



PARISH COURTS OF JAMAICA – CRIMINAL DIVISION
(JULY 1, 2024 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2024)

Court Metrics	July - September Highlights				
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Case Disposal Rates (%)	44.15	51.48	45.15	54.65	39.30
Case Clearance Rates (%)	94.83	100.46	109.42	98.81	78.31
Trial Date Certainty Rates (%)	88	89	89	83	77
Courtroom Utilization Rates (%)	67.48	67.97	62.36	56.03	52.48

Prepared by the Court Statistics and Data Division with the support of the ICT Department, Supreme Court of Jamaica, Kings Street Kingston.

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Chief Justice's Message Third Quarter Criminal Parish Court 2024

The report on the performance of the Criminal Division of the Parish Courts for the third quarter of 2024 not only provides accountability but also serves as a valuable instrument for continuous improvement in the delivery of justice to the people of Jamaica.

The Parish Courts continue their outstanding performance. This is commendable. The purpose of collecting and analysing data is to determine how well the courts are performing and whether there can be improvement in operations, so that service delivery can be improved. The collection of data is not an end but a means to an end. As stated in the Global Measures of Court Performance (GMCP) (3rd ed., 2020, p. 6), *"court performance measurement and management is the discipline and the process of monitoring, analysing, and using organizational performance on a regular (ideally in real or near-real time) and continuous basis for the purposes of improvements in organizational efficiency and effectiveness, in transparency and accountability, and in public trust and confidence in the courts and the justice system."*

For example, when courtroom utilisation is at 67.48%, this suggests that, on average, the Parish Courts are in session for three hours per day. This would indicate that there are two additional hours which can be utilised to reduce wait times for case resolution services offered by the courts. The longer a person waits, the more costly litigation becomes.

The objective is to reach the absolute minimum time, assuming maximum efficiency on the part of all stakeholders, that it takes to dispose of cases fairly. No person should expend more time, money, and effort to have their matters addressed satisfactorily. To do otherwise is to consume the scarce resources of court users unnecessarily.

The next stage of using data for effective court performance is to ensure that it is applied to refine approaches to case flow management and to facilitate targeted interventions that identify bottlenecks applicable to specific types of cases, with appropriate solutions devised.

I wish to thank the leadership of these courts and our stakeholders for their continued work in providing timely justice to our citizens. This consistent effort has led to the decision to reduce time standards for both civil and criminal cases in the Parish Courts. This decision will be implemented in 2025.

The progress reflected in this quarter's performance underscores the commitment of the Judiciary to efficiency, transparency, and fairness. I remain confident that, through the effective use of data and the dedication of all stakeholders, the courts will continue to strengthen public trust and advance the rule of law in Jamaica. I look forward to the next quarterly report, as another opportunity to assess our progress and further enhance the service we provide to the people of Jamaica.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD
Chief Justice of Jamaica

Executive Summary

This statistical report for the third quarter of 2024 is for the criminal division of the parish courts. The criminal division of the parish courts has already achieved one of its main key strategic targets, that of reducing the overall net case backlog rate to less than 5%, as it continues to sustain exceptionally high case clearance rates. From all available statistical accounts, the criminal division of the parish courts is now among the most efficient in the Caribbean and Latin American region in the timely delivery of justice. It is now critical that the criminal division of the parish courts strive to reduce the overall average time taken to dispose of cases and in so eventually reduce the net case backlog rate to the point that it can be classified as a whole as being backlog free.

The aggregate new case count in the Parish Courts in the third quarter of 2024 was 4,838, a decrease of 2.93% when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division with 1,160 new cases or 23.98% of the total sample, followed by the St. Catherine and Westmoreland Parish Courts with 634 cases or 13.10% and 452 cases or 9.34% respectively, account for the three largest proportions of the new criminal cases filed in the period. Taken together, the three parishes with the highest new case count account for 46.42% of the new cases filed in the third quarter of 2024, not dissimilar to the previous year. The Parish Courts of Trelawny, St. Thomas and Portland accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed in the period, each with under 5.0% of the total new caseload.

The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in the third quarter of 2024 was 44.15%, which is a decline of 7.33 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The St. Elizabeth Parish Court leads the way with a disposal rate of 66.83%, thereby resolving new cases the fastest in the period. The St. James and Hanover Parish Courts

ranked next with case disposal rates of 54.55% and 54.01% respectively, continuing western dominance on this metric.

The case clearance rate provides a measure of the number of cases disposed (regardless of date/year of initiation) for every new case filed in a particular period. This is a productivity index as many of the disposed cases, which are included in its computation, would have originated before the period of focus and is a more instructive statistic on case activity than the case disposal rate. The overall case clearance rate for the third quarter of 2024 was 94.83%, a decline of 5.63 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The result suggests that for every 100 new criminal cases that were filed in the Parish Courts in the third quarter of 2024, roughly 95 cases were disposed of. Nine (9) of the 13 Parish Courts satisfied the international standard of between 90% and 110% in the third quarter of 2024. The best performing court on this measure was the St. Mary Parish Court with an impressive rate of 123.78%, while the Trelawny Parish Court with 118.31% and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 111.83% rounded off the top three performers on this key metric.

One highly important measure, which is of keen interest to the leadership of the courts and the policy makers, is the case congestion rate. This is a measure of how well a court is doing in managing its pending caseload, relative to its rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The higher the case congestion rate of a court, the more burdensome the caseload and the longer it will take to dispose of cases, again within the context of the existing rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The overall case congestion rate recorded for the criminal division of the Parish Courts in the third quarter of 2024 was 330.10%, which is a deterioration of 24.39 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2023. The Parish Courts of Hanover, St. James and St. Mary

continue to be among the least congested court at the end of the quarter. The case of St. James is of special interest in this regard given its relatively large caseload. There is a long run negative association between the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate, therefore, sustained increases in the case clearance rate will cause the case congestion rate to fall.

Another essential measure, which is an important cornerstone in the drive to bring Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world is the trial date certainty rate. This provides a measurement of the likelihood that dates set for trial will proceed as scheduled (without adjournment for future dates). The perfect rate of 100% would suggest that all dates set for trial proceed as scheduled in the relevant period. The criminal division of the Parish Courts recorded an overall trial date certainty rate of 88% in the third quarter of 2024, a 1-percentage point decline when compared to the same as the corresponding period in 2023. The Parish Courts of St. Thomas, St. Ann, Manchester and St. James were the leaders on this metric. The proportion of allocated court time that is utilized for hearings in each parish court bears some long run correlation with the case clearance rate, the case congestion rate and overall court performance. The courtroom utilization rate provides a solid measurement of the proportion of time allocated for court hearings, which are utilized throughout the period in each court. The overall courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the period was 67.48%, a decline of 0.49 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Parish Courts of St. Mary, St. Catherine and Manchester were the leaders on this metric during the quarter.

On the matter of caseload distribution in the individual parishes, the data show that in many instances the outstation courts in the respective parishes are carrying a notable share of the caseload. The overall average number of new cases heard in the outstations in the third quarter of 2024 is approximately 35.94%, while roughly 64.06% of cases were heard at the

main Parish Court locations. While outstation court activity in parishes such as St. James and the Corporate Area account for less than 10% of total activity, there are several parishes where outstations are extensively utilized, accounting for over 30% of total case activity. This includes the Parish Courts of Trelawny, St. Elizabeth, St. Ann and Hanover, among others. The evidence continues to suggest that there is the potential in many parishes for outstations to be utilized to a greater degree to ease the caseload carriage in the main courts, thus potentially enhancing case clearance and disposal rates by reducing the case congestion.

The largest proportion of cases disposed of in the third quarter of 2024 was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 24.24% of the cases disposed of. This was followed by cases disposed of by guilty verdicts, which was responsible for 20.60% of the cases disposed of. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for roughly 6.17% of the matters disposed of, while cases dismissed accounted for 17.40% of the total sample. Mediated settlements (of various forms) accounted for roughly 13.76% of the cases disposed of during the year. The combined 30.41% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent the estimated criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over at least, approximately, the past 8 years, which are disposed of, an estimated 36.64% were resolved within 90 days, 56.93% within six months and 76.68% within a year.

In terms of the distribution of case types, the report highlights that the largest proportion of the criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts were indictments with approximately 40.87% of all matters. This is followed by summary matters with roughly 26.42% and committal proceedings, which accounted for 16.86%. Summary matters had an overall conviction rate of 58.84% in the quarter, while indictments had a conviction rate of 16.60% across the Parish Courts.

An important delay factor, which affects the efficiency with which cases move towards disposition is the incidence of adjournments in the Parish Courts. The data suggests that the dominant reasons for adjournments for quarter were for files to be completed with 12.96%, for disclosure which accounted for 11.49%, warrants issued due to the non-appearance of defendants with 9.50% and adjournments for referral to mediation with 6.21%, rounding off the top four incidences. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the Parish Courts during the quarter are adjournments to facilitate restitution, adjournment at the request of the crown, medical reports unavailable and subpoena of investigating officers. This probability distribution for the reasons for adjournment was broadly similar to that of the past few years.

The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the Parish Courts in the third quarter of 2024 were assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and possession of offensive weapon. The majority of charges filed during the year involved accused males, accounting for roughly 80.69%, with females accounting for 19.31%. The dominant age group of persons charged in period were the 18-26 and 27-36 age groups, accounting for 29.52% and 29.47% respectively of the total sample.

One of the most decisive and instructive findings from this quarterly report comes from the analysis of the distribution of times to disposition in the Parish Courts. The report reveals that on average, the criminal division of the Parish Courts took roughly 10 months to dispose of cases in the third quarter of 2024. The courts which had the shortest times to disposition for cases resolved are the Parish Courts of Hanover (77 days), Westmoreland (99 days) and Manchester (158 days).

Using the method of exponential smoothing, the report forecasts that in the fourth quarter of 2024, 4,969 new criminal cases will be filed in the criminal division of the Parish Courts, while 5,301 are expected to be disposed of or become inactive during the period. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for the fourth quarter of 2024 in the criminal division of the Parish Courts is, therefore, roughly 106.69%. The Parish Courts of St. Elizabeth, Portland and St. Catherine are forecasted to register the highest case clearance rates in the fourth quarter of 2024.

With over eight years of extensive data on case activity in the parish courts of Jamaica, Lagrange multiplier techniques were applied to determine the minimum requirements that a highly successful court must meet in order to satisfy an efficiency threshold for the sustainable containment of case backlog and to provide optimal service to the public. The minimum annual required standards for each key parameter are summarized in the table below:

Table i: Key Performance Metrics of High-Performing Courts

Parameter	Minimum Annual Required Standard
Case Disposal Rate	$\geq 75\%$
Case Clearance Rate	$\geq 100\%$
Case Congestion Rate	$\leq 115\%$
Trial Date Certainty Rate	$\geq 85\%$
Net Case Backlog Rate	$\leq 5\%$
Gross Case Backlog Rate	$\leq 10\%$
Average Number of Mentions	≤ 3

If any court or jurisdiction can consistently achieve these rates, it will attain a high level of efficiency and service excellence, characteristic of high performing courts.

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 8 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 uploaded to the network at the end of each month and the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistics Unit 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.

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

Disclaimer

The numbers that are reflected in the case activity summaries in the annual statistics report may vary slightly from those quoted in the individual quarterly reports throughout the year due to occasional constraints with timely access to all records and other mitigating factors. Methodological adjustments may also result in slight variations in comparative figures across periods. It should also be noted that there have been progressive improvements in the strength of the data collection mechanism in some courts such as the Clarendon Parish Court, which have positive measurement outcomes.

Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as cases statuses in the various courts over the period, assessments of courtroom utilization rates, case file integrity rates, trial date certainty rates and forecasts of the core case activity outcomes for the upcoming quarters of 2023. This chapter also explores the common methods of disposition, reasons for court delay, leading charges and case types across the parish courts and associated conviction rates.

Table 1.01: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Hanover	187	3	98	86	54.01
St. Catherine	634	20	282	332	47.63
Westmoreland	452	31	176	245	45.80
St. Mary	185	2	68	115	37.84
Clarendon	408	13	161	234	42.65
Portland	176	5	51	120	31.82
St. Elizabeth	208	12	127	69	66.83
Corporate Area Criminal	1160	224	376	560	51.72
St. Thomas	158	1	36	121	23.42
St. James	418	37	191	190	54.55
St. Ann	370	53	74	243	34.32
Trelawny	142	10	33	99	30.28
Manchester	340	7	45	288	15.29
Total	4838	418	1718	2702	-
Average/Weighted Average	372.15	32.15	132.15	207.85	44.15
Standard deviation	278.93	59.70	104.12	135.19	14.22
Skewness	2.09	3.20	1.28	1.53	-0.10

Note: The case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation for the third quarter of 2024 is 13.10%

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the third quarter of 2024. A total of 4,838 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts, 2,136 cases were either disposed or became inactive, resulting in a weighted average case disposal rate of 44.15%. In the corresponding period in 2023, 4,984 cases were filed, while 2,566 cases were either disposed of or became inactive which resulted in a weighted average disposal rate of 51.48%, which is 7.33 percentage points higher than the rate for the third quarter of 2024. This comparison reveals that there was a decrease of 146 cases or a 2.93% decline in the number of new cases filed and a decrease of 430 cases or a 16.76% decrease in the number of cases disposed of or became inactive when compared to the third quarter of 2023. Of the thirteen parish courts listed above, six (6) Parish Courts recorded a decrease in the number of new cases filed, while six (6) recorded an increase and one (1) was unchanged. Among the parish courts with the largest decline in new cases filed were the Trelawny Parish Court, decreasing by 36.61%, the St. Catherine Parish Court, which decreased by 20.65% and the St. James Parish Court, which decreased by 12.92%. Among the parish courts with the largest increase in new cases filed were the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, increasing by 35.95%, the Portland Parish Court, which increased by 28.47% and the Hanover Parish Court, which experienced an increase of 19.87%.

The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 1,160 cases or 23.98% of the new cases filed, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 634 cases or 13.10% and the Westmoreland Parish Court with 452 or 9.34% accounted for the three largest shares of new cases filed in the third quarter of 2024. These three parish courts with the largest share of new cases filed, cumulatively accounted for 46.42% of the total sample of new criminal cases filed in the third quarter of 2024. On the other end, the parish courts of Trelawny with 142 cases or 2.94% of the new cases, St. Thomas with 158 cases or 3.27% and Portland with 176 cases or 3.64%

accounted for the lowest shares of new cases filed in the third quarter of 2024. The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the third quarter of 2024 were the St. Elizabeth (66.83%), St. James (54.55%), Hanover (54.01%) parish courts. The bottom three courts on this measure were the Manchester (15.29%), St. Thomas (23.42%) and Trelawny (30.28%) parish courts. The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed, and the active pending new caseload are all positive, which is an indication that the larger proportion of the courts fell below the overall average case count in each of these data series. The overall skewness of the case disposal rates is a low negative figure, which indicates that a large proportion of courts had disposal rates which were clustered around the overall average rate for the quarter.

Refer to Table 1.03 for a graphical comparison of the Case Disposal Rates across all Parish Courts for the third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024.

Table 1.02a: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	Number of Disposed cases in Jul. 1- Sept. 30, 2024	Number of Inactive cases in Jul. 1- Sept. 30, 2024	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016- Sept. 2024)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016- Sept. 2024)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jul. 1, 2024	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
Hanover	187	143	3	298	6914	77	78.07	180.82
St. Catherine	634	635	74	3519	25657	1284	111.83	270.52
Westmoreland	452	327	77	1290	12931	432	89.38	218.81
St. Mary	185	222	7	509	7394	304	123.78	213.54
Clarendon	408	341	28	1868	13559	526	90.44	253.12
Portland	176	170	22	761	8685	414	109.09	307.29
St. Elizabeth	208	200	27	940	8238	782	109.13	436.12
Corporate Area Criminal	1160	851	299	20003	63291	3266	99.14	384.87
St. Thomas	158	97	11	618	6657	353	68.35	473.15
St. James	418	396	51	2802	18801	470	106.94	198.66
St. Ann	370	248	93	4629	12125	927	92.16	380.35
Trelawny	142	133	35	899	7024	448	118.31	351.19
Manchester	340	88	10	1981	11140	1024	28.82	1391.84
Total	4838	3851	737	40117	202416	10307	-	-
Average/Weighted Average	372.15	296.23	56.69	3085.92	15570.46	792.85	94.83	330.10
Standard deviation	278.93	223.91	78.41	5244.54	15349.79	813.54	25.24	315.57
Skewness	2.09	1.60	2.80	3.24	2.90	2.65	-1.52	3.06

Note 1: 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.

Note 2: The grand total number of active cases from 2016 to the quarter ended September 30, 2024, for all parish courts combined= 13,215

Note 3: The case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2024 is 108.43% and the case congestion rate is 644.44%.

The table above is an extension of table 1.01. 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; hence, the quarterly results are to be interpreted in a guarded way.

The weighted average case congestion rate among the parish courts in the third quarter of 2024 was 330.10%, an indication that the parish courts (criminal division) as a whole are carrying over three times the caseload that their current rate of clearance and implied state of resources justifies. This result represents a 24.39 percentage points increase when compared to the third quarter of 2023. The Manchester parish court (1391.84%) and the parish courts of St. Thomas (473.15%), St. Elizabeth (436.12%) and Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division (384.87%) were the courts with the highest case congestion rates in the third quarter of 2024. The St. Ann (380.35%) and Trelawny (351.19%) parish courts rounded off the top 6 most case congested courts in the third quarter of 2024.

The parish courts of St. Ann, St. Thomas, Manchester and Corporate Area-Criminal Division were also among the most congested courts in the comparative third quarter of 2023. The parish courts of Hanover (180.82%), St. James (198.66%), and St. Mary (213.54%) performed best on this measure. 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 case congestion rate is a more meaningful measurement over a full year.

The results on the overall case clearance rate for the third quarter of 2024 provide interesting insights into the court-wide progress being made on this measure. The overall weighted average case clearance rate of 94.83%, which is a decrease of 5.63 percentage points when compared to the corresponding third quarter of 2023, however, the performance meets the international standard of 90%-110. This overall case clearance rate of 94.83% suggests that for every 100 new cases filed, roughly 95 cases were disposed of. Nine (9) parish courts met or exceeded the international standards of 90%-110%. The parish courts of St. Mary (123.78%), Trelawny (118.31%), St. Catherine (111.83%), St. Elizabeth (109.13%) and Portland (109.09%) were the leading parish courts on this measure. The parish courts of Manchester (28.82%) and St. Thomas (68.35%) had the lowest criminal case clearance rates for the quarter. Four (4) parish courts recorded an increase in clearance rates when compared to third quarter of 2023, while nine (9) parish courts recorded a decrease in clearance rates when compared to third quarter of 2023. The St. Mary and St. Catherine parish courts saw the largest gains, with 42.35 and 14.21 percentage points improvement respectively. The Manchester and St. Thomas parish courts saw the largest decline, with 64.27 and 43.04 percentage points decline respectively. The data in the table above were positively skewed to various degrees, indicating that for the most part, proportionately more of the scores in that data set fell below their respective series means.

Refer to Table 1.03 for further comparison of the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates across all parish courts for the third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024.

Table 1.02b: Percentile rank on selected performance metrics for the criminal division of the parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Percentile Rank - Case Disposal rate (%)	Percentile Rank - Case Clearance Rate (%)
Hanover	83	17
St. Catherine	67	83
Westmoreland	58	25
St. Mary	42	100
Clarendon	50	33
Portland	25	67
St. Elizabeth	100	75
Corporate Area Criminal	75	50
St. Thomas	8	8
St. James	92	58
St. Ann	33	42
Trelawny	17	92
Manchester	0	0

The table above provides the percentile ranks of the case disposal and case clearance rates for the third quarter of 2024. The percentile rank gives an indication of where particular courts falls on a metric relative to the other courts. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth (100%), St. James (92%) and Hanover (83%) had the highest percentile ranks on case disposal rate for the third quarter of 2024, an indication that they performed better than the vast proportion of the courts on this measure. The percentile ranks of 100% for the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for example, means that they performed better than all the courts on case disposal rate in the quarter, while the St. James parish court performed better than 92% of the parish courts and the Hanover parish court performed better than 83% of all the parish courts on this measurement. The parish courts of Manchester, St. Thomas and Trelawny had the lowest percentile rank on case disposal rate for the quarter. In terms of case clearance rates, the parish courts of St. Mary (100%), Trelawny (92%) and St. Catherine (83%) had the highest percentile ranks, while the parish courts of Manchester, St. Thomas and Hanover had the lowest.

Table 1.02c: Forecasted case activity statistics for the fourth quarter of 2024 [October 01 - December 31, 2024]

Parish Court	Forecasted number of new cases	Forecasted number of disposed cases	Forecasted number of inactive cases	Forecasted case clearance rate (%)
Hanover	160	153	5	98.12
Manchester	316	211	23	73.94
St. Mary	176	193	9	114.36
St. James	436	427	46	108.47
St. Catherine	724	745	112	118.34
Portland	173	196	15	122.35
St. Ann	409	321	112	105.78
St. Elizabeth	183	223	23	134.88
Corporate Area Criminal	1242	868	452	106.26
Westmoreland	394	327	46	94.64
St. Thomas	149	137	14	100.75
Clarendon	405	390	49	108.48
Trelawny	200	172	33	102.14
Total/Weighted Average	4969	4363	938	106.69

Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the fourth quarter of 2024 is 83.43%.

The above table forecasts core case activity for the criminal division of each parish court and overall, for the fourth quarter of 2024. The forecasts are generated using the method of exponential smoothing which uses weighted averages from past observations with weights decaying exponentially as the observations get older. See further explanation of the mathematical science behind the method of exponential smoothing in the glossary of terms. The above data shows that the overall forecasted case clearance rate for the criminal division of the parish courts for the fourth quarter of 2024 is 106.69%, which would be 11.86 percentage points higher than that of the third quarter of 2024. Twelve (12) parish courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the fourth quarter of 2024, led by the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 134.88%, the Portland Parish Court with 122.35% and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 118.34%.

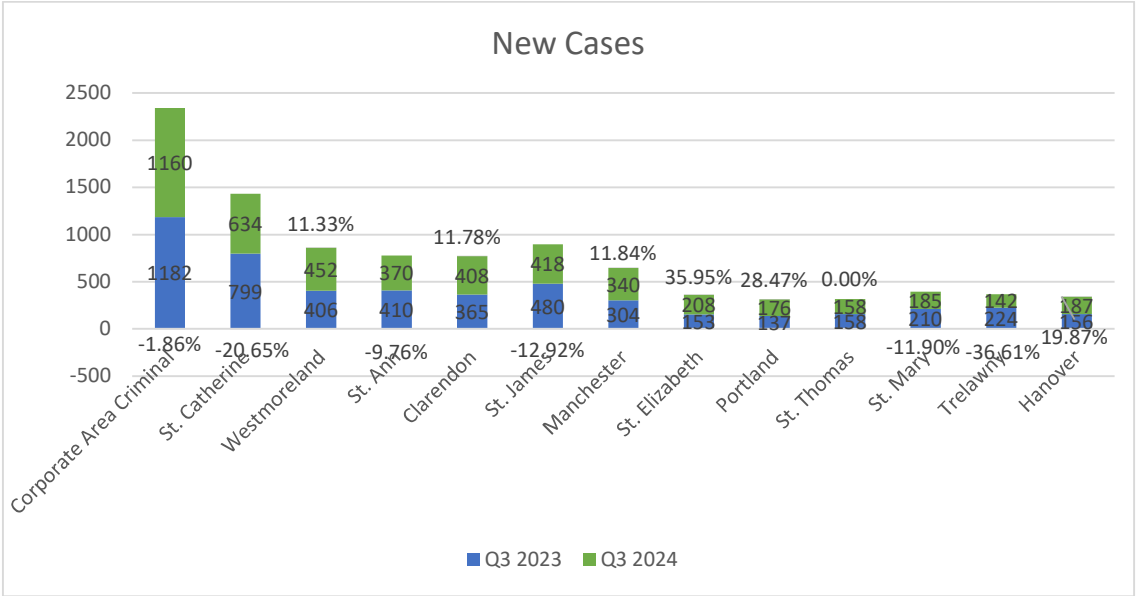
Table 1.02d: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the criminal division of the parish courts in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
Hanover	187	69,533	27
St. Catherine	634	516,218	12
Westmoreland	452	144,103	31
St. Mary	185	113,615	16
Clarendon	408	245,103	17
Portland	176	81,744	22
St. Elizabeth	208	150,205	14
Corporate Area Criminal	1160	662,426	18
St. Thomas	158	93,902	17
St. James	418	183,811	23
St. Ann	370	172,362	21
Trelawny	142	75,164	19
Manchester	340	189,797	18
Total	4838	2697983	18

The above table provides an outline of the number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts in the third quarter of 2024. The population sizes used are based on the last published national population census in 2011 and therefore the data does not have full current value. Nevertheless, this kind of data provides interesting insights into the demand for adjudication in criminal matters in the various parishes. It is seen that the parish of Westmoreland, which is among the parishes with mid-range population sizes, and bigger caseloads, registered the largest number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the third quarter of 2024. Hanover, which is among the parishes with a smaller population size and caseload, was second on this measurement. St. James, which is among the parishes with the larger caseload and population sizes, followed. Equally interesting is the result that the St. Catherine Parish Court, which is among the parishes with the larger quarterly caseload and population size, had the smallest number of new cases filed per 10,000

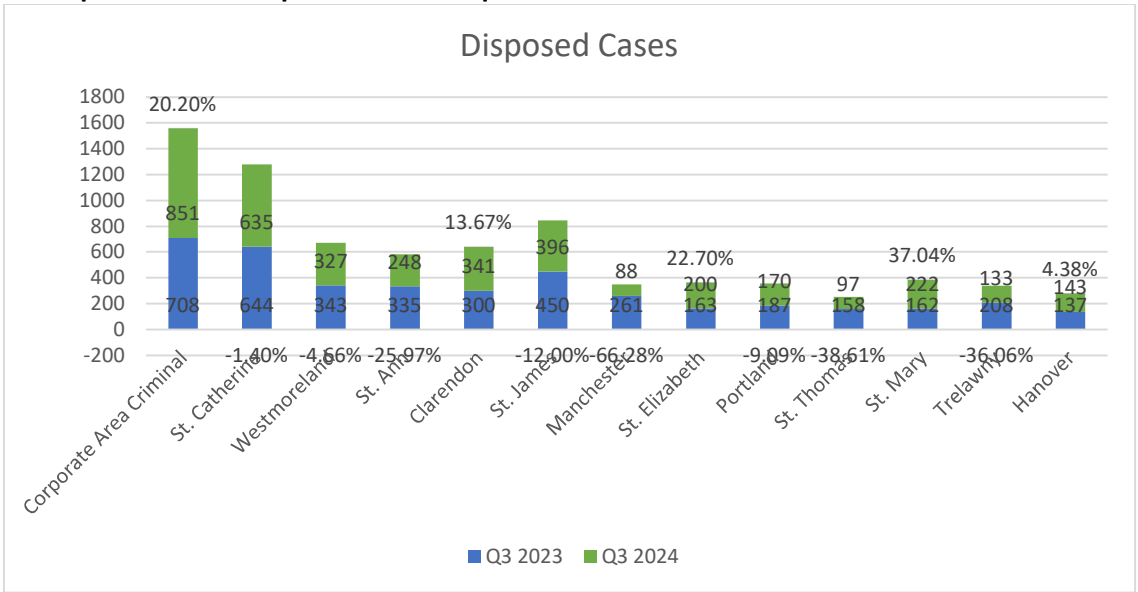
population in the quarter. St. Elizabeth and St. Mary had the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population for the quarter.

Chart 1.01a: Summary of changes in the number of new cases filed in the third quarters of third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024



The above chart provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of new cases filed in the third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024. It is seen that there has been a decrease in new cases filed over the comparative period six (6) parish courts and an increase in six (6). Among the parish courts with the largest rise in new cases filed were the St. Elizabeth Parish Court increasing by 35.95% and the Portland Parish Court, which increased by 28.47%. The Trelawny parish court fell by 36.61% and the St. Catherine Parish court fell by 20.65%.

Chart 1.01b: Summary of changes in the number of cases disposed in the third quarters of third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024



The above graph provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of cases disposed of in the third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024. It is seen that there has been a decrease in cases resolved over the comparative period in eight (8) parish courts and an increase in the cases resolved in five (5) parish courts. The Manchester Parish Court fell by 66.28%, the St. Thomas Parish fell by 38.61% and the Trelawny Parish Court fell by 36.06%. The St. Mary parish court increased by 37.04%, the St. Elizabeth Parish court increased by 22.70% and the Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division increased by 20.20%.

Table 1.02e: Sampling distribution of the Indices of Judge Productivity for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of Judges	New criminal cases per Judges	Active pending caseload per Judge at the beginning of Q3 2024	Active caseload per Judge at the end of Q3 2024	Cases disposed per Judge
Hanover	2	93.50	38.50	59.00	71.50
St. Catherine	5	126.80	256.80	241.80	127.00
Westmoreland	3	150.67	144.00	160.00	109.00
St. Mary	3	61.67	101.33	86.67	74.00
Clarendon	3	136.00	175.33	188.33	113.67
Portland	2	88.00	207.00	199.00	85.00
St. Elizabeth	3	69.33	260.67	254.33	66.67
Corporate Area Criminal	9	128.89	362.89	364.00	94.56
St. Thomas	2	79.00	176.50	201.50	48.50
St. James	5	83.60	94.00	88.20	79.20
St. Ann	3	123.33	309.00	318.67	82.67
Trelawny	3	47.33	149.33	140.67	44.33
Manchester	3	113.33	341.33	422.00	29.33
Total/Weighted Average	46	105.17	224.07	229.50	83.72

The above table provides a distribution of the new cases filed per judge; the cases disposed per judge and the caseload per judge in the criminal division of the parish courts for the third quarter of 2024. The data reveals that the overall weighted average number of new criminal cases filed per judge in the third quarter of 2024 is roughly 105 cases. The parish courts of Westmoreland (151 cases), Clarendon (136 cases) and Corporate Area Criminal (129 cases) had the three largest number of new cases filed per judge during the quarter. On the contrary, the parish courts Trelawny (47 cases), St. Mary (62 cases) and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court (69 cases) had the lowest number of new cases filed per judge in the quarter. In terms of cases disposed of per judge, the St. Catherine Parish Court disposed of the most cases per judge in the quarter with 127 cases, followed by the Clarendon Parish Court with 114 cases and the Westmoreland Parish Court with 109 cases disposed per judge. The three courts with the smallest number of cases disposed per judge were the Manchester Parish Court and the

Trelawny Parish Court with 29 and 44 disposed cases per judge respectively and the St. Thomas Parish Court with 49 disposed cases per judge. The overall number of criminal cases disposed per judge was 84 cases. The most crucial of the indicators is the active caseload per judge at the end of the quarter. The data shows that the Manchester Parish Court had the highest caseload per judge at the end of the quarter with 422 cases, followed by the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 364 cases and the St. Ann Parish Court with 319 cases per judge. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover and St. Mary with 59 and 87 cases per judge respectively, had the lowest active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the quarter, followed by the St. James Parish Court with 88 active criminal cases per judge. The overall average active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the quarter is 230 cases. The active caseload is a proxy for the existing demand for judicial services in the respective courts and the anecdotal evidence suggests that some courts with a higher caseload per judge are under greater pressure to maintain high productivity rates within existing capacity constraints.

Table 1.03: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the first quarter of third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024

Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3 2024	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3 2023	Change in case disposal rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3 2024	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3 2023	Change in case clearance rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q3 2024	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q3 2023	Change in case congestion rate (%)
Hanover	54.01	62.82	-8.81	78.07	91.67	-13.60	180.82	155.94	24.88
St. Catherine	47.63	49.56	-1.93	111.83	97.62	14.21	270.52	261.41	9.11
Westmoreland	45.80	62.32	-16.52	89.38	89.9	-0.52	218.81	169.59	49.22
St. Mary	37.84	37.14	0.70	123.78	81.43	42.35	213.54	291.81	-78.27
Clarendon	42.65	52.88	-10.23	90.44	95.34	-4.90	253.12	235.92	17.20
Portland	31.82	46.72	-14.90	109.09	145.99	-36.90	307.29	298.5	8.79
St. Elizabeth	66.83	49.67	17.16	109.13	115.03	-5.90	436.12	NA	NA
Corporate Area Criminal	51.72	52.79	-1.07	99.14	96.11	3.03	384.87	493.13	-108.26
St. Thomas	23.42	45.57	-22.15	68.35	111.39	-43.04	473.15	302.27	170.88
St. James	54.55	66.25	-11.70	106.94	107.92	-0.98	198.66	190.15	8.51
St. Ann	34.32	42.68	-8.36	92.16	114.39	-22.23	380.35	331.77	48.58
Trelawny	30.28	47.32	-17.04	118.31	108.04	10.27	351.19	254.96	96.23
Manchester	15.29	37.17	-21.88	28.82	93.09	-64.27	1391.84	375.97	1015.87
Average /Weighted Average	44.15	51.48	-7.33	94.83	100.46	-5.63	330.10	305.71	24.39
Standard Deviation	14.22	9.21		25.24	16.42		315.57	93.84	90.58
Skewness	-0.10	0.36		-1.52	1.36		3.06	0.87	3.10

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate for the third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024. The weighted average case disposal rate for the third quarter of 2024, was 44.15%, which was a 7.33 percentage points decrease when compared to the third quarter of 2023 which had a weighted average rate of 51.48%. The overall case clearance rate of 94.83% for the third quarter of 2024 was 5.63 percentage points less the 100.46% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2023. The overall case congestion rate for the third quarter of

2024 deteriorated, changing from 305.71% in the third quarter of 2023, to 330.10% in the third quarter of 2024, a 24.39 percentage point increase. Ceteris paribus, there should be a roughly inverse linear association between the case clearance rates and the case congestion rate. This is more pronounced in the long run than in the short or medium terms.

Chart 1.2.01: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for the third quarters of third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024

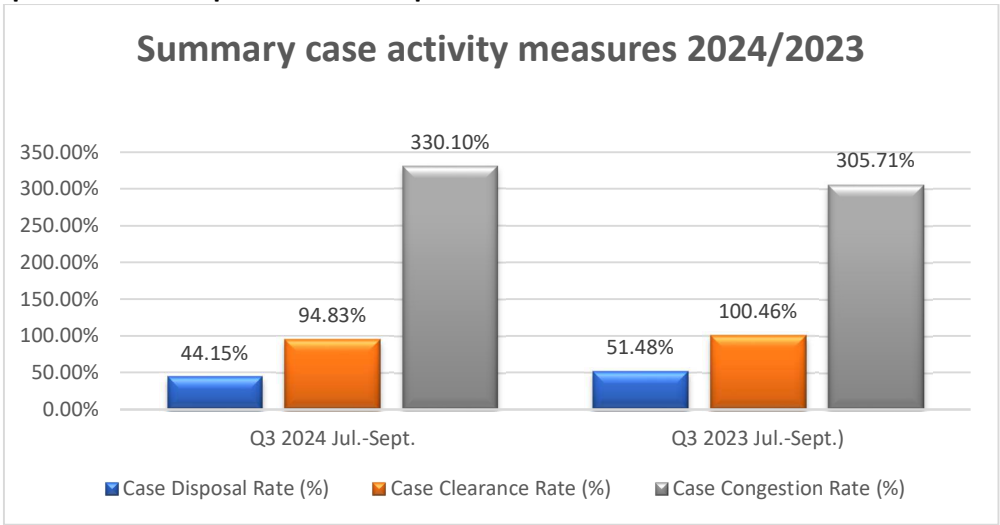


Chart 1.2.02a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for the third quarters of third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024

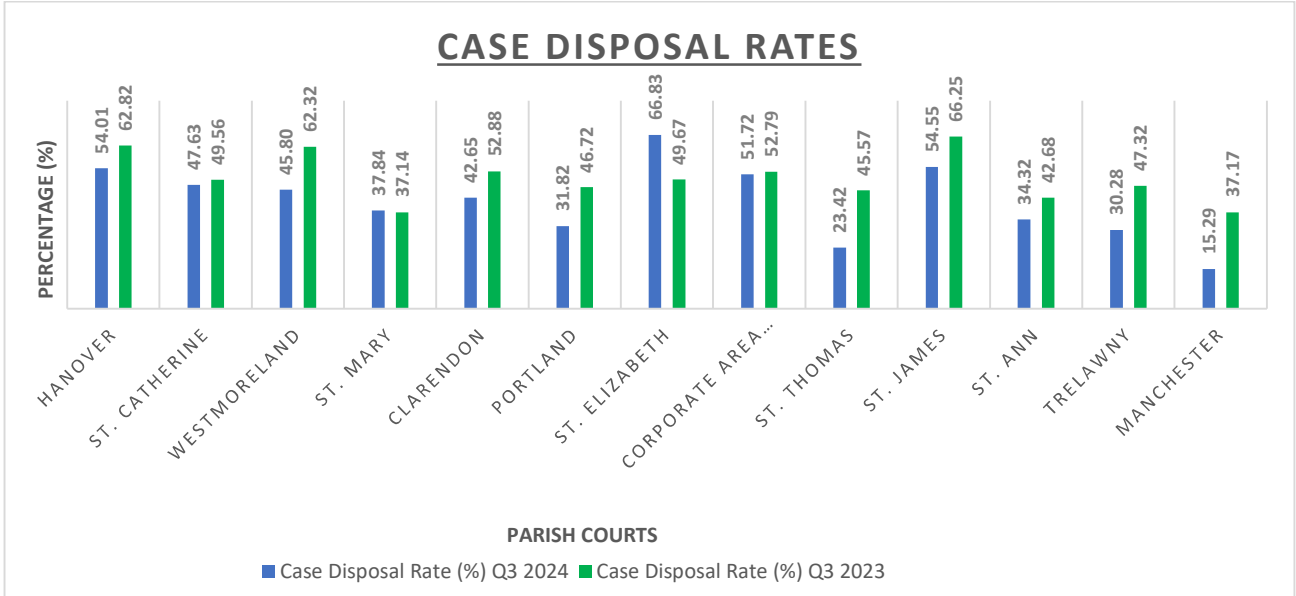


Chart 1.2.02b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for the third quarters of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024

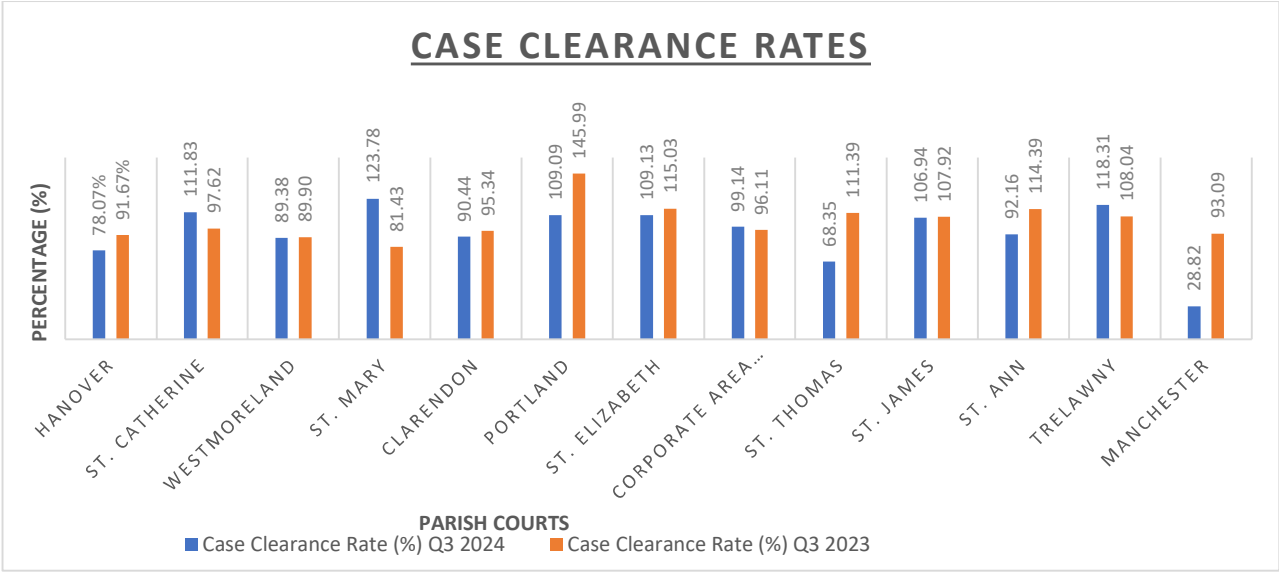


Chart 1.2.02c: Comparison of case congestion rate across the parish courts for the third quarters of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024

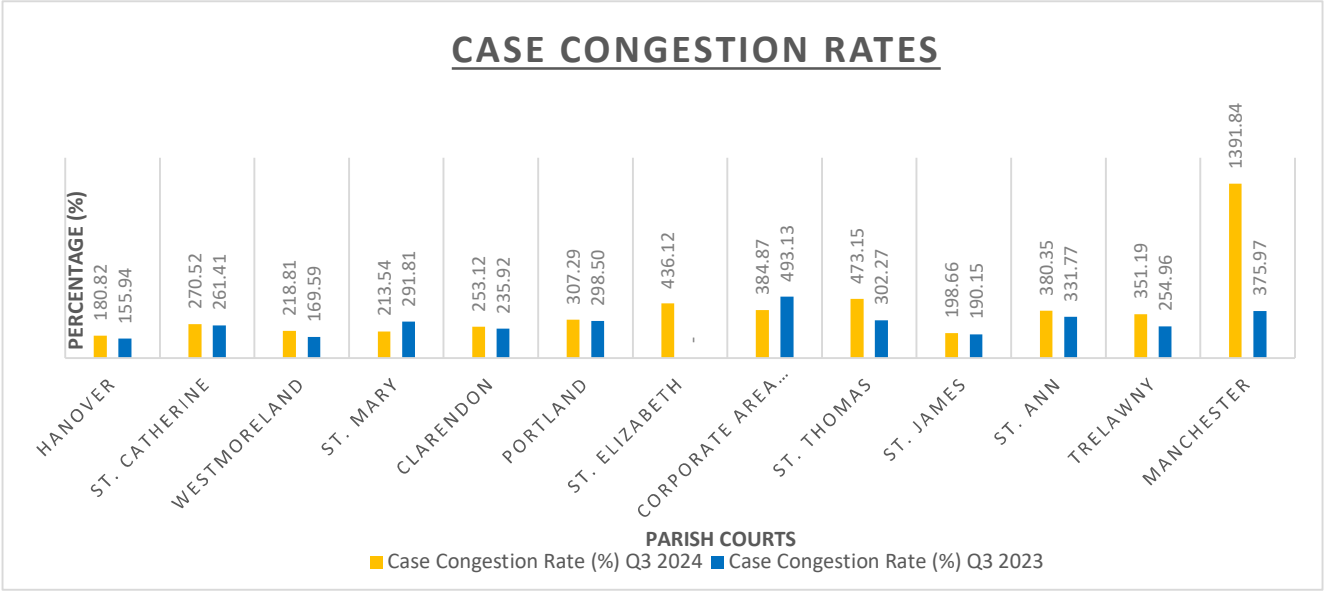


Table 1.04a Sampling distribution of mention court activity for cases disposed of in the third ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Overall number of cases disposed	Number of cases disposed in 1 case management date	Number of cases disposed in 2 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 3 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 4 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 5 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 6-10 management dates	Number of cases disposed in more than 10 management dates
Hanover	143	17	7	2	-	1	-	-
St. Catherine	635	112	64	56	38	38	70	15
Westmoreland	327	145	68	46	18	21	22	8
St. Mary	222	40	17	19	16	6	17	7
Clarendon	341	71	28	16	18	11	24	7
Portland	170	44	33	17	15	10	33	16
Corporate Area Criminal	851	366	136	72	75	60	96	69
St. Thomas	97	25	11	10	7	4	4	-
St. James	396	194	67	48	43	10	4	1
St. Ann	248	50	34	18	14	8	8	2
Trelawny	133	23	22	11	9	14	13	1
Manchester	88	18	18	7	4	3	2	1
Mean	304.25	92.08	42.08	26.83	23.36	15.50	26.64	12.70
Median	235.00	47.00	30.50	17.50	16.00	10.00	17.00	7.00
Skewness	1.48	2.01	1.68	0.93	1.75	1.97	1.66	2.76
Standard Deviation	231.91	102.80	36.62	22.57	20.94	17.18	30.03	20.54
Total	3651	1105	505	322	257	186	293	127

The above sampling distribution provides critical insights into case management date activity for a representative sample of criminal cases disposed across the parish courts over the third quarter of 2024 calendar year. In general, the fewer the number of case management dates per case, the more efficient the case flow progression. A maximum of five case management dates per case is considered to be desirable based on international best practices. A notable 23.45% of the sample of 3,651 cases disposed of during the period were resolved on their first appearance before the court. A further 30.27% of the sample of cases disposed of were resolved after 1 case management date, while 13.83% were resolved after 2 case management dates and 8.82% after 3 case management dates. Cumulatively, roughly 88.50% of the cases sampled were resolved in five or less case management dates, inclusive of those resolved on first appearance before the courts. This is an impressive outcome by any measure. Although there are some variances across the parish courts, the overall outcomes were consistently observed for all courts. In other words, the vast majority of the cases sampled were disposed in five or less case management appearance in all courts and matters disposed on first appearance before the court or within the first few appearances accounted for the largest share of the activity across the courts. These outcomes are not surprising given the consistently high case clearance rates in the parish courts in the last few years. These collective results augur well for the probability of relatively quick and efficient resolution of criminal cases across the parish courts.

Table 1.04b: Summary of cases heard during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of cases heard in the quarter	Share of cases heard in the quarter (%)
Clarendon	895	8.22
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3036	27.88
Hanover	257	2.36
Manchester	532	4.89
Portland	504	4.63
St. Ann	879	8.07
St. Catherine	1408	12.93
St. Elizabeth	350	3.21
St. James	787	7.23
St. Mary	441	4.05
St. Thomas	375	3.44
Trelawny	534	4.90
Westmoreland	892	8.19
Total/Weighted Average	10890	100.00

The table above provides a summary of the criminal cases heard during the third quarter of 2024 at the parish courts. From a sample of 10,890 cases heard, it is seen that the Corporate Area Criminal court accounted for the highest share of cases heard with 3,036 cases heard or 27.88% of the sample, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 1,408 cases heard or 12.93% and the Clarendon parish court with 895 cases or 8.22% of the sample. Cumulatively, the top three courts account for roughly 49.03% of the cases sampled. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover with 257 cases or 2.36%, St. Elizabeth with 350 or 3.21% and St. Thomas with 375 or 3.44% of the sample, accounted for the lowest share of cases heard in the third quarter of 2024.

Table 1.05a: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for the third quarters of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) Q3 (2024)	Trial certainty rate (%) Q3 (2023)	Change in the trial certainty rate (%)
Westmoreland	36	84	-48
Clarendon	79	95	-16
St. Ann	100	94	6
Portland	98	80	18
St. James	100	NA	NA
Manchester	100	81	19
St. Elizabeth	97	NA	NA
St. Catherine	80	95	-15
Trelawny	82	87	-5
St. Mary	86	97	-11
St. Thomas	100	100	0
Corporate Area Criminal	99	98	1
Hanover	73	65	8
Total/Average	88	89	1-

Note 1: The trial date certainty rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q3 2024 is 100%

Note 2: Q3 represents the third quarter i.e. July-September

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 start at some future date. The overall trial date certainty rate for the third quarter of 2024 was 88%, roughly 1 percentage point less than the rate recorded in the corresponding quarter in 2023. Seven (7) 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 St. Thomas, St. Ann, St. James and Manchester with a trial date certainty rate of 100% each, Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 99%, Portland with 98%, and St. Elizabeth with 97%. The St. Mary Parish Court fell just short of the international standard with a trial certainty rate of 86%, but this was still a promising result. The minimum-targeted court-wide trial date certainty rate 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%.

Table 1.05b: Percentile Rank on trial date certainty rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the third quarters of third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024

Parish Court	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate Q3 2024 (%)	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate Q3 2023 (%)
Westmoreland	0	30
Clarendon	17	60
St. Ann	75	50
Portland	58	10
St. James	75	NA
Manchester	75	20
St. Elizabeth	50	NA
St. Catherine	25	60
Trelawny	33	40
St. Mary	42	80
St. Thomas	75	100
Corporate Area Criminal	67	90
Hanover	8	0

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the trial date certainty rates for the third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024. The results present a mixed picture across both years for most courts in terms of the relative performances on this measurement. Some courts experienced gains in the ranking and several others experienced declines, while some courts remained the same. There were, however, no dramatic changes in ranking for any court over the comparable period.

Table 1.05c: Average duration from first trial date set to date of disposal of case for matters resolved by trial in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average duration of trial (days)
Clarendon	412.37
Corporate Area	396.48
Hanover	66.44
Manchester	190.20
Portland	505.07
St. Ann	310.82
St. Catherine	396.47
St. James	96.23
St. Mary	307.00
St. Thomas	288.00
Trelawny	553.70
Westmoreland	78.19
Weighted average	351.43
Standard Deviation	163.85

The above table summarizes the average durations between first trial date set and the date of case disposal for trial matters resolved in the third quarter of 2024 across the various parish courts. The data shows an overall weighted average interval between the first trial date set and the disposition of such cases in the quarter is 351 days or roughly 11.7 months, with a standard deviation of roughly 164 days or 5.5 months. The Hanover and Westmoreland parish courts had the lowest times between first trial dates set and disposal of cases with roughly 66 days and 78 days respectively, reflective of more ideal standards when compared to most other courts. The Trelawny and Portland parish courts with average interval times of roughly 554 days or 18.5 months and 505 days or roughly 16.8 months respectively had the worst ranks on this measurement for the quarter. Lengthy time intervals between the first trial date and the date of

case disposition are symptoms of case management problems, case readiness and possibly even scheduling and calendar management issues in the particular court.

Table 1.05d: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average time between filing and first court appearance (in days)	Average time between first court appearance and trial (in days)	Average time between trial and disposition (in days)
Clarendon	5.34	273.79	412.37
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	4.21	485.62	396.48
Hanover	10.98	130.28	66.44
Manchester	7.33	170.33	190.20
Portland	4.46	345.81	505.07
St. Ann	11.67	438.64	310.82
St. Catherine	4.27	275.64	396.47
St. James	7.70	280.37	96.23
St. Mary	9.25	150.29	307.00
St. Thomas	8.13	183.40	288.00
Trelawny	6.38	243.40	553.70
Westmoreland	5.16	376.72	78.19
Weighted average	5.46	367.27	351.43
Standard Deviation	2.57	114.07	163.85

Note 1: The average time between filing a case and the first court appearance for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2024 is 10.94 days.

Note 2: The average time between the first appearance and first trial date for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2024 is 565.11 days.

Note 3: The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2024 is 157.50 days.

Tracking the times between the occurrence of major hearing events along the case flow continuum is important to establishing precise points of possible delay in case progression. The above table provides a summary of the average times between filing a case and the first court appearance, the average time between first court appearance and the first date of trial and the average duration between the first trial date and disposition. Overall, it is seen that the average

time between filing a criminal case, and the first court appearance is approximately 5 days, while the overall average time between first appearance of a criminal matter in the parish courts and the first trial date is, however, much longer at roughly 12.2 months or 367 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 11.7 months or 351 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates which may at times face long delays after a first date set is postponed. Since roughly less than a quarter of criminal cases filed in the parish courts will proceed to trial, these findings may not have a dramatic impact on the overall time to disposition of criminal cases but are nonetheless critical for monitoring case activity.

Table 1.05e: Trial court activity summary during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of cases heard	Number of cases with a trial date set	Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set (%)
Clarendon	895	207	23.13
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	2950	579	19.63
Hanover	257	36	14.01
Manchester	532	67	12.59
Portland	504	68	13.49
St. Ann	879	193	21.96
St. Catherine	1408	425	30.18
St. Elizabeth	350	37	10.57
St. James	787	155	19.70
St. Mary	441	75	17.01
St. Thomas	375	49	13.07
Trelawny	534	134	25.09
Westmoreland	892	125	14.01
Total/Weighted Average	10804	2150	19.90

Note 1: The Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann had 6.54% of cases heard proceed to trial in the third quarter of 2024

Note 2: Calculations for the Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division were done using data available from sheets in which a trial date was listed from 2017 onwards, hence, the total number of cases heard may differ from the number of cases heard listed in table 4.0b.

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the third quarter of 2024 in the criminal divisions of the parish courts which had trial dates set, whether in the current quarter, from the previous quarter or a future date. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 10,804 criminal cases heard across the parish courts in the third quarter of 2024, 2,150 cases or 19.90% had a trial date set. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth (10.57%), Manchester (12.59%) and St. Thomas (13.07%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of St. Catherine (30.18%), Trelawny (25.09%) and Clarendon (23.13%) had the highest proportions.

Table 1.06a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average overall courtroom utilization rate (%)	Highest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Lowest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rate (%)	Average courtroom utilization rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average number of courtroom adjournments per day
St. Catherine	75.89	229.44	3.06	33.49	NA	1.0
Westmoreland	66.87	115.83	8.67	34.51	NA	NA
Trelawny	68.41	130.00	4.67	29.92	NA	1.0
St. Thomas	65.83	100.00	23.61	23.13	NA	NA
St. Mary	81.28	150.00	11.67	33.18	NA	1.0
St. James	67.78	143.33	13.61	30.49	NA	1.0
Corporate Area Criminal Court	67.78	276.33	5.33	33.10	NA	1.1
St. Ann	56.80	231.67	2.22	31.47	35.34	NA
Portland	65.19	231.67	1.67	35.10	NA	1.0
Hanover	59.94	123.06	1.39	34.21	NA	1.0
Clarendon	65.32	95.00	36.67	21.26	79.17	NA
Manchester	68.69	159.33	0.33	33.31	95.83	1.3
Overall Averages	67.48	165.47	9.41	31.10	70.11	1.05
Standard Deviation	6.38	60.82	10.90	4.46	31.25	0.11
Skewness	0.65	0.64	1.74	-1.58	-1.19	2.34

Note: The courtroom utilization rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for in the third quarter of 2024 is 67.23%

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the third quarter of 2023. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtrooms (including outstations) which are actually utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized.

The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocated for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The data suggests that as a whole, the parish courts of Jamaica performed below this level in the third quarter of 2024. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the quarter was 67.48%, which is an indication that on average roughly 67% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the third quarter of 2024. This result is roughly 0.49 percentage points below the figure for the corresponding period in 2023. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the quarter are the St. Mary and St. Catherine parish courts with 81.28% and 75.89% respectively, followed by the Manchester Parish Court with 68.69% and the Trelawny Parish Court with 68.41%. The St. Ann Parish Court and Hanover Parish Courts with 56.80% and 59.94% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the Portland Parish Court with 65.19% had the next lowest rate. It is quite commendable that all parish courts exceeded a courtroom utilization rate of 50% for the quarter. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates was relatively low, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. The positive skewness of the data suggests that proportionately more of the sample are below the overall mean.

The sample size of days used to compute the rates for each court were sufficiently large and representative, though not the same for all courts. The margin of error of the courtroom utilization rates is a reliable $\pm 2.5\%$.

Table 1.06b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Percentile rank Q3 2024 (%)	Percentile rank Q3 2023 (%)
St. Catherine	91	45
Westmoreland	45	100
Trelawny	73	73
St. Thomas	36	9
St. Mary	100	36
St. James	55	91
Corporate Area Criminal Court	55	0
St. Ann	0	82
Portland	18	64
Hanover	9	18
Clarendon	27	27
Manchester	82	55

Note: Q3 represents the third quarter i.e. July-September

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the courtroom utilization rates for the third quarter of third quarter of third quarter of 2023 and 2024. The results present a relatively consistent picture across both years for most courts in terms of the performances on this measurement. Some courts experienced gains in the ranking, several others experienced declines, and some courts retained the same ranking. The St. Mary Parish Court performed better than all courts in the third quarter of 2024 and the Westmoreland Parish Court performed better than all courts in the third quarter of 2023. The Ann Parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization rate in the third quarter of 2024 and the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court with the lowest rate in the third quarter of 2023.

Table 1.07: Types of matters for each Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	1047	624	205	342	-	-	-	18	-	2236
St. Catherine	543	280	140	165	5	-	4	-	-	1137
Manchester	194	182	129	101	-	-	14	-	-	620
St. James	217	196	121	68	16	56	-	-	-	674
St. Ann	183	154	98	100	-	-	-	1	-	536
Westmoreland	230	163	103	216	2	-	-	-	-	714
Clarendon	233	264	78	78	-	-	-	-	-	653
Portland	157	43	47	55	-	-	23	-	-	325
St. Mary	132	37	67	114	2	-	-	-	-	352
Trelawny	79	53	50	32	2	-	10	-	-	226
Hanover	129	46	40	60	-	-	15	-	-	290
St. Thomas	115	64	50	31	-	-	9	-	-	269
St. Elizabeth	158	103	20	48	-	-	-	-	-	329
Total	3417	2209	1148	1410	27	56	75	19	0	8361
Percentage	40.87	26.42	13.73	16.86	0.32	0.67	0.90	0.23	0	100

***Total number of observations = 8,361**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 third quarter of 2024. For the quarter, 8,361 charges were filed across the parish courts, an increase of approximately 638 charges or an 8.26% increase when compared to the corresponding third quarter of 2023. The largest proportions of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (2,236), the St. Catherine Parish Court (1,137), the Westmoreland Parish Court with (714) and the St. James Parish Court with 674 charges. The

largest share of the charges were Indictments (40.87%); followed by summary matters (26.42%), committal proceedings (16.86%) and Lay Magistrates' matters with 13.73% of the total sample. The Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division accounted for the largest proportion of Indictments filed, followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine, Clarendon and Westmoreland. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division accounted for the largest share of summary matters filed, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the Clarendon Parish Court. The largest proportion of Lay Magistrates' matters was filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court– Criminal Division, followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine and Manchester. The Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, followed by the Westmoreland Parish Court and the St. Catherine Parish Court accounted for the largest individual shares of Committal Proceedings in the quarter. 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 St. Ann Parish Court.

Offence Types

Table 1.08.01: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unlawful wounding	34	12.59
Assault occasioning bodily harm	31	11.48
Threat	27	10.00
Possession of identity information	15	5.56
Malicious destruction of property	14	5.19
Sub-total	121	44.81

Number of observations sampled (N): 270

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court for the third quarter of 2024. It is shown that unlawful wounding with 34 or 12.59%, assault occasioning bodily harm with 31 or 11.48% and threat with 27 or 10% of the total sample of charges are the most frequently occurring charges. Possession of identity information with 15 or 5.56% followed this, while malicious destruction of property with 14 or 5.19% of the total sample rounds off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 44.81% of the total sample of 270 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2023 in the Hanover Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, threat and assault at common law.

Table 1.08.02: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	71	11.45
Unauthorized possession of ammunition	54	8.71
Possession of offensive weapon	50	8.06
Unlawful wounding	44	7.10
Exposing goods for sale	30	4.84
Sub-total	249	40.16

Number of observations sampled (N): 620

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court for the third quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 71 or 11.45% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unauthorized possession of ammunition with 54 or 8.71%, possession of offensive weapon with 50 or 8.06% and unlawful wounding with 44 or 7.10% rank next. The top five is rounded off by exposing goods for sale with 30 or 4.84% of the sample charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 40.16% of the total sample of 620 charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2023 in the Manchester Parish Court included embezzlement, malicious destruction of property, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and exposing goods for sale.

Table 1.08.03: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	35	10.80
Assault occasioning bodily harm	31	9.57
Malicious destruction of property	28	8.64
Unlawful wounding	22	6.79
Possession of Prohibited Weapon	12	3.70
Sub-total	128	39.51

Number of observations sampled (N): 324

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. It is shown that threat with 35 or 10.80% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 31 or 9.57% and malicious destruction of property with 28 or 8.64% ranked next. The top five is rounded off by unlawful wounding with 22 or 6.79% and possession of prohibited weapon with 12 or 3.70% of the sample of charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 39.51% of the total sample of 324 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2023 in the Portland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, illegal entry and assault at common law.

Table 1.08.04: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	81	15.25
Assault occasioning bodily harm	58	10.92
Unlawful wounding	45	8.47
Littering	28	5.27
Malicious destruction of property	26	4.90
Sub-total	238	44.82

Number of observations sampled (N): 531

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. It is shown that threat with 81 or 15.25% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 58 or 10.92% and unlawful wounding with 45 or 8.47% followed this. Littering with 28 or 5.27% and malicious destruction of property with 26 or 4.90% of the total sample rounds of the top charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 44.82% of the total sample of 531 charges filed in the quarter at the St. Ann Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2023 in the St. Ann parish court included threat, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, and littering. From a sample of 103 charges, it is seen that the leading charges recorded in the third quarter of 2024 at the Brown's Town Outstation included assault occasioning bodily harm with 23 or 22.33% of the charges, threat with 22 or 21.36% and unlawful wounding with 20 or 19.42%. Malicious destruction of property with 11 or 10.68% and possession of offensive weapon with 3.88% of the sample followed.

Table 1.08.05: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	161	14.25
Unlawful wounding	106	9.38
Malicious destruction of property	63	5.58
Possession offensive weapon	55	4.87
Threat	45	3.98
Sub-total	430	38.05

Number of observations sampled (N): 1,130

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 161 or 14.25% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 106 or 9.38%, malicious destruction of property with 63 or 5.58% and possession of offensive weapon with 55 or 4.87% followed this. Threat with 45 or 3.98% of the total sample of charges filed round off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 38.05% of the total sample of 1,130 charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2023 in the St. Catherine parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, exposing goods for sale, smoking in a public place, possession of offensive weapon, unlawful wounding and malicious destruction of property.

Table 1.08.06: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	53	16.11
Unlawful wounding	39	11.85
No Food Handlers Permit	36	10.94
Malicious destruction of property	27	8.21
Possession of offensive weapon	15	4.56
Sub-total	170	51.67

Number of observations sampled (N): 329

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 53 or 16.11% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 39 or 11.85% and no food handler's permit with 36 or 10.94% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 27 or

8.21% and possession of offensive weapon with 15 or 4.56% of the sample. The charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 51.67% of the total sample of 329 charges filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the quarter.

Table 1.08.07: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Possession of offensive weapon	69	10.25
Assault occasioning bodily harm	59	8.77
Unlawful wounding	48	7.13
Threat	47	6.98
Simple larceny	24	3.57
Sub-total	247	36.70

Number of observations sampled (N): 673

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. James Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. It is shown that possession of an offensive weapon with 69 or 10.25% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 59 or 8.77% and unlawful wounding with 48 or 7.13% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 47 or 6.98% and simple larceny with 24 or 3.57% of the total sample. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 36.70% of the sample of 673 charges filed in quarter at the St. James Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2023 in the St. James parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, possession of offensive weapon, unlawful wounding, threat and malicious destruction of property.

Table 1.08.08: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	42	11.93
Threat	36	10.23
Unlawful wounding	29	8.24
Malicious destruction of property	23	6.53
Shooting with Intent	18	5.11
Sub-total	148	42.05

Number of observations sampled (N): 352

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 42 or 11.93% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Threat with 36 or 10.23% and unlawful wounding with 29 or 8.24% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 23 or 6.53% and shooting with intent with 18 or 5.11% of the sample. The charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 42.05% of the total sample of 352 charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2022 in the St. Mary parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, assault at common law and malicious destruction of property.

Table 1.08.09: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	44	16.36
Unlawful Wounding	20	7.43
Malicious destruction of property	19	7.06
Assault at Common Law	18	6.69
Threat	14	5.20
Sub-total	115	42.75

Number of observations sampled (N): 269

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 44 or 16.36% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 20 or 7.43%, malicious destruction of property with 19 or 7.06% and assault at common law with 18 or 6.69% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 14 or 5.20% of the total sample of charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 42.75% of the sample of 269 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2023 in the St. Thomas parish court included malicious destruction of property, unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, smoking in a public place and possession of offensive weapon.

Table 1.08.10: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unlawful Wounding	27	11.95
Possession of offensive weapon	24	10.62
Assault occasioning bodily harm	21	9.29
Disorderly Conduct	11	4.87
Resisting Arrest	11	4.87
Sub-total	94	41.59

Number of observations sampled (N): 226

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. It is shown unlawful wounding with 27 or 11.95% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Possession of an offensive weapon with 24 or 10.62% and assault occasioning bodily harm with 21 or 9.29% followed this. Disorderly conduct and resisting arrest with 11 or 4.87% each of the total sample of charges round of the top five charges filed in the quarter. The five charges quoted

above accounts for an estimated 41.59% of the total sample of 226 charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2023 in the Trelawny parish court included unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, possession of an offensive weapon, threat, and smoking in a public place.

Table 1.08.11: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	89	12.59
Possession of offensive weapon	53	7.50
Unlawful Wounding	53	7.50
Possession of identity information	43	6.08
Threat	36	5.09
Sub-total	274	38.76

Number of observations sampled (N): 707

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 89 or 12.59% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Possession of offensive weapon and unlawful wounding with 53 or 7.50% each and possession of identity information with 43 or 6.08% followed this. Threat with 36 or 5.09% of the sample rank next. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 38.76% of the total sample of 707 charges filed in the quarter at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2023 in the Westmoreland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, threat, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and possession of offensive weapon.

Table 1.08.12: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	100	15.29
Unlawful wounding	57	8.72
Smoking in a Public Place	41	6.27
Malicious destruction of property	37	5.66
Possession of offensive Weapon	32	4.89
Sub-total	267	40.83

Number of observations sampled (N): 654

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 100 or 15.29% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 57 or 8.72% and smoking in a public place with 41 or 6.27% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 37 or 5.66% and possession of an offensive weapon with 32 or 4.89%. The charges quoted above account for an estimated 40.83% of the sample of 654 charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2023 in the Clarendon parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, being armed with an offensive weapon, smoking in a public place and threat.

Table 1.08.13: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	235	10.51
Littering	163	7.29
Unlawful wounding	161	7.20
Disorderly conduct	99	4.43
Malicious destruction of property	77	3.44
Sub-total	735	32.87

Number of observations sampled (N): 2,236

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division for the third quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 235 or 10.51% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Littering with 163 or 7.29% and unlawful wounding with 161 or 7.20% followed this. The top five is rounded off by disorderly conduct with 99 or 4.43% and malicious destruction of property with 77 or 3.44% of the charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 32.87% of the total sample of 2,236 charges at filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court –Criminal Division in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2023 in the Corporate Area parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, littering and possession of an offensive weapon.

Table 1.09: Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Type of case	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Summary	1720	191	821	1012	58.84
Indictment	3078	78	433	511	16.60

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard across all parish courts in the third quarter of 2024. Summary matters heard in the quarter include charges such as possession of an offensive weapon, possession of ganja, exposing goods for sale and dealing in ganja. The estimated conviction rate for the quarter for summary matters was 58.84%, which is 0.73 percentage points below the conviction rate of 59.57% recorded for the corresponding third quarter of 2023. The estimated conviction rate for indictment matters

was significantly lower at 16.60% for the quarter, a rate which is approximately 1.80 percentage points below the 18.40% recorded in the third quarter of 2023. Indictment matters heard in the quarter included charges such as assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and simple larceny.

Table 1.10: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Charge	Frequency	Percentage
Assault occasioning bodily harm	995	11.96
Unlawful Wounding	685	8.23
Possession of offensive weapon	434	5.22
Threat	411	4.94
Malicious destruction of property	395	4.75
Disorderly conduct	262	3.15
Littering	200	2.40
Assault at common law	187	2.25
Simple larceny	183	2.20
Resisting arrest	179	2.15
Sub-total	3931	47.24

Number of observations sampled (N): 8,321

The above table shows the distribution of the ten most commonly occurring charges across all parish courts for the third quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 995 or 11.96% of the total number of charges sampled is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 685 or 8.23% and possession of an offensive weapon with 434 or 5.22% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 411 or 4.94% and malicious destruction of property with 395 or 4.75% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter. These ten most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 47.24% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter.

Table 1.11: Conviction rate for leading occurring charges heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Type of Offence	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Possession of offensive weapon	296	59	203	262	88.51
Disorderly conduct	191	23	111	134	70.16
Resisting arrest	123	13	60	73	59.35
Littering	39	0	17	17	43.59
Simple larceny	159	2	27	29	18.24
Malicious destruction of property	335	7	35	42	12.54
Assault at common law	153	2	12	14	9.15
Assault occasioning bodily harm	901	10	64	74	8.21
Unlawful Wounding	600	15	34	49	8.17
Threat	307	3	18	21	6.84

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for the ten (10) leading charges across all parish courts in the third quarter of 2024. It is shown that possession of an offensive weapon had the highest estimated conviction rate on the list with 88.51%. Disorderly conduct with 70.16% followed this. The top conviction rates on the list in the quarter are rounded off resisting arrest with an estimated conviction rate of 59.35%. Smoking in a public place recorded the highest estimated conviction rate in the corresponding third quarter of 2023 with 88.51%, followed by exposing goods for sale with an estimated conviction rate of 94.35%.

Table 1.12: Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges for each parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average age of active charges (days)
Clarendon	41
Trelawny	36
Portland	32
St. Mary	30
Hanover	38
Westmoreland	33
St. Catherine	39
St. Ann	34
St. James	35
St. Thomas	41
Corporate Area Criminal	41
Manchester	36
Overall Average	36.33
Standard Deviation	3.73
Skewness	-0.12

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the third quarter of 2024, for charges originating in said quarter. The overall average age of active matters originating in the quarter was approximately 36 days or roughly 1.2 months, roughly 2 more days than the average recorded in the third quarter of 2023. The parish courts of St. Mary, Portland and Westmoreland have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed in the parish courts of Corporate Area Criminal, St. Thomas, Clarendon and St. Catherine. The standard deviation of the scores was, however, relatively low (4 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The negative skewness indicates that most of the individual times to disposition in the data set were clustered around the overall series average. There is an intuitive correlation between case 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 long run, 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 case clearance rate of between 90% and 110% long enough will eventually eliminate their 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, improving the efficiency of the courts and the enhancing the timely delivery of justice.

Table 1.13: Average age of charges disposed of for matters originating in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average age of disposed charges (days)
Clarendon	43
Trelawny	28
Portland	20
St. Mary	42
Hanover	23
Westmoreland	33
St. Catherine	32
St. Ann	21
St. James	31
St. Thomas	38
Corporate Area Criminal	19
Manchester	39
Overall Average	30.75
Standard Deviation	8.64
Skewness	-0.01

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts in the third quarter of 2024 is approximately 31 days. This is roughly 1 more day than the time taken to dispose of cases originating in the third quarter of 2023. The standard deviation of the scores was relatively low (9 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The negative skewness, however, indicates that

proportionately more of the scores of the individual times to disposition in the data set were close to the overall series average. The scores ranged from a low of roughly 19 days at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division to a high of 43 days for the Clarendon Parish Court.

Table 1.14a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parishes	Time interval in days							
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days-547 days	548 days-729 days	730 days and over	Sample size (n)
Corporate Area Criminal	20383 (35.4%)	11061 (19.2%)	6537 (11.4%)	4657 (8.1%)	5504 (9.6%)	3417 (5.9%)	6003 (10.4%)	57562 (100%)
St. Catherine	7552 (33.0%)	5068 (22.2%)	2994 (13.1%)	1868 (8.2%)	2016 (8.8%)	997 (4.4%)	2371 (10.4%)	22866 (100%)
St. James	6112 (36.9%)	3126 (18.9%)	1745 (10.5%)	1271 (7.7%)	1427 (8.6%)	746 (4.5%)	2147 (13.0%)	16574 (100%)
Manchester	3797 (28.1%)	2569 (19.0%)	1756 (13.0%)	1318 (9.7%)	1597 (11.8%)	994 (7.3%)	1499 (11.1%)	13530 (100%)
Westmoreland	6551 (55.9%)	2180 (18.6%)	1183 (10.1%)	618 (5.3%)	621 (5.3%)	256 (2.2%)	301 (2.6%)	11710 (100%)
St. Ann	3515 (26.8%)	2626 (20.0%)	1575 (12.0%)	1214 (9.3%)	1658 (12.6%)	902 (6.9%)	1630 (12.4%)	13120 (100%)
Clarendon	5702 (41.5%)	3160 (23.0%)	1676 (12.2%)	1013 (7.4%)	1168 (8.5%)	458 (3.3%)	559 (4.1%)	13736 (100%)
St. Thomas	1984 (29.2%)	1564 (23.0%)	926 (13.6%)	665 (9.8%)	693 (10.2%)	345 (5.1%)	616 (9.1%)	6793 (100%)
Portland	3324 (38.2%)	2137 (24.6%)	996 (11.4%)	647 (7.4%)	697 (8.0%)	359 (4.1%)	540 (6.2%)	8700 (100%)
St. Mary	3891 (41.5%)	1850 (19.7%)	1196 (12.8%)	701 (7.5%)	646 (6.9%)	278 (3.0%)	811 (8.7%)	9373 (100%)
Trelawny	2354 (35.0%)	1239 (18.4%)	795 (11.8%)	584 (8.7%)	700 (10.4%)	376 (5.6%)	683 (10.1%)	6731 (100%)
Hanover	3334 (53.1%)	1348 (21.5%)	624 (9.9%)	360 (5.7%)	269 (4.3%)	149 (2.4%)	193 (3.1%)	6277 (100%)
% of Total	36.64	20.29	11.77	7.98	9.09	4.96	9.28	-
Average	5708.25	3160.67	1833.58	1243.00	1416.33	773.08	1446.08	15581.00
Standard Deviation	4934.38	2695.88	1608.81	1155.77	1392.11	885.24	1604.34	14055.46
Skewness	2.75	2.66	2.64	2.70	2.63	2.79	2.37	2.81

Number of charges sampled (N) = 186,972

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 8 years

The above table shows the breakdown of the times to disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for at least 97 consecutive months (8 years) over the period September 2016 to September 2024. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 36.64% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, Westmoreland and St. James are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed within 90 days. This trend is broadly similar to that seen over the past 24 months. Cumulatively, 76.68% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a continued positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in sustaining 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. From the data set, the parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. James had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 9.28% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. James also had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample range from weak positive to moderate positive, which is an indication that for disposed cases, the distributions of the times taken do not vary dramatically across the courts. The difference, however, is the proportion of cases disposed, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

Table 1.14b: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition for matters completed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parishes	Time interval in days							
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days-547 days	548 days-729 days	730 days and over	Sample size (n)
Corporate Area Criminal	227 (19.9%)	216 (19.0%)	171 (15.0%)	122 (10.7%)	152 (13.4%)	89 (7.8%)	161 (14.1%)	1138 (100%)
St. Catherine	204 (27.1%)	143 (19.0%)	83 (11.0%)	120 (15.9%)	63 (8.4%)	45 (6.0%)	96 (12.7%)	754 (100%)
St. James	170 (41.2%)	82 (19.9%)	87 (21.1%)	4 (1.0%)	24 (5.8%)	27 (6.5%)	19 (4.6%)	413 (100%)
Manchester	51 (56.0%)	25 (27.5%)	6 (6.6%)	3 (3.3%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.1%)	4 (4.4%)	91 (100%)
Westmoreland	146 (58.4%)	71 (28.4%)	17 (6.8%)	11 (4.4%)	2 (0.8%)	1 (0.4%)	2 (0.8%)	250 (100%)
St. Ann	70 (28.5%)	81 (32.9%)	32 (13.0%)	18 (7.3%)	18 (7.3%)	9 (3.7%)	18 (7.3%)	246 (100%)
Clarendon	120 (29.3%)	124 (30.3%)	93 (22.7%)	18 (4.4%)	21 (5.1%)	14 (3.4%)	19 (4.6%)	409 (100%)
St. Thomas	55 (35.9%)	35 (22.9%)	24 (15.7%)	11 (7.2%)	21 (13.7%)	7 (4.6%)	0 0	153 (100%)
Portland	80 (35.9%)	43 (19.3%)	14 (6.3%)	7 (3.1%)	38 (17.0%)	8 (3.6%)	33 (14.8%)	223 (100%)
St. Mary	126 (39.1%)	63 (19.6%)	38 (11.8%)	16 (5.0%)	18 (5.6%)	4 (1.2%)	57 (17.7%)	322 (100%)
Trelawny	45 (24.1%)	27 (14.4%)	37 (19.8%)	16 (8.6%)	28 (15.0%)	1 (0.5%)	33 (17.6%)	187 (100%)
Hanover	80 (76.9%)	13 (12.5%)	3 (2.9%)	7 (6.7%)	0 0	0 0	1 (1.0%)	104 (100%)
% of Total	32.03	21.52	14.10	8.23	9.00	4.80	10.33	-
Average	114.50	76.92	50.42	29.42	32.17	17.17	36.92	357.50
Standard Deviation	61.54	59.07	49.35	43.09	41.56	26.19	47.94	304.76
Skewness	0.64	1.29	1.46	1.99	2.51	2.25	1.91	1.87

Number of charges sampled (N) = 4290

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters disposed parish courts in the quarter ended September 30, 2024. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly

32.03% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Court -Criminal Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. James and Westmoreland are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 75.88% 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. From the data set, the parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. Mary had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 10.33% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine, and St. Mary had the largest proportion of their disposed matters in the quarter taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample range from weak positive to moderate positive, which is an indication that for disposed cases, the distributions of the time taken do not vary dramatically across the courts. The difference, however, is the proportion of cases disposed of, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

Table 1.15a: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	292.53	1	152	375.46	2.61	1	3278	57562
St. Catherine	301.84	28	153	429.05	3.39	1	7091	22866
St. James	426.58	66	145	1003.16	6.46	1	17100	16574
Manchester	317.29	63	192.50	354.92	3.14	1	9044	13530
Westmoreland	145.75	28	74	193.33	3.01	1	2555	11710
St. Ann	337.88	63	197	397.46	3.10	1	8875	13120
Clarendon	198.79	63	112	246.73	3.41	1	3824	13736
St. Thomas	279.55	63	167	338.68	4.95	1	6940	6793
Portland	242.04	63	124	349.57	3.54	1	3712	8700
St. Mary	275.35	14	119	466.33	3.92	1	7558	9373
Trelawny	289.10	28	155	348.21	2.16	1	2585	6731
Hanover	158.82	35	78	275.64	11.66	1	9333	6277
Average/Weighted Average	286.15	42.92	139.04	398.21	4.28	1.00	6824.58	15581.00
Standard Deviation	78.02	23.11	39.27	205.01	2.58	0.00	4146.21	14055.46
Skewness	0.05	-0.49	-0.28	2.62	2.47	0.00	1.32	2.81

Number of charges sampled (N) = 186,972

Note 1: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 8 years.

Note 2: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann as at September 30, 2024, is 368.11 days

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a large sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at September 30, 2024. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 97-month period over September 2016 – September 2024 for most parish courts and it should be noted that these descriptive statistics are for matters disposed over that sample period. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 286 days (9.5 months). The skewness of

these times to disposition is a low positive 0.05, suggesting a cluster of scores around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (146 days), Hanover (159 days) and Clarendon (199 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. James (427 days), St. Ann (338 days) and Manchester (317 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (78.02), 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 1 day; however, the maximum times are substantially larger, in some cases several years. This result continues to be 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 2,555 days (85.2 months/7.1 years) in the Westmoreland parish court to a high of 17,100 days (227.5 months/19 years) in the St. James Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 1.32, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were below the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 186,972 matters.

Table 1.15b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	359.90	315	252	351.06	1.84	1	2948	1138
St. Catherine	323.57	349	217	335.41	1.68	1	1844	754
St. James	208.02	59	124	250.23	2.44	1	1444	413
Manchester	157.64	51	63	305.36	4.58	2	1890	91
Westmoreland	98.53	62	77	99.88	3.23	1	738	250
St. Ann	252.89	63	141	350.12	4.00	4	2785	246
Clarendon	215.21	189	143	267.83	3.13	1	1554	409
St. Thomas	188.86	133	126	160.87	0.91	5	601	153
Portland	349.88	951	147	471.61	2.54	1	2262	223
St. Mary	505.24	77	131	824.37	1.88	3	2857	322
Trelawny	432.60	223	223	524.97	1.70	1	2585	187
Hanover	76.84	7	45	108.33	4.44	1	875	104
Average/Weighted Average	300.04	206.58	140.75	337.50	2.70	1.83	1865.25	357.50
Standard Deviation	132.03	258.72	63.87	200.95	1.19	1.40	842.20	304.76
Skewness	0.36	2.48	0.32	1.24	0.36	1.53	-0.20	1.87

Number of charges sampled (N) = 4290

Note: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann in the quarter ended September 30, 2024, is 301.88 days

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the quarter ended September 30, 2024. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 300 days or 10 months. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 0.36, suggesting that a large proportion of these times were clustered around the overall mean. For matters

disposed of in the quarter, the parish courts of Hanover (77 days), Westmoreland (99 days) and Manchester (158 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases in the quarter. The parish courts of St. Mary (505 days), Trelawny (433 days) and Corporate Area Criminal (360 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters resolved during the quarter. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (132), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1.83 days; however, the maximum times are substantially larger, in some cases several years. This result continues to be 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 601 days (20 months/1.7 years) in the St. Thomas parish court to a high of 2,948 days (98.3 months/8.2 years) in the Corporate Area Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a negative 0.20 which is an indication that proportionately more of the maximum times to disposition were clustered the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 4,290 matters cases which were resolved during the third quarter of 2024.

1.15c: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, for cases over 24 months

Parish Court	Net case backlog rate (%)	Gross case backlog rate (%)
Clarendon	0.42	11.55
Corporate area	4.32	24.66
Hanover	0.07	4.53
Manchester	2.33	16.29
Portland	1.24	8.51
St. Ann	2.76	24.78
St. Catherine	0.30	10.85
St. Elizabeth	5.08	15.27
St. James	0.74	12.93
St. Mary	0.32	6.64
St. Thomas	2.16	9.65
Trelawny	1.02	10.74
Westmoreland	0.04	7.94
Weighted Average	2.28	16.74
Standard Deviation	1.64	6.26

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2024 is 9.29% and the gross backlog is 30.86%

The net and gross case backlog rates provide one of the most decisive indicators of court performance as they are strongly influenced by most of the other critical court performance metrics such as the case clearance, case disposal, trial and hearing date certainty rates and are also directly correlated with the case congestion rate. The estimated gross case backlog rate provides a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are either active or inactive (i.e. are unresolved) and are over two years old at the date of reporting. The closely related estimated net case backlog rate is the proportion of all cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are still active and exceeding two years old at the time of reporting. The estimated net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which

are unresolved. Based on international best practices an estimated gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The results revealed are quite outstanding, revealing a net case backlog rate (weighted average) for cases over 24 months old in the criminal division of the parish courts is 2.28% (with a standard deviation of 1.64%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 16.74% (with a standard deviation of 6.26%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is 6.74 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10% but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the criminal courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of Westmoreland with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.04%, Hanover with 0.07% and St. Catherine with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.30% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts St. Elizabeth (5.08%), Corporate Area Criminal (4.32%) and St. Ann (2.76%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (4.53%), St. Mary (6.64%) and Westmoreland (7.94%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (24.78%), Corporate Area Criminal Court (24.66%) and Manchester (16.29%) have the highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the criminal court system in Jamaica and augur well for future prospects.

1.15d: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, for cases over 20 months

Parish Court	Net case backlog rate (%)	Gross case backlog rate (%)
Clarendon	0.51	11.86
Corporate area	4.43	25.17
Hanover	0.07	4.59
Manchester	2.62	16.76
Portland	1.39	8.77
St. Ann	3.05	25.86
St. Catherine	0.39	11.37
St. Elizabeth	7.08	20.05
St. James	0.76	13.19
St. Mary	0.56	6.95
St. Thomas	2.28	9.97
Trelawny	1.22	11.17
Westmoreland	0.06	8.19
Weighted Average	2.45	17.31
Standard Deviation	2.04	6.71

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2024 is 10.10% and the gross backlog is 31.99%

The net and gross case backlog rates provide one of the most decisive indicators of court performance as they are strongly influenced by most of the other critical court performance metrics such as the case clearance, case disposal, trial and hearing date certainty rates and are also directly correlated with the case congestion rate. The estimated gross case backlog rate provides a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are either active or inactive (i.e. are unresolved) and are over two years old at the date of reporting. The closely related estimated net case backlog rate is the proportion of all cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are still active and exceeding two years old at the

time of reporting. The estimated net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which are unresolved. Based on international best practices an estimated gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The results revealed are quite outstanding, revealing a net case backlog rate (weighted average) for cases over 20 months old in the criminal division of the parish courts is 2.45% (with a standard deviation of 2.04%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 17.31% (with a standard deviation of 6.71%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is 7.31 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10% but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the criminal courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of Westmoreland with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.06%, Hanover with 0.07% and St. Catherine with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.39% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts St. Elizabeth (7.08%), Corporate Area Criminal (4.43%) and St. Ann (3.05%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (4.59%), St. Mary (6.95%) and Westmoreland (8.19%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (25.86%), Corporate Area Criminal Court (25.17%) and St. Elizabeth (20.05%) have the highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the criminal court system in Jamaica and augur well for future prospects.

Table 1.16: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage
Not guilty	279	30.23
Dismissed	226	24.49
Guilty Plea	164	17.77
Not Guilty Plea - Mediated Settlement	104	11.27
Committed to Circuit	89	9.64
Guilty	52	5.63
Transferred	9	0.98
Total	923	100.00

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters disposed by way of not guilty verdicts with 30.23% of the cases disposed, matters dismissed with 226 or 24.49% and disposals by way of not guilty pleas with 164 or 17.77% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024.

Methods of Disposal and Conviction Rate

Table 1.17: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated Settlement	Guilty Verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St. Catherine	242	251	93	157	344	19	86	1192
Corporate Area Criminal	610	384	414	85	74	10	102	1679
Westmoreland	135	71	71	46	103	1	46	473
St. James	15	-	224	7	-	226	125	597
Manchester	-	22	19	6	27	60	11	145
Clarendon	247	33	55	-	114	1	142	592
Trelawny	41	92	12	2	6	1	54	208
Hanover	31	21	55	23	45	2	28	205
Portland	31	-	113	-	2	13	39	198
St. Mary	-	117	94	-	16	51	106	384
St. Thomas	41	2	60	2	73	4	12	194
St. Ann	57	11	95	56	15	1	-	235
St. Elizabeth	95	105	8	2	58	4	-	272
Total	1545	1109	1313	386	877	393	751	6374
Percentage of total	24.24	17.40	20.60	6.06	13.76	6.17	11.78	-

Total sample size: 6,374

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the third quarter of 2024. From the sample, it is observed that the largest proportion of matters disposed of during the quarter were by way of a guilty plea with 24.24% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by not guilty verdicts with 20.60% and matters dismissed with

17.40%. Mediated settlements with 13.76%, matters committed to Circuit Court with 11.78%, guilty verdicts with 6.17% and matters transferred to another court with 6.06% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter. The combined 30.41% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent the estimated criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter. This represents a decrease of 4.64 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

Common Reasons for Adjournment

Table 1.18.01: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
File to be completed	1351	12.96
Disclosure	1197	11.49
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	990	9.50
Referred to Mediation	647	6.21
Adjournment request - crown	244	2.34
Subpoena investigating officer	238	2.28
Re-issue application	220	2.11
Facilitate restitution	213	2.04
Medical report unavailable	193	1.85
Psychiatric evaluation to be done	145	1.39
Sub-total	5438	52.18

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 10,422)

Note: DNA means that the accused 'did not appear'

***Referral to mediation encompasses referrals to Probation and to the Dispute Resolution Foundation**

The above table is derived using a sample of 10,422 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the across all parish courts. The largest proportion (12.96%) was for files to be completed. Adjournments for disclosure with 11.49% and adjournments due to the

nonappearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants with 9.50% account for the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts for the quarter. Adjournments due to referrals to mediation with 6.21% and adjournments at the request of the crown with 2.34%, round of the top five reasons for adjournment in this period. Four (4) of the top five reasons for adjournment were also featured in the top five for the third quarter of 2023. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 52.18% of the total sample of adjournments.

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 third quarter of 2024, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 86.20%, as 13.80% of the total incidence of adjournments was due to the indicated factors, which impair the case file integrity rate. Of these factors, file to be completed accounts for 12.96% of the total incidence of adjournments/continuance and is the greatest contributor, adversely affecting the case file integrity rate. This rate is below the prescribed international standard of 98%-100%. This is 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 1.18.02: Summary of mention court activity for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average number of mentions per case	Standard Deviation of Mentions Per Case	Skewness of mentions per case	Maximum Mention Court Frequency	Minimum Mention Court Frequency
Clarendon	3.47	3.16	2.59	27	1
Corporate Area	7.56	9.38	2.54	87	1
Hanover	2.06	1.83	2.26	8	1
Manchester	2.36	2.51	4.78	20	1
Portland	4.99	4.99	1.89	27	1
St. Ann	3.20	2.65	1.95	20	1
St. Catherine	4.05	3.61	1.93	25	1
St. James	2.14	1.43	2.93	17	1
St. Mary	3.50	2.84	1.83	19	1
St. Thomas	3.23	2.98	5.47	40	1
Trelawny	3.61	2.70	2.31	21	1
Westmoreland	5.25	7.12	2.97	38	1
Weighted Average	5.49	-	-	29.08	1.00
Standard Deviation	1.55	-	-	20.23	0.00
Skewness	1.34	-	-	2.40	0.00

The above table summarises the number of case management dates per case leading towards disposition in the criminal division of the parish courts for matters heard in the third quarter of 2024. The overall average number of case management dates per case is 5.49 (i.e. between 5 and 6) with a standard deviation of 1.55 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 1.34. Together, these results suggest that the average number of appearances per case is above the prescribed international standard of a maximum of 5 mentions per case, that a larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of case management dates and that there isn't on average a wide variation in the number of case management dates per case across the courts. Among the parish courts with the highest number of case management dates per cases for matters heard in the third quarter of 2024 are the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division,

the Westmoreland and the Portland parish courts, while the Hanover, St. James and Manchester Parish Courts were among those with the lowest case management dates per case. In terms of cases disposed, the average case management dates for all cases resolved across all the parish courts combined in the third quarter of 2024 was 3.88 with a standard deviation of 1.19.

Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics and Courtroom Activity

This chapter 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 courtrooms and outstations in each parish.

Table 2.01: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

	Male		Female		Total	
Charge	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Assault occasioning bodily harm	728	73.76	259	26.24	987	100
Unlawful Wounding	529	78.14	148	21.86	677	100
Possession of offensive weapon	388	93.49	27	6.51	415	100
Threat	308	75.68	99	24.32	407	100
Malicious destruction of property	312	79.80	79	20.20	391	100
Disorderly conduct	184	71.32	74	28.68	258	100
Littering	196	98.00	4	2.00	200	100
Assault at common law	158	84.95	28	15.05	186	100
Simple larceny	119	65.38	63	34.62	182	100
Resisting arrest	143	81.25	33	18.75	176	100

*****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) = 3,879**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024. Based on the data shown in chart 2.02, it is not surprising that males account for the dominant proportion of all these charges. Among the charges listed with the greatest imbalance in the gender distribution are malicious destruction of property, unlawful wounding, threat, malicious destruction of property, resisting arrest and assault at common law for which over 75% of the persons charged were male. More particularly, it is seen that littering with 98% and possession of an offensive weapon with 93.49% of the persons charged being male had the most significant incidence of persons charged being male for the quarter. Disorderly conduct, simple larceny, and assault occasioning bodily harm saw the highest incidence of female involvement.

The below series of tables provide a sampling distribution of cases by assigned courtroom in the individual parish courts in the third quarter of 2024. These figures are derived from representative datasets from the respective courts and do not necessary add back to the total population of cases outlined in the first few tables of the report.

Table 2.02.01: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	344	128	18	76.44	42.44
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	26	7	3	5.78	38.46
Whithorn Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	0	0.67	NA
Whithorn Outstation	77	41	10	17.11	66.23
Total/Weighted Average	450	176	31	100	46.00

Note 1: There were 3 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of criminal cases filed in the third quarter of 2024 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 cases heard in each of the relevant locations for ease of comparison. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and sittings at the Whithorn Outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 344 (76.44%) and 77 (17.11%) cases respectively. Sittings at the Lay Magistrates' court at the main courthouse with 26 cases or 5.78% rank next. The number of cases heard in courtroom one (344 cases), increased by 58 cases or 20.28% above the 286 cases recorded in the similar third quarter of 2023. The case disposal rate decreased by 23.06 percentage points moving down to 43.02% compared to the 66.08% reported in the third quarter of 2023.

In terms of cases disposed of, sittings in courtroom number 1 with 130 cases accounted for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of and had the second highest disposal rate of 43.02%. The outstation in Whithorn rank next with 42 disposed cases and recorded the highest disposal rate of 67.53%, which is 9.26 percentage points below the 76.79% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2023. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 17.78% of the total sample of new cases heard, an increase of 2.28 percentage points when compared to the 15.50% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2023. The main courthouse accounted for the remaining 82.22%, a decrease of 2.28 percentage points when compared to the 84.50% recorded in 2023.

Table 2.02.02: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	975	325	213	84.05	55.18
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	33	1	0	2.84	3.03
Courtroom #7 (main courthouse)	26	1	1	2.24	7.69
Gordon Town Outstation	16	8	0	1.38	50.00
Gun Court	30	0	0	2.59	NA
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	78	41	10	6.72	65.38
Plea and Case Management	2	0	0	0.17	NA
Total/Weighted Average	1160	376	224	100.00	51.72

Note 1: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, 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. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for the majority of new cases filed in the quarter with 975 cases or 84.05% of the total sample. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 78 cases or roughly 6.72% follows this and courtroom number 6 with 33 cases or 2.84%, rounding off the top three proportion of new cases filed in the quarter. Courtroom number two at the main courthouse accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed of in the third quarter of 2024 with 325 cases and the second highest disposal rate of 55.18%. When compared to the corresponding third quarter of 2023, courtroom number two also accounted for the largest absolute share of cases disposed of with 247 cases and had a disposal rate of 56.99%. This represents an increase of 78 cases disposed of or a 31.58% increase and 1.81 percentage points decrease in the disposal rate. The main courthouse in Half-Way-Tree accounted for 98.62% of the total sample of new cases heard in the third quarter of 2024, while the Gordon Outstation accounted for 1.38%.

Table 2.02.03: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Adelphi (Outstation)	2	2	0	0.48	100.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	416	189	37	99.52	54.33
Total/Weighted Average	418	191	37	99.52	54.55

Note: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, 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. The sample shows that courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for the majority of new cases heard with 416 cases or 99.52% of the total sample, a decrease of 28 cases or an 6.31% decrease below the 444 cases recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2023. This was followed by Adelphi with 2 cases or 0.48% of the total sample. Adelphi also had the highest disposal rate of 100%, despite its relatively low numbers and courtroom number 2 had a disposal rate of 54.33%. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 99.52% of the new cases heard in the third quarter of 2024, 6.81 percentage points above the 92.71% recorded in corresponding third quarter of 2023. The remaining 0.48% was accounted for by Adelphi.

Table 2.02.04: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	358	167	8	56.47	48.88
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	72	31	3	11.36	47.22
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.16	100.00
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	2	1	0	0.32	50.00
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.16	NA
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.16	NA
Children's Court (main courthouse)	18	1	1	2.84	11.11
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	32	3	4	5.05	21.88
Linstead Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	11	4	2	1.74	54.55
Linstead Outstation (Courtroom #1)	93	53	1	14.67	58.06
Old Harbour Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	4	1	0	0.63	25.00
Old Harbour Outstation (Courtroom #1)	41	20	1	6.47	51.22
Total/Weighted Average	634	282	20	100.00	47.63

Note: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, 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 cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse in Spanish Town and courtroom 1 at the outstation in Linstead account for the largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 56.47% and 14.67% of the cases respectively. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with 11.36% of new cases filed ranks next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of

with 167 cases, which is a decrease of 1.18% or 2 less cases than the 169 cases recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2023. Courtroom 1 also had the sixth highest disposal rate of 48.88%, which is a decrease of 2.29 percentage points below the 51.17% recorded in the comparable third quarter of 2023. Sittings at courtroom 3 at the main courthouse had the highest disposal rate of 100%, despite proportionally low numbers, followed by sittings at courtroom 1 at the Linstead outstation with a disposal rate of 58.06% and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Linstead outstation with a disposal rate of 54.55%. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounts for 76.52% of the total sample of new cases heard in the third quarter of 2024, an increase of 10.55 percentage points above the 65.97% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2023. The outstations combined accounted for the remaining 23.48%.

Table 2.02.05: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courtroom)	8	1	0	5.13	12.50
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	73	25	0	46.79	34.25
Courtroom #2 (main courtroom)	35	7	0	22.44	20.00
Yallahs Outstation	37	3	0	23.72	8.11
Yallahs Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	1	1.92	33.33
Total/Weighted Average	156	36	1	100.00	23.72

Note: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and the Yallahs outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 46.79% and 23.72% respectively. Courtroom number 1 also accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 25 cases and the highest disposal rate of 34.25%. When compared to the corresponding third quarter of 2023, this represents a decrease of 24.79 percentage points below the disposal rate of 59.04% recorded. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Yallahs outstation with a disposal rate of 33.33% accounts for the second highest disposal rate in the quarter, followed by the children's court with a rate of 12.50%. The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 74.36% of the total new cases heard in the quarter, which is an increase of 1.46 percentage points when compared to the 72.90% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2023. The remaining

25.64% was accounted for by the Yallahs outstation, a decrease of 1.46 percentage points when compared to the 27.10% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2023.

Table 2.02.06: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Clarks Town Outstation (Courtroom #1)	42	10	2	29.58	28.57
Clarks Town Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.70	NA
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	6	1	0	4.23	16.67
Falmouth Outstation	69	18	5	48.59	33.33
Falmouth Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	0	2	4.23	33.33
Ulster Spring Outstation	17	3	1	11.97	23.53
Ulster Spring Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	1	0	0.70	100.00
Total/Weighted Average	142	33	10	100.00	30.28

Note: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in Falmouth outstation accounts for the highest proportion of new cases heard in the quarter with 48.59% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town outstation and the Ulster Spring outstation with 29.58% and 11.97% respectively, followed. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Ulster Spring outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 100%, but had a relatively low number of cases, followed by Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Falmouth outstation and the Falmouth outstation with disposal rates of 33.33% each. The outstations in the parish account for 95.77% of the new cases heard in the third quarter of 2024, while the remaining 4.23% were accounted for by the main courthouse. In the corresponding third quarter of 2023, the main

courthouse accounted for 2.68% of the new cases heard, while the remaining 97.32% were accounted for by the outstations.

Table 2.02.07: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Annotto Bay Outstation	25	13	0	13.51	52.00
Annotto Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	2	0	0	1.08	NA
Children's Court (main courthouse)	7	1	0	3.78	14.29
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	96	32	2	51.89	35.42
Gayle Outstation	10	5	0	5.41	50.00
Lay Magistrates' (main courthouse)	27	9	0	14.59	33.33
Richmond Outstation	15	8	0	8.11	53.33
Richmond Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	0	1.62	NA
Total/Weighted Average	185	68	2	100.00	37.84

Note 1: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

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 third quarter of 2024. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 1 at the main courthouse and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 51.89% and 14.59% respectively of the total sample. Sittings at the Annotto Bay outstation with 13.51% and sittings at the Richmond outstation with 8.11% rank next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 32 cases, roughly 9 less cases or a 21.95% decline when compared to the corresponding third quarter of 2023 and had a case disposal rate of 35.42%. The Richmond outstation had the highest disposal rate of 53.33%, followed by the Annotto Bay Outstation with

a disposal rate of 52%. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 29.73% of the total sample of new cases heard in the third quarter of 2024, a decrease of 7.53 percentage points below the 37.26% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2023. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for 70.27%, which is an increase of 7.53 percentage point above the 62.74% recorded in 2023.

Table 2.02.08: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	91	27	5	61.90	35.16
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	4	1	0	2.72	25.00
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.68	NA
Buff Bay Outstation	27	11	0	18.37	40.74
Children's Court	2	0	0	1.36	NA
Manchioneal Outstation	22	11	0	14.97	50.00
Total/Weighted Average	147	50	5	100.00	37.41

Note 1: There were 42 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

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 third quarter of 2024. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Port Antonio accounts for the majority of new cases heard in the period, with 61.90% of the total sample. In the third quarter of 2023, courtroom one also accounted for the majority of new cases heard with 55.05% of the sample of cases. The Buff Bay and Manchioneal outstation with 18.37% (compared to 32.11% in 2023) and 14.97% (compared to 7.34% in 2023) respectively of the total sample of the

new cases heard in the period ranked next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 27 cases, a 12.90% decline or 4 less cases compared to the 31 cases recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2023; and had the third highest disposal rate of 35.16%. The Manchioneal outstation and the Buff Bay outstation with disposal rates of 50% and 40.74% respectively ranked first and second on this measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 33.34% of the new cases heard, which is a decrease of 10.70 percentage points below the 44.04% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2023. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 66.66%, which is an increase of 10.70 percentage above the 55.96% recorded in the third quarter of 2023.

Table 2.02.09: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	39	21	1	21.43	56.41
Courtroom #2 (main courtroom)	45	27	1	24.73	62.22
Green Island Outstation	27	15	0	14.84	55.56
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	19	8	0	10.44	42.11
Green Island Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	2	0	3.30	33.33
Ramble Outstation (Courtroom #1)	9	5	1	4.95	66.67
Ramble Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	0	0	3.30	NA
Sandy Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	5	1	0	2.75	20.00
Sandy Bay Outstation (Courtroom #1)	26	19	0	14.29	73.08
Total/Weighted Average	182	98	3	100.00	55.49

Note 1: There were 5 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

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 third quarter of 2024. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 24.73% of the total sample and is 4.86 percentage points more than the 19.87% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2023. Courtroom one at the main courthouse and the Green Island outstation with 21.43% and 14.84% respectively rank next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 27 cases, a 145.45% increase or 16 more cases than the 11 cases recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2023. Courtroom 2 at the

main courthouse also recorded the third highest case disposal rate of 62.22%, which is an increase of 26.74 percentage points above the 35.48% reported in the comparative third quarter of 2023. Courtroom 1 at the Sandy Bay outstation and courtroom 1 at the outstation in Ramble recorded the highest disposal rate of 73.08% and 66.67% respectively. The outstations in the parish account for 43.43% of the new cases heard during the quarter, which is a decrease of 7.21 percentage points below the 50.64% recorded in the third quarter of 2023. The main courthouse accounts for the remaining 56.57%, which is an increase of 7.21 percentage points above the 49.36% when compared to 2023.

Table 2.02.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the Third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
St. Ann's Bay and the Claremont outstation					
Children's Court (main courthouse)	4	0	0	1.39	NA
Church Hall	13	1	5	4.51	46.15
Claremont Outstation (Children's Court)	6	2	1	2.08	50.00
Claremont Outstation	20	6	4	6.94	50.00
Claremont Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	7	0	3	2.43	42.86
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	115	39	7	39.93	40.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	19	6	4	6.60	52.63
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	18	0	2	6.25	11.11
Warmsville	2	0	1	0.69	50.00
Brown's Town					
Children's Court (main courthouse)	4	0	0	1.39	NA
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	62	7	2	21.53	14.52
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	18	0	2	6.25	11.11
Total/Weighted Average	288	61	31	100.00	31.94

Note 1: There were 266 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

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 third quarter ended September 30, 2024. The data shows that courtroom 1 in St. Ann's Bay (the main court) and courtroom 1 in the Brown's Town outstation account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 39.93% and 21.53% respectively of the total sample. When compared to the third quarter

of 2023, the data shows that courtroom 1 in St. Ann's Bay (main courthouse) and courtroom 1 in Brown's Town were also accounted for the two largest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 58.65% and 24.36% respectively of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 39 cases and had a disposal rate of 40%. Sittings at courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 52.63% accounted for the highest disposal rate for the quarter. As a whole, the Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 29.17% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann in the third quarter of 2024, which is 1.60 percentage points above the 27.57% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2023. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 54.17% of the new cases heard in the quarter and the other outstations accounted for the remaining 16.66% of new cases.

Table 2.02.11: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Chapelton Outstation	48	16	5	11.76	43.75
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	151	61	7	37.01	45.03
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	41	12	0	10.05	29.27
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	40	19	0	9.80	47.50
Frankfield Outstation	19	10	0	4.66	52.63
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	15	10	0	3.68	66.67
Lionel Town Outstation	94	33	1	23.04	36.17
Total/Weighted Average	408	161	13	100.00	42.65

Note: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

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 third quarter ended September 30, 2024. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 37.01% of the total sample. The Lionel Town outstation account for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 23.04% of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 61 cases, a decrease of 24.69% or 20 cases less than the 81 disposed cases recorded for this courtroom in the third quarter of 2023 and had the fourth highest disposal rate of 45.03%. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 66.67% had the highest disposal rate followed by the Frankfield outstation with a disposal rate of 52.63%. The main courthouse in May Pen accounted

for 60.54% of cases heard in quarter, while the remaining 39.46% was accounted for by the outstations, which is an increase of 6.31 percentage points more than the 33.15% recorded in 2023.

Table 2.02.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Christiana Outstation	32	11	0	20.51	34.38
Cottage Outstation	3	2	0	1.92	66.67
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	51	11	4	32.69	29.41
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	14	0	1	8.97	7.14
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	12	3	0	7.69	25.00
Cross Keys Outstation	9	1	0	5.77	11.11
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	25	15	2	16.03	68.00
Porus Outstation	10	2	0	6.41	20.00
Total/Weighted Average	156	45	7	100	33.33

Note 1: There were 330 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

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 third quarter ended September 30, 2024. The data shows courtroom number one at the main courthouse accounted for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 51 cases or 32.69% of the total sample. Sittings at the Christina outstation and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse account for the next highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 20.51% and 16.03% respectively of the total sample. In terms of the case disposal rate, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse recorded the highest disposal rate of 68%, followed by the Cottage

outstation with 66.67% and Christiana outstation with 34.38%. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 65.38% of the total sample of new cases heard during the third quarter of 2024, which is an increase of 4.13 percentage point when compared to the 61.25% recorded in the third quarter of 2023. The remaining 34.62% was accounted for by the various outstations.

Table 2.02.13: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Elizabeth for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Balaclava Outstation	19	12	0	9.41	63.16
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	48	31	4	23.76	72.92
Santa Cruz Outstation (courtroom #1)	22	10	0	10.89	45.45
Santa Cruz Outstation (courtroom #2)	113	74	6	55.94	70.80
Total/Weighted Average	202	127	10	100	67.82

Note 1: There were 5 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

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 third quarter ended September 30, 2024. The data shows courtroom number two at the Santa Cruz Outstation accounted for the majority of new cases heard in the quarter, with 113 cases or 55.94% of the total sample. Sittings at courtroom 1 at the main courthouse and sittings at courtroom 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation account for the next highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 23.76% and 10.89% respectively of the total sample. In terms of the case disposal rate, courtroom number one at the main courthouse recorded the highest disposal rate of 72.92%, followed by courtroom 2 at the Santa Cruz outstation with 70.80% and the Balaclava Outstation with 63.16%.

The outstations in the parish accounts for 76.24% of the total sample of new cases heard during the third quarter of 2024, while the remaining 23.76% was accounted for by the main courthouse in Black River.

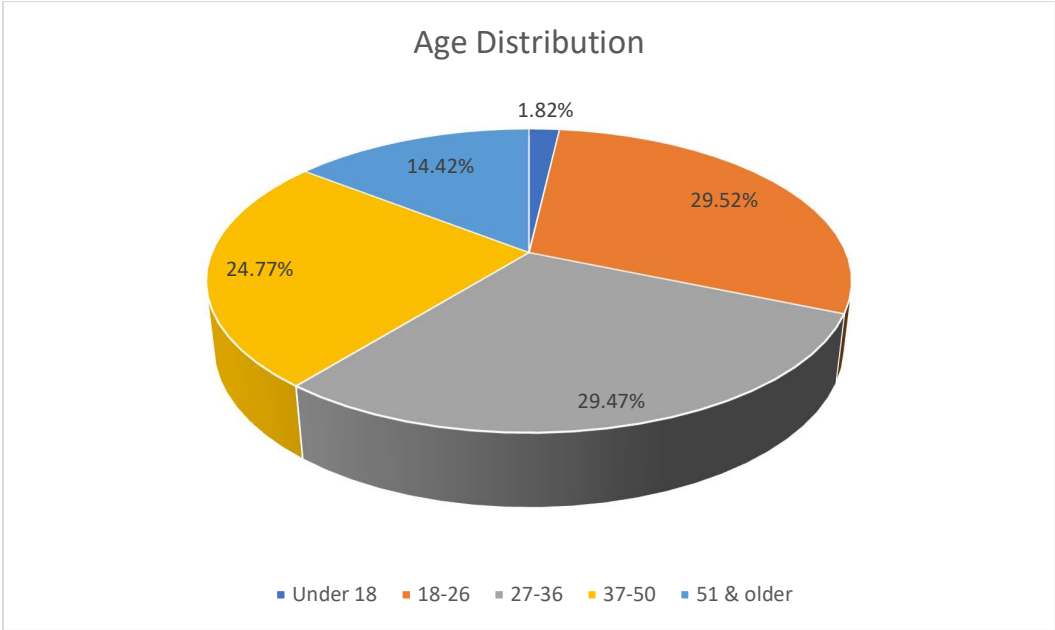
Table 2.02.14: proportion of cases heard at the main court and outstation across all parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish	Main Court Q3 2024 (%)	Outstation Q3 2024 (%)
St. James	99.52	0.48
St. Catherine	76.52	23.48
Westmoreland	82.22	17.78
Hanover	56.57	43.43
St. Mary	70.27	29.73
Trelawny	4.23	95.77
St. Thomas	74.36	25.64
Manchester	65.38	34.62
Portland	66.66	33.34
St. Ann	54.17	45.83
Clarendon	60.54	39.46
Corporate Area	98.62	1.38
St. Elizabeth	23.76	76.24
Simple Averages	64.06	35.94

The above table provides a proxy summary of the distribution of the utilization of the main courthouse locations and combined outstation usage in the hearing of new criminal cases filed. It is seen that 64.06% of new cases filed were entered for initial hearing in the main courthouse locations, while 35.94% were allocated for outstations. There are significant variances in the extent of main courthouse and outstation usage for the hearing of criminal matters across the parishes. It is seen, for example, that in parishes such as Corporate Area (Kingston and St. Andrew), St. James, Westmoreland and St. Catherine, in excess of 75% of the new cases filed were entered for initial hearing, with the usage being particularly acute in the St. James and Corporate Area Court Criminal Division, which had 99.52% and 98.62% respectively of cases

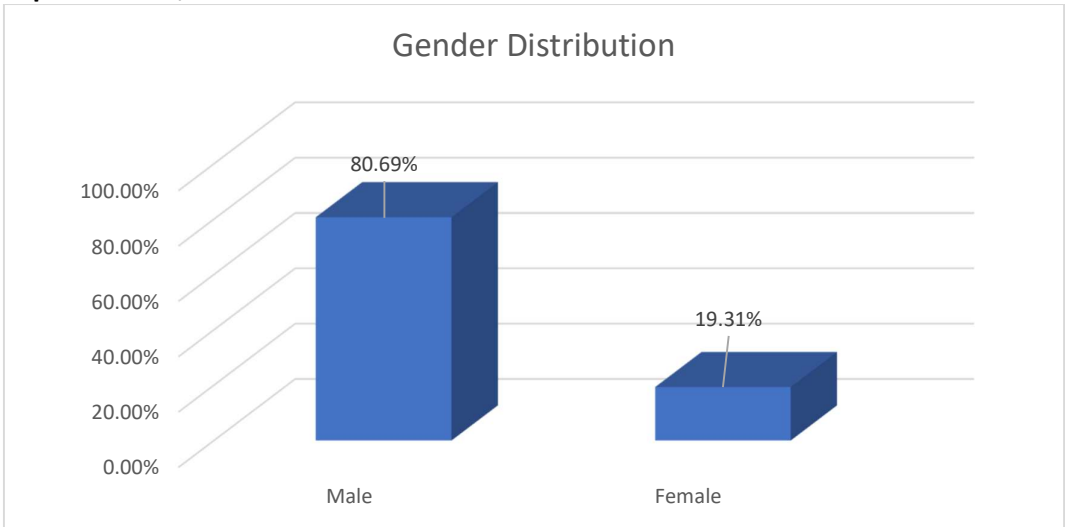
entered for initial hearing at the main courthouse. On the contrary, there are parishes where the level of outstation usage competes with or outruns the usage of the main courthouse in the hearing of criminal cases filed. Trelawny is a good example of courts with significant outstation usage, registering over 90% for initial hearing of new criminal cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024. There may be opportunities for greater utilization of outstations to carry the caseload in some parishes, but such precise determinations require further analyses of total 'demand and supply, in each location.

Chart 2.01: Aggregate age distribution of persons charged for all parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024



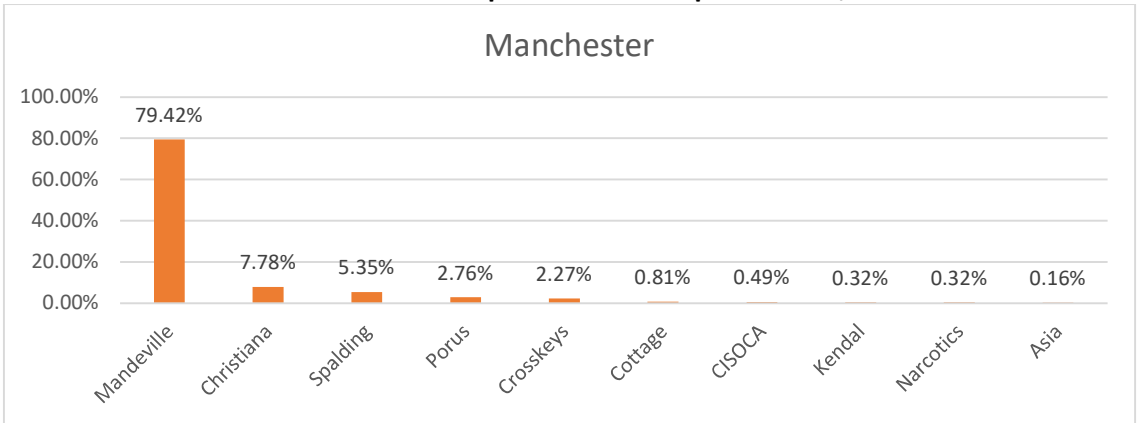
The above chart summarizes the age distribution of persons charged and brought before the criminal division of the parish courts in the third quarter of 2024. It is shown that the 18-26 age group with 29.52% accounted for the largest share of the persons charged, followed by the 27-36 age group with 29.47%. The lowest shares were attributed to the under 18 age group with 1.82% and 51 and over age group with 14.42%. The remaining proportion was accounted for by the 37-50 age group with 24.77% of the total sample.

Chart 2.02: Aggregate gender distribution of persons charged for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024



The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of persons charged for the third quarter of 2024 were male, accounting for roughly 80.69% of the total sample, while females accounted for approximately 19.31%. The gender distribution of persons charged during the third quarter of 2024 was broadly similar to the breakdown for the third quarter of 2023 which had a male to female ratio of approximately 81.01% to 18.99%.

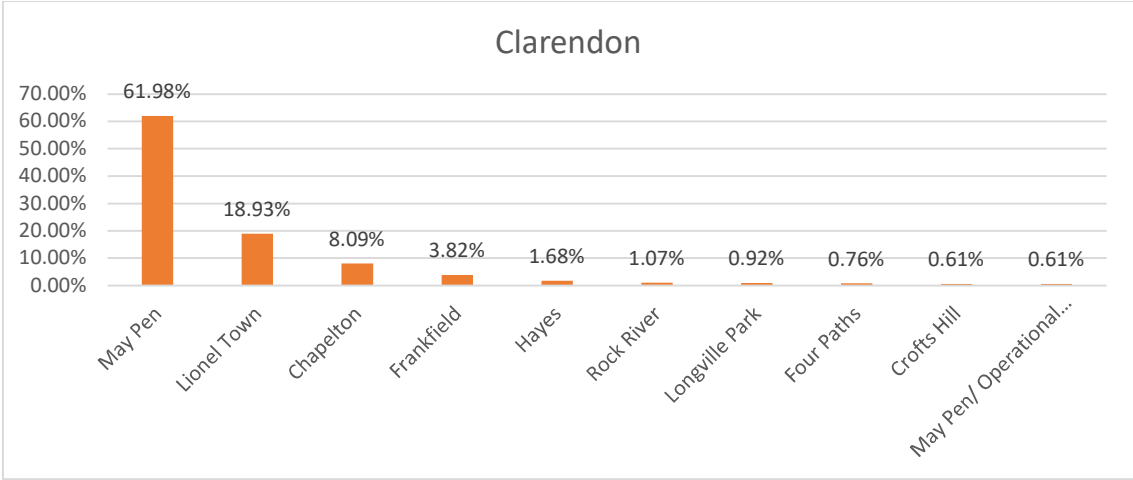
Chart 2.03.01: Distribution of criminal charges by the police Station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of charges at the Manchester Parish Court using the police Stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 617 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2024, the majority of charges, 79.42%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Mandeville police Station. This was followed by the Christiana Police Station, which accounts for 7.78% of the total sample of matters reported. The Spalding Police Station rounded off the top three with 5.35%. In the corresponding third quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Mandeville Police Station, the Christiana Police Station, and the Municipal Corporation.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offence committed in the Parish.

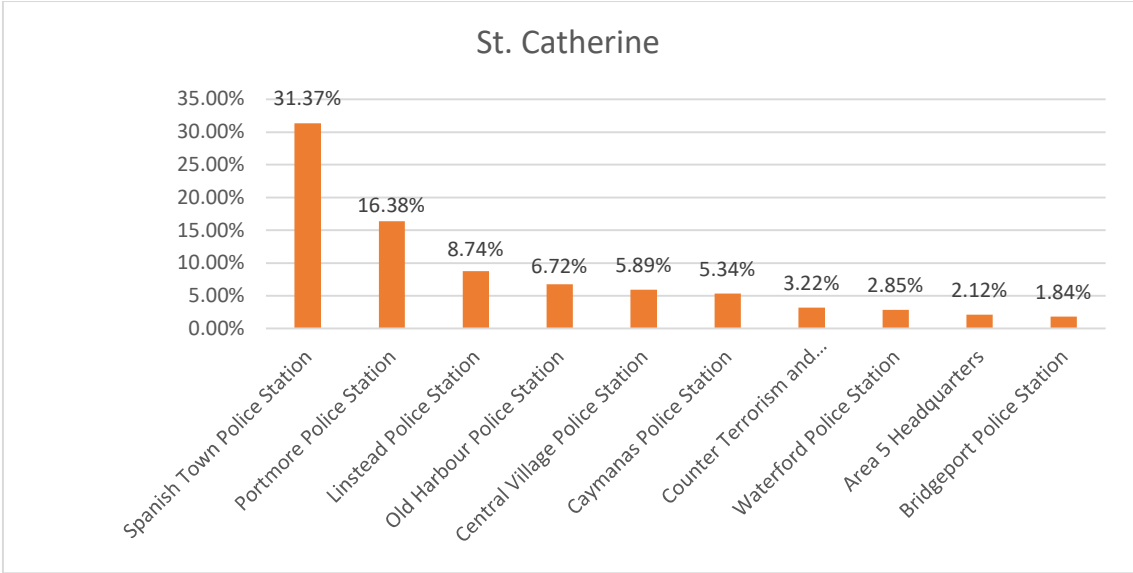
Chart 2.03.02: Distribution of criminal charges by the police Station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police Stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 655 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2024, the majority of criminal matters, 61.98%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Lionel Town Police Station which accounts for 18.93% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Chapelton Police Station with 8.09%. In the previous third quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the May Pen Police Station, the Lionel Town and the Frankfield police Stations.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

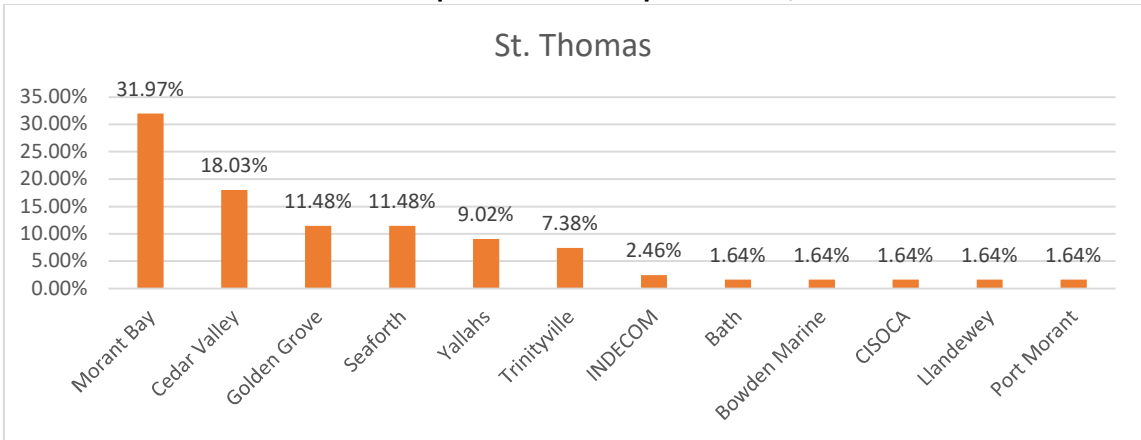
Chart 2.03.03: Distribution of criminal charges by the police Station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police Stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 1,087 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2024, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 31.37%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Portmore Police Station which accounts for 16.38% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by Linstead Police Station with 8.74%. In the previous third quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Spanish Town Police Station, the Portmore and the Old Harbour Police Station.

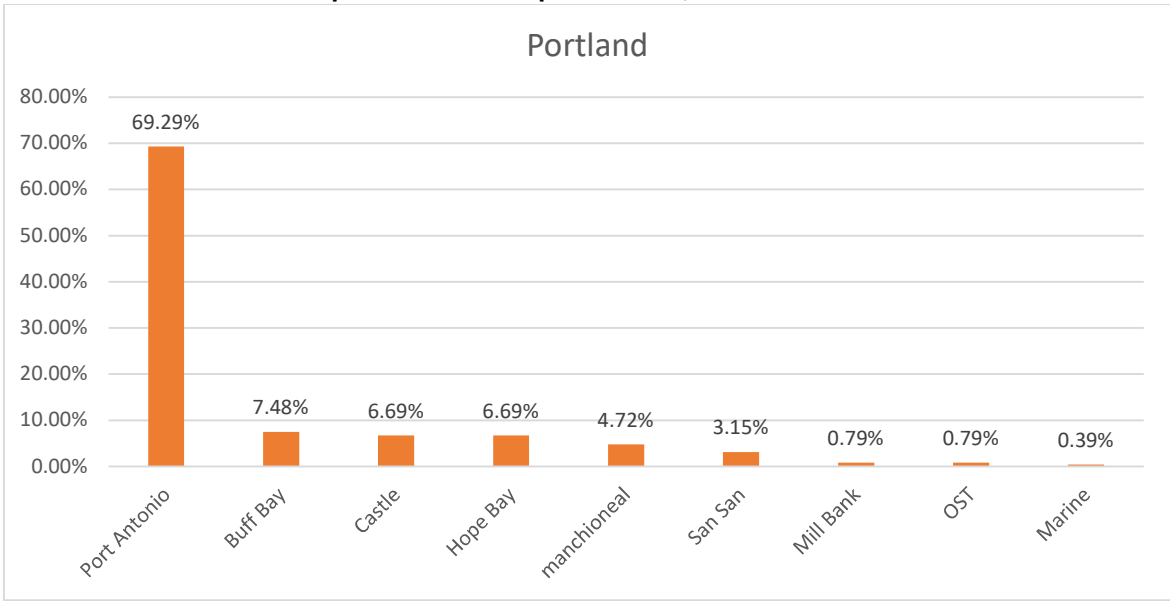
This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 2.03.04: Distribution of criminal charges by the police Station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police Stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 122 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2024, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 31.97%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Cedar Valley Police Station which accounts for 18.03% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Golden Grove Police Station with 11.48%. In the previous third quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Morant Bay Police Station, the Yallahs Police Station and the Seaforth Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

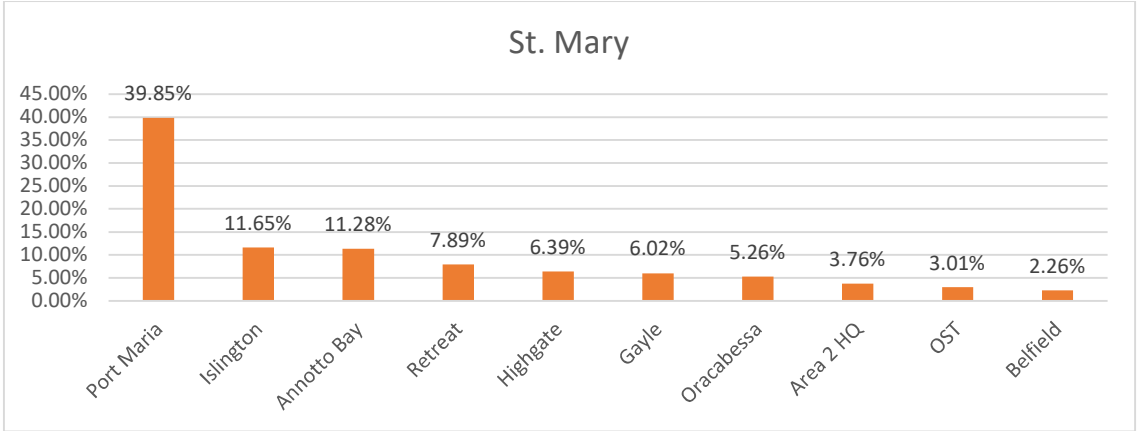
Chart 2.03.05: Distribution of criminal charges by the police Station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Portland Parish Court using the police Stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 254 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2024, the majority of criminal matters, 69.29%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Buff Bay Police Station, which accounts for 7.48% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Castle Police Station with 6.69%. In the previous third quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Port Antonio Police Station, the Buff Bay Police Station and the Manchioneal Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

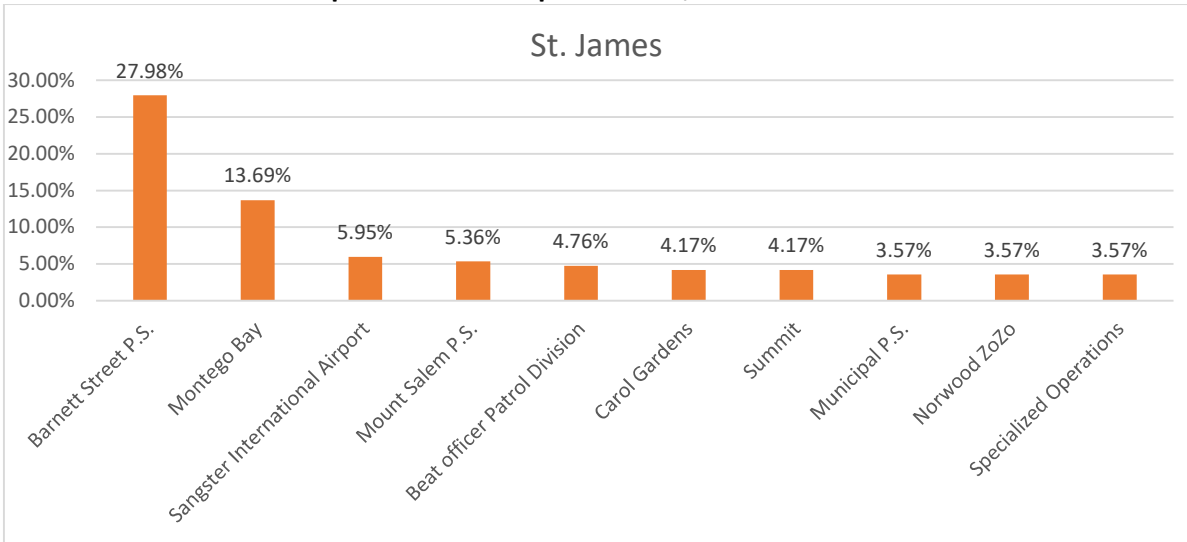
Chart 2.03.06: Distribution of criminal charges by the police Station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police Stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 266 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2024, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 39.85%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Islington Police Station which accounts for 11.65% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Annotto Bay Police Station with 11.28%. In the previous third quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Port Maria Police Station, the Oracabessa Police Station and the Retreat Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

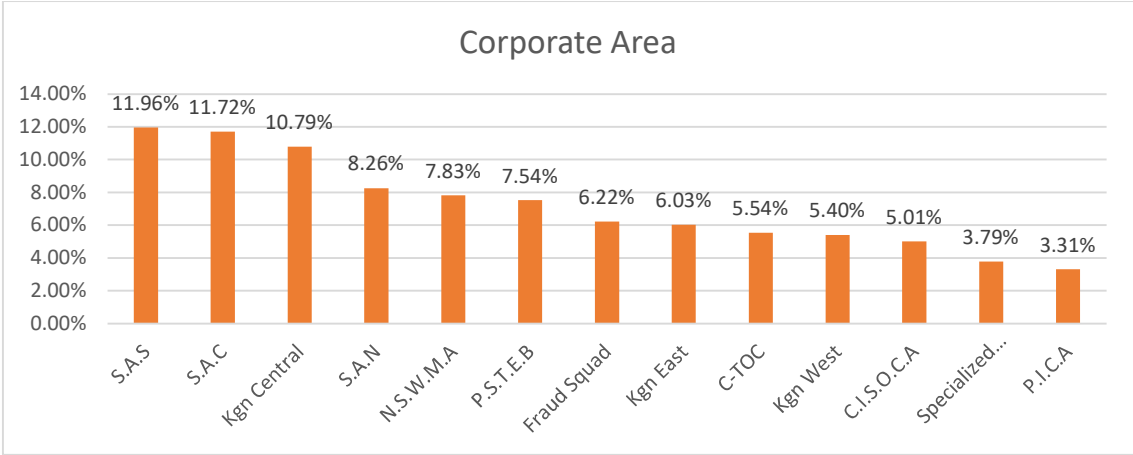
Chart 2.03.07: Distribution of criminal charges by the police Station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. James Parish Court using the police Stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 168 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2024, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 27.98%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Barnett Street Police Station. This was followed by the Montego Bay Police Station, which accounts for 13.69% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Sangster’s International Airport Police Station with 5.95%. In the previous third quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Barnett Street Police Station, the Montego Bay Police Station and the Sangster’s International Airport Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

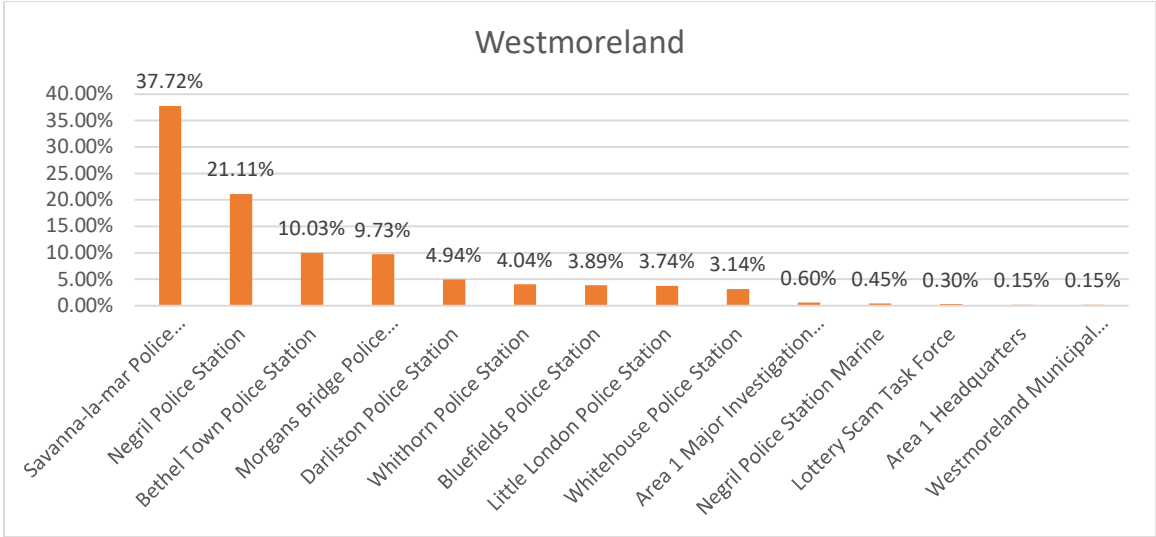
Chart 2.03.08: Distribution of criminal charges by the police Station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024



Court using the police Stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 2,057 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2024, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 11.96%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the St. Andrew South Police Station. This was followed by the St. Andrew Central Police Station which accounts for 11.72% of the sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Kingston Central Police Station with 10.79%. In the previous third quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the St. Andrew North Police Station, the N.S.W.M.A (Enforcement and Compliance Department) and the St. Andrew Central Police Station.

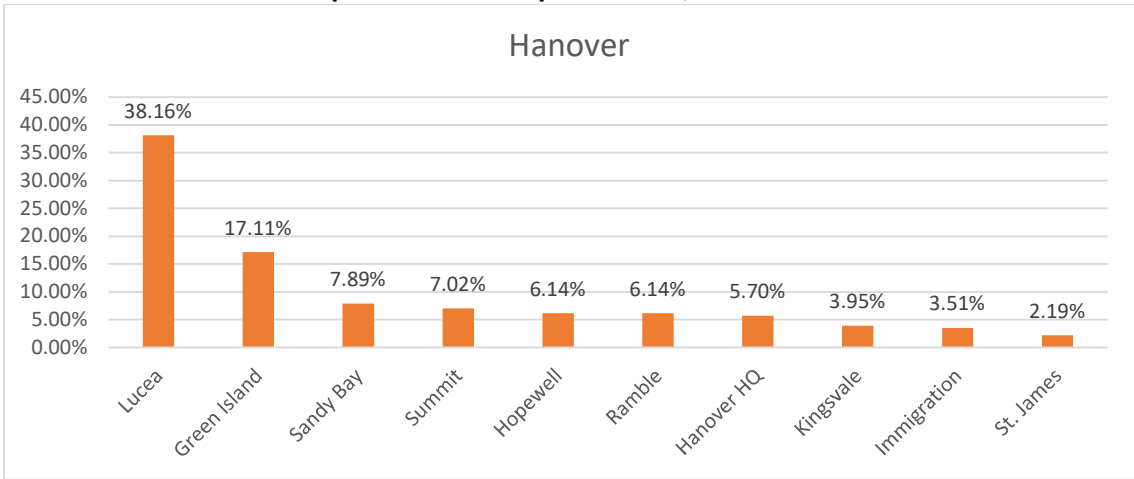
This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 2.03.09: Distribution of criminal charges by the police Station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court using the police Stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 668 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2024, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 37.72%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Savanna-la-mar Police Station. This was followed by the Negril Police Station which accounts for 21.11% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Bethel Town Police Station with 10.03%. In the previous third quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Savanna-la-mar Police Station, the Negril Police Station and Whithorn Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

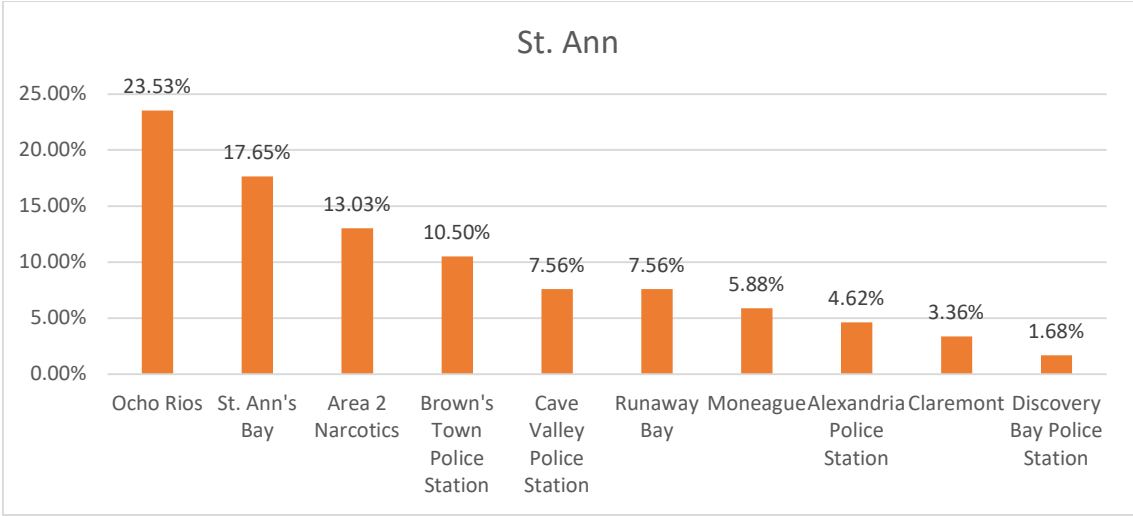
Chart 2.03.10: Distribution of criminal charges by the police Station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court using the police Stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 228 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2024, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 38.16%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Green Island Police Station, which accounts for 17.11% of the sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Sandy Bay Police Station with 7.89%. In the previous third quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Lucea Police Station, Green Island Police Station and the Hanover Headquarters Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

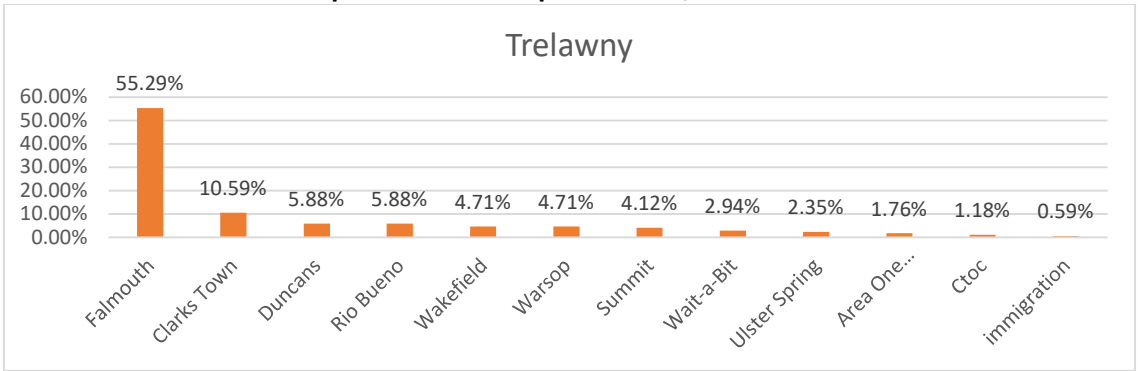
Chart 2.03.11: Distribution of criminal charges by the police Station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police Stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 238 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2024, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 23.53%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Ocho Rios Police Station. This was followed by the St. Ann’s Bay Police Station which accounts for 17.65% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Area 2 Narcotics Police with 13.03%. In the previous third quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Ocho Rios Police Station, the St. Ann’s Bay Police Station and the Claremont Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 2.03.12: Distribution of criminal charges by the police Station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of charges field at the Trelawny Parish Court, using the police Stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 170 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2024, the majority of charges, 55.29%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by the Clarks Town Police Station, which accounts for 10.59% of total sample of matters reported. The Duncans Police Station rounded off the top three with 5.88%. In the previous third quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Falmouth Police Station, Clarks Town Police Station and the Ulster Spring Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Inferential Statistics and Conclusion

The third quarter of 2024 represents the continuation of an impressive trend in the criminal division of the Parish Courts where a steady state equilibrium average case clearance rate of over 90% and net case backlog rate of a little above 2.0% has been sustainable achieved. With this kind of consistency in output, the criminal division of the Parish Courts is by all accounts among the top performing in the Caribbean and Latin American region at present. Among the key highlights from the quarterly statistical report for the third quarter of 2024 is that the criminal division of the Parish Courts as a whole recorded an overall case clearance rate of 94.83%, with nine (9) of the thirteen courts attaining or exceeding the international standard on this metric.

The overall net case backlog rate for cases over 24 months old in the courts is above 2% at 2.28%, with the Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Catherine Parish Courts having near zero net backlog rates. The overall gross case backlog rate which takes into account inactive cases, increased by 0.52 percentage points to 16.74%, reflecting a general increase in the inactive caseload in the criminal division of the Parish Courts.

The overall net case backlog rate for cases over 20 months old in the courts is above 2% at 2.45%, with the Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Catherine Parish Courts having near zero net backlog rates. The overall gross case backlog rate for cases above 20 months which takes into account inactive cases for the third quarter of 2024 was 17.31%.

The overall time taken to dispose of cases in the criminal division of the Parish Courts in the third quarter of 2024 is roughly 10 months, with the average time taken to dispose of cases in some Parish Courts such as Hanover and Westmoreland Parish Courts in the year being 5 months or more less than the overall average. As a whole roughly 76% of the cases disposed during the third quarter of 2024 took a year or less to be resolved. The overall trial date certainty rate recorded was 88%, which is still below the targeted minimum of 95%, but has improved cumulatively by over 11 percentage points when compared to the past four years.

These statistical highlights, among several others which are detailed in this report strongly suggest that the criminal division of the Parish Courts are on the right path of excellence. Among the main areas of concern are the persistence of the gross case backlog rate over 10%, which suggests that there is a relatively high incidence of inactive cases as a percentage of the total caseload, particularly for courts like the Corporate Area Court - Criminal Division and the St. Ann Parish Court. Additionally, the rate of case adjournments remains moderately high, which is one of the reasons that the trial date adjournments have failed to meet the desired target. Among these are adjournments due to files to be completed, adjournments due to the non-appearance of the accused and adjournments for mediation.

Inferential analysis on the size of a court as measured by its caseload did not make a statistically significant difference to performance as measured by the case clearance rate during the third quarter of 2024. This was established using the Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) test which reveals an observed level of significance of greater than 5%, leading to a failure to reject the null hypothesis that court size made no difference to performance.

The Parish Courts of Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Catherine have the enviable status of less than 0.40% of active cases in backlog, meaning that there is a close to zero probability that a case filed at this court will remain active for 20 months, an outstanding accomplishment which is worthy of acclaim.

The Parish Courts of Jamaica, having demonstrated significant progress, are well-positioned to further contribute to Jamaica's Vision 2030 National Goal 2, "The Jamaican Society is Secure, Cohesive and Just," and the 2030 Global Agenda Goal 16, "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

Glossary of Terms

Clearance rate: The ratio on incoming to outgoing cases or of new cases filed to cases disposed,

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

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

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

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 systemⁱⁱ.

Trial/hearing date certainty: This is the proportion of dates set for trial or hearing which proceed without adjournment. For example, if 100 trial dates are set in a particular Term and 40 are adjourned, then the trial certainty rate would be 60%.

The international standard for this measure is between 92% and 100%.

Courtroom utilization rate: The proportion of courtrooms in full use on a daily basis or the proportion of hours utilized in a courtroom on a daily basis.

The international standard for this rate is 100%.

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

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

The international benchmark for casefile integrity is 100%.

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

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

Skewness: This is a 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 an

approximately equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

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

Case backlog: A case that is in the court system for more than two years without disposition. The gross backlog rate measures the proportion of all cases filed within a given period which remain unresolved for a period of over two years (both active and inactive cases).

The net backlog rate on the other hand measures the proportion of active cases filed in a given period which are unresolved for over two years.

Percentile Rank: This refers to the percentage of scores that are equal to or less than a given score. Percentile ranks, like percentages, fall on a continuum from 0 to 100. For example, a percentile rank of 45 indicates that 45% of the scores in a distribution of scores fall at or below the score at the 35th percentile.

Percentile ranks are useful when you want to quickly understand how a particular score compares to the other scores in a distribution of scores. For instance, knowing a court disposed 300 cases in a given period doesn't tell you much. You don't know how many case disposals were possible, and even if you did, you wouldn't know how that court's score compared to the rest of the courts. If, however, you were told that the court scored at the 80th percentile, then you would know that this court did as well or better than 80% of the courts in case disposals.

Difference between percentage and percentile changes: The difference between percentage and percentage points, the latter is strictly used to compare two percentages, for example, if the clearance rate in 2018 was 89% and the clearance rate in 2019 is 100%, then the appropriate expression to compare these would be "an 11 percentage points increase".

However, if we are comparing two absolute numbers, say, 1000 cases were disposed in 2018, and 1500 in 2019, then there would be a 50% increase in cases disposed.

Weighted Average: Weighted average is a calculation that takes into account the varying degrees of significance of the groups or numbers in a data set. In calculating a weighted average for a particular variable, the individual scores or averages for each group are multiplied by the weight or number of observations in each of those groups and summed. The outcome is then divided by the summation of the number of observations in all groups combined. For example, if we wish to calculate the weighted average clearance rate for the parish courts, the product of the clearance rate and number of cases for each court are computed, added, and then divided by the total number of cases across all the parish courts. This means that a court with a larger caseload has a greater impact on the case clearance rate than a smaller court.

A weighted average can be more accurate than a simple average in which all numbers in a data set are assigned an identical weight.

Continuance and Adjournment: In a general sense, any delay in the progression of a hearing in

which a future date/time is set or anticipated for continuation is a form of adjournment.

However, in order to make a strict distinction between matters which are adjourned for procedural factors and those which are generally avoidable, court statistics utilizes the terms 'continuance' and 'adjournment.' Here, 'continuance' is used strictly to describe situations in which future dates are set due to procedural reasons and 'adjournments' is used to describe the circumstances in which future dates of appearance are set due to generally avoidable reasons.

For example, adjournments for another stage of hearing, say from a plea and case management hearing to a trial hearing or from the last date of trial to a sentencing date are classified as ‘continuance’ but delays for say, missing or incomplete files, due to outstanding medical reports or attorney absenteeism are classified as ‘adjournments’. Adjournments as defined in this document have an adverse effect on hearing date certainty rates, but continuances do not.

Exponential Smoothing: Exponential smoothing of time series data assigns exponentially decreasing weights for newest to oldest observations. In other words, the older the data, the less priority (“weight”) the data is given; newer data is seen as more relevant and is assigned more weight. Smoothing parameters (smoothing constants)— usually denoted by α — determine the weights for observations.

Exponential smoothing is usually used to make short term forecasts, as longer-term forecasts using this technique can be quite unreliable.

- Simple (single) exponential smoothing uses a weighted moving average with exponentially decreasing weights.
- Holt’s trend-corrected double exponential smoothing is usually more reliable for handling data that shows trends, compared to the single procedure.

Triple exponential smoothing (also called the Multiplicative Holt-Winters) is usually more reliable for parabolic trends

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>