

PARISH COURTS OF JAMAICA

March, 2017

**STATISTICAL REPORT ON
CRIMINAL CASES
2017**

**Prepared by the Statistics Unit with the support of the Information
Technology Unit**

**Supreme Court
Jamaica**

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Introduction

On July 01st, 2016, an upgraded data capture sheet for criminal matters was launched in the parish courts. The aim of this data capture platform is to create a robust and comprehensive mechanism for capturing data on the progression of criminal matters in the parish courts. This data will afford the Court system the opportunity to monitor the efficiency with which criminal matters move through the Justice system and to align resources accordingly. The country's policy making apparatus will also benefit from the opportunity to pursue systemic changes which are necessary to redress institutional and social deficiencies. This report outlines descriptive statistics on criminal case handling for all Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2017. This is the first comprehensive report of this nature.

Over the years there has been much concern regarding the number of cases in the Parish Courts. This has been referred to from time to time as a "backlog" of over 400,000 cases. The reality is that cases are being disposed of but there are also many new cases entering into the system as a result of criminal activity and increased litigation in our criminal courts.

In May, 2016 a statistician was employed to the Supreme Court, facilitated by the Justice Undertakings for Social Transformation (JUST) Programme. As a result a Statistics Unit was formed with the aim of establishing a data capture mechanism which will ultimately enable the courts to give an accurate count of the number of cases in our Parish Courts. Members of the court staff across the parishes have worked diligently along with the statistician and staff

assigned to the courts by the Ministry of Justice to collect and input data so as to provide information to the public. I commend them for the work accomplished thus far. There is much more to be done to enable the court to provide additional information, especially regarding the work being done in the Civil Divisions of the Parish Courts.

I welcome the publication of this statistical report for March, 2017 and look forward to receiving the necessary support in order to sustain the work of the Statistics Unit.

Zailia R. McCalla, O.J.

Chief Justice of Jamaica

Executive Summary

This statistical report on criminal matters in the parish courts of Jamaica is for the first quarter of ending March 31, 2017. The report highlights a number of vital measures which provides insights into the operations of the parish courts on both an individual and an aggregated basis. The report forms an important basis for understanding criminal case activity in the parish courts as well as demographic characteristics of criminal cases.

The aggregate case count in the parish courts for the quarter was 8823 cases and the overall average case disposal rate for matters originating in respective months during the quarter is roughly 38%. This disposal rate should not be interpreted adversely as it represents the average monthly disposal rate, computed based on matters originating in each of the respective months in the quarter. The overwhelming proportion of cases disposed of in the quarter was by way of either a guilty plea or a guilty verdict, producing an overall estimated conviction rate of roughly 79% in the quarter. The Corporate Area Court- Criminal Division and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 1869 and 1247 cases respectively and the Clarendon Parish Court with 774 cases had the highest case loads. The three parish courts with the lowest case loads were the parish courts of St. Elizabeth and Hanover with 352 and 283 cases respectively and the Trelawny Parish Court with 279 cases. Despite having the highest case loads in the quarter, the Corporate Area Parish Court and the St. Catherine Parish Court also had the highest disposal rates with 53.69% and 49% respectively. The Westmoreland Parish Court with a case disposal rate of

42.57% ranked next. The parish courts of Manchester and St. Elizabeth with 27.16% and 27.56% respectively and the St. Ann Parish Court with 17.78% respectively had the lowest case disposal rates. The overall disposal rate for the quarter is 38.13%. In terms of the distribution of case types, the report highlights that the largest proportion of the cases brought before the courts were indictments with roughly 41% of all charges. This is followed by summary matters with approximately 35% and committal proceedings with about 15% of the total.

A measure that is closely related to the disposal rate is the case clearance rate which provides a measurement of the ratio of new cases filed to case disposed in the same time period. The overall case clearance rate for the quarter was 33.28% which suggests that for every 100 new criminal cases filed in the quarter, roughly 33 cases were disposed. The parish courts with the highest case clearance rates in the quarter are the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division and the parish courts of St. Catherine and Portland while the St. Ann and St. Elizabeth Parish Courts had the lowest clearance rates.

An important factor which affects the efficiency with which cases move towards disposition is the incidence of adjournments in the courts. The report suggests that apart from adjournments due to some form of ‘continuance’ or for sentencing, the dominant reasons for adjournments were due to the non appearance of the accused, unavailability of medical reports and files to be completed.

The three most frequently occurring criminal offences in the quarter were assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and possession of an offensive weapon. The overwhelming majority of offenders were male, accounting for roughly 82% of all charges brought before the courts in the quarter while the dominant age group for offenders was the 27-36 and 20-26 age groups with an estimated 30.71% and 26.81% respectively of all offenders. This means that the age group 20-36 collectively accounted for roughly 58% of all offences brought before the courts in the quarter.

Structure of report

The report is divided into two main sections. The first section explores case activity statistics by examining the case load carried by each parish court in the quarter as well the associated disposal rates. This section also examines the distribution of the different types of cases brought before the courts as well as the most commonly occurring charges and the individual and aggregate case clearance rates. 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.

Section 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 the police station where matters are reported.

Section 1.0: Case Activity Statistics
Table 1.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the quarter ended March 31, 2017

Parish Court	Total Number of cases	Number of cases inactive	Number of cases disposed	Active Pending case Load	Case Disposal Rate
Manchester	648	51	125	472	27.16
Clarendon	774	20	212	542	29.97
St. Catherine	1247	92	519	636	49.00
St.Thomas	439	10	134	295	32.80
Portland	382	21	126	235	38.48
St. Mary	438	39	102	297	32.19
St. James	756	15	219	522	30.95
Corporate Area Criminal	1868	309	694	865	53.69
Westmoreland	592	34	218	340	42.57
Hanover	283	38	61	184	34.98
St. Elizabeth	352	19	78	255	27.56
St. Ann	765	63	73	629	17.78
Trelawny	279	14	78	187	32.97
Total/Gross	8823	725	2639	5459	38.13

NB: The case disposal rate reflects the average monthly disposal rate computed based on matters originating in each of the respective months during the quarter.

The above table shows the aggregate case load statistics for each parish court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2017. The table shows that 8,823 cases were entered before the courts in the period. The Corporate Area Court- Criminal Division and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 21.17% and 14.14% respectively of the total case load and the Clarendon Parish Court with 8.77% are the three courts with the largest case load in the quarter. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth and Hanover with 3.99% and 3.21% respectively of the total case load and the Trelawny Parish Court with 3.16%, accounted for the smallest share. The Corporate Area Court- Criminal Division and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 53.69% and 49% respectively and the Westmoreland Parish Court with 42.57% are the courts with the highest case disposal rates in the quarter. On the other hand, the Parish Courts of Manchester with 27.16%, St. Elizabeth with 27.56% and St. Ann with 17.78% had the lowest case disposal rates. The gross disposal rate across all Parish Courts was approximately 38.13% for the quarter. These results should not be interpreted adversely as they represents the average monthly disposal rate, computed based on matters originating in each of the respective months in the quarter.

Table 2.0: Average monthly case statistics for each Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2017

Parish Court	Total number of cases	Number of cases inactive	Number of cases disposed	Active pending case load	Case disposal rate
Manchester	216	17	42	157	27.16

Clarendon	258	7	71	181	29.97
St. Catherine	416	31	173	212	49.00
St.Thomas	146	3	45	98	32.80
Portland	127	7	42	78	38.48
St. Mary	146	13	34	99	32.19
St. James	252	5	73	174	30.95
Corporate Area Criminal	623	103	231	288	53.69
Westmoreland	197	11	73	113	42.57
Hanover	94	13	20	61	34.98
St. Elizabeth	117	6	26	85	27.56
St. Ann	255	21	25	210	17.78
Trelawny	93	5	26	62	32.97
Total/Gross	2941	242	880	1820	38.13

*** The averages are calculated using table 1. Please keep in mind that most of these figures are approximate.

NB: The case disposal rate reflects the average monthly disposal rate computed based on matters originating in each of the respective months in the quarter.

The above table shows the average case load statistics for each Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2017. The data is consistent with the previous table as it is shown that the Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division and St. Catherine Parish Court with 623 and 416 cases respectively and the Clarendon Parish Court with 258, had the highest average monthly case load during the quarter. Similarly, the three courts with the lowest average monthly case load

are the parish courts of Trelawny and Hanover with 93 and 94 cases respectively and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 117 cases.

Case Types

Table 3.0: Types of charges for each parish court for the quarter ended March 31, 2017

Parish Court	Case Types					Total
	Indictment	Petty Sessions	Committal Proceedings	Summary Matters	Traffic	
Manchester	385	236	128	281	0	1030
Clarendon	349	276	125	320	0	1070
St. Catherine	612	260	145	739	0	1756
St. Thomas	210	75	78	203	12	578
Portland	252	76	19	163	0	510
St. Mary	316	65	66	171	0	618
St. James	598	137	43	670	0	1448
Corporate Area Criminal	1277	278	234	873	27	2689
Westmoreland	294	104	70	226	0	694
Hanover	167	63	43	124	0	397
St. Elizabeth	251	63	66	121	4	505
St. Ann	338	219	95	410	0	1062
Trelawny	191	68	18	122	0	399
Total	5240	1920	1130	4423	43	12756
Percentage	41.08	15.05	8.86	34.67	0.34	100.00

***Total number of charges in the sample = 12,756.

The above table provides a breakdown of the different types of charges entered before each parish court for the quarter ended March 31, 2017. The table is computed using a significant sample of 12,756 which represents roughly 95% of all the charges entered in the quarter. The majority of the charges were Indictments (41.08%); this was followed by Summary Matters (34.67%), Petty Sessions (15.05%) and Committal Proceedings with 8.86% of the total sample. The largest share of both Indictments and Summary Matters were accounted for by the Corporate Area Court- Criminal Division followed by the parish courts of St. James and St. Catherine. The largest proportion of Petty Sessions was also entered in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division followed by the parish courts of Clarendon and St. Catherine. The Corporate Area Court- Criminal Division followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine and Manchester, account for the largest individual shares of Committal Proceedings. As for criminal matters which are traffic related, the only incidence of these in the quarter was in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division and the parish courts of St. Thomas and St. Elizabeth.

Offence Types

Table 4.0: Most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2017.

Charges	Count	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	1053	7.81
Unlawful wounding	998	7.40
Armed with an offensive weapon	748	5.55
Threat	684	5.08
Malicious destruction of property	359	2.66

***Total number of charges = 13,475

The above table shows the distribution of the five most commonly occurring types of charges across all parish courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2017. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1053 or 7.81% of the total number of charges is the most frequently occurring. This was followed by unlawful wounding with 998 or 7.40% and armed with an offensive weapon with 748 or 5.55%. The top five is rounded off by threats with 684 or 5.08% and malicious destruction of property with 359 or 2.66% of the total count of charges brought before the parish courts in the quarter. These five most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 29% of the total incidence of charges in the quarter.

Table 5.0: Average age of active charges for each parish court as at March 31, 2017

Parish Court	Average Age of Active charges (days)
Manchester	69.35
Clarendon	102.45
St. Catherine	67.98
St.Thomas	88.31
Portland	92.69
St. Mary	62.68
St. James	70.06
Corporate Area Criminal	34.23
Westmoreland	60.55
Hanover	52.49
St. Elizabeth	52.86
St. Ann	81.25
Trelawny	77.35

***These figures are computed from the time the system was implemented in each Parish Court in 2016

The above table shows that the average age of active charges for each parish court for the quarter ended March 31, 2017. It is important to note that these figures are only for charges which have originated since the use of the electronic data capture system commenced in all parish courts between August and October, 2016. The parish courts of Clarendon, Portland, St. Thomas and St. Ann had the active charges with the highest average age over the period. On the contrary, the lowest average age of charges over the period were observed for in the

Corporate Area Court- Criminal Division and the parish courts of Hanover, St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland.

Methods of Disposal

Table 6.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposal for the quarter ended March 31, 2017

Method of Disposal	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Guilty Plea	1890	53.71
Guilty Verdict	887	25.21
Dismissal	481	13.67
Not Guilty Verdict	224	6.37
Transferred	37	1.00
Mediated Settlement	34	0.97

Total sample size = 3,519

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2017. Using this distribution, it is seen that the majority of matters disposed of in the quarter were by way of guilty pleas with 53.71% of the disposals, followed by guilty verdicts with 25.21%. Taken together therefore, guilty outcomes (either by verdict or plea) account for 78.92% of the disposals, representing an approximation of the conviction rate for criminal matters in the parish courts for the quarter. Dismissals with 13.67%,

not guilty verdicts with 6.37%, matters transferred and mediated settlements each with roughly 1% account for the remaining methods of disposal in the quarter.

Most common reasons for adjournment

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment across all Parish Courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2017

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage
Continuance (Part-heard)	1441	55.27
Sentencing	410	15.73
DNA - warrant issued	364	13.96
Files to be completed	287	11.01
Medical report unavailable	105	4.03

Total sample size =2,607

The above table shows that from a sample of 2607 adjournments in the first quarter of 2017, the majority 55.27% were as a result of matters part-heard which were therefore adjourned for continuance. Matters adjourned for sentencing with 15.73% and matters adjourned due to DNA warrant issued (non-appearance of the accused) with 13.96% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment in the quarter. Adjournments due to incomplete files with 11.01% of the sample and medical report unavailable with 4.03% complete the top five reasons for adjournment in the quarter.

Table 9.0: Average case clearance rate for the parish courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2017

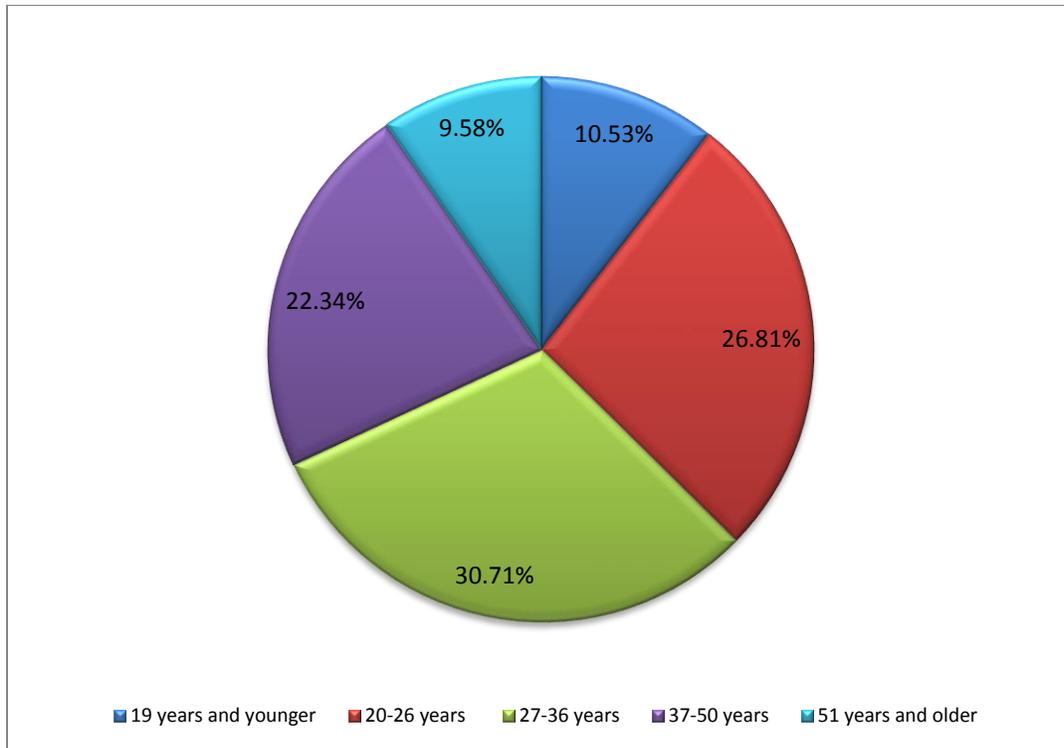
Parish Court	Average Clearance rate (%)
Manchester	27.36
Clarendon	32.33
St. Catherine	48.81
St.Thomas	32.72
Portland	37.77
St. Mary	32.08
St. James	29.17
Corporate Area Criminal	53.84
Westmoreland	43.40
Hanover	34.93
St. Elizabeth	27.18
St. Ann	16.50
Trelawny	33.27
Overall average/Gross clearance rate	33.28

The case clearance rate provides a measure of the ratio of incoming to disposed cases within a given period of time. The disposed cases used in this computation do not necessarily have to be from the new cases filed in the period. The table above shows that for the quarter ending March 31, 2017 the overall/gross clearance rate is 33.28% which is an indication that for every

100 new cases filed in the quarter, roughly 33 were disposed. The parish court with the highest clearance rate for the period is the Corporate Area Court- Criminal Division with roughly 54%, followed by St. Catherine with roughly 49% and Portland with almost 38%. On the other hand, the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with approximately 27.18% and the St. Ann Parish Court with 16.5%, recorded the lowest case clearance rates. Based on earlier analysis, these results are not surprising as there appear to be some direct correlation between the case disposal rate and the clearance rate. The parish courts with higher case disposal rates generally also have higher case clearance rates.

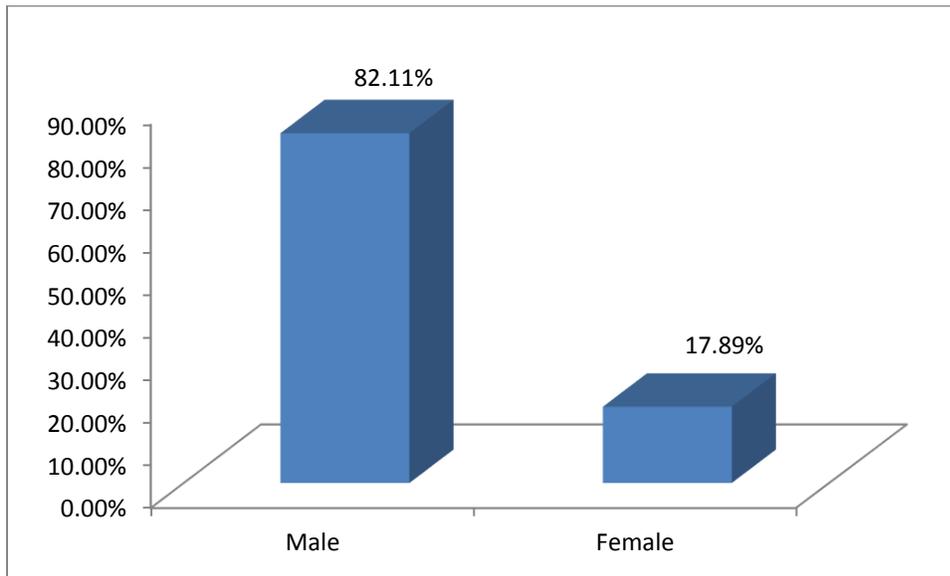
Section 2.0: Case Demographics

Chart 1.0: Aggregate age distribution of offenders for all parish courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2017



The chart above shows the aggregate age distribution of offenders for all parish courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2017. The majority of the offenders were between the ages of 27 and 36 years, accounting for 30.71% of the total number. This is followed by the age category of 20-26 years old with 26.81%, 37-50 year olds with 22.34%, 19 years and younger with 10.53% and the oldest age group of 51 years and older accounted for the smallest proportion with 9.58% of the offenders.

Chart 2.0: Aggregate gender distribution of offenders for all parish courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2017



The above chart shows the gender distribution of offender for all parish courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2017. As shown, the majority of the offenders were males accounting for 82.11% of the total while female offenders account for the remaining 17.89% of the cases brought before the courts.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the quarter ended March 31, 2017

Charge	Male		Female		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Threat	660	76.30%	205	23.70%	865	100%
Unlawful wounding	673	78.62%	183	21.38%	856	100%
Assault occasioning bodily harm	485	76.98%	145	23.02%	630	100%
Possession of Offensive Weapon	488	92.95%	37	7.05%	525	100%
Malicious destruction of property	297	74.62%	101	25.38%	398	100%
Exposing goods for sale	262	69.50%	115	30.50%	377	100%
Dealing in ganja	223	80.80%	53	19.20%	276	100%
Disorderly conduct	248	66.49%	125	33.51%	373	100%
Possession of ganja	306	82.26%	66	17.74%	372	100%
Robbery with aggravation	252	83.44%	50	16.56%	302	100%
Simple larceny	142	77.17%	42	22.83%	184	100%
Resisting arrest	127	85.23%	22	14.77%	149	100%
Murder	92	94.85%	5	5.15%	97	100%

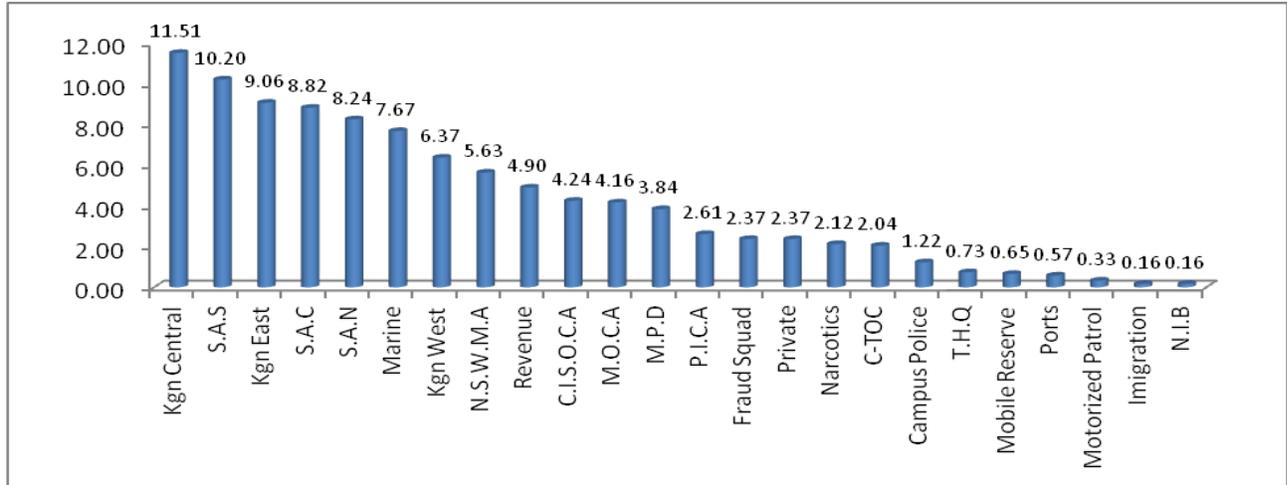
***The gender of offenders was not available for every matter that was entered before the courts

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the quarter ending March 31, 2017. 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 murder and possession of an offensive weapon for which over 90% of the offenders were male. Exposing good for sale, malicious destruction of property and disorderly conduct saw the highest incidence of female involvement among the offences which appeared most frequently.

Sampling distribution of offences by police station for all parish courts for the month of March 2017

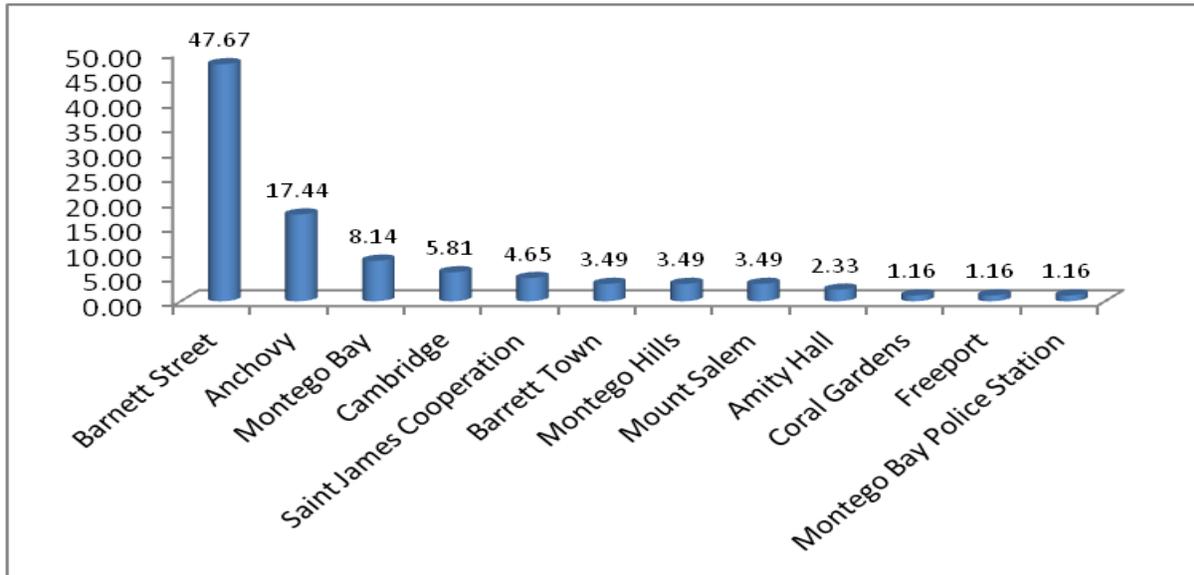
A series of charts are displayed below which use data from the month of March, 2017 to provide snapshot of the distribution of criminal charges based on the police stations at which the matters were reported in each parish.

Chart 3a: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Court



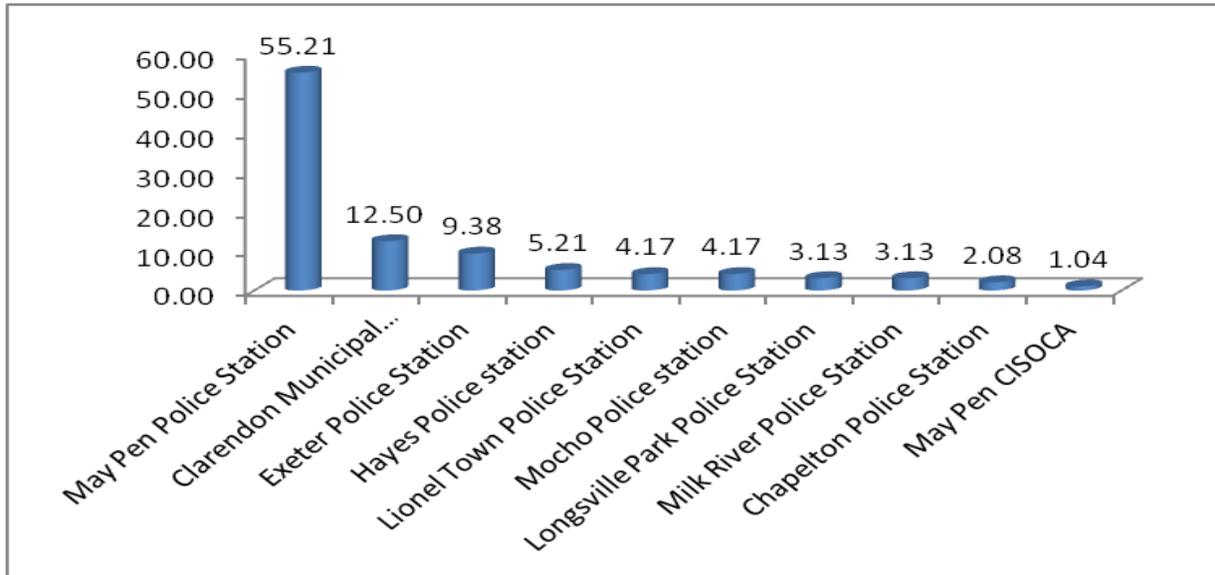
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Corporate Area Criminal Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1225 records indicate that for the month of March, 2017 the majority of criminal matters, 11.51%, which were brought before the Court were reported in Kingston Central. This was followed by the S.A.S which accounts for 10.20% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Kingston East Police station with 9.06%.

Chart 3b: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court



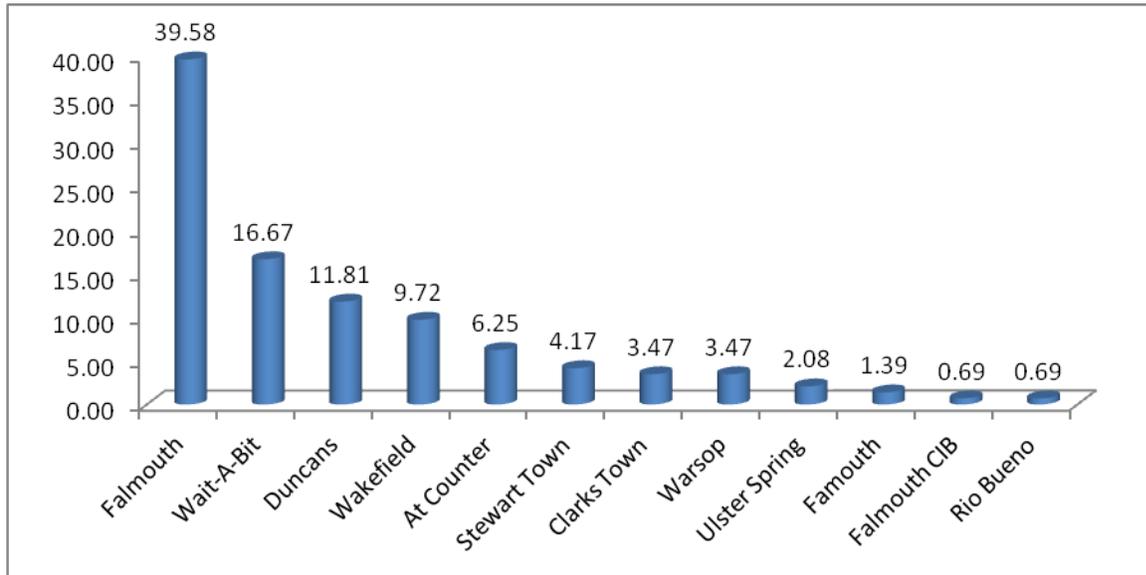
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes in the parish of St. James using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 86 records indicate that for the month of March, 2017 the majority of criminal matters, 47.67%, which were brought before the St. James Parish Court were reported in Barnett Street. This was followed by the Anchovy Police station which accounts for 17.44% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Montego Bay Police station with 8.14%.

Chart 3c: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes in the parish of Clarendon using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 96 records indicate that for the month of March, 2017 the majority of criminal matters, 55.21%, which were brought before the Clarendon Parish Court were reported in May Pen. This was followed by the Clarendon Municipal Corporation which accounts for 12.50% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Exeter Police station with 9.38%.

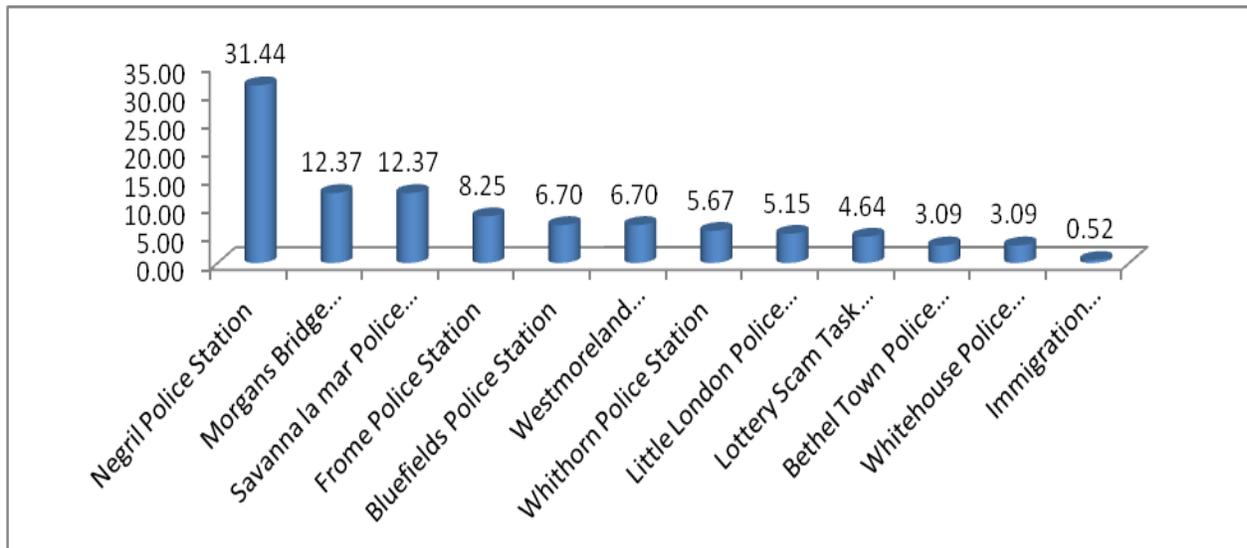
Chart 3d: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes in the parish of Trelawny using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 144 records indicate that for the month of March, 2017 the majority of criminal matters, 39.58%, which were brought before the Trelawny Parish Court were reported in Falmouth. This was followed by the Wait-A-Bit Police station which accounts for 16.67% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Duncans Police station with 11.81%.

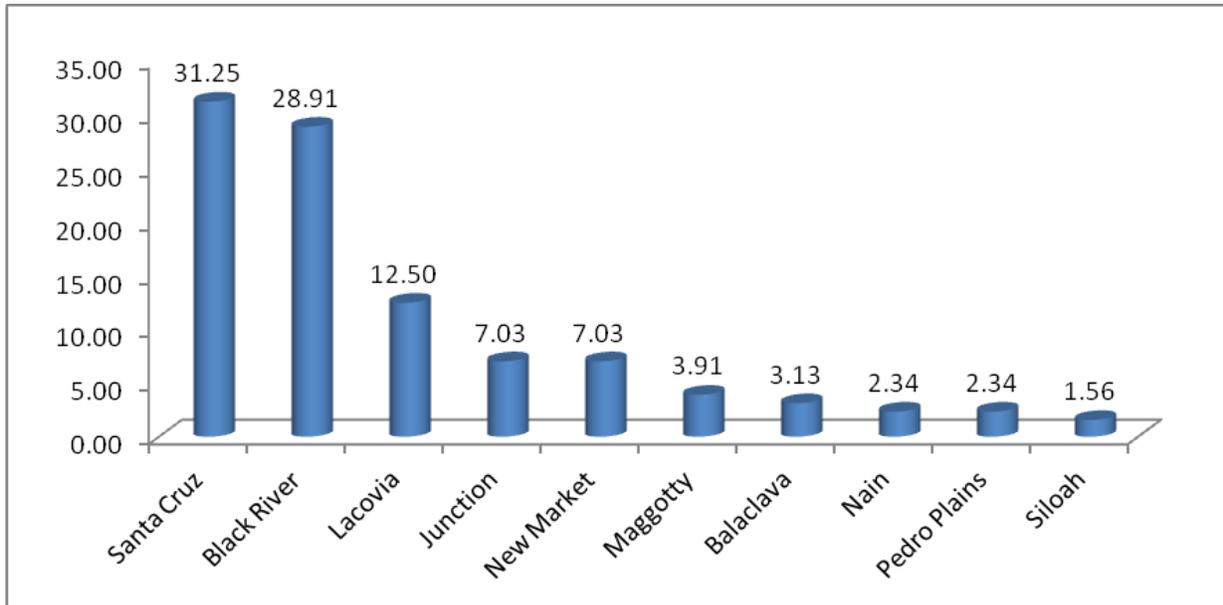
Chart 3e: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland

Parish Court



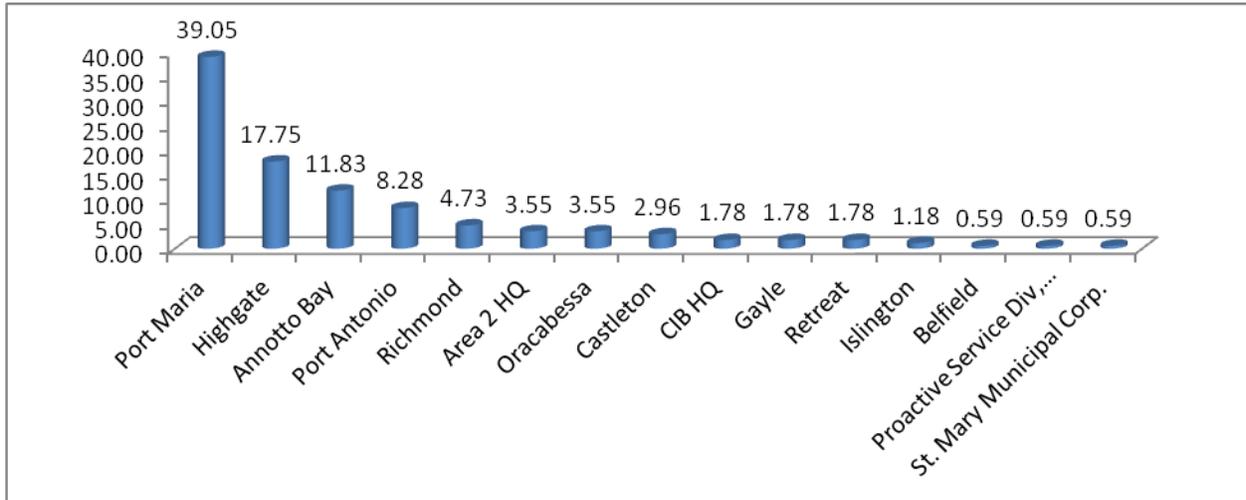
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes in the parish of Westmoreland using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 194 records indicate that for the month of March, 2017 the majority of criminal matters, 31.44%, which were brought before the Westmoreland Parish Court were reported at the Negril Police station. This was followed by the Morgan’s Bridge Police station which accounts for 12.37% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Savanna-La-Mar Police station.

Chart 3f: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court



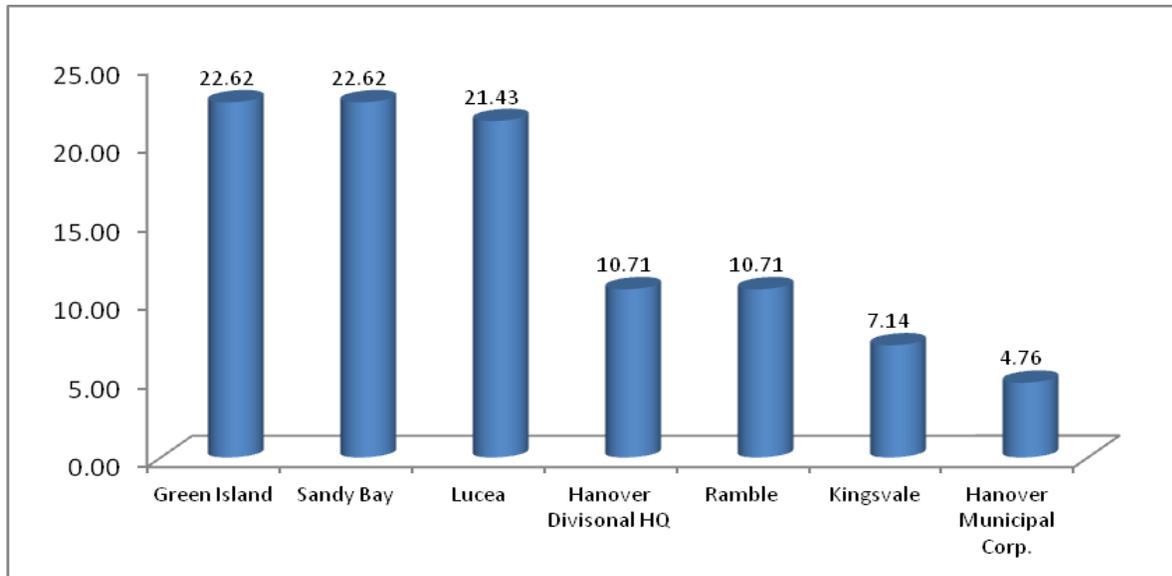
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes in the parish of St. Elizabeth using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 128 records indicate that for the month of March, 2017 the majority of criminal matters, 31.25%, which were brought before the St. Elizabeth Parish Court were reported in Santa Cruz. This was followed by the Black River Police station which accounts for 28.91% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Lacovia Police station with 12.50%.

Chart 3g: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court



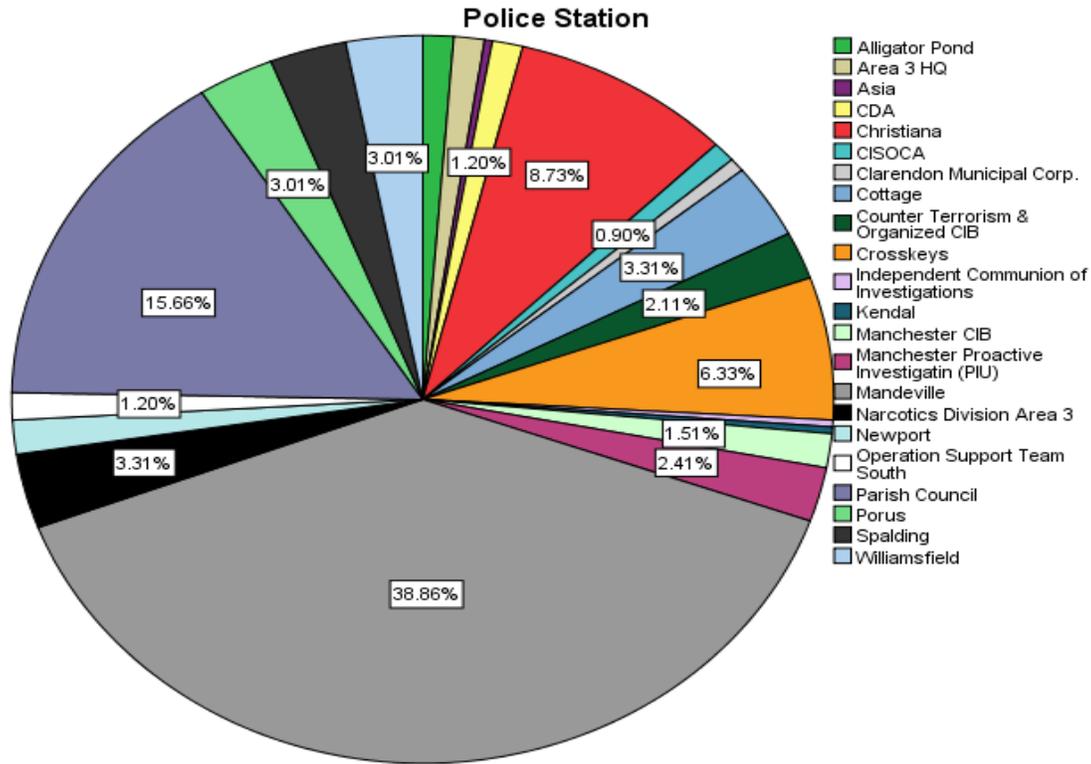
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes in the parish of St. Mary using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 169 records indicate that for the month of March, 2017 the majority of criminal matters, 39.05%, which were brought before the St. Mary Parish Court were reported in Port Maria. This was followed by the Highgate Police station which accounts for 17.75% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Annotto Bay Police station with 11.83%.

Chart 3h: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court



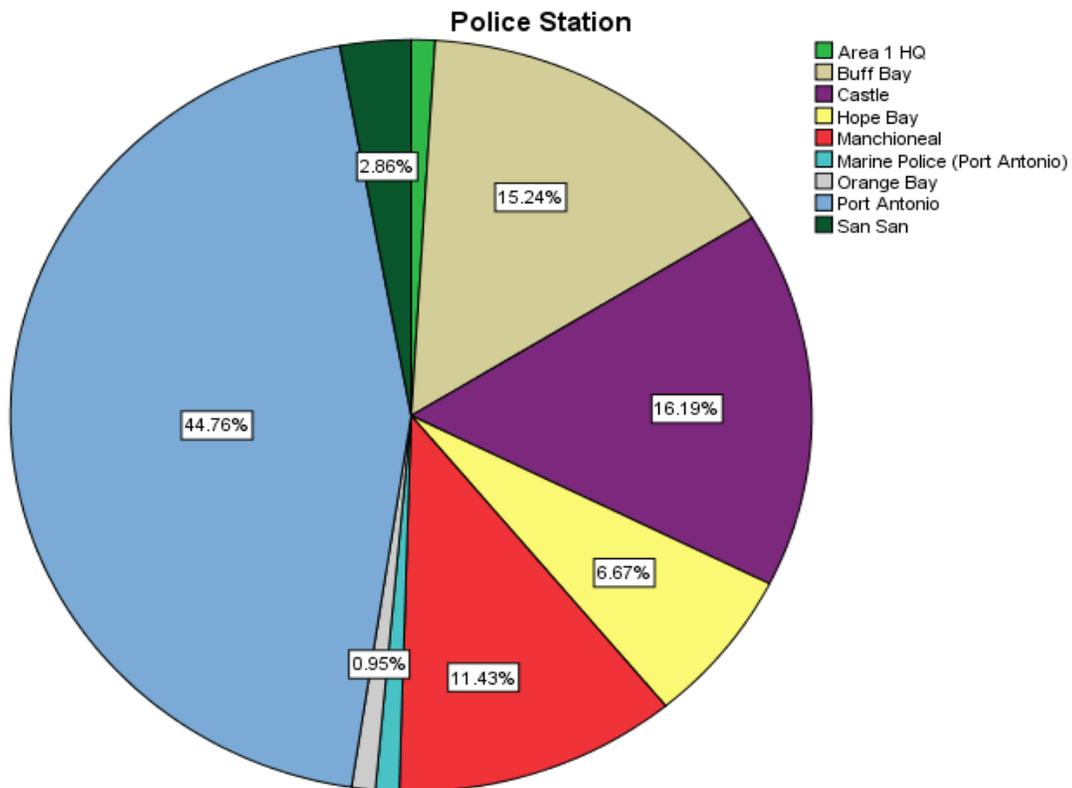
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes in the parish of Hanover using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 84 records indicate that for the month of March, 2017 the majority of criminal matters, 22.62%, which were brought before the Hanover Parish Court were reported in Green Island. This was followed by the Sandy Bay Police station which accounts for 22.62% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Lucea Police station with 21.43%.

Chart 3j: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court



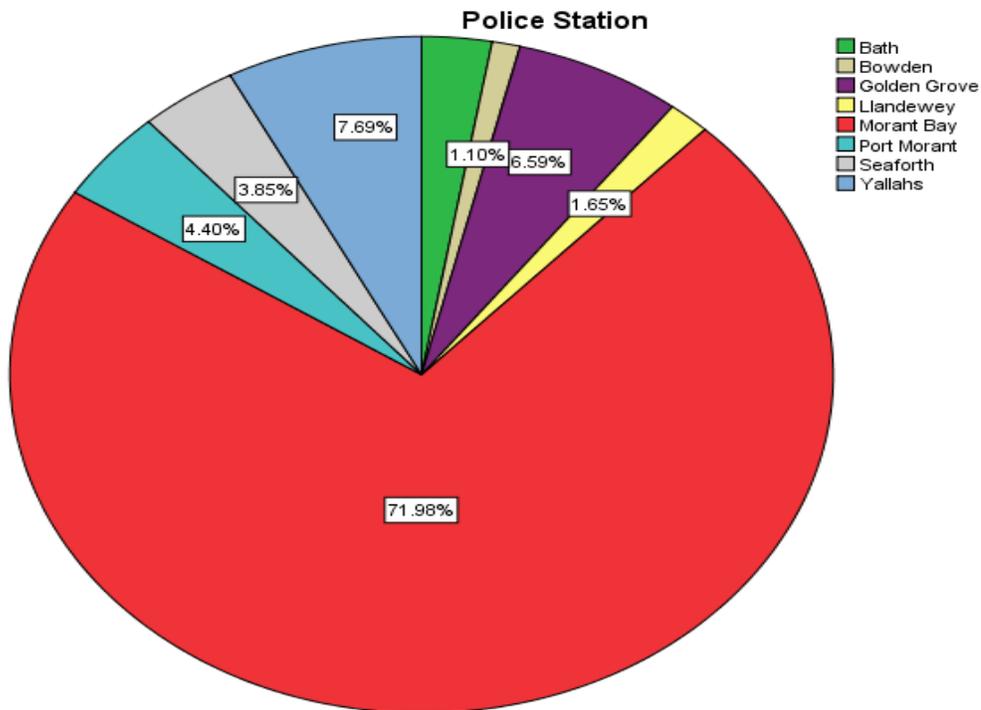
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes in the parish of Manchester using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 330 records indicate that for the month of March the majority of criminal matters, 38.86%, which were brought before the Manchester Parish courts, were reported in Mandeville. This was followed by the Parish Council Police station which accounts for 15.66% of total matters reported and the Christiana Police station with 8.73%.

Chart 3k: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court



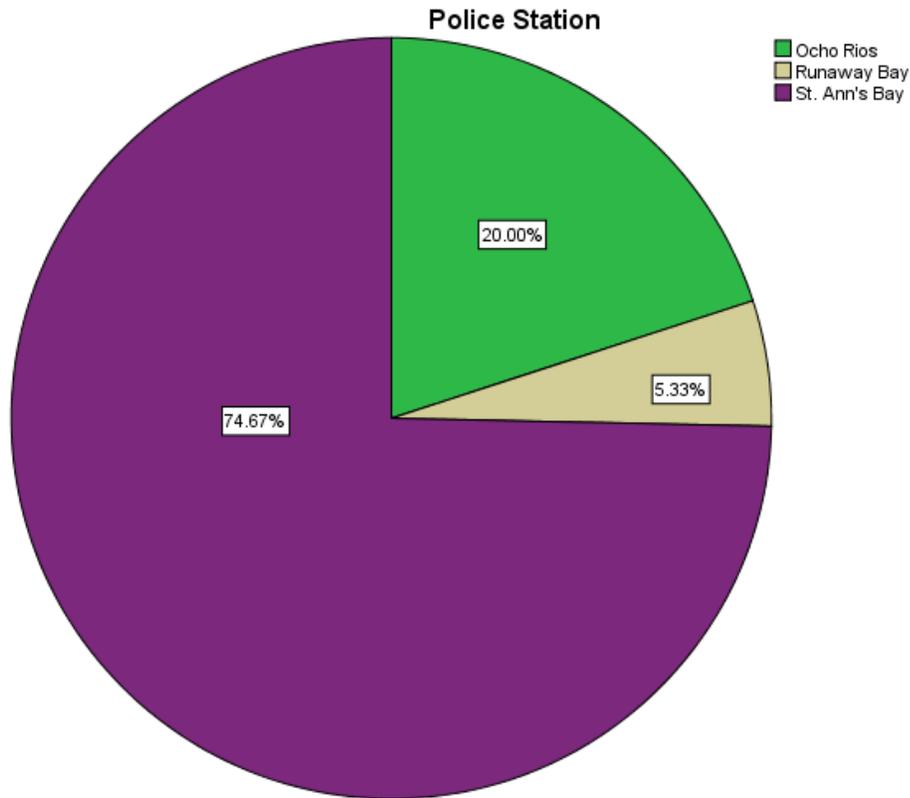
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes in the parish of Portland using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 105 records indicate that for the month of March, 2017 the majority of criminal matters, 44.76% of which were brought before the Portland Parish Court were reported at the Port Antonio police station. This was followed by the Castle Police station which accounts for 16.19% of total matters reported and the Buff Bay Police station with 15.24%.

Chart 31: Distribution of Criminal Offences by the Police station of Origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court



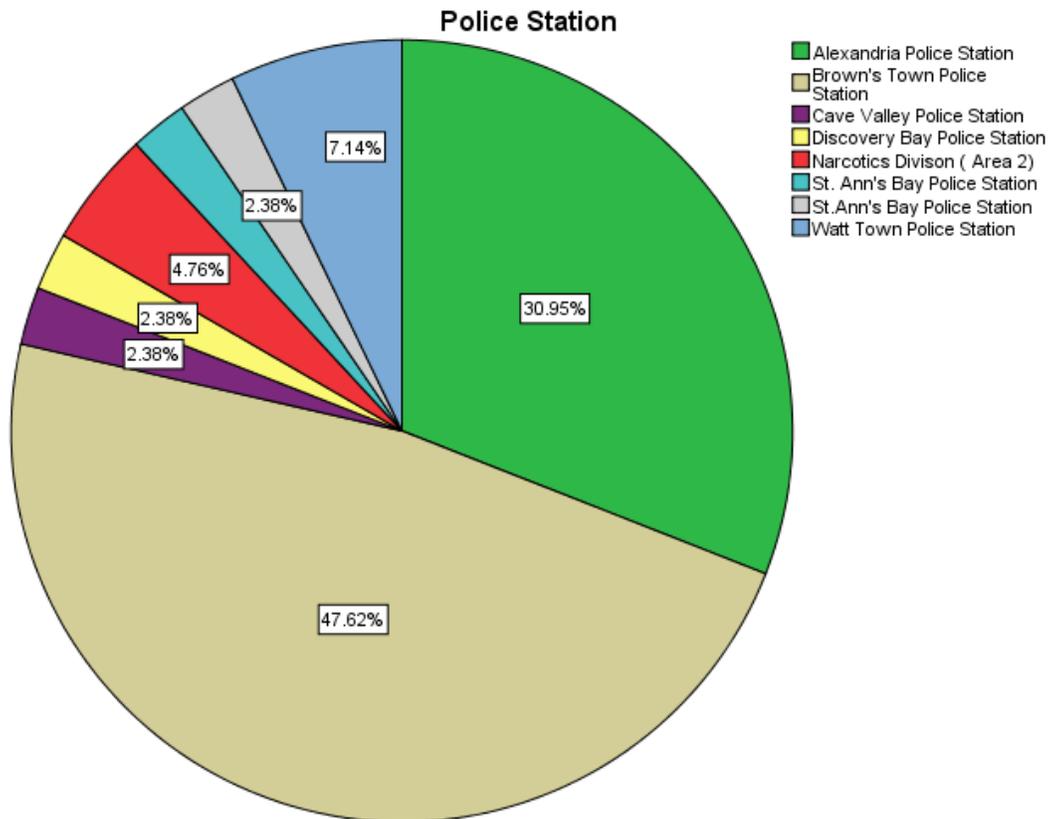
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes in the parish St. Thomas using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 182 records indicate that for the month of March, the majority of criminal matters, 71.98%, which were brought before the St. Thomas Parish Courts, were reported in Morant Bay. This was followed by the Yallahs Police station which accounts for 7.69% of total matters reported and the Golden Grove Police station with 6.59%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 3m: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes in the parish of St. Ann using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 75 records indicate that for the month of March, the majority of criminal matters 74.67%, which were brought before the St. Ann Parish Courts, were reported at St. Ann’s Bay Police station. This was followed by the Ocho Rios Police station which accounts for 20% of total matters reported and the Runaway Bay Police station with 5.33%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 3m: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Brown’s Town Court



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes in the Brown’s Town area using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 42 records indicate that for the month of March, the majority of criminal matters 47.62%, which were brought before the Brown’s Town Courts, were reported in Brown’s Town Police station. This was followed by the Alexandria Police station which accounts for 30.95% of total matters reported and the Watt Town Police station with 7.14%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Conclusion

This report provides a range of essential insights into case activity in the parish courts for the first quarter ending March 31, 2017. Among other things, it allows the courts to establish a firm indication of the case load being carried by the different parish courts as well as the relative clearance and disposal rates. An understanding of the key contributors to the adjournment of cases, the distribution of case types and methods of disposal are also clearly established. Also established are the dominant offence types and important demographics measures, among other indicators. Several vital findings emerged from the report, among which is that some of the courts with the largest case loads also generally have the higher disposal and clearance rates and some with the smallest case loads have the lowest case disposal and clearance rates. This must however be interpreted within the context that these disposal rates are computed based on the average monthly disposal rate for matters originating in each of the respective months. This result is consistent with the trends observed in the monthly reports produced since October 2016 and therefore warrants further exploration and attention.

Among the findings which have the greatest implications for the efficiency with which matters progress through the courts system is that a large proportion of the reasons for adjournment are due to the non-attendance of the accused, medical reports outstanding and files to be completed. These deficiencies require special operational interventions and stakeholder collaboration to produce the desired solutions. The proportionately large incidence of male and

youth involvement in nearly all types of criminal offences are also quite telling from a demographic and social standpoint. It is also notable that the ratio of mediated settlements to other methods of disposition is quite low which could suggest an under-usage of existing provisions for mediation or a high incidence of failed attempts at mediation.

These findings could form the nucleus of important operational and policy interventions which are needed to bolster efficient flow of criminal cases throughout the court system. Supplementary data for the upcoming quarters of 2017 will further constitute the basis for an empirically driven approach to case management in the courts.