; two were disposed in the night court in Falmouth, 1 at the Clarks Town outstation and 1 at Lay Magistrates Court. Of the seven cases disposed that were heard in courtroom 1, 1 case was disposed of at the Clarks town outstation. The outstations accounts for 24.83% of the new cases heard in the quarter.

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**Table 14.7: Aggregate case statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the quarter of ended March 31, 2019**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in the quarter</b>	<b>Number of Cases disposed (of Those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)</b>	<b>Proportion of total new Cases (%)</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%)</b>
Courtroom#1 (main court)	141	59	8	53.61	47.52
Courtroom#2 (main court)	3	1	1	1.14	66.67
Annotto Bay Outstation	25	17	2	9.51	76
Lay Magistrates (main court)	31	-	21	11.79	67.74
Night Court (main court)	1	-	-	0.38	0
Richmond Outstation	33	15	-	12.55	45.45
Children's Court	15	2	-	5.70	13.33
Gayle Outstation	7	4	-	2.66	57.14
Courtroom #3	2	1	-	0.76	50
Annotto Bay Outstation (Petty Session)	4	-	1	1.52	25
Gayle Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	1	1	-	0.38	100
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50.57</b>

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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 in the first quarter ended March 31, 2019. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 1 and the Richmond outstation account for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 53.61% and 12.55% respectively of the total. Lay Magistrates Court at the main courthouse with 11.79% of the new cases heard in the quarter rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 59, an increase of 29 matters or 96.67%, up from the 30 matters recorded in the corresponding 2018 first quarter and had the sixth highest case disposal rate of 47.52%. The Annotto Bay outstation and courtroom 2 with disposal rates of 67.74% and 66.67% respectively also rank among the top five disposal rates.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 141 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were 13 cases disposed in other courtrooms, four cases were disposed in courtroom 2, and another five cases were disposed in courtroom 3, while four were disposed of in night court.

The outstations in the parish account for a combined 26.62% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, similar to that recorded in the corresponding period in 2018. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for roughly 73.38% a marginal decline of less than 1 percentage point below the 74% recorded in the similar 2018 first quarter.

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**Table 14.8: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for the quarter of ended March 31, 2019**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in the quarter</b>	<b>Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)</b>	<b>Proportion of New cases (%)</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%)</b>
Courtroom#1 (main court)	159	60	15	56.58	47.17
Buff Bay Outstation	64	25	4	22.78	45.31
Manchioneal Outstation	35	16	5	12.46	60
Children's Court	15	3	-	5.34	20
Courtroom#2 (main court)	7	4	-	2.49	57.14
Courtroom#3 (main court)	1	-	-	0.36	0
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>46.98</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Portland in the first quarter ended March 31 2019. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Port Antonio accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 56.58% of the total, a 3.91 percentage points decrease below the 60.49% recorded in the corresponding 2018 first quarter. Buff Bay and Manchioneal outstations with 22.78% and 12.46% respectively of the total number of the new cases heard in the quarter rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 60 matters, 9 matters or 13.04% decrease compared to the 69 matters recorded in the first quarter of 2018 and had the third highest

case disposal rate of 47.17%. Manchioneal outstation with a rate of 60% and courtroom 2 with a disposal rate of 57.14% are the top two on this measure.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 64 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were two cases disposed of in courtroom 2. Of the seven cases heard in courtroom 2, there were two cases disposed of in other courtrooms; one case was disposed of in courtroom 1, while one was disposed of in courtroom 3.

The outstations in Portland account for a combined 35.23% of the new cases heard a marginal increase of 3.76percentage points above the 31.47 recorded in the corresponding 2018 first quarter. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 64.77% and decreased by a similar 3.76% below the 68.53% recorded in the first quarter of 2018.

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**Table 14.9: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the quarter of ended March 31, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of cases inactive (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of New cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main court)	97	47	-	45.33	48.45
Sandy Bay Outstation #1	39	16	-	18.22	41.02
Green Island (Night Court)	19	14	-	8.88	73.68
Lay Magistrates (main court)	11	4	-	5.14	36.36
Ramble Outstation (Courtroom #1)	31	16	-	14.49	51.61
Sandy Bay (Lay Magistrates)	6	2	-	2.80	33.33
Courtroom #2 (main court)	5	2	-	2.34	40
Green Island Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	5	2	-	2.34	40
Ramble Outstation (Courtroom #2)	1	-	-	0.47	0
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48.13</b>

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 the first quarter ended March 31, 2019. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number one at the main court in Lucea accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 45.33% of the total. Courtroom number 1, the Sandy Bay outstation and Ramble outstation with 18.22% and 14.49% respectively rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Lucea accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 47 matters, 3 less matters than was reported in the first quarter of 2018 and had the third highest case disposal rate of 48.85%, an increase of 3.40 percentage points



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above the 45.05% recorded in the corresponding period in 2018. Green Island (night court) recorded the leading disposal rate of 73.69% a vast improvement from the 38.64% reported in the first quarter of 2018. The Ramble outstation and the Sandy Bay outstation 1 recorded disposal rates of 51.61% and 41.02% respectively and were among the top five disposal rates.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 193 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation, there were two cases disposed of at Children's Court in Santa Cruz. Of the 20 cases heard in courtroom 2, there was one case disposed of in courtroom #1 (main court).

The outstations in the parish account for roughly 35.51% of the new cases heard during the quarter while the main courthouse accounts for the remaining 64.49%.

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**Table 14.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Elizabeth for the quarter of ended March 31, 2019**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in the quarter</b>	<b>Number of Cases disposed (of Those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%)</b>
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom number #1)	193	81	9	50.66	46.63
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom #2)	20	13	-	5.25	65
Balaclava (Courtroom #1)	45	22	2	11.81	53.53
Santa Cruz (Petty Session)	20	-	1	5.25	5
Courtroom #1 (main court)	83	35	5	21.78	48.19
Santa Cruz (Children's Court)	10	-	-	2.62	0
Balaclava (Courtroom #2)	2	1	-	0.52	50
Lay Magistrates (main court)	6	1	-	1.57	16.67
Balaclava Outstation (Children's Court)	1	-	-	0.26	0
Balaclava (Petty Session)	1	-	-	0.26	0
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>44.62</b>

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 the first ended March 31, 2019. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 50.66% of the total. Courtroom number 1 at the main court in Black River and courtroom number one in

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BalACLava accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 21.78% and 11.81% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed, Santa Cruz outstation courtroom 1 accounts for the highest number of case disposed with 81 cases and a disposal rate of 46.63% for the 2019 quarter. Santa Cruz outstation (courtroom 2) had the highest disposal rate of 65%. BalACLava Courtroom 1 and BalACLava Courtroom number 2 have the next highest disposal rates with 53.53% and 50% respectively.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 263 cases heard in courtroom 1, there was one case disposed of in courtroom #2.

The outstation in Santa Cruz accounts for the highest proportion of new cases heard in the quarter with 55.91% while the main courthouse in Black River accounts for roughly 43.83%. The remaining 0.26% is accounted for the other outstation courts.

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**Table 14.11: Aggregate case statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the quarter of ended March 31, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
<b>ST.ANN'S BAY</b>					
Courtroom #1 (main court)	263	68	30	51.87	37.26
Lay Magistrates (main court)	64	5	14	12.62	29.69
Claremont Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	6	1	2	1.18	50
Children's Court - Claremont	1	-	-	0.19	0
Claremont outstation	30	5	2	5.91	23.33
<b>BROWNS TOWN</b>					
Courtroom #1	84	21	10	16.57	36.90
Lay Magistrates	54	-	5	10.65	9.26
Children's Court	5	-	2	0.99	40
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>32.54</b>

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 in the first quarter ended March 31, 2019. 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 51.87% and 16.57% respectively of the total. In the corresponding quarter of 2018, Courtroom 1 in St. Ann's Bay and courtroom one in Browns Town accounted for 51.04% and 20.14%; this showed a decline in both the St. Ann's Bay (Courtroom 1) and in Browns

Town (Courtroom 1) with 0.84-percentage point and 3.57 percentage points respectively. The Lay Magistrates Court in St. Ann's Bay accounts for the third largest share of new cases heard with 12.62%, similar to the corresponding period of 2018. 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 68 matters and had the third highest case disposal rate of 37.26%. As a whole, the Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 28.21% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann during the quarter, a decrease of 1.79 percentage points below the 30% recorded in quarter one of 2018.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 263 cases heard in courtroom 1, there was one case disposed of in courtroom #2.

The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 71.79% of the new cases heard in the quarter an increase of 8.79 percentage points up from the 63% recorded in the similar 2018 first quarter. The outstations apart from Brown's Town account for approximately 7.10% of the total.

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**Table 14.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom/outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for the quarter of ended March 31, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of Cases disposed (of Those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	130	55	3	29.48	44.62
Lionel Town outstation	77	25	3	17.46	36.36
Courtroom#2 (main court)	57	16	6	12.93	38.59
Chapleton outstation	72	29	5	16.33	47.22
Courtroom#3 (main Court)	16	8	-	3.63	50
Lay Magistrates (main court)	41	23	6	9.29	70.73
Children's Court (main court)	20	2	1	4.54	15
Frankfield Outstation	16	5	1	3.63	37.50
Night Court (main court)	12	7	-	2.72	58.33
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>44.22</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Clarendon in the first quarter ended March 31, 2019. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 29.48% of the total. Lionel Town outstation and Chapleton outstation accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 17.46% and 16.33% 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 55 matters and had the fifth highest case disposal

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rate of 44.62%. Lay Magistrates with a disposal rate of 70.73% and night court with a disposal rate of 62.67% have the highest disposal rates in the parish. An estimated 37.42% of new cases heard in Clarendon during the first quarter occurred in the outstation locations with the remaining 62.59% taking place in the main court in May Pen.

**Table 13.13: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the quarter of ended March 31, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of Cases disposed (of Those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases(of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	144	19	3	22.54	15.28
Courtroom#2 (main court)	149	36	5	23.32	27.52
Lay Magistrates (main court)	164	62	5	25.67	40.85
Christiana Outstation	33	4	2	5.16	18.18
Spalding Outstation	33	5	3	5.16	24.24
Christiana (Lay Magistrates)	16	4	3	2.50	43.75
Tax Court (main court)	25	12	6	3.90	72
Porus (main court)	16	5	-	2.50	31.25
Cross Keys (main court)	7	6	-	1.09	85.71
Spalding(Lay Magistrates)	7	2	1	1.09	42.86
Porus (Children's Court)	8	-	-	1.25	-
Cottage Outstation	6	2	1	0.94	50
Courtroom #3 (main court)	19	9	1	2.97	52.63
Cross Keys Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	1	-	-	0.16	-
Children's Court (main court)	1	-	-	0.16	-
Night Court (main court)	8	4	-	1.25	50
Cottage (Lay Magistrates)	2	-	-	0.31	-
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31.30</b>

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The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Manchester in the first quarter ended March 31, 2019. The data shows that Lay Magistrates main court accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 25.67% of the total. Courtroom number 2 and Courtroom number one accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 23.32% and 22.54% respectively of the total. There was an increase of 6.16 and 2.45 percentage points for both Courtroom 2 and courtroom 1 respectively. In terms of cases disposed, Lay Magistrates sittings at the main court in Mandeville accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 62 matters, 8 matters or 14.81% above the 54 matters recorded in the corresponding 2018 quarter. The Lay Magistrates Court also had the third highest case disposal rate of roughly 40.85%, 21.29 percentage points lower than the 62.04% recorded in quarter one of 2018. Cross Keys and courtroom 3 in May Pen with disposal rates of 85.71% and 57.26% accounts for the highest disposal rates in the parish.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 144 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were four cases disposed of in other courtrooms; three were disposed of in night court while one was disposed at the Christiana outstation.

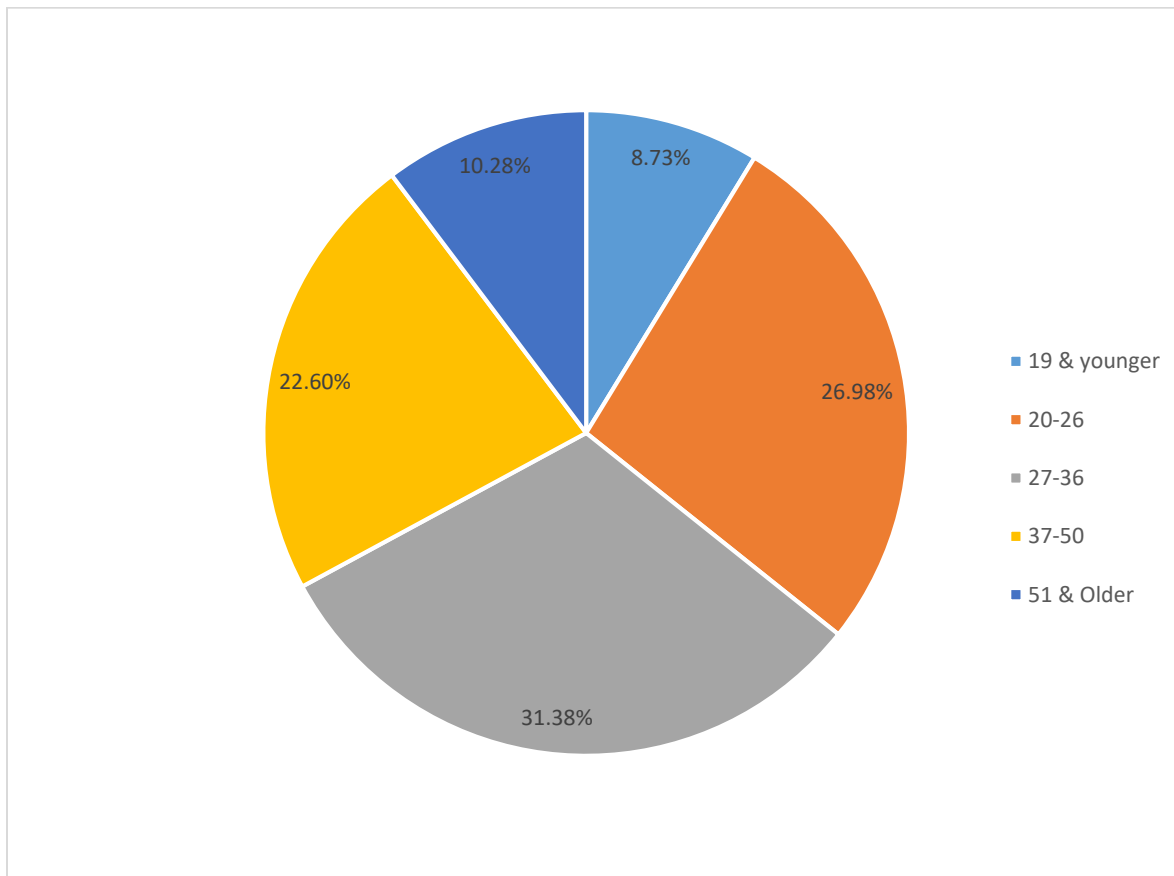
Of the 149 cases heard in courtroom 2, 1 case was disposed of at the children's court in Porus. Of the 164 cases heard at the Lay Magistrates main court, two were disposed in courtroom #2. Of the eight cases heard at night court, one was disposed of in Christiana outstation while the other was disposed of at Lay Magistrates Court.



The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 80.96% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, an increase of 15.96 percentage points above the 65% recorded in the first quarter of 2018. The remaining 19.03% were accounted for by the various outstations. This however showed a decline of 15.97 percentage points below the 35% reported in the corresponding 2018 first quarter.

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

**Chart 1.0: Aggregate age distribution of offenders for all parish courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**

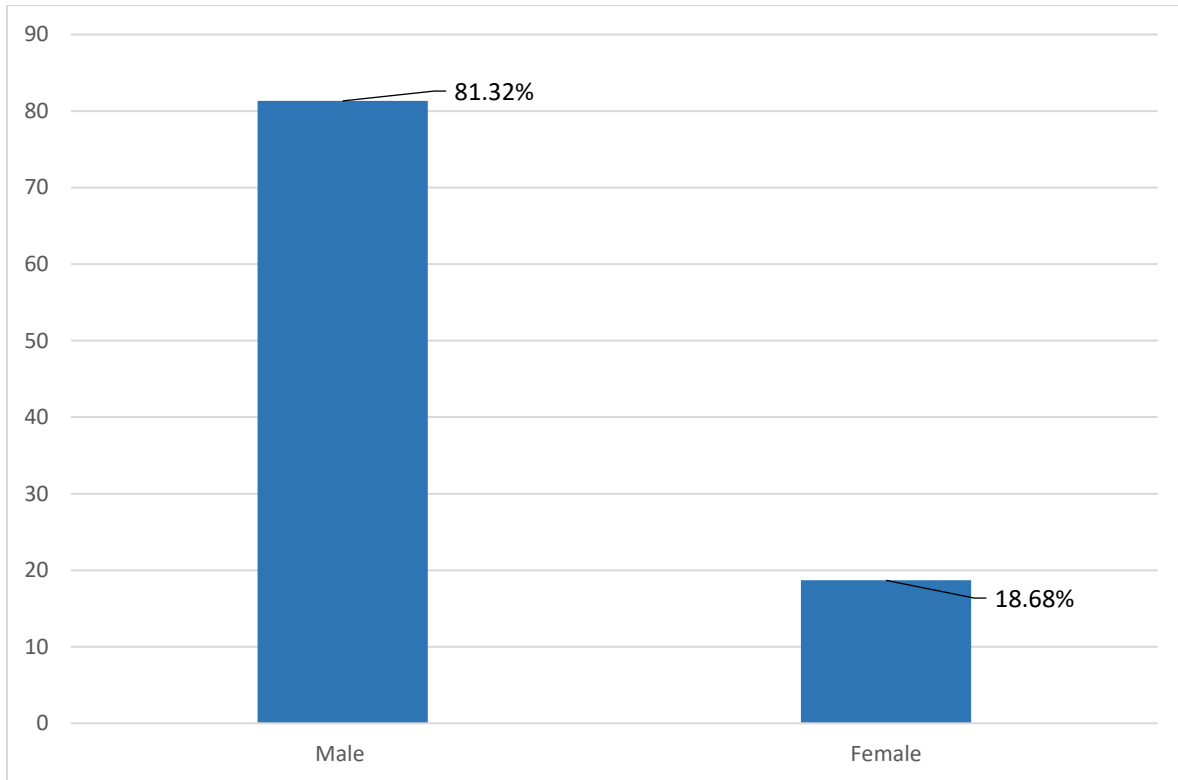


The above chart shows that of the total number of offenders, for which age data was readily available for the January to March quarter, 2019; the largest proportion, 31.38% were from the

# THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S FIRST QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS

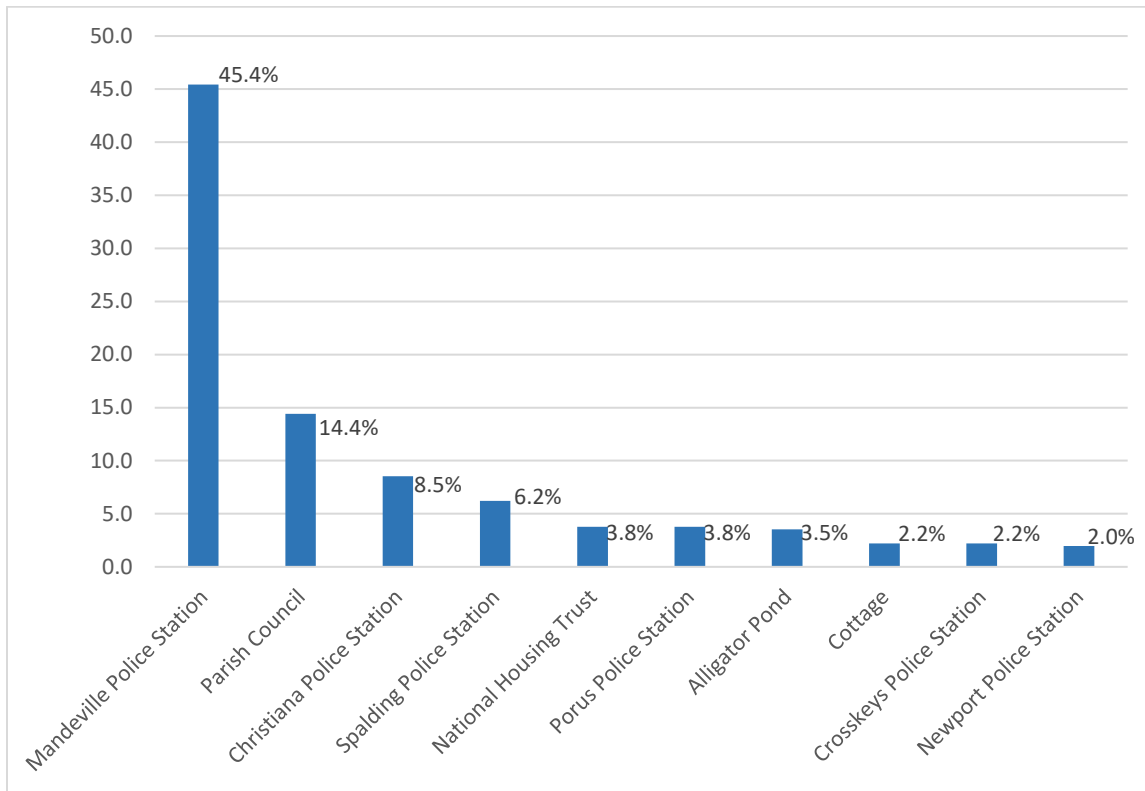
27-36 age cohorts. This category is followed by the 20-26 age group with 26.98%, the 37-50 age group with 22.60% and the oldest age cohorts 51 and over accounting for 10.28%. The 19 years and younger category accounting for 8.73% and of total offenders.

**Chart 2.0: Aggregate gender distribution of offenders for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**



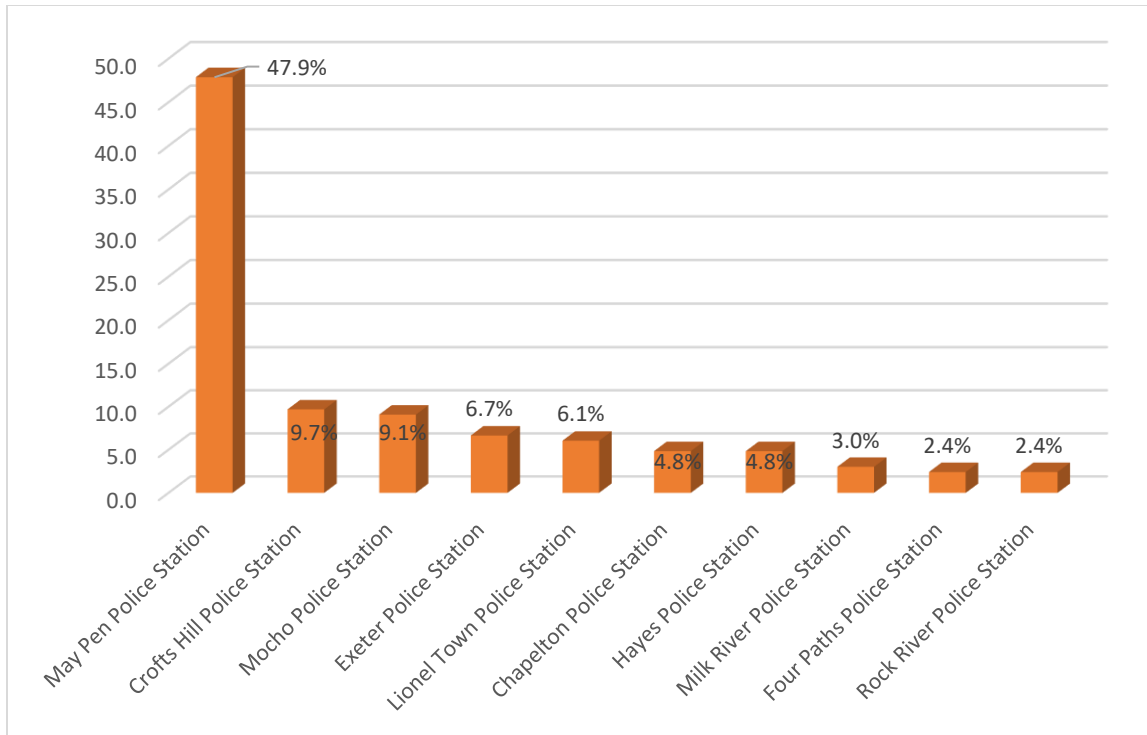
The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of offenders for the January to March quarter, 2019 were male, accounting for roughly 81.32% of the total while females accounted for approximately 18.68%.

**Chart 3.0: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**



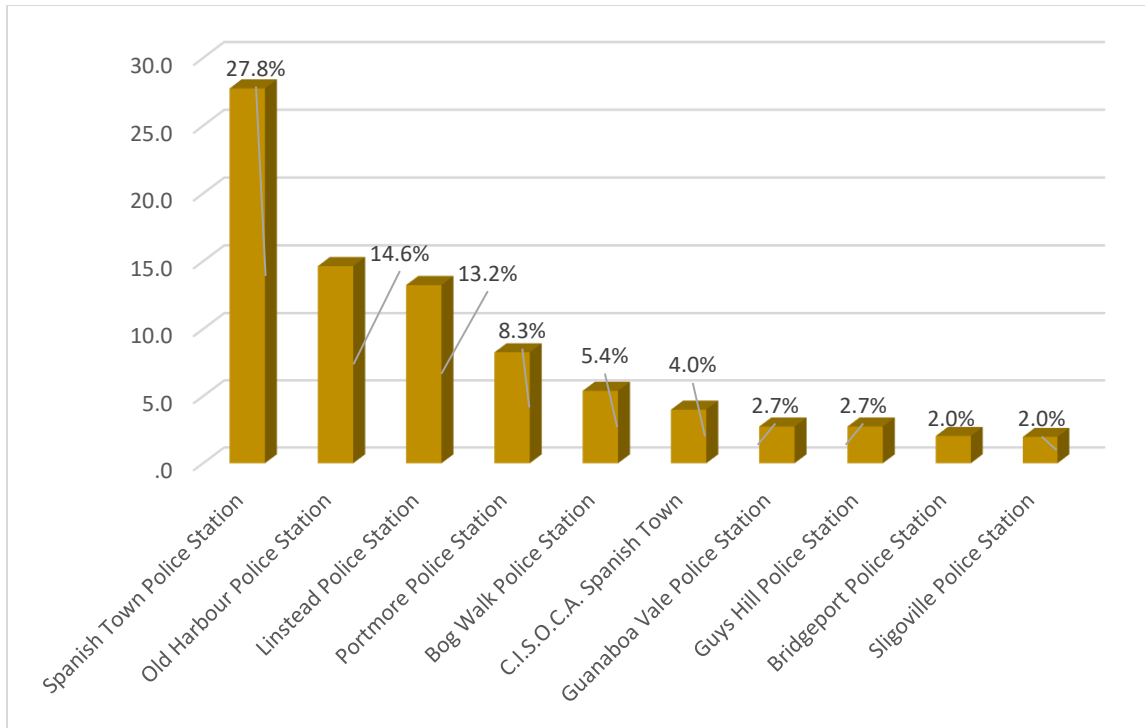
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Manchester Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 819 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 45.4%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Parish Council, which accounts for 14.4% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Christiana Police with 8.5%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.1: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**



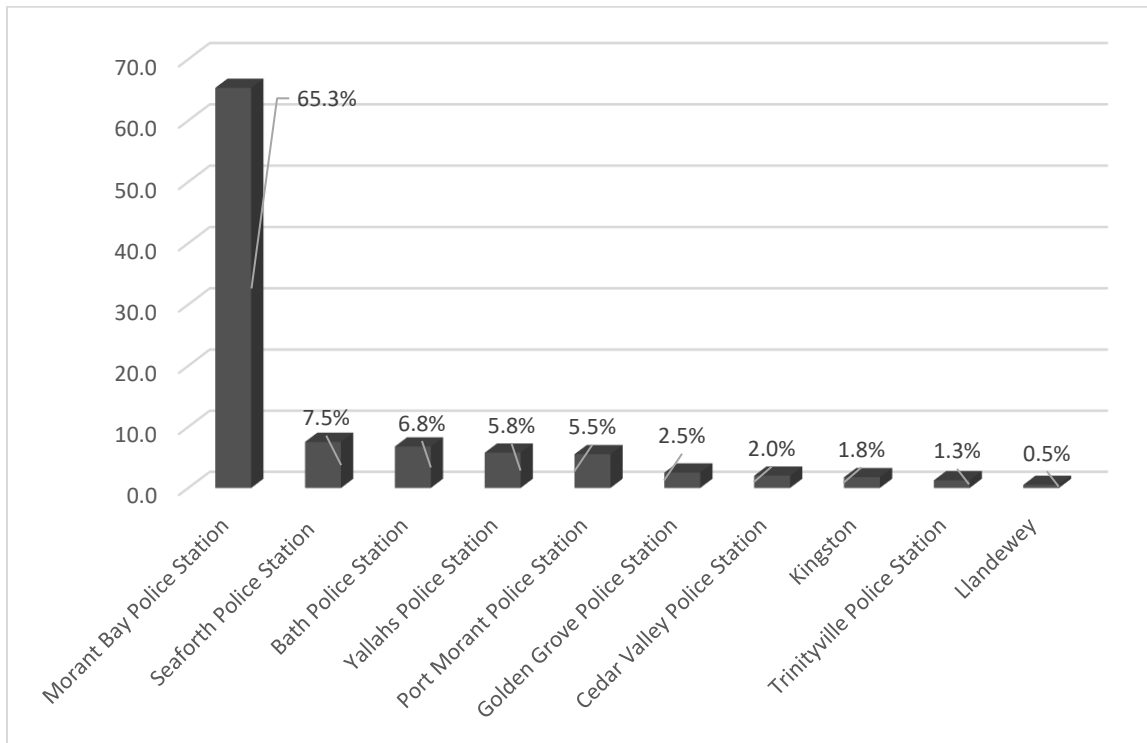
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 165 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 47.9%, which were brought before the Court were reported in May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Crofts Hill Police Station, which accounts for 9.7% of total matters reported. The Mocho Police rounded off the top three with 9.1%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.2: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**



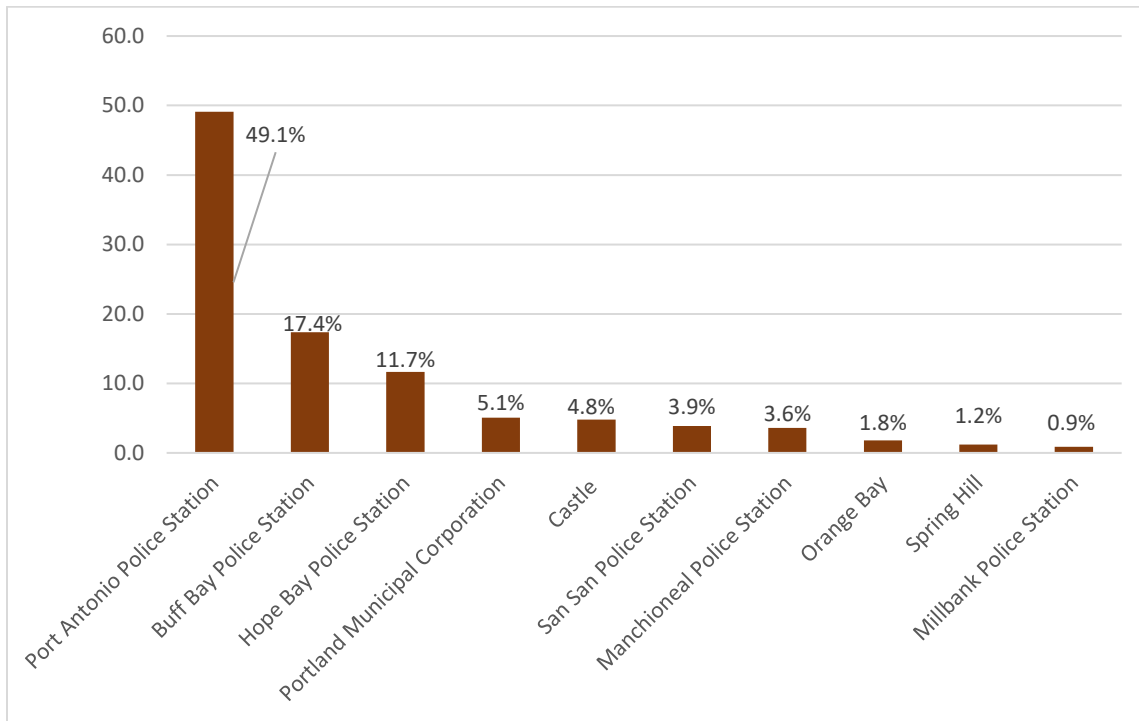
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1427 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 27.8%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Old Harbour Police Station, which accounts for 14.6% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Linstead Police Station with 13.2%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.3: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**



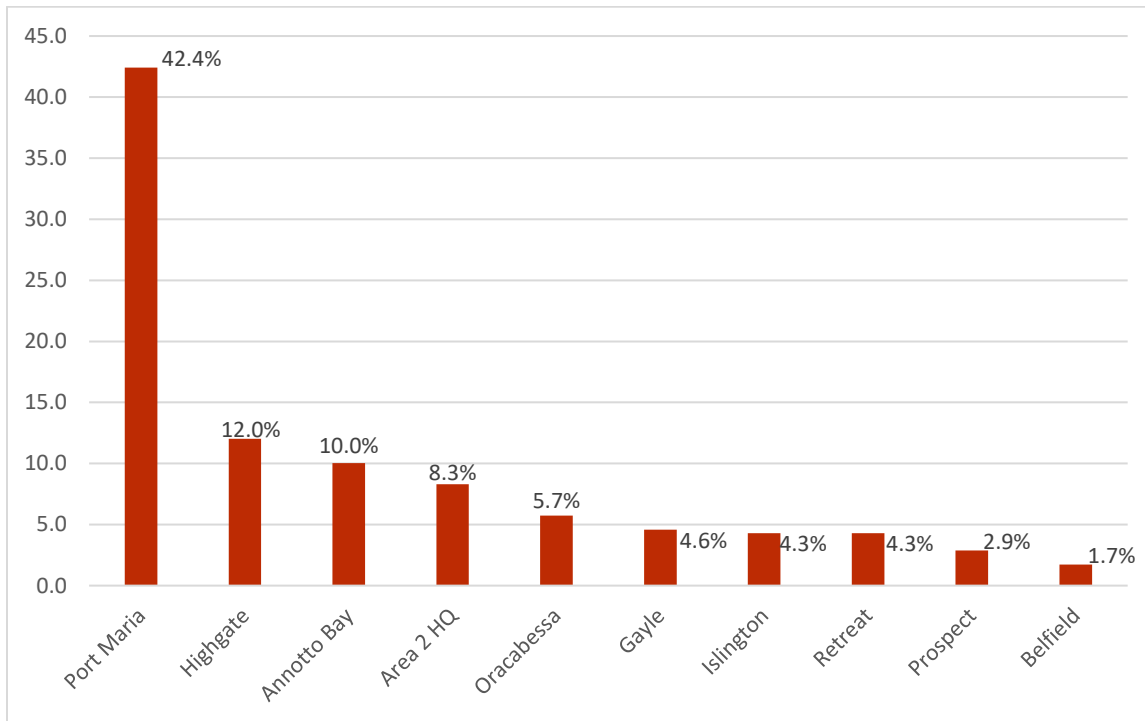
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 398 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 65.3%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Seaforth Police Station, which accounts for 7.5% of total matters reported. The Bath Police rounded off the top three with 6.8%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.4: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Portland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 334 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 49%, 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 17.4% of total matters reported. The Hope Bay Police rounded off the top three with 11.7%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

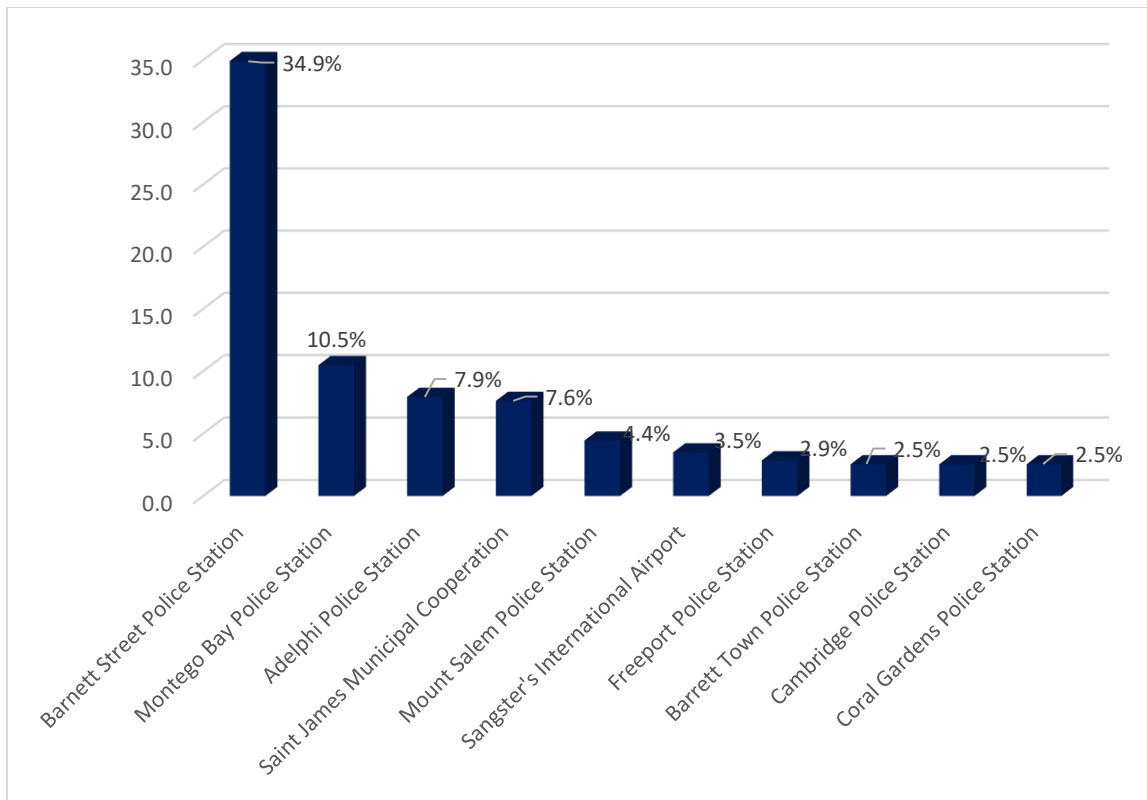
**Chart 3.5: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 349 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 42.4%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Highgate Police Station, which accounts for 12% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Annotto Bay Police with 10%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

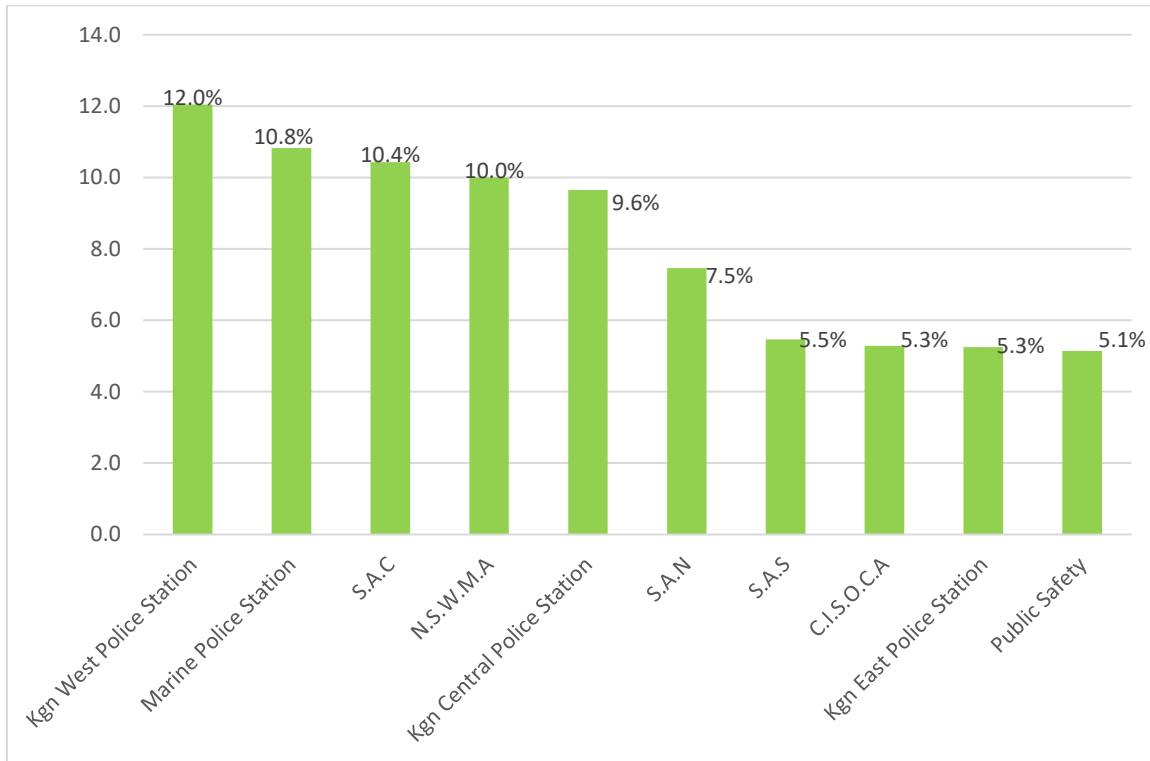


**Chart 3.6: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**



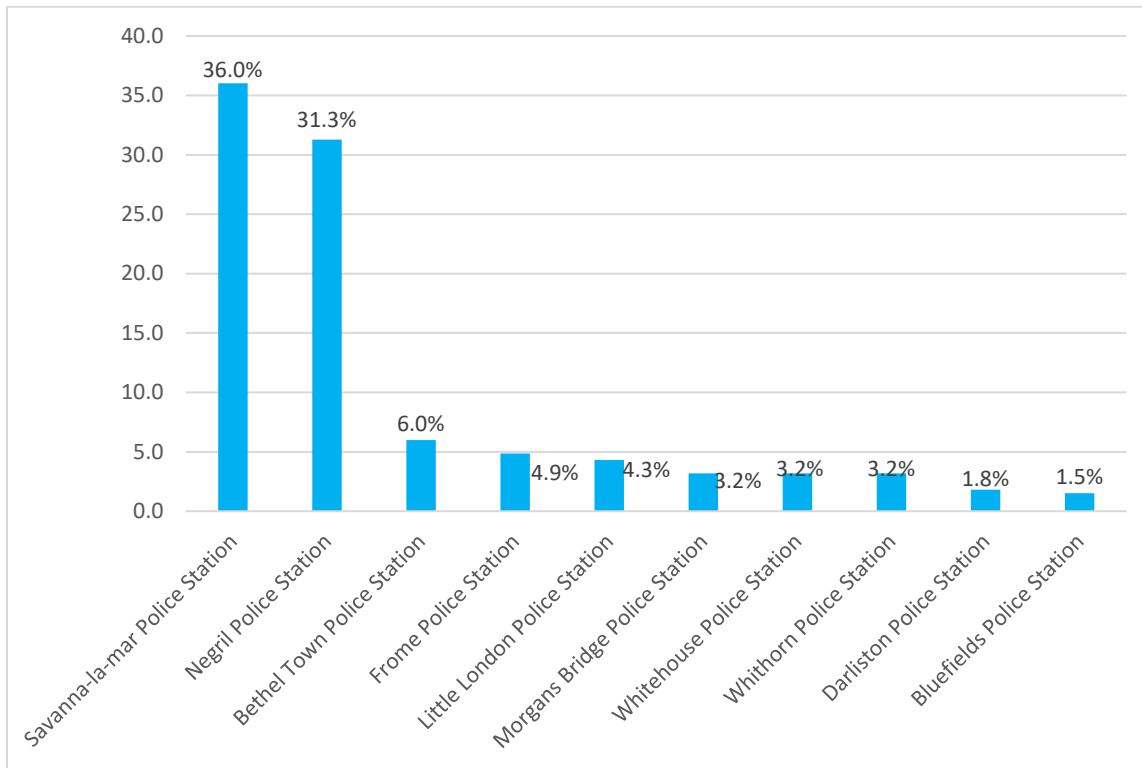
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. James Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 315 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 34.9%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Barnett Street Police Station. The Montego Bay Police Station, which accounts for 10.5% of total matters reported, followed this. The Adelphi Police rounded off the top three with 7.9%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.7: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**



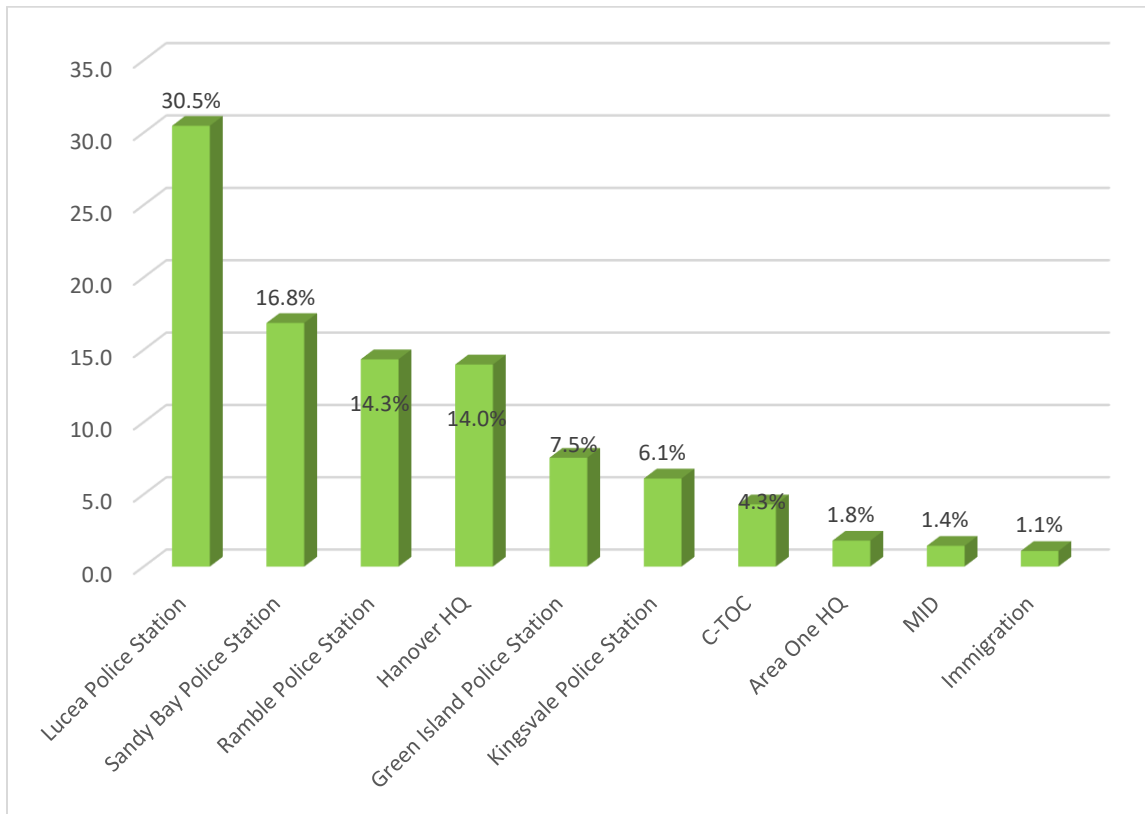
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 2799 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 12%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Kingston West Police Station. This was followed by the Marine Police Station, which accounts for 10.8% of total matters reported. The St. Andrew Central Police rounded off the top three with 10.4%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.8: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**



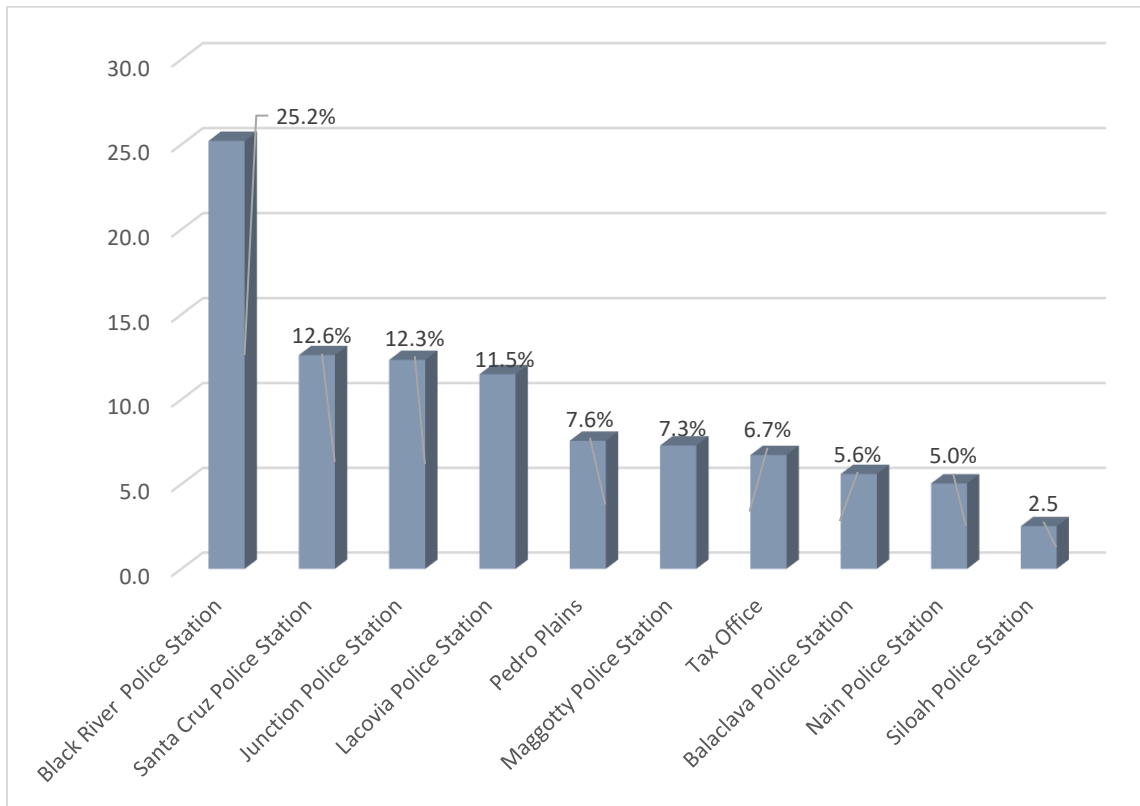
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Westmoreland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 719 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 36%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Savanna-la-mar Police Station. This was followed by the Negril Police Station, which accounts for 31.3% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Bethel Town Police with 6%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.9: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**



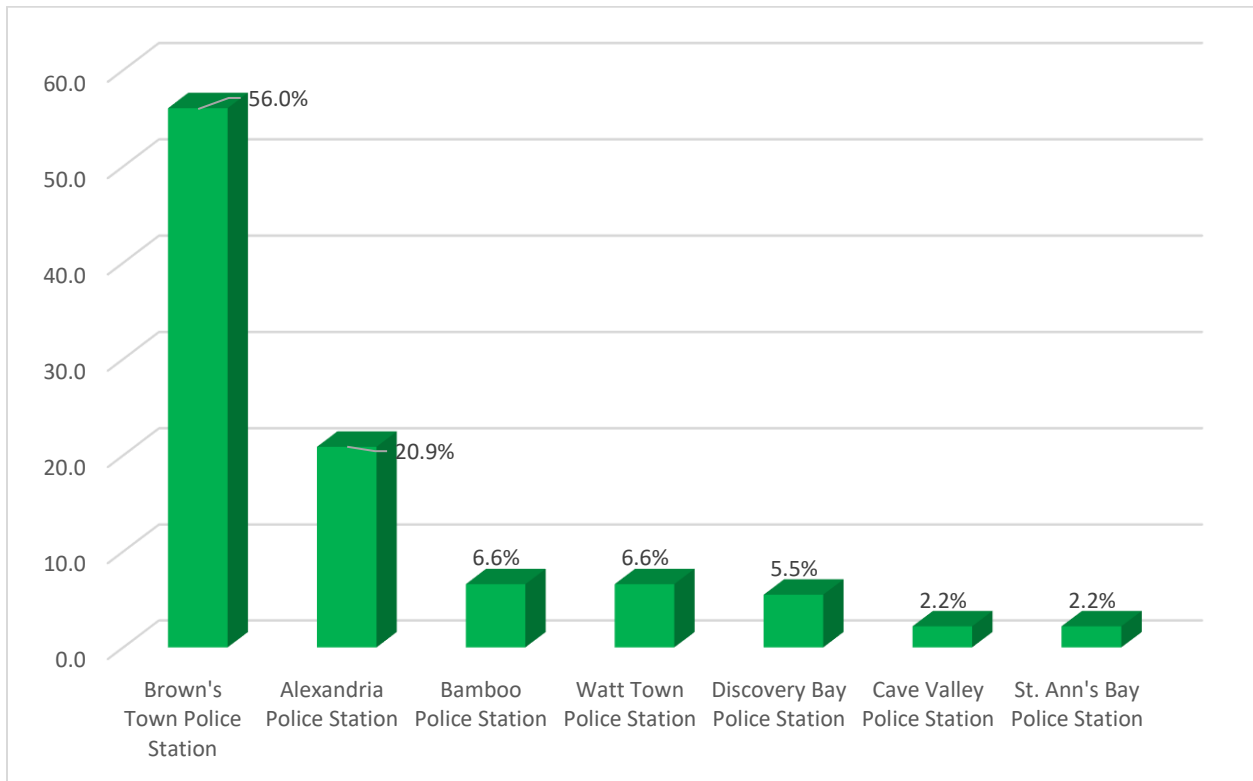
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Hanover Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 279 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 30.5%, which were brought before the Court were reported in Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Sandy Bay Police Station, which accounts for 16.8% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Ramble Police with 14.3%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.10: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**



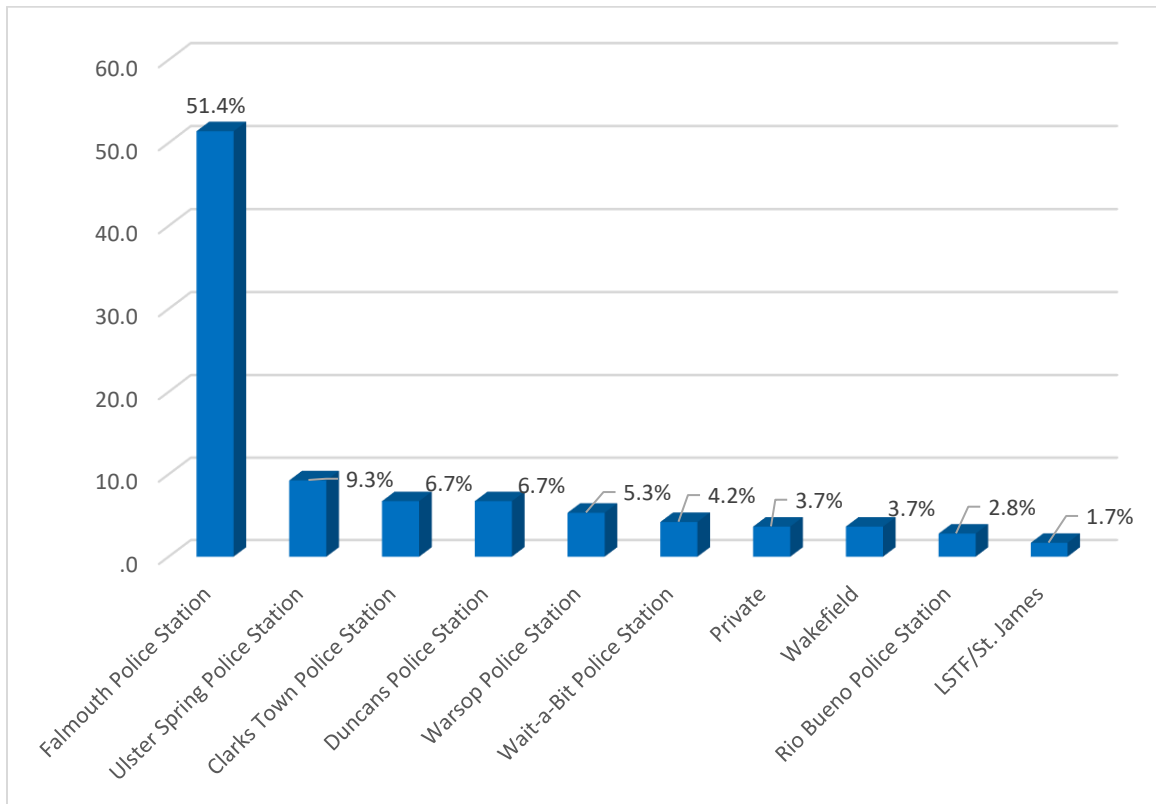
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 357 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 25.2%, which were brought before the Court were reported in Black River Police Station. This was followed by the Santa Cruz Police Station, which accounts for 12.6% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Junction Police with 12.3%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.11: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 91 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 56%, which were brought before the Court were reported in Brown's Town Police Station. This was followed by the Alexandria Police Station, which accounts for 20.9% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Bamboo Police with 6.6%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.12: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2019**



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Trelawny Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 356 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 51.4%, which were brought before the Court were reported in Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by the Ulster Spring Police Station, which accounts for 9.3% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Clarks Town Police with 6.7%. 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 first quarter ended March 31, 2019, representing a continuation of the trend in comprehensive and consistent reporting on criminal case activity in the parish courts. The findings from this report provide the basis for important policy and operational decisions. Among these key findings is that the overall criminal case clearance rate across the parish reached its highest level since this type of statistical reporting began in 2016, a rate of 103.46%, suggesting that for every 100 new cases filed across the parish courts in the period, 103 were disposed. This progress is in line with the target of raising the overall average criminal clearance rate to roughly 130% over the next six-year period. This is seen as necessary to reduce the criminal case backlog rate below the 5% mark. The overall trends in case disposal rate as at the end of the third quarter are also quite promising. It was also observed that the steady improvements in case disposition and case clearance rates across the parish courts have had a positive impact on reducing the pre-existing criminal case backlog, although some of these gains have been reversed by newer cases falling into backlog. As a whole, the case disposal rate across the parish courts increased by 8.05 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2018. It is further impressive to note that 10 of the parish courts exceeded the minimum prescribed international standard of a 90% clearance rate, the most to have attained this feat since these reports began. Notably, five of these courts exceeded a rate of 100%. 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 employment of case progression officers across the



courts and the adoption of a data driven approach to decision making across the courts. 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 28 months across the parish courts indicate that roughly 48% were disposed of in three months or less. This is quite a promising sign for continuous efforts to improve the timely resolution of cases in the criminal court system.

As with previous reports, the data affirms that despite the improvements noted, mathematically all parish courts, based on current rates of disposal 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 over twice their current capacity. The resource constraints faced by the courts are evident from these results; however, there continues to be 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 and investigating officers for court hearings. 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 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 those factors outlined earlier which have an impact on the case file integrity rates, including matters adjourned due to the lack of readiness of 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. The new case management system, which is anticipated within the next 12 months, should make a positive impact in this regard.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Earlier in this report, it was pointed out that what gets measured gets attention, an adage that is bearing out strongly in the Jamaican court system, seen in the strides made in improving productivity. Constant access to absolute and comparative data for the various courts is having an unquestionable effect on driving court performance. It is hereby recommended that such access become available on the go, in near real time to the various internal stakeholders of the court by way of a ***court performance app (CPA)*** which will allow the Judiciary to continuously access data, charts, forecasts, projections and variances for the respective courts and business lines. This is proposed to form part of a broader technological transformation, which will improve the science of case management in the Jamaican court system.

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. A serious examination of the causes of wide variations in the rank of the different parish courts on the various performance indicators should be pursued and the best practices adopted and standardized.

### Glossary of Statistical Terms

- 1) **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.<sup>i</sup>

- 2) **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.<sup>ii</sup>

- 3) **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%
- 4) **Court room 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
- 5) **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.
- 6) **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.
- 7) **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.
- 8) **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.

- 9) **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.

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*i* Source:

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

*ii* Source:

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



