

**Parish Courts of Jamaica**  
**The Chief Justice's Annual Statistics**  
**Report for 2019**

**JANUARY TO DECEMBER**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Case Disposal Rates (%)	<b>73.75</b>	<b>70.92</b>
Case Clearance Rates (%)	<b>101.60</b>	<b>94.31</b>
Trial Date Certainty Rates (%)	<b>70</b>	<b>81</b>
Courtroom utilization Rate (%)	<b>59.85</b>	-

**QUARTERLY 2019**

	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q1</b>
Case Disposal Rates	<b>47.49%</b>	<b>45.94%</b>	<b>45.61%</b>	<b>50.10%</b>
Case Clearance Rates	<b>113.83%</b>	<b>100.80%</b>	<b>108.45%</b>	<b>103.46%</b>

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Chief Justice’s Message ..... 3

Executive Summary.....5

Methodology..... 13

Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics ..... 15

Chapter 2.0: Criminal Case Demographics ..... 52

Chapter 3.0: Conclusion and Recommendation ..... 96

Chapter 4.0: Glossary of Terms..... 101

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

The 2019 Annual Statistical Report for the Parish Court (Criminal Matters) provide reasons for optimism. It shows significant improvement in the disposal of criminal cases in the Parish Courts while at the same time highlighting areas in which there can be significant improvement. The case clearance rate for 2019, that is the number of cases disposed of for every one hundred cases entering the courts, was 101.60%. This is an increase of 7.29% over 2018. This milestone achievement represents the first time since comprehensive data began to be kept in 2016, that the overall clearance rate was at 100% or more. All 13 Parish Courts exceeded the international bench mark of 85%. The equally impressive achievement is that 11 out of the 13 Parish Courts recorded a clearance rate of 90%. Five of the Parish Courts had a clearance rate in excess of 100%.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all Parish Court Judges who worked tirelessly to achieve this record and the court staff who supported the work of the judges must be commended. The Attorneys-at-law, Police Officers, Probation Officers, members of the public, health care professionals and others all contributed to this successful year. This achievement took place in the context of most courts being in a parlous state and exhibiting various degrees of disrepair. No praise can be too high for the judges and staff who continue to labour in difficult conditions and low pay.

This latest statistical report highlights an important fact that has not been given the prominence it deserves. The data for the past thirty six months, that is to say from September 2016 to December 2019 show that overall, 41.11% of all cases in the Parish Courts are disposed of within ninety days of entry into the court. It is also the case that 83.22% of cases are disposed of in

under twelve months. The problem is therefore the 16.78% that exceed our twenty-four month time standard. We are developing initiatives to address these cases.

Based on the Strategic Plan for the Jamaican Judiciary, this clearance rate of 101.6% is ahead of what is required for years one and two of the plan. If this is sustained the backlog in criminal cases will be cleared by 2025. This is indeed encouraging.

While I applaud this spectacular performance, the Parish Courts are only utilizing, overall, 59.85% of the time allocated for court time. This translates into sitting for three hours per day instead of the five hours per day as required. This is to be addressed in the coming months to ensure maximum usage.

Trial date certainty which was 81% in 2018 fell to 70% in 2019. This trend needs to be reversed and suggests that the Parish Courts can be more productive, that is to say, litigants can get the decisions from the courts earlier so that they can make informed decisions about their lives. By making decisions faster and more efficiently the courts will contribute to a just, cohesive and secure society. The target set by the strategic plan is 95% trial date certainty.

Based on this report, I make the bold declaration that the Parish Courts can be free of the backlog in criminal cases within six years if these three things are achieved: (1) 95% hearing date certainty; (2) court room utilization of 90%; and (c) clearance rate of 130%.

All Parish Court Judges have been equipped with the knowledge and skill to operate courts efficiently. With the support of all Jamaica, a backlog free Parish Court judicial system is achievable in our life time.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This statistical report on criminal matters in the Parish Courts of Jamaica is for the year ended December 31, 2019. It represents a continuation of the enhanced efforts to measure court productivity with a view to providing a concrete basis for placing the analyses of the judicial system into proper perspective and for informing the policymaking and operational planning apparatus of the leadership of the courts. This report interrogates a number of vital measures, which provide insights into the operations of the parish courts on both an individual and an aggregated basis. It forms an important basis for understanding criminal case activity and delay factors in the parish courts as well as important characteristics of criminal cases. This report, the fourth of its kind, creates a framework within which the quantitative and some qualitative targets set out by the Honourable Chief Justice in the recently launched Strategic Plan for the judiciary can be monitored and evaluated. In seeking to significantly reduce the case backlog in the court system, the Chief Justice has set out to achieve a court-wide case clearance rate of 130% in the next six years and an overall trial date certainty rate of 95%. If these are achieved, the court-wide case backlog rate will fall below 5% by the end of December 2025, placing Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world. This report highlights several critical strides made so far in moving towards the stated targets. Many of these metrics will again be reviewed at the end of this fiscal year, which marks the first of the Chief Justice's six-year plan.

The aggregate new case count in the parish courts in 2019 was 26771, down by 2.89% when compared to the 27567 new cases recorded in 2018, the third consecutive year of decline.

The Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division with 5,536 new cases or 20.68% of the total, followed by the St. Catherine and St. James Parish Courts with 3911 cases or 13.92% and 2,378 cases or 8.89% respectively, account for the three largest proportions of the new cases filed in 2019. These three courts also accounted for the largest share of new cases filed in 2018, with roughly similar proportions. Taken together, these three parish courts account for 43.49% of the new cases filed in 2019, not dissimilar to the previous year. The parish courts of Hanover, Trelawny and St. Thomas again accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed each with under 4.1% of the total caseload in 2019.

The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in 2019 was 73.75%, which is an increase of 2.83 percentage points when compared to the previous year. The St. Catherine Parish Court disposed of new cases at the fastest rate in the year, with a disposal rate of 81.75%, followed by the Westmoreland and the St. Mary Parish Courts with 80.14% and 78.13% respectively. The Hanover and St. James Parish Courts with disposal rates of 77.41% and 76.49% round off the top five performing court on this metric in 2019. These five courts were among eight parish courts that exceeded a 75% case disposal rate in 2019, an unprecedented feat, which placed them in line with some of the better performing individual courts worldwide, and firmly on course to bring their case backlog rate below 5% within 3-4 years. The parish courts of St. Ann, Trelawny and Manchester had the lowest case disposal rates in 2019, all with rates under 61%. The general trajectory of the parish courts on this measurement is quite positive, increasing the probability that a steady state equilibrium condition can be reached within three years. The likelihood of attaining such

standards are being greatly strengthened by continuous improvements in case management across the courts, through the optimization of resource alignments and by employing a more scientific approach to both the management of the case backlog and of the scheduling of cases for open court. The anticipated introduction of a new electronic case management system, called the Judicial Case Management System (JCMS) in 2020 will go a far way in bolstering case management across the courts system.

A measure, which is closely related to the case disposal rate, is the case clearance rate, which provides a measure of the number of cases disposed (regardless of date/year of initiation) for every new case filed in a particular period. This is a productivity index as many of the disposed cases, which are included in its computation, would have originated before the period of focus and is a more instructive statistic on case activity than the case disposal rate. The overall case clearance rate for 2019 was 101.60%, an increase of 7.29 percentage points when compared to 2018. This output represents the first time since this type of reporting began that the overall case clearance rate for the parish courts closed a calendar year above the 100% mark. The result suggests that for every 100 new criminal cases that were filed in the parish courts in 2019, roughly 101 were disposed (including cases originating prior to 2019). An impressive, unprecedented 11 of the 13 parish courts had clearance rates of over 90% at the end of 2019, thus satisfying the international standard, while all courts exceeded 85%. Five of the courts that satisfied the international standard on case clearance rate ended the year above the 100% mark. The St. Mary Parish Court completed a notable year, emerging as the parish court with the highest clearance rate in

2019, registering a rate of 125.64%. The St. Catherine Parish Court with a rate of 111.49% ranks next and stands out as the most consistent court on this metric for the past four years. The Portland Parish Court closes out the top three with a rate of 109.01%, marking two years of consistently strong output. In the medium to long run, there is a direct association between the case disposal and case clearance rates as poor case disposal rates will result from the persistence of poor case clearance rates. It is important to point out that a persistent case clearance rate of fewer than 100%, especially few than 90% will accelerate the case backlog and therefore the standard to be attained on an annual basis, is between 90% and 110%, based on International best practices.

One highly important measure, which is of keen interest to the leadership of the courts and the policy makers, is the case congestion rate. This is a measure of how well a court is doing in managing its pending caseload, relative to its rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The higher the case congestion rate of a court, the more burdensome the caseload, again within the context of the existing rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The overall case congestion rate recorded in 2019 was 146.17%, suggesting that despite the solid strides being made with the case disposal and case clearance rates, the parish courts as a whole are still carrying a higher caseload than their implied state of resources and rate of clearance would suggest that they are capable of.

Another essential measure, which is an important cornerstone in the drive to bring Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world in six years, is the trial date certainty rate. This provides a measurement of the likelihood that dates set for trial will proceed as scheduled (without 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 overall average trial date certainty rate for criminal matters across the parish courts in 2019 was 70%, a roughly 11 percentage points decline when compared to 2018. The parish court of Westmoreland with 94% was the leader on this measure for the second consecutive year, while Portland and St. Thomas with 85% each and St. James with 81% round off the top four performing courts on this metric in 2019. The Corporate Area Parish Court as well as the parish courts of Hanover and Clarendon ranked in the lowest quintile on this measurement.

An analysis of major movers on the above measurements suggests that the Clarendon and St. Mary Parish Courts made the biggest gains on case disposal rate in 2019 with 15.49 and 14.60 percentage points respectively. The Manchester Parish Court was also among the biggest movers on this measurement in 2019, falling by 12.23 percentage points. In terms of clearance rates, the Clarendon Parish Court that gained 14.49 percentage points and the Hanover and St. Elizabeth Parish Courts with gains of 10.03 and 10.83 percentage points were the biggest movers in 2019. The parish courts making the biggest improvements in their case congestion rates were the St. Ann and Clarendon Parish Courts while Trelawny, Manchester and Portland had the largest declines.

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 year in each court. The overall courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in 2019 was 59.85% while the rate for night courts was 51.55%. The St. Ann Parish Court had the highest courtroom utilization rate in the year with 78.69%, followed by the Portland and Westmoreland Parish Courts with 77.73% and 67.02% respectively. The Clarendon, Hanover and St. Thomas Parish Courts ranked in the lowest quintile on this measurement for the year. The parish courts of Westmoreland, St. Ann and the Corporate Area ranked as the three courts with the best night court utilization rates for 2019.

On the matter of caseload distribution in the individual parishes, the data shows that in many cases the outstation courts in the respective parishes are carrying a notable share of the caseload. The overall average number of new cases heard in the outstations in 2019 is approximately 23.62%, down by 4.88 percentage points when compared to 2018 while roughly 76.38% 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 5% of total activity, there are several parishes where outstations are extensively utilized, accounting for well over 20% of total case activity. This includes the parish courts of St. Catherine, Manchester, Clarendon and St. Elizabeth, among others. The evidence 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 in 2019 was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 36.21% of the cases disposed. This was followed by cases dismissed, which was responsible for 24.81% of the cases disposed. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for roughly 3.72% of the matters disposed while not guilty verdicts accounted for 12.99% of the total. Mediated settlements (of various forms) accounted for roughly 9.22% of the cases disposed during the year. Taken together, the data therefore reveals a conviction rate of 39.93% for the 2019 calendar year. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over the past 36 months, which are disposed, roughly 41.11% were resolved within 90 days and 63.36% within six months. These are quite encouraging results, which are consistent with the generally improved performances seen across the parish courts during the year.

In terms of the distribution of case types, the report highlights that the largest proportion of the criminal cases filed in the parish courts were Indictments with approximately 39.76% of all matters. This is followed by Summary Matters with a roughly 30.57% and Lay Magistrates matters with approximately 16.30% of the total. It is of note that Committal Proceedings accounted for roughly 9.50% of all criminal matters filed in the parish courts during the year. Summary matters had an overall conviction rate of 63.67% in 2019 while Indictments had a conviction rate of 21.18% 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 the year were due to the issuance of warrants for defendants not appearing (DNA- warrant issued) with an estimated 23.50% of all adjournments and applications re-issued with roughly 9.10% of the total. Ranking next are adjournments due to mediation referrals with approximately 5.86% and incomplete files with an estimated 5.40% of the incidence of adjournments. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the courts are medical reports outstanding and subpoena of investigating officers. This probability distribution for the reasons for adjournments was markedly similar to that of 2018.

The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the parish courts in 2019 were assault occasioning bodily harm with 11.50%, unlawful wounding with 8.70% and armed with an offensive weapon with 6.10% of the total number of charges filed. These were also the dominant offences filed in the previous three years. The vast majority of offences were committed by males, accounting for roughly 81% of all charges filed in 2019. As with the previous year, the dominant age group of offenders were the 27 – 36 and 20- 26 age groups, accounting for 29.81% and 26.14% respectively of the total number of offences filed in 2019.

The estimated backlog of criminal cases in the parish courts at the end of 2019 is 23,198 cases, which now has a wider margin with the number of new cases filed in the year. This

represents a notable 12.30% reduction in the criminal case backlog in the parish courts, an improvement that is largely because of the significant improvements in the case disposal and case clearance rates in 2019. A criminal case is considered to be in backlog if it has been in the court system for more than two years without disposal.

A weighted statistical assessment of all performance metrics decisively suggest that the parish courts of St. Mary, St. Catherine, St. James, Westmoreland and Portland are the top five performing criminal courts across the Jamaican judiciary in 2019.

### **METHODOLOGY**

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

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

**Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for 2019**

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the 2019 calendar year. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as cases statuses in the various courts over the period as well as assessments of courtroom utilization rates, case file integrity rates and trial date certainty rates. This chapter also explores the common methods of disposition, reasons for adjournment, leading charges and case types across the parish courts and associated conviction rates.

**Table 1.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the year ended December 31, 2019**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
St. Catherine	3726	712	2334	680	81.75
Westmoreland	2160	241	1490	429	80.14
St. Mary	1166	165	746	255	78.13
Corporate Area Criminal	5536	1488	2815	1233	77.73
Hanover	872	30	645	197	77.41
St. James	2378	336	1483	559	76.49
Clarendon	2080	273	1302	505	75.72
Portland	1298	138	837	323	75.12
St. Elizabeth	1445	84	990	371	74.33
St. Thomas	1087	94	650	343	68.45
St. Ann	2143	576	727	840	60.80
Trelawny	1044	36	592	416	60.15
Manchester	1836	194	765	877	52.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>26771</b>	<b>4367</b>	<b>15376</b>	<b>7028</b>	
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>2059.31</b>	<b>335.92</b>	<b>1182.77</b>	<b>540.62</b>	<b>73.75</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>1296.64</b>	<b>401.39</b>	<b>697.62</b>	<b>295.24</b>	<b>9.03</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.882</b>	<b>2.275</b>	<b>1.485</b>	<b>1.184</b>	<b>-1.225</b>

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the 2019 calendar year. A total of 26,771 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts, while 19,743 cases were either disposed or became inactive, resulting in a weighted average disposal rate of 73.75%. In the previous year, 27,567 cases were filed, 19,550 cases were either disposed or inactive which resulted in a weighted average disposal rate of 70.92%. This comparison reveals that over the corresponding period, there was a decrease of 796 or 2.89% in the number of new cases filed and an increase of 193 or approximately 1% in the number of cases disposed or inactive. Of the thirteen parish courts listed above nine (9) recorded a decline in the number of new cases filed, while four (4) recorded an increase.

Among the parish courts with the largest drop in new cases filed were the Manchester parish court falling by 20.73%, and Hanover, which fell by 15.09%. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 5536 new cases or 20.67%, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 3,726 cases or 13.92% and the St. James Parish Court with 2,378 or 8.88% of new cases filed accounts for the top three shares of cases filed in 2019, consistent with the trends in the previous year. It is of interest that these three parish courts together account for 43.47% of the new criminal cases filed in 2019. On the contrary, the parish courts of St. Thomas with 1087 new cases or 4.06%, Trelawny with 1044 new cases or 3.90% and the Hanover Parish Court with 872 or 3.26% of the total accounts for the lowest share of new cases filed in the Parish courts in 2019.

The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the reporting period Jan.-Dec. 2019 were the St. Catherine Parish Court (81.75%), Westmoreland Parish Court (80.14%), St.

Mary Parish Court (78.13%) and the Corporate Area Court - Criminal Division with (77.73%). The bottom four courts on this measure were the Parish Courts of St. Thomas (68.45%), Trelawny (60.15%), Manchester (652.23%) and St. Ann (60.80%). These results bear some similarity with 2018 as the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division as well as the Westmoreland and St. Catherine Parish Courts were among the top four courts on this measure in 2018. Similarly, the parish courts of Trelawny, St. Thomas and St. Ann were also among the bottom four courts on this measure in 2018.

The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed of and the active pending caseload are all positive, which is an indication that the larger proportion of the courts fell below the average count in each case. The skewness of the case disposal rates is however negative, which indicates that the larger proportion of the courts were above the average/mean rate on this measure.

*Refer to Table 5.0 for a graphical comparison of the Case Disposal Rates across all Parish Courts for the 2018 and 2019 calendar year period.*

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

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	Number of Disposed cases in 2019	Number of Inactive cases in 2019	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016-2019)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016-2019)	Grand Active Pending Case Load b/f Jan.01,2019	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
St. Elizabeth	1445	1367	77	573	3172	506	99.93	135.11
St. James	2378	2056	449	1900	8214	1077	105.34	137.92
St. Mary	1166	1289	176	515	3142	616	125.64	121.64
Trelawny	1044	861	59	200	2532	671	88.12	186.41
St. Thomas	1087	929	123	340	2720	523	96.78	153.04
Corporate Area Criminal	5536	3966	1747	5177	10992	1709	103.20	126.82
Manchester	1836	1386	384	1920	3755	1252	96.41	174.46
Portland	1298	1251	164	778	3181	662	109.01	138.52
St. Catherine	3726	3225	929	2913	9915	872	111.49	110.69
Westmoreland	2160	1806	283	1000	5074	442	96.71	124.56
Hanover	872	867	39	148	2733	409	103.90	141.39
St. Ann	2143	1504	327	1084	3909	1418	85.44	194.48
Clarendon	2080	1639	286	777	4448	2813	92.55	254.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>26771</b>	<b>22146</b>	<b>5043</b>	<b>17325</b>	<b>63787</b>	<b>12970</b>		
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>2059</b>	<b>1704</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>4907</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>101.60</b>	<b>146.17</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>1296.64</b>	<b>922.52</b>	<b>470.86</b>	<b>1403.85</b>	<b>2884.72</b>	<b>680.21</b>	<b>10.61</b>	<b>39.46</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.882</b>	<b>1.663</b>	<b>2.376</b>	<b>1.982</b>	<b>1.373</b>	<b>1.784</b>	<b>0.784</b>	<b>1.521</b>

*Note: \*The figures are computed for the period since the use of the CISS system commenced in August 2016. Not all courts commenced at the same time so the exact times vary but are long enough to make statistically significant inferences.*

*NB. Active case b/f as at Jan 01, 2019 includes cases originating between August 2016 and December 2018 which remains active as at January 01, 2020.*

The table above is an extension of table 1.0. Among the data reported in this table is the case congestion rate across the parish courts. This provides a measure of the manageability of a

court's existing caseload. In particular, it provides an indication of the caseload burden relative to existing resources and the pace of case disposal.

The overall case congestion rate in 2019 was 146.17%, indicating that as a whole, the criminal divisions in the parish courts are currently carrying a caseload of roughly 46% more than current resource capacity and rates of clearance can optimally handle. The Clarendon Parish Court has the largest case congestion rate over the period measured by 254.18%; however, this represents notable improvement when compared to the previous three years. The parish courts of St. Ann and Trelawny are the next two courts with the highest case congestion rates of 194.48% and 186.41% respectively. High case congestion rates can be a product of resource deficiencies and slow case clearance and case disposal rates along with a rapidly rising number of new cases. *Ceteris paribus*, it is expected that higher disposal rates, supported by high hearing and trial date certainty will substantially reduce the case congestion in a court. The parish courts of St. Mary, Westmoreland and St. Catherine performed best on this measure in 2019, largely because of the consistency demonstrated in sustaining strong case disposal and clearance rates. As with previous years, caseload and resources do not appear to be a major factor explaining the differences in performance here as the courts ranking on either end of the scale are the larger courts in the island and resource endowment do not vary in a statistically significant way among the courts. The other parish courts among the top five best case congestion rates in 2019 were the Corporate Area Parish Court- Criminal Division with 126.82% and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 135.11%.

The results on the case clearance rates are also quite interesting recording a weighted average case clearance rate of 101.60%, an improvement of 7.29 percentage points when compared to 2018, in so doing satisfying the international standard for the second consecutive year. This overall case clearance rate of 101.60% suggests that for every 100 new cases filed in 2019, roughly 102 were disposed of. It is estimated that if this weighted average clearance rate is sustained in the criminal court for the next 5-6 years; the criminal case backlog rate will fall below 5% in the parish courts. The average rate required to accomplish a similar feat over a shorter period of 3-6 years is estimated to be 130%.

Six of the thirteen parish courts exceeded the 100% mark for the annual criminal case clearance rate with the parish court of St. Mary (125.64%), St. Catherine (111.49%) and Portland (109.01%) leading the list. The parish courts of St. James, with (105.34%) Hanover (103.90%) and Corporate Area parish court- Criminal Division (103.20%) were the other courts to exceed the 100% mark. Five other parish courts also met the international standard of 90% - 100%, namely the St. Elizabeth Parish Court (99.93%), the St. Thomas Parish Court (96.78%), Manchester Parish Court (96.41%), the Westmoreland Parish Court with (96.71%) and Clarendon with (92.55%). The Parish Courts of Trelawny and St. Ann, with clearance rates of 88.12% and 85.44% respectively fell short of satisfying the international benchmark but still demonstrated promising results. The parish courts that made the greatest strides on this measure in 2019 when compared to the previous year were the St. Mary Parish Court, Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division. The St. Mary Parish court improved by 33.20 percentage points, disposing of roughly 33 more cases for every 100 new cases filed in 2019. The Corporate Area Parish court improved by 21.70

percentage points thus disposing of roughly 22 cases for every 100 filed in 2019. These are quite significant increases by any measure and an affirmation of the generally positive trajectory can be seen in the fact that only two of the thirteen parish courts failed to satisfy the international standard in 2019, namely Trelawny and St. Ann.

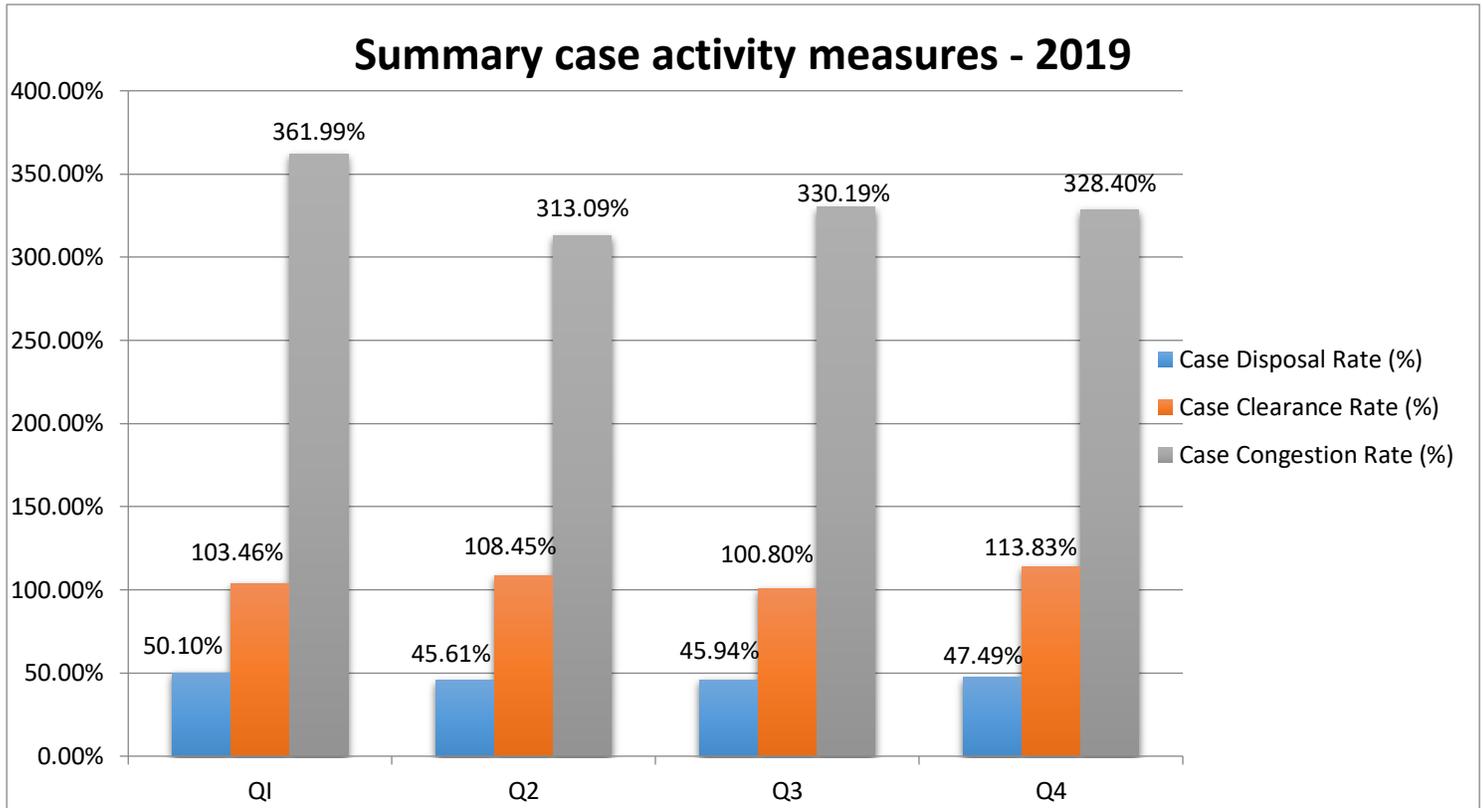
The data series for all the variables in the above table were positively skewed to various degrees, indicating that proportionately more of the scores in that data set fell below the respective means.

*Refer to Table 5.0 for further comparison of the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates across all parish courts for the 2018 and 2019 calendar years.*

Table 3.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the period Jan.-Dec. 2019

Statistical Measurements	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q4	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q4	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q4	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q3	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q2	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q1
Average /Weighted Average	47.49	45.94	45.61	50.1	113.83	100.80	108.45	103.46	328.40	330.19	313.09	361.99
Standard Deviation	12.60	9.08	9.59	9.17	18.89	15.50	21.64	29	179.09	132.04	180.23	253.21
Skewness	-1.291	-0.492	-0.176	-0.033	-0.074	-0.482	1.049	0.262	1.154	1.553	1.912	1.663

**Graph 1.0: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics over the four quarters of 2019**



The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal, case clearance and case congestion rate over the four quarters of 2019. It is seen that there were some fluctuations in the progression of all three metrics over the four quarters. The case disposal rate varied within a band of a low of 45.61% in the second quarter and a high of 47.49% in the fourth quarter. The case clearance rate ranged from a low of 100.80% in the third quarter to 113.83% in the fourth quarter of 2019 while the case congestion rate was at its lowest in second quarter with 313.09% and at its highest in the first quarter with a rate of 361.99%.

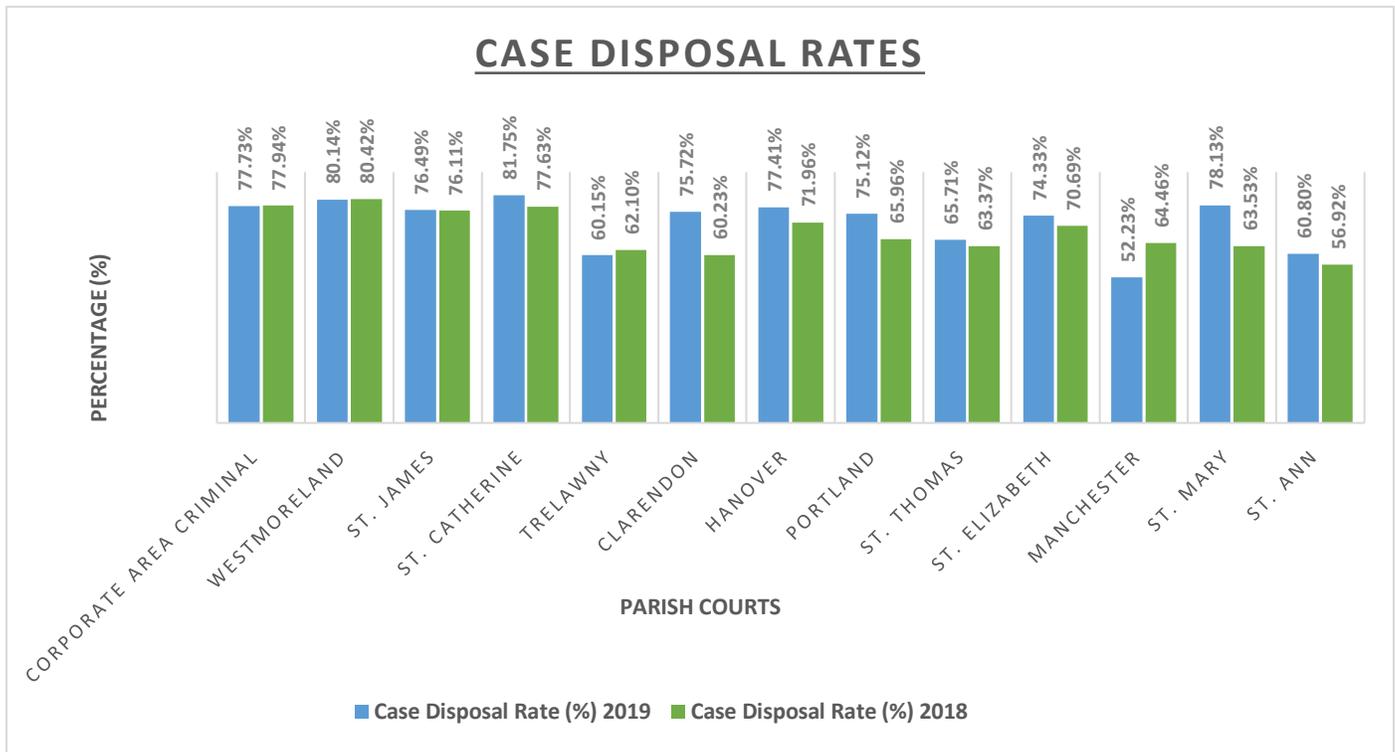
**Table 4.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for 2018 & 2019**

Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) 2019	Case Disposal Rate (%) 2018	Case Clearance Rate (%) 2019	Case Clearance Rate (%) 2018	Case Congestion Rate (%) 2019	Case Congestion Rate (%) 2018
Corporate Area Criminal	77.73	77.94	103.20	81.50	126.82	131.58
Westmoreland	80.14	80.42	96.71	106.26	124.56	99.39
St. James	76.49	76.11	105.34	103.31	105.34	107.80
St. Catherine	81.75	77.63	111.49	106.78	110.69	99.93
Trelawny	60.15	62.10	88.12	90.93	186.41	129.73
Clarendon	75.72	60.23	92.55	78.06	254.18	266.84
Hanover	77.41	71.96	103.90	93.87	141.39	118.05
Portland	75.12	65.96	109.01	107.36	138.52	107.87
St. Thomas	65.71	63.37	95.66	90.02	155.07	124.87
St. Elizabeth	74.33	70.69	99.93	89.10	135.11	118.76
Manchester	52.23	64.46	96.41	103.71	174.46	114.15
St. Mary	78.13	63.53	125.64	92.44	121.64	127.00
St. Ann	60.80	56.92	85.44	89.25	141.39	164.84
<b>Average /weighted average</b>	<b>73.75</b>	<b>70.92</b>	<b>101.60</b>	<b>94.31</b>	<b>146.17</b>	<b>131.6</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>9.16</b>	<b>7.67</b>	<b>10.65</b>	<b>9.79</b>	<b>39.52</b>	<b>44.05</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-1.122</b>	<b>0.204</b>	<b>0.797</b>	<b>-0.116</b>	<b>1.811</b>	<b>2.774</b>

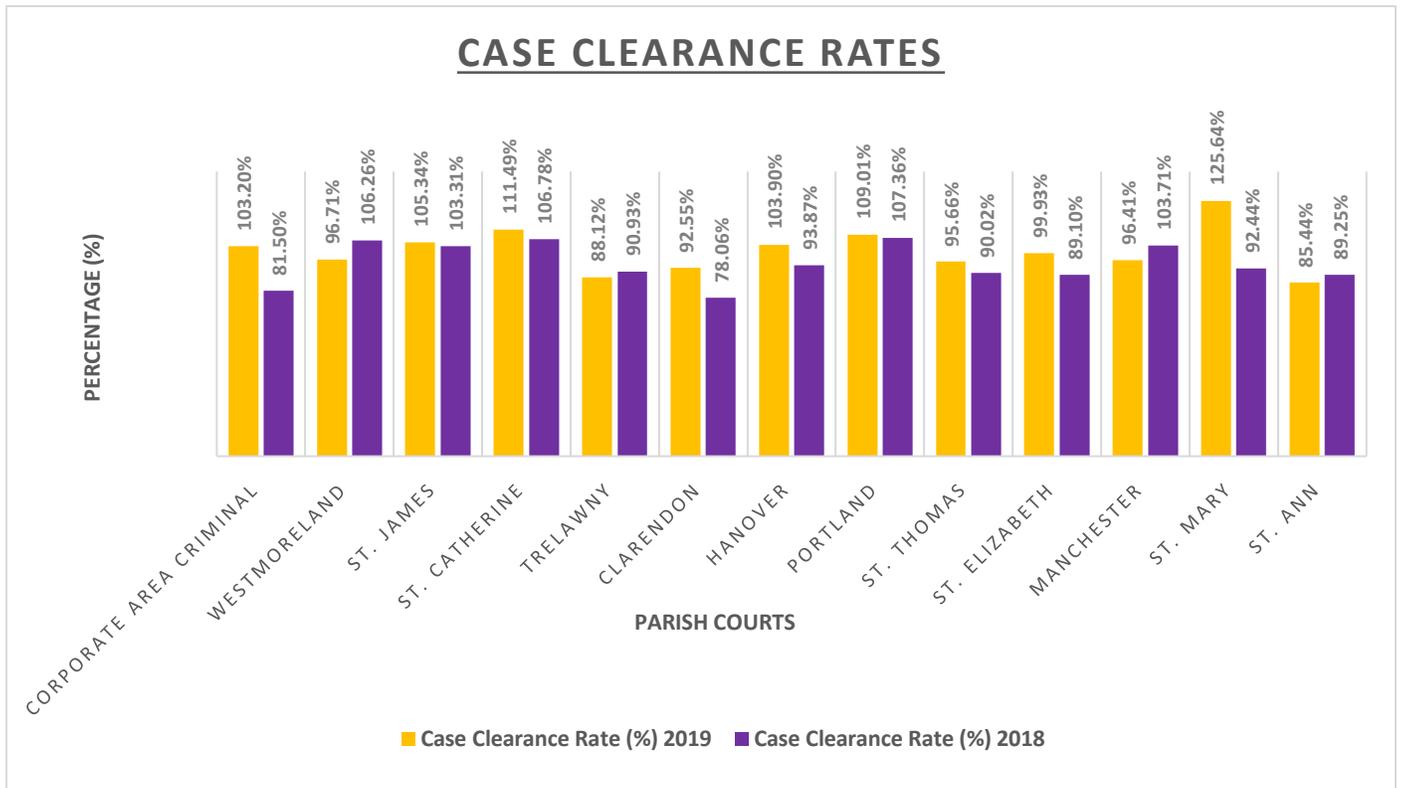
The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate over the 2018 and 2019 calendar years. The average case disposal rate for 2019 was 73.75%, which was a 2.83 percentage point improvement over the 2018 weighted average rate of 70.92%. The case clearance rate of 101.60% for 2019 was a 7.29 percentage point improvement over the 2018 case clearance rate of 94.31%. The 2019 case congestion rate for however increased by 14.57 percentage points when compared to the previous year. This is largely because of the incidence of inactive cases, which were reopened/brought back to court in 2019. Ceteris paribus, there should be a roughly linear inverse association between the case

clearance rates and the case congestion rates as well as between the case disposal rates and the case congestion rate. This is more pronounced in the long run than in the short or medium terms.

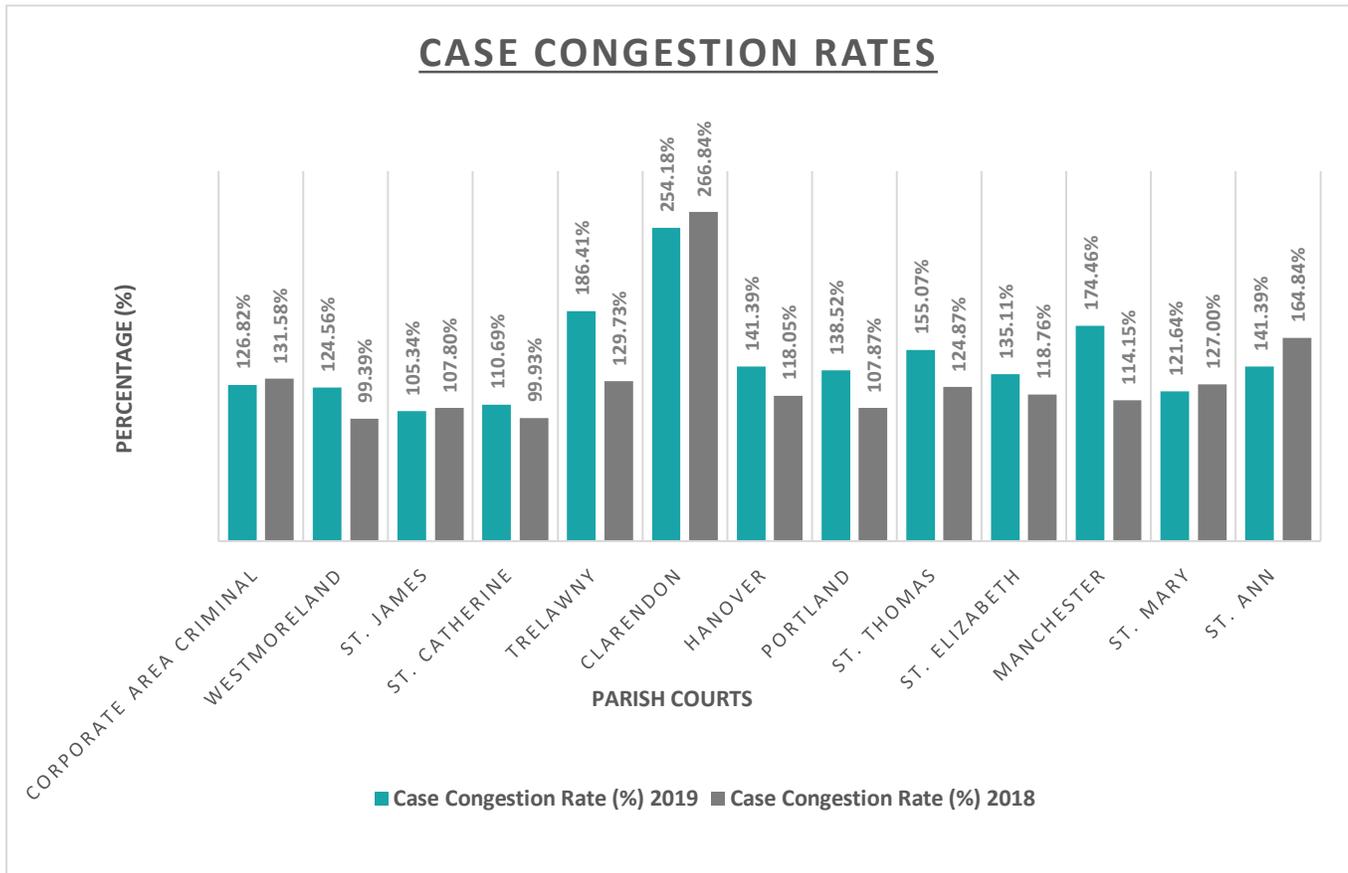
**Chart 2.0A: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for 2018 and 2019**



**Chart 2.0B: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for 2018 and 2019**



**Chart 2.0C: Comparison of case congestion rates across the parish courts for 2018 and 2019**



**Table 5.0: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for 2018 and 2019**

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) (2019)	Trial certainty rate (%) (2018)
Westmoreland	94	100
Clarendon	54	93
St. Ann	60	97
Portland	85	100
St. James	81	98
Manchester	68	81
St. Elizabeth	67	76
St. Catherine	64	83
Trelawny	75	95
St. Mary	77	67
St. Thomas	85	63
Corporate Area Criminal	56	71
Hanover	50	29
<b>Average</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>81%</b>

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 2019 calendar year was 70%, an 11-percentage points decline when compared to the 2018 overall trial certainty rate. Only the Westmoreland Parish Court with a rate of 94% met the prescribed international performance standard of a rate between 92% and 100% in the year. The parish courts of Portland and St. Thomas with trial date certainty rates of 85% each followed this. The St. James Parish court with a rate of 81% was also among the courts with the highest trial certainty rate. The minimum-targeted trial date certainty rate, which has been set out by the Honourable Chief Justice for the judiciary for the next 5-6 years, is 95%. This is consistent with the push to significantly enhance the efficiency of the court system and hence

the timely delivery of justice to the Jamaican citizenry. The attainment of this minimum threshold rate will depress the overall criminal case backlog in the Jamaican court system below 5%.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the year 2019.**

Parish Court	Average overall courtroom utilization rate (%)	Highest Recorded Courtroom Utilization rate (%)	Lowest Recorded Courtroom Utilization rate (%)	Standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates (%)	Average courtroom utilization rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average number of courtroom adjournments per day
St. Catherine	54.82	148.33	1.39	33.37	54.91	1.2
Westmoreland	67.02	294	2.00	44.17	67.23	1.1
Trelawny	56.94	290	1.67	40.48	38.13	1.2
St. Thomas	53.38	234.72	0.00	34.23	44.19	1
St. Mary	62.69	277.33	0.83	36.48	56.68	1.05
St. James	60.89	158.33	0.67	38.24	61.18	1.4
Corporate Area Criminal Court	62.76	148.33	0.00	26.47	63.01	1.1
St. Ann	78.69	301.67	4.17	42.02	78.21	1.04
Portland	77.73	279.33	1.11	50.57	50.76	1.2
Hanover	44.17	247.22	1.39	32.68	39.35	1.1
Clarendon	41.31	118.33	0.42	23.20	31.58	2.95
Manchester	61.56	42.49	1.39	195.83	42.49	1
St. Elizabeth	56.11	133.33	3.33	33.37	42.40	1.2
<b>Overall Averages</b>	<b>59.85</b>	<b>205.65</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>48.55</b>	<b>51.55</b>	<b>1.27</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>10.90</b>	<b>84.44</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>44.84</b>	<b>13.44</b>	<b>0.52</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.16</b>	<b>-0.46</b>	<b>1.16</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>3.33</b>

*N.b. For the Westmoreland Parish court, only 2019 case, which went to trial, were included in the sample of matters that were used to calculate the courtroom utilization.*

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the 2019 calendar year. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtroom (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 are performed well below this level in 2019. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts for the year was 59.85%, which is an indication that on average roughly 60% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts during the year 2019. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the year are the St. Ann and Portland Parish Courts with 78.69% and 77.73% respectively, followed by the Westmoreland Parish Court with 67.02%. The Clarendon and Hanover Parish Courts with 41.31% and 44.17% respectively had the lowest rates, while the St. Thomas Parish Court with 53.38% had the next lowest rate. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates is moderate, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. This is affirmed by the low positive skewness of the data. The data also isolates the courtroom utilization rate for night court sittings. A part of the designation of night courts is to bolster the capacity of the courts to hear and dispose of more cases in a timely manner. At an overall courtroom utilization rate of 51.55%, the night courts use 4.30 percentage points less than the available time than regular day court. The St. Ann Parish Court with a night court utilization rate of 78.21% and the Westmoreland Parish Court with 67.23% ranked highest for the year with the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court ranking next with 63.01%. At the lower end of the courtroom, utilization rates for night court sittings were the parish courts of Clarendon (31.58%), Trelawny (38.13%) and Hanover with 39.35%.

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 7.0: Types of matters for each Parish Court for 2019.**

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	4197	2796	1532	722	-	-	-	57	-	<b>9304</b>
St. Catherine	2027	2331	822	734	261	-	58	-	-	<b>6233</b>
Manchester	1248	506	942	320	112	-	30	-	-	<b>3158</b>
St. James	1068	1464	445	198	277	174	-	-	-	<b>3626</b>
St. Ann	1367	903	714	149	126	-	-	5	-	<b>3264</b>
Westmoreland	1167	1080	401	414	101	-	-	-	-	<b>3163</b>
Clarendon	1242	1082	447	326	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3097</b>
Portland	850	407	274	168	10	-	-	-	-	<b>1709</b>
St. Elizabeth	968	574	307	198	179	-	4	19	-	<b>2249</b>
St. Mary	830	267	311	273	107	-	-	-	-	<b>1788</b>
Trelawny	623	542	258	91	-	-	55	-	-	<b>1569</b>
Hanover	544	360	234	147	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1285</b>
St. Thomas	618	568	181	263	54	-	-	-	-	<b>1684</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16749</b>	<b>12880</b>	<b>6868</b>	<b>4003</b>	<b>1227</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>81</b>	-	<b>42129</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>39.76%</b>	<b>30.57%</b>	<b>16.30%</b>	<b>9.50%</b>	<b>2.91%</b>	<b>0.41%</b>	<b>0.35%</b>	<b>0.19%</b>	-	

\*Total number of observations = 42,129 \*\*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 2019 calendar year. For the year, 42,129 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decrease of approximately 5.89% when compared to the previous year. The majority of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (9,304), the St. Catherine Parish Court (6,233), and the St. James Parish Court with (3,626) and the Westmoreland Parish Court with 3,163 charges. The majority of the charges were Indictments (39.76%); followed by Summary matters (30.57%), Lay Magistrates matters (16.30%) and Committal Proceedings, which accounted for 9.50% of the total. The Corporate Area Court-

Criminal Division accounted for the largest proportion of Indictments filed, followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Ann and Manchester. The Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division accounted for the largest share of summary matters filed, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. James Parish Court. The largest proportion of Lay Magistrates matters were filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division followed by the parish courts of Manchester and St. Catherine. The St. Catherine Parish Court followed by the Corporate Area Criminal Court and the Westmoreland Parish Court accounted for the largest individual shares of Committal Proceedings filed in the year. As for criminal matters, which are traffic-related, the only incidences of these in the year were in the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division, the St. Ann Parish Court and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court.

The series of tables in the subsection below provide a summary of the top five charges filed in each parish court in 2019 as well as the leading charges filed across the parish courts as a whole and their conviction rates. This subsection also provides an estimate of the convictions rates for summary and indictment matters.

**Offence Types**

**Table 8.1: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division in 2019**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	888	9.5
Littering	729	7.8
Unlawful wounding	710	7.6
Possession of offensive weapon	588	6.3
Disorderly conduct	421	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3336</b>	<b>35.7</b>

Number of observations (N): 9305

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 2019 calendar year.

It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 888 or 9.5% of the total incidence of

charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Littering with 729 or 7.8% and unlawful wounding with 710 or 7.6% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of offensive weapon with 588 or 6.3% and disorderly conduct with 421 or 4.5% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 35.7% of the total incidence of charges at filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court in 2019.

**Table 8.2: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in 2019**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	326	10.3
Exposing goods for sale	297	9.4
Unlawful wounding	229	7.3
Threat	164	5.2
Malicious destruction of property	162	5.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1178</b>	<b>37.3</b>

Number of observations (N): 3156

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court for the 2019 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 326 or 10.3% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Exposing goods for sale with 297 or 9.4% and unlawful wounding with 229 or 7.3% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 164 or 5.2% and malicious destruction of property with 162 or 5.1% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 37.3% of the total incidence of charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in 2019.

**Table 8.3: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in 2019**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	452	14.9
Unlawful wounding	309	10.2
Threat	167	5.5
Malicious destruction of property	147	4.8
Possession of offensive weapon	126	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1201</b>	<b>39.5</b>

Number of observations (N): 3042

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in 2019. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 452 or 14.9% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 309 or 10.2% and threat with 167 or 5.5% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 147 or 4.8% and possession of offensive weapon with 126 or 4.1% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for 39.5% of the incidence of charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in 2019.

**Table 8.4: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in 2019**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	608	10.0
Possession of offensive Weapon	450	7.4
Unlawful wounding	396	6.5
Smoking in a public place	307	5.1
Threat	278	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2039</b>	<b>33.6</b>

Number of observations (N): 6072

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in 2019. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 608 or 10.0% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Possession of offensive weapon with 450 or 7.4% and unlawful wounding with 396 or 6.5% followed this. The top five is rounded off by smoking in a public place with 307 or 5.1% and threat with 278 or 4.6% of the total charges filed. The five charges quoted above accounts for 33.6% of the total incidence of charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in 2019.

**Table 8.5: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in 2019**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Possession of offensive weapon	193	12.6
Assault occasioning bodily harm	157	10.2
Unlawful wounding	119	7.7
Malicious destruction of property	82	5.3
Threat	78	5.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>40.9</b>

Number of observations (N): 1537

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in 2019. It is shown that possession of offensive weapon with 193 or 12.6% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 157 or 10.2% and unlawful wounding with 119 or 7.7% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 82 or 5.3% and threat with 78 or 5.1% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for 40.9% of the incidence of charges filed.

**Table 8.6: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges for the Portland Parish Court in 2019**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	266	16.0
Unlawful wounding	205	12.3
Threat	183	10.9
Malicious destruction of property	138	8.3
Possession of offensive weapon	76	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>52%</b>

Number of observations (N): 1669

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court in 2019. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 266 or 16.0% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 205 or 12.3% and threat with 183 or 10.9% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 138 or 8.3% and possession of offensive weapon with 76 or 4.5% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above account for 52% of the total incidence of charges filed in 2019 at the Portland Parish Court.

**Table 8.7: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in 2019**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	251	14.8
Unlawful wounding	241	14.2
Threat	185	11.0
Malicious destruction of property	118	7.0
Sexual intercourse with a person under 16	66	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>50.9</b>

Number of observations (N): 1692

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in 2019. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 251 or 14.8% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 241 or 14.2% and threat with 185 or 11.0% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 118 or 7.0% and sexual intercourse with a person under 16 with 66 or 3.9% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above account for 50.9% of the total incidence of charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in 2019.

**Table 8.8: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court in 2019**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Smoking in a public place	287	8.6
Possession of offensive weapon	286	8.6
Assault occasioning bodily harm	279	8.4
Unlawful wounding	250	7.6
Malicious destruction of property	156	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1258</b>	<b>37.9</b>

Number of observations (N): 3320

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. James Parish Court in 2019. It is shown that smoking in a public place with 287 or 8.6% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Possession of offensive weapon with 286 or 8.6% and assault occasioning bodily harm with 279 or 8.4% followed this. The top five is rounded off by unlawful wounding with 250 or 7.6% and malicious destruction of property with 156 or 4.7% of the total charges. The five charges

quoted above accounts for 37.9% of the incidences of charges filed in 2019 at the St. James Parish Court.

**Table 8.9: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in 2019**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	409	13.9
Unlawful wounding	257	8.7
Threat	183	6.2
Possession of identity information	174	5.9
Possession of offensive weapon	158	5.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1181</b>	<b>40.1</b>

Number of observations (N): 2940

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in 2019. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 409 or 13.9% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 257 or 8.7% and threat with 183 or 6.2% followed this. Possession of identity information with 174 or 5.9% and possession of offensive weapon with 158 or 5.4% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above account for 40.1% of the total incidence of charges filed in 2019 at the Westmoreland Parish Court.

**Table 8.10: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at Hanover Parish Court in 2019**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	189	15.5
Unlawful wounding	138	11.3
Threat	103	8.4
Malicious destruction of property	86	7.0
Possession of offensive weapon	83	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>49</b>

Number of observations (N): 1221

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court for the 2019 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 189 or 15.5% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 138 or 11.3% and threat with 103 or 8.4% followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 86 or 7.0% and possession of

offensive weapon with 83 or 6.8% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above account for 49% of the total incidence of charges filed in 2019.

**Table 8.11: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in 2019**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	322	14.8
Unlawful wounding	251	11.5
Threat	164	7.5
Malicious destruction of property	159	7.3
Possession of offensive weapon	134	6.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1030</b>	<b>47.3</b>

Number of observations (N): 2178

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in 2019. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 322 or 14.8% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 251 or 11.5% and threat with 164 or 7.5% followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 159 or 7.3% and possession of offensive weapon with 134 or 6.2% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above account for 47.3% of the total incidence of charges filed in 2019 at the St. Elizabeth parish Court.

**Table 8.12: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges at the St. Ann Parish Court in 2019**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	487	15.7
Assault occasioning bodily harm	340	11.0
Unlawful wounding	305	9.8
Malicious destruction of property	143	4.6
Possession of offensive weapon	113	3.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1388</b>	<b>44.8</b>

Number of observations (N): 3101

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in 2019. It is shown that threat with 487 or 15.7% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 340 or 11.0% and unlawful wounding with 305 or 9.8% followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 143 or 4.6% and possession of offensive weapon with

113 or 3.7% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above account for 44.8% of the total incidence of charges filed in 2019 at the St. Ann Parish Court.

**Table 8.13: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in 2019**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	181	12.1
Unlawful wounding	144	9.7
Possession of offensive weapon	110	7.4
Threat	105	7.0
Smoking in a public place	101	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>43</b>

Number of observations (N): 1491

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in 2019. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 181 or 12.1% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 144 or 9.7% and possession of offensive weapon with 110 or 7.4% followed this. Threat with 105 or 7.0% and smoking in a public place with 101 or 6.8% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for 43% of the total incidence of charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in 2019.

**Table 9.0: Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in 2019**

Type of Case	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated Conviction Rate (%)
Summary	11972	348	7274	7622	<b>63.67</b>
Indictment	17000	630	2971	3601	<b>21.18</b>

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard across all parish courts in 2019. Summary matters heard in the year 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 year for summary matters was 63.67% for the year.

The estimated conviction rate for indictment matters was significantly lower at 21.18% for the year. Indictment matters heard in the year included charges such as assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and simple larceny.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for 2019**

<b>Charge</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	4677	11.5
Unlawful wounding	3554	8.7
Possession of offensive weapon	2473	6.1
Threat	2284	5.6
Malicious destruction of property	2035	5.0
Possession of ganja	1177	2.9
Exposing good for sale	1168	2.9
Disorderly conduct	1110	2.7
Dealing in ganja	924	2.3
Smoking in a public place	899	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>20301</b>	<b>49.9</b>

Number of observations (N):40724

The above table shows the distribution of the ten most commonly occurring charges across all parish courts for the 2019 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 4677 or 11.5% of the total number of charges is the most frequently occurring. Unlawful wounding with 3554 or 8.7% and possession of an offensive weapon with 2473 or 6.1% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 2284 or 5.6% and malicious destruction of property with 2035 or 5.0% of the total count during the year. These ten most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 49.9% of the total incidence of charges filed in the year.

**Table 11.0: Conviction rate for leading occurring charges heard in 2019**

<b>Type of Offence</b>	<b>Number of Disposed matters</b>	<b>Number of guilty verdicts</b>	<b>Number of guilty pleas</b>	<b>Aggregate number of guilty outcomes</b>	<b>Estimated Conviction Rate (%)</b>
Possession of offensive weapon	2222	46	1970	2016	<b>90.73</b>
Exposing good for sale	1047	22	903	925	<b>88.35</b>
Smoking in a public place	754	13	653	666	<b>88.33</b>
Possession of ganja	1183	30	889	919	<b>77.68</b>
Disorderly conduct	1068	85	660	745	<b>69.76</b>
Dealing in ganja	935	16	575	591	<b>63.21</b>
Threat	1333	94	156	250	<b>18.75</b>
Malicious destruction of property	1966	75	282	357	<b>18.16</b>
Unlawful wounding	3765	130	385	515	<b>13.68</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	4940	139	506	645	<b>13.06</b>

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for the ten leading charges across all parish courts in 2019. It is shown that possession of offensive weapon had the highest estimated conviction rate with 90.73%. Exposing goods for sale with 88.35% and smoking in a public place with 88.33 closely followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of ganja with an estimated conviction rate of 77.68% and disorderly conduct with 69.76%. Dealing in ganja also had an estimated conviction rate above 50% with a rate of 63.21%. Assault occasioning bodily harm had the lowest estimated conviction rate with 13.06%, followed closely by unlawful wounding with 13.68%. Malicious destruction of property with 18.16% and threat with an estimated conviction rate of 18.75% closed out the list.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges for each parish court for 2019**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average Age of Active charges (days)</b>
Clarendon	127
Trelawny	167
Portland	126
St. Mary	118
Hanover	128
Westmoreland	121
St. Catherine	126
St. Elizabeth	145
St. Ann	150
St. James	161
St. Thomas	191
Corporate Area Criminal	136
Manchester	181
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>144.38</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>23.97</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.81</b>

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the average age of active charges originating in 2019. The average age of active matters originating in the year was approximately 144 days or roughly 4.8 months, which is almost identical to that of the previous year. The parish courts of St. Mary, Westmoreland, St. Catherine and Portland have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed for in the parish courts of St. Thomas, Manchester and Trelawny. There is an intuitive correlation between clearance rates and the average age of cases in the long run but it does not necessarily manifest empirically in the short-run. This means that in the end, courts with higher clearance rates will, in general, have a lower case backlog and a lower average age of active cases. Courts, which manage to maintain a clearance rate of between 90% and 110% long enough will eventually eliminate case backlog, a feat that is quite conceivable with improved case progression management in the respective courts. In such cases, the average time taken to dispose of cases will experience a natural decline, tapering off at a modest, tolerable rate, improving the efficiency of the courts and the

enhancing the timely delivery of justice. The standard deviation of the scores was moderate at roughly 24 days, an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average abstemiously close to the overall mean. The low positive skewness shown is an indication that proportionately more of the average age of active cases for the various courts fell below the overall mean.

**Table 13.0: Average age of charges disposed for each parish court for 2019**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average Age of Disposed charges (days)</b>
Clarendon	83
Trelawny	80
Portland	88
St. Mary	79
Hanover	79
Westmoreland	66
St. Catherine	80
St. Elizabeth	92
St. Ann	89
St. James	89
St. Thomas	104
Corporate Area Criminal	71
Manchester	91
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>9.81</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.11</b>

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the parish courts in 2019 is 84 days or 2.8 months. In the previous year, the average time taken to was approximately 54 days or just under 2 months, representing a 56% increase in the average time taken to dispose of cases. The standard deviation of roughly 10 days is an indication that there were small variations in the distribution of the scores, which ranged from a low of roughly 66 days at the Westmoreland Parish Court to a high of 104 days for the St. Thomas Parish Court. The weak positive skewness of roughly 0.11 is an indication that a significant proportion of the scores were clustered around the overall average score though slightly more fell below it.

**Table 14.0: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the year ended December 31, 2019**

Parishes	Time interval in days					Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days and over	
Corporate Area criminal	6411 (46.3%)	3014 (21.8%)	1575 (11.4%)	1062 (7.7%)	1786 (12.9%)	13848 (100%)
St. Catherine	3493 (38.6%)	2266 (25.0%)	1196 (13.2%)	692 (7.6%)	1404 (15.5%)	9051 (100%)
St. James	2859 (39.1%)	1521 (20.8%)	742 (10.1%)	609 (8.3%)	1581 (21.6%)	7312 (100%)
Manchester	1404 (29.4%)	998 (20.9%)	731 (15.3%)	529 (11.1%)	1112 (23.3%)	4774 (100%)
Westmoreland	2584 (56.9%)	889 (19.6%)	429 (9.4%)	286 (6.3%)	354 (7.8%)	4542 (100)
St. Ann	1489 (30.4%)	1025 (20.9%)	574 (11.7%)	484 (9.9%)	1331 (27.1%)	4903 (100%)
Clarendon	2175 (46.9%)	1096 (23.7%)	477 (10.3%)	280 (6.0%)	605 (13.1%)	4633 (100%)
St. Thomas	808 (33.0%)	623 (25.5%)	351 (14.3%)	280 (11.4%)	385 (15.7%)	2447 (100%)
Portland	1192 (35.1%)	809 (23.8%)	410 (12.1%)	310 (9.1%)	674 (19.9%)	3395 (100%)
St. Mary	1511 (39.4%)	751 (19.6%)	477 (12.5%)	259 (6.8%)	833 (21.7%)	3831 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	1498 (41.4%)	945 (26.1%)	467 (12.9%)	243 (6.7%)	468 (12.9%)	3621 (100%)
Trelawny	959 (41.2%)	445 (19.1%)	252 (10.8%)	191 (8.2%)	483 (20.7%)	2330 (100%)
Hanover	1205 (49.9%)	596 (24.7%)	222 (9.2%)	147 (6.1%)	243 (10.1%)	2413 (100%)
<b>% of total</b>	<b>41.11%</b>	<b>22.32%</b>	<b>11.78%</b>	<b>8.01%</b>	<b>16.78%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>2122</b>	<b>1152</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>5161</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1514</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>3244</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.14</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>1.87</b>

Number of charges sampled (N) = 61,700

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least a 36-month period over September 2016 – December 2019 for most parish courts.*

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for at least 36 consecutive months over the period September 2016 to December 2019. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 41.11 % of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division along with

the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. James and Westmoreland are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. This trend is broadly similar to that seen over the past 24 months. Cumulatively, 83.22% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a continued 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. James and St. Catherine had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample range from weak to moderate which is an indication that for disposed cases, the times taken are not markedly different across the courts. The difference, however, is the proportion of cases disposed of, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

**Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the year ended December 31, 2019**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area criminal	166.58	1.00	100	182.25	1.80	1	1047	<b>13848</b>
St. Catherine	217.73	63	120	333.75	5.94	1	4974	<b>9051</b>
St. James	396.08	49	126	1048.31	6.73	1	12840	<b>7312</b>
Manchester	255.55	63	175	297.20	7.63	1	9044	<b>4774</b>
Westmoreland	129.59	28	76	153.60	3.62	1	1974	<b>4542</b>
St. Ann	267.16	63	170	298.94	6.46	1	8875	<b>4903</b>
Clarendon	162.29	63	95	183.87	1.97	1	1179	<b>4633</b>
St. Thomas	198.72	119	138	181.43	1.59	1	1191	<b>2447</b>
Portland	253.22	42	140	340.94	3.41	1	3702	<b>3395</b>
St. Mary	264.54	28	126	385.30	4.28	1	5684	<b>3831</b>
St. Elizabeth	180.86	28	108	216.63	2.83	1	1515	<b>3621</b>
Trelawny	233.29	28	119	262.82	1.55	1	1191	<b>2330</b>
Hanover	166.22	35	90	251.34	4.82	1	2409	<b>2413</b>
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>222.45</b>	<b>46.92</b>	<b>121.77</b>	<b>318.18</b>	<b>4.05</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>4278.85</b>	<b>5161.54</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>68.87</b>	<b>28.78</b>	<b>29.28</b>	<b>230.82</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3824.11</b>	<b>3244.13</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>3.01</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.19</b>	<b>1.87</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 61,700*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least a 36-month period over September 2016 – December 2019 for most parish courts.*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed of for each parish court as at December 31, 2019. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 36-month period over September 2016 – December 2019 for most parish courts and it should be noted that these descriptive statistics are for matters disposed over that sample period. The output produces a weighted average estimated time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of 222 days over the period, markedly higher than the

previous year. The skewness of these times to disposition is 1.21, suggesting that there were comparatively more times to disposition among the parish courts which were below the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (130 days), Clarendon (162 days) and Hanover (166 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. James (396 days), St. Ann (267 days) and St. Mary (265 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period. The variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is however wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (68.87), 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 1047 days (34.90 months) in the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division to a high of 12,840 days (35.67 years) in the St. James Parish Court. This said case originated in 1983 and was disposed of in 2019. The skewness of the maximum times to disposition is moderately positive 1.19, which is an indication that proportionately more of the maximum times to disposition fell below the overall average of these scores. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was 65,900, which is quite representative.

**Methods of Disposal and Conviction Rate**

**Table 16.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposal for 2019**

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated Settlement	Guilty Verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St Catherine	2141	1387	146	705	927	122	477	<b>5905</b>
Corporate Area Criminal	4031	3053	428	134	5	204	495	<b>8350</b>
Westmoreland	868	1278	338	7	-	57	264	<b>2812</b>
St. James	1547	16	745	37	330	107	278	<b>3060</b>
Manchester	673	1018	6	155	425	111	153	<b>2541</b>
Clarendon	826	211	852	121	395	179	348	<b>2932</b>
St. Elizabeth	741	24	325	-	339	27	128	<b>1584</b>
Trelawny	380	206	403	13	16	145	83	<b>1246</b>
Hanover	335	123	326	5	69	146	76	<b>1080</b>
Portland	264	243	806	55	182	147	125	<b>1822</b>
St. Mary	487	784	51	13	552	32	297	<b>2216</b>
St. Thomas	549	311	275	1	3	60	262	<b>1461</b>
St. Ann	351	385	31	481	116	18	39	<b>1421</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13193</b>	<b>9039</b>	<b>4732</b>	<b>1727</b>	<b>3359</b>	<b>1355</b>	<b>3025</b>	<b>36430</b>
<b>Percentage of Total</b>	<b>36.21%</b>	<b>24.81%</b>	<b>12.99%</b>	<b>4.74%</b>	<b>9.22%</b>	<b>3.72%</b>	<b>8.30%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Total sample size: 36,430

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts in 2019. From the sample, it is observed that the majority of matters disposed of during the year were by way of a guilty plea with 36.21% of the sample, followed by matters dismissed with 24.81% and Not Guilty Verdicts with 12.99%. Mediated Settlements with 9.22%, matters committed to Circuit with 8.30%, guilty verdicts with 3.72% and matters transferred with 4.74% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter. The combined 39.93% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent the criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter, a decline of 22% when compared to the previous year.

**Common Reasons for Adjournment**

**Table 17.1: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for 2019**

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Count	Percentage
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	3276	27.02
Re-issue Application	1099	9.1
Referred to mediation*	697	5.8
File to be completed	649	5.4
Subpoena investigating officer	466	3.9
Medical report unavailable	428	3.5
Disclosure	349	2.9
Referred to Restorative Justice Centre	244	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7208</b>	<b>66.8</b>

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 12,124)

*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 12,124 reasons for adjournments/continuance in 2019 all parish courts. The largest proportion (27.02%) were because of adjournments due to the non-appearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants. Adjournments for the re-issue of applications with 9.1% and adjournments for referrals to mediation with 5.8% rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Matters adjourned due to file not completed (5.4%) and subpoena of investigating officer (3.90%), rounds off the top five reasons for adjournment for the year. Four of the

top five reasons for adjournment were also featured in the top five for the previous year. The 11 reasons for adjournment quoted above account for 66.8% 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 the 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 2019 calendar year, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 93.4% as 6.6% of the total incidence of adjournments was due to factors, which impair the case file integrity rate. Of these factors, file to be completed accounts for 5.4% of the total incidence of adjournments/continuance and is the greatest contributor adversely affecting the case file integrity rate. Despite being above 90%, the case file integrity rate remains below the prescribed international standard of 98% - 100%. Herein lies an area in which major operational interventions need to be undertaken across the parish courts to improve the availability, completeness, accuracy and correct scheduling of case files for court.

**Table 17.2: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for continuance for 2019**

Reasons for Continuance	Count	Percentage
Sentencing	922	7.6
Part Heard	143	1.2
Bail application	55	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>9.2</b>

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 12,124)

The analysis of adjournments makes a distinction between those incidences, which may be considered avoidable due to either internal or external factors, and those, which are intrinsic to the progression of a case. The above table highlights the primary reasons for adjournment gleaned from the sample, which may be considered as simply intrinsic to the progression of some cases. These reasons are classified as reasons for ‘continuance.’ As seen in the above table, adjournments for sentencing, part heard matters and those for bail application featured prominently among such reasons. Sentencing in particular, accounted for 7.6% of the total incidence of adjournments/continuance.

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 outstations in each parish.

**Table 18.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for 2019**

Charge	Male		Female		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Assault occasioning bodily harm	3538	75.53	1146	24.47	4684	100%
Unlawful wounding	2742	77.00	819	23.00	3561	100%
Possession of offensive weapon	2303	93.28	166	6.72	2469	100%
Threat	1854	76.61	566	23.39	2420	100%
Malicious destruction of property	1575	77.43	459	22.57	2034	100%
Possession of ganja	942	79.97	236	20.03	1178	100%
Exposing goods for sale	860	73.63	308	26.37	1168	100%
Disorderly conduct	777	68.52	357	31.48	1134	100%
Dealing in ganja	734	79.52	189	20.48	923	100%
Smoking in a public place	849	94.44	50	5.56	899	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16174</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4296</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20470</b>	<b>100%</b>

**\*\*\*The gender of offenders was not available for every matter that was filed in the parish courts hence a sample is used. Sample size (N) = 20470**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the 2019 calendar year. Based on the data shown in chart 2.0, it is not surprising that males account for the dominant proportion of all these charges. Among the offences listed with the greatest imbalance in the gender distribution are assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, and dealing in ganja for which over 75% of the offenders were male. It is shown that

smoking in a public place with 94.44% of offenders being male and possession of an offensive weapon with 93.28 had the most significant incidence of offenders being male for the year. Exposing good for sale, disorderly conduct and assault occasioning bodily harm saw the highest incidence of female involvement among the offences, which appeared most frequently.

**Table 19.1: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of St. Catherine for the 2019 calendar year.**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2019</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2019</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2019</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1594	1075	172	42.78	78.23
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	176	108	38	4.72	82.95
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	8	1	0	0.21	12.50
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	78	60	3	2.09	80.77
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	25	16	0	0.67	64.00
Children's Court	160	103	9	4.29	70.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	193	44	110	5.18	79.79
OA-Portmore #1 (Night Court)	427	364	48	11.46	96.49
OB-Linstead #1 (Lay Magistrates)	59	23	31	1.58	91.53
OB-Linstead (courtroom #1)	665	539	34	17.85	86.17
OC-Old Harbour (Lay Magistrates)	37	8	25	0.99	89.19
OC-Old Harbour (courtroom #1)	304	222	39	8.16	85.86
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>3726</b>	<b>2563</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>82.45</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in 2019 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish, and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates' and night court matters for the relevant locations for ease of comparison. The data shows decisively that matters entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse in Spanish Town and the Linstead outstation

accounts for the largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 42.78% (compared to 55.48% in 2018) and 17.85% (compared to 41.14% in 2018) respectively. Night court sittings at Portmore outstation with 11.46% of the new cases heard rank next. In terms of cases disposed, Courtroom#1 (main courthouse) accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 1075 cases, 37 fewer than the 1112 recorded in 2018 and had the eight highest disposal rates of 78.23%, a decrease of 1.99 percentage points when compared to the 80.22% recorded in 2018. The night court at the Portmore outstation recorded the highest disposal rate with 96.49%, a decline of 2.23% when compared to the 98.70% recorded in 2018. The Linstead outstation (courtroom 1) and Old Harbour (Lay Magistrates') followed with disposal rates of 91.53% and 89.19% respectively. Evidently, the outstations in St. Catherine not only carry a significant new caseload but also appear to be relatively productive with the disposition of cases. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounted for roughly 55.66% of the total number of new cases heard in 2019 while the outstations combined accounted for roughly 44.34%.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 1,594 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were 193 cases disposed of in other courtrooms. Sixty-five (65) cases were disposed of in courtroom 2, forty-one (41) were disposed of in courtroom 3, thirty-nine (39) in courtroom 4, twenty-one (21) in courtroom 5, and night court disposed of 8 of the cases. A total of five (5) cases were disposed of at children's court, four (4) at the Linstead outstation and the remaining ten (10) were disposed of at the old harbour outstation and at Lay Magistrates' sittings. Of the 176 cases heard in courtroom number 2, thirteen were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Four (4) were disposed of in courtroom 1, three (3) in courtroom 3 and two (2) at night court. The remaining four (4) were

disposed of in courtroom 4 and at the Linstead and Old Harbour Outstations. Of the 78 matters heard in courtroom 4, thirty-five (35) matters were disposed of in each of the following courtrooms; courtroom 1, (11 cases) courtroom two (6 cases), courtroom three (17 cases) and courtroom five (1 case). Of the 25 cases heard in courtroom 5, courtrooms two and four and Linstead outstation each accounted for 2 cases. Of the 160 cases heard in children's court there were 4 cases disposed of in other courtrooms, two (2) cases were disposed of in courtroom 2, while courtroom one and Old Harbour outstation accounted for 1 each. Night court had five cases of the 427 being disposed of in other courtrooms. Two (2) were disposed of in courtroom 1 while courtroom 5, Lay Magistrates and children's court disposed of 1 each. Of the 304 cases heard at the outstation in Old Harbour 15 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation. Courtroom one disposed of eight (8), courtrooms 2,3 & 4, as well as children's court, disposed of 1 each while the remaining three (3) were disposed of at Lay Magistrates sitting at the Old Harbour outstation. Courtroom 1 at the Linstead outstation heard 665 matters, of this amount 42 were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Nineteen (19) were disposed of in courtroom 1 at the Linstead outstation, ten (10) were disposed of at the Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Linstead outstation. Courtrooms 3 & 5 disposed of 2 of these cases each while Courtrooms 2& 4 disposed of 1 each.

**Table 19.2: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of St. James for the 2019 calendar year**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2019	Number of new cases disposed of in 2019	Number of inactive cases in 2019	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	18	13	4	0.76	94.44
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	2115	1398	220	89.77	76.50
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	88	74	9	3.74	94.32
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	47	8	32	1.99	85.11
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	24	8	8	1.02	66.67
OA-Cambridge	64	44	4	2.72	75.00
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>*2356</b>	<b>1545</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>77.33</b>

*\*There were 22 missing courtrooms/outstation entries therefore the number in this table may not equate to the total in table 1.0.*

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in 2019 at the St. James Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish, and outlines the disposal rates of these various courtrooms and outstations. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse had the largest number of new cases filed with 2,115 cases filed in the year, 531 cases more than the 1,584 cases filed in 2018. The sample also shows that courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for the highest share of new cases heard with 89.77%, 26.59 percentage points above the 63.18% recorded in 2018. This was followed by courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse with 3.74% of the sample, courtrooms number 4 and Cambridge outstation with 1.99% and 2.72% respectively of the sample. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 97.28% of the new cases heard in 2019. This is 1.29 percentage points above the 95.99% recorded in 2018. The remaining 2.72% was accounted for by the sole outstation.

As mentioned not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 18 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were 8 cases disposed of in other courtrooms. Six (6) cases were disposed of in courtroom 2, and two (2) were

disposed of in courtroom 3. Of the 2,115 cases heard in courtroom number 2, 175 were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations. One hundred and twenty cases (120) were disposed in courtroom 2, thirty-one (31) in courtroom 3, thirteen (13) in courtroom 4 and eleven (11) at Lay Magistrates' sittings. Of the 88 cases heard in courtroom number 3, there were 4 cases disposed in other courtrooms, two (2) cases were disposed of in courtroom number 3, and 2 in courtroom two. Courtroom 4 with 47 cases heard, had one of these case being disposed of in courtroom 2 and another at Lay Magistrates' sitting. Of the 64 cases heard at the Cambridge outstation, two (2) were disposed of in courtroom 2. At the main courthouse.

**Table 19.3: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of Westmoreland for the 2019 calendar year**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2019	Number of new cases disposed of in 2019	Number of inactive cases in 2019	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1071	670	86	49.77	70.59
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	53	26	19	2.46	84.91
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	17	14	0	0.79	82.35
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	145	105	11	6.74	80.00
Night Court (main courthouse)	575	493	67	26.72	97.39
OA-Whithorn (Lay Magistrates)	45	35	5	2.09	88.89
OA-Whithorn	246	193	7	11.43	81.30
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>*2152</b>	<b>1536</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80.44</b>

*\*There were 8 missing courtrooms/outstation entries therefore the number in this table may not equate to the total in table 1.0.*

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in 2019 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish, and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates’ and Night Court matters heard in each of the relevant locations, for ease of comparison. The data shows decisively that matters entered in courtroom number 1 and the night court sittings in Savanna-La-Mar accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 1,071 matters (49.77%) and 575 matters (26.72%) respectively. The number of matters heard in courtroom number 1 increased by 35.74% when compared to the previous year. However, the disposal rate fell by 20.37 percentage points when compared to the 70.09% reported in 2018. The Whithorn outstation with 246 or 11.43% of the new matters heard in the parish rank next followed by Lay Magistrates’ sittings at the main court with 145 matters or 6.74%. In terms of cases disposed, night court sittings in Savanna-La-

Mar with 575 cases account for the highest absolute share of disposals, relative to the number of new cases filed and had the highest disposal rate of 97.39%. This showed an increase of 63 matters compared to the 512 recorded in the previous calendar year. However, the disposal rate fell marginally by 0.93 percentage points when compared to the 98.32% recorded in the Jan-Dec 2018 calendar year. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Whithorn outstation and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with rates of 88.89% and 84.91% respectively rounds off the top three highest disposal rates for 2019. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 13.52% of the total number of new cases heard, an increase of 1.09 percentage points when compared to 2018. The main courthouse accounted for the remaining 88.48%, an increase of approximately 1 percentage point when compared to the previous year.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in the said room. Of the 1071 cases heard in courtroom one, 131 were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations. 60 of these cases were disposed of in courtroom 2, courtroom 3 disposed of 37 cases, while thirty (30) were disposed of at night court sittings. Lay Magistrates' sittings and Whithorn outstation each disposed of two cases. There were 53 cases heard in courtroom two, of this amount, nine (9) were disposed in courtroom 1, three (3) in courtroom 3 and two (2) at night court sittings. The remaining case was disposed of at the outstation in Whithorn. Of the 17 cases heard in courtroom 3, ten (10) were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations, four (4) cases were disposed of in courtroom 1 while courtroom 2 and night court sittings accounted for 3 cases each. Of the 575 cases heard at night court, 12 were disposed in courtroom 1, one in courtroom two, 5 in courtroom three and Lay Magistrates accounted for the remaining 3 cases. The Whithorn outstation heard 246 cases, of which 17 were disposed of in other courtrooms - courtrooms one and three disposed of 4 each of these cases,

courtroom two (7 cases), and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Whithorn outstation accounted for 2 cases.

**Table 19.4: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division for the 2019 calendar year**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2019	Number of new cases disposed of in 2019	Number of inactive cases in 2019	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	4573	2683	1033	82.60	81.26
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	1	0	1	0.02	100.00
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	2	2	0	0.04	100.00
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	202	80	13	3.65	46.04
Courtroom #7 (main courthouse)	178	47	12	3.22	33.15
Courtroom #8 (main courthouse)	46	35	0	0.83	76.09
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	450	273	97	8.13	82.22
Night Court (main courthouse)	6	3	0	0.11	50.00
OA-Gordon Town	76	47	4	1.37	67.11
Drug Treatment Court (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.02	0.00
Fast Track Court (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.02	0.00
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>5536</b>	<b>3170</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>78.22</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed 2019 at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish, and outlines the applicable disposal rates. It is seen that courtroom number two accounts for the highest proportion of new cases filed in the reporting period with 82.60% of the total. The Lay Magistrates' Court with roughly 8.13% follows this and courtroom number 6 with 3.65%, rounds off the top three accommodations for new cases filed in the year. Courtroom number 2 accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed in 2019 with 2683 matters and a disposal rate of 81.26%. The Lay Magistrates' court at the main courthouse accounts for the second largest share of disposed cases with 273 cases and a disposal rate of

82.22%. Despite having a proportionately low absolute number of disposed cases, courtrooms one and five had the highest case disposal rate of 100% each. The main courthouse in Half Way Tree accounted for 98.63% of the total number of new matters heard in 2019, 1.26 percentage points above the 97.37% recorded in 2018. The remaining 1.37% was accounted for by various other outstations.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said room. Of the 46 cases heard in courtroom 8 at the main courthouse, 3 were disposed at night court sittings, while of the 6 cases heard at night court sittings, 1 was disposed in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse. There were 4573 cases heard in courtroom 2 and of this number, 650 were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations. In particular, courtroom number 8 accounted for 138 of these disposed cases, courtroom 4 accounted for 105 cases, the night court disposed of 128 cases, the fast track court disposed of 98 cases, courtroom 1 disposed of 94 cases, courtroom 5 disposed of 32 cases and courtroom 6 disposed of 10 cases. The remaining 12 of the cases were disposed in courtroom 7 (6 cases), plea and case (4 cases) while drug court and the outstation in Gordon Town disposed of 1 case each. Of the 202 cases heard in courtroom 6, 3 were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations. In particular, courtroom 7, 8 and fast track court disposed of 1 each of these cases. Of the 178 cases heard in courtroom 7, two were disposed in courtroom #6. Lay magistrates heard 450 cases of this amount 9 were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations; courtroom number 2 disposed of 7 cases while courtroom 1 and night court disposed of 1 case each. The outstation in Gordon Town heard 76 cases; of this amount, 6 were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations. The fast track court and the night court disposed of 1 each of these cases while courtrooms 2 and 3 disposed of 2 each.

**Table 19.5: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of Hanover for the 2019 calendar year**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2019</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2019</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2019</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	340	241	16	38.99	75.59
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	90	55	0	10.32	61.11
OC-Green Island #1	110	94	1	12.61	86.36
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	57	41	1	6.54	73.68
OC-Green Island (Lay Magistrates)	26	18	1	2.98	73.08
OA-Ramble (Lay Magistrates)	10	9	0	1.15	90.00
OA-Ramble #1	94	76	1	10.78	81.91
OA-Ramble #2	1	1	0	0.11	100.00
OB-Sandy Bay (Lay Magistrates)	34	29	0	3.90	85.29
OB-Sandy Bay #1	110	92	3	12.61	86.36
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>77.87</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Hanover in Jan.-Dec. 2019 period. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Lucea accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the period, with 38.99% of the total, 8.14 percentage points below the 47.13% recorded in 2018. Courtroom number 1 at the Sandy Bay outstation and courtroom number 1 at the outstation in Green Island with 12.61% ranked next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Lucea accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 241 matters, 80 less than the 321 matters recorded in 2018, and recorded the seventh-highest case disposal rate of 75.59%, an increase of 13.62 percentage points above the 66.53% reported in 2018. Courtroom number one in Green Island (86.36%), courtroom number 1 at the Sandy bay outstation (86.36%) and Lay Magistrates sittings at the Sandy Bay outstation (85.29%) were

among the top five disposal rates. The outstations in the parish account for roughly 44.15% of the new cases heard during the year, an increase of 18.54 percentage points above the 25.61% in 2018. The main courthouse accounts for the remaining 55.85%, a decline of 18.54% when compared to 2018.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in the said room. Of the 340 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, seven (7) were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations. In particular, four of these cases were disposed at Lay Magistrates' sittings while outstations in Ramble, Sandy Bay and Green Island disposed of one (1) each. Eight (8) cases of the 90 heard in courtroom 2 were disposed of in courtroom one. The outstation in Sandy Bay heard 110 cases of this number; one was disposed of in courtroom 1 and 1 at Lay Magistrates' sittings at the outstation in Ramble.

**Table 19.6: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of St. Mary for the 2019 calendar year**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2019	Number of new cases disposed of in 2019	Number of inactive cases in 2019	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	60	21	3	5.15	40.00
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	566	424	35	48.58	81.10
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	47	37	6	4.03	91.49
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	34	21	0	2.92	61.76
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	127	27	85	10.90	88.19
Night Court (main courthouse)	4	2	0	0.34	50.00
OA-Annotto Bay	139	102	5	11.93	76.98
OB-Annotto Bay (Lay Magistrates)	11	5	5	0.94	90.91
OB-Gayle	57	49	0	4.89	85.96
OC-Gayle (Lay Magistrates)	6	3	1	0.52	66.67
OC-Richmond	110	77	5	9.44	74.55
OC-Richmond (Lay Magistrates)	4	0	1	0.34	25.00
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>*1165</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>142</b>	100.00	<b>78.11</b>

*\*There was 1 missing courtrooms/outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the total 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 for the year ended December 31, 2019. The data shows conclusively that courtrooms number 1 at the main courthouse and the Annotto Bay outstation accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the year, with 48.58% and 12.87% respectively of the total compared to 33.59% and 13.47% respectively in 2018. The Lay Magistrates sittings at the main court with 10.90% of the new cases heard in the period rank next, a fall of 2.32 percentage points when compared to 2018. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 424 cases, an increase of 85.96% when compared to 2018 and had the fifth highest case disposal rate of 81.10%. Although the absolute numbers are proportionately low, courtroom

number 2 with a disposal rate of 91.49%, Annotto Bay (Lay Magistrates' court) with 90.91% and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main court with 88.19% rank among the top three disposal rates. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 28.07% of the total number of new cases heard in 2019. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for roughly 71.93% during the 2019 calendar year. The corresponding 2018 calendar year saw the main courthouse accounting for 71.55% of new cases heard, while the remaining 28.45% was accounted for by outstations.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in the said room. Of the 566 cases heard in courtroom one, 144 cases were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations. In particular, thirty-nine (39) cases were disposed of in courtroom 1, a total of 22 cases at the circuit court, 50 cases in courtroom three and thirty (30) at night court sittings. The remaining 3 of these cases were disposed at the Annotto Bay outstation and children's Court. Of the 47 cases heard in courtroom two, six were disposed in courtroom 3 and 2 at the outstation in Annotto Bay. The remaining 4 were disposed of evenly across four courtrooms/outstation, children's court, circuit court, Lay Magistrates and Annotto Bay outstation. Courtroom 3 heard 34 cases of which amount, 8 cases were disposed in other courtrooms/outstation. The circuit court disposed of 4 of these cases and the night court disposed of the remaining 2 cases while courtroom 2 and Lay Magistrate's sittings at Gayle outstation disposed of 1 each of these cases. Of the 139 cases heard at the outstation in Annotto Bay, 24 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms. Courtroom 2 disposed of 5 cases, courtroom 3 disposed of 6 cases, courtroom one accounted for 4 each of the disposals and the circuit court and children's court each disposed of 3 cases.

**Table 19.7: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of Trelawny for the 2019 calendar year**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2019</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2019</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2019</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
CH-Clarks Town (Children's Court)	33	19	0	3.18	57.58
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	71	46	0	6.84	64.79
OA-Falmouth	521	303	1	50.19	58.35
OA-Falmouth (Night Court)	5	1	0	0.48	20.00
OA-Falmouth (Lay Magistrates)	49	22	9	4.72	63.27
OB-Ulster Spring	154	96	1	14.84	62.99
OB-Ulster Spring (Lay Magistrates')	25	4	7	2.41	44.00
OC-Clarks Town (Lay Magistrates')	30	11	10	2.89	70.00
OC-Clarks Town #1	150	103	5	14.45	72.00
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>*1038</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>61.46</b>

*\*There were 6 missing courtrooms/outstation entries therefore the number in this table may not equate to the total in table 1.0.*

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in 2019 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows conclusively that matters entered in Falmouth courthouse and the Ulster Spring outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 55.39% and 17.24% respectively. This was the case in 2018 where both Falmouth Court and the Ulster Spring Outstation accounted for the highest share of new cases heard in the period with 40.36% and 17.86% respectively. Falmouth courthouse (excluding night court sittings and Lay Magistrate sittings) accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 303 cases and one of the highest disposal rates of 58.35%. Although the absolute numbers are proportionately low, courtroom number one and the petty session sittings in Falmouth rank among the highest disposal rates for the parish in the quarter with 64.79% and 63.27% respectively. The outstations accounts for 93.16% of the new cases heard in 2019 while the

remaining 6.84% was accounted for by the main courthouse. In 2018, the main courtrooms accounted for 67.30% of the new cases heard while the remaining 32.70% were accounted for by the outstations.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in the said room. Of the 71 cases heard in courtroom 1, ten (10) were disposed in other courtrooms, there were 5 cases disposed of at the Clarks Town outstation, 3 cases at Falmouth night court sittings and 2 at an outstation in Falmouth. Similarly, of the 521 cases heard in the Falmouth Outstation, 24 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. The night court in Falmouth accounted for 10 of these cases, 7 at the outstation in Clarks Town, 5 at the Lay Magistrate's sittings in Falmouth and courtrooms 1 and outstation in Ulster Spring disposed of 1 each. Eight of the 150 cases heard at Clarks Town outstation were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations, four (4) were disposed of at Lay Magistrates sittings at the Clarks Town outstation, 2 were disposed of at the outstation in Falmouth and 1 case each in courtroom 1 and night court sittings at the Falmouth outstation.

**Table 19.8: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of St. Thomas for the 2019 calendar year**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2019	Number of new cases disposed of in 2019	Number of inactive cases in 2019	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court	63	19	2	5.86	33.33
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	468	307	13	43.53	68.38
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	349	192	42	32.47	67.05
OA-Lay Magistrates' Court-Yallahs	8	3	1	0.74	50.00
OA-Yallahs	186	118	9	17.30	68.28
Night Court (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.09	100.00
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>*1075</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>65.77</b>

*\*There were 7 missing courtrooms/outstation entries therefore the number in this table may not equate to the total in table 1.0.*

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in 2019 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that matters entered in courtroom number 1 at the main court in Morant Bay and courtroom number 2 at the same location accounts for the highest share of new cases heard during the year with 43.53% and 32.47% respectively. The courtrooms with the highest share of new cases heard in 2018 were courtroom 1 and the outstation in Yallahs with 57.57% and 18.45% respectively. Courtroom number 1 accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 307 matters and the third highest disposal rate of 68.38% in 2019. Courtroom number 1 also accounted for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 373 cases and the third highest disposal rate of 65.09%. Courtroom number 2 and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Yallahs outstation with disposal rates of 67.05% and 50% respectively were among the top five disposal rates. The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 81.95% of the total number of new cases heard 2019, an increase of 10.90 percentage points when compared to 2018. The remaining 18.05% was accounted for by the

various outstations, a decline of 8.07 percentage points when compare to the 26.12% recorded in 2018.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in the said rooms. Of the 467 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, 31 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. In particular, night court sittings accounted for 8 of these cases, nineteen (19) were disposed of in courtroom 2, three (3) at the outstation in Yallahs and one (1) at children's court. Of the 350 cases heard in courtroom 2. Forty-five (45) cases were disposed of in other courtrooms; thirty-five (35) cases were disposed in courtroom 1, three (3) at night court sittings and 7 at the outstation in Yallahs. The outstation in Yallahs heard 188 cases and of this number, 21 cases were disposed in other courtrooms/outstation. These are as follows, nine (9) were disposed of in courtroom 2, eight (8) in courtroom 1 and the night court and children's court accounted for 2 each.

**Table 19.9: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of Manchester for the 2019 calendar year**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2019</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2019</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2019</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
PORUS (Children's Court)	21	4	1	1.16	23.81
Children's Court (main courthouse)	6	1	0	0.33	16.67
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	382	164	13	21.02	46.34
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	337	162	12	18.55	51.63
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	82	30	5	4.51	42.68
Night Court (main courthouse)	38	17	2	2.09	50.00
OA-Cottage	27	13	1	1.49	51.85
OA-Cottage(Lay Magistrates)	11	6	2	0.61	72.73
OB-Christiana	124	39	10	6.82	39.52
OB-Christiana (Lay Magistrates)	61	19	13	3.36	52.46
OC-Spalding	61	18	8	3.36	42.62
OC-Spalding (Lay Magistrates)	20	8	2	1.10	50.00
OD-Porus	56	27	2	3.08	51.79
OD-Porus (Lay Magistrates)	8	5	1	0.44	75.00
OE-Cross Keys	53	23	2	2.92	47.17
OE-Cross Keys (Lay Magistrates)	8	1	4	0.44	62.50
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courtroom)	462	260	52	25.43	67.53
Tax Court (main courtroom)	60	18	9	3.30	45.00
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>*1817</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>52.50</b>

*\*There were 19 missing courtrooms/Outstation entries therefore the number in this table may not equate to the total 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 2019. The data shows that Lay Magistrates' hearings at the main courthouse accounted for the highest share of new matters heard in 2019 with 462 cases or 25.43% of the total. In 2018, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse also accounted for the highest share of new matters heard with 520 cases or 22.56%

of the total. Courtroom number 1 and courtroom number 2 accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 21.02% and 18.55% respectively of the total. When compared to 2018, both courtrooms 1 and 2 were also among the top three highest shares of new cases with 17.27% and 16.83% respectively. In terms of cases disposed of, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main court in Mandeville accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 260 matters, 44 matters or 14.47% fewer than the 304 matters recorded in 2018 and had the second highest case disposal rate of roughly 67.53%. Although the absolute numbers are proportionately low, Lay Magistrates sittings at the Porus outstation and the cottage outstation had the two highest disposal rates for the parish in the quarter with 75% and 72.73% respectively. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 75.23% of the total number of new cases heard during the 2019 period an increase of 3.17 percentage points when compared to the 72.06% recorded in 2018. The remaining 24.77% was accounted for by the various outstations.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in the said room. Of the 382 cases that were heard in courtroom 1, twenty-seven (27) cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. In particular, night court sittings accounted for 15 cases, courtroom two disposed of 5, courtroom three disposed of 3, and the outstation in Porus disposed of 2 cases, while Lay Magistrates sittings and the outstation in Christiana disposed of 1 case each. As it relates to courtroom two, of the 337 cases heard, 19 were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations. Eight (8) cases were disposed of in courtroom one, 5 at night court sittings and the outstations in Cottage and Porus disposed of 2 each while children's court at the main court and children's court in Porus disposed of 1 case each. The night court heard 38 cases of which 8 were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations. In particular, courtroom 3, the outstation in Porus and Lay Magistrates sittings accounted for 2 dispositions each while

courtroom 1 and the outstation in Christiana accounted for 1 each. There were 462 cases heard at Lay Magistrates sittings and of this number, 6 were disposed of in other courtrooms, namely courtroom two which disposed of 3 of these cases and the night court which also disposed of 3 cases. The outstation in Christiana also had cases disposed of in other locations. In particular, 2 were disposed in courtroom 1 while courtrooms 3 and 2 accounted for 1 each, all at the main courthouse. Of the 82 cases heard in courtroom three, 4 were disposed in other courtrooms/outstation. Courtrooms 1 & 2 disposed of 1 each while the outstation in Porus disposed of 2 cases.

**Table 19.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of St. Elizabeth for the 2019 calendar year**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2019</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2019</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2019</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rates (%)</b>
CH-Balaclava (Children's Court)	3	1	0	0.21	33.33
CH-Santa Cruz (Children's Court)	29	24	0	2.01	82.76
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	270	196	10	18.71	76.30
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	38	22	2	2.63	63.16
OA-Balaclava (Lay Magistrates)	12	5	2	0.83	58.33
OB-Balaclava (Courtroom #1)	156	115	9	10.81	79.49
OB-Balaclava (Courtroom #2)	2	2	0	0.14	100.00
OB-Santa Cruz (Night Court)	2	2	0	0.14	100.00
OB-Santa Cruz (Lay Magistrates)	83	42	5	5.75	56.63
OB-Santa Cruz (Courtroom #1)	816	577	39	56.55	75.49
OB-Santa Cruz (Courtroom #2)	32	31	0	2.22	96.88
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>*1443</b>	<b>1017</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75.12</b>

*\*There were 2 missing courtrooms/Outstation entries therefore the number in this table may not equate to the total 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 2019. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation and courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse in Black River accounted for the highest shares of new cases heard in the year, with 56.55% and 18.71% respectively of the total. When compared to the 2018 calendar year both aforementioned courtrooms also accounted for the highest share of new cases heard with 40.57% and 17.95% respectively. This data represents an increase in the share of new cases accounted for by these two courtrooms in 2019 of 15.98 percentage points and approximately 1 percentage point respectively. Courtroom number 1 at the outstation in Balaclava and Lay Magistrates' sittings in Santa Cruz accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the Jan-Dec 2019 period with 10.81% and 5.75% respectively of the total. Although the absolute

numbers are proportionately low, children's court in Santa Cruz and courtroom two at the outstation in Santa Cruz with disposal rates of 96.88% and 82.76% were among those accommodations with the highest disposal rates in 2019. Courtroom 1 at the outstation in Balaclava and Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse in Black River were ranked next with disposal rates of 79.49% and 76.30% respectively. The Santa Cruz outstation accounts for the highest proportion of new cases heard in 2019 with 66.67%, an increase of 14.01 percentage points when compared to the 52.36% recorded in the previous year while main courthouse in Black River accounts for roughly 21.34%. The remaining 11.99% is accounted for by the other outstation courts.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in the said room. Of the 270 cases heard in courtroom one, 28 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms. Twenty-one (21) were disposed at the outstation in Santa Cruz, 6 were disposed at the Balaclava outstation and 1 was disposed of at Lay Magistrates sittings at the Santa Cruz outstation. Of the 156 cases heard in courtroom number 1 in Balaclava, 17 were disposed in other courtrooms, fourteen (14) were disposed of at the Santa Cruz outstation #1, two (2) in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse and 1 at children's court in Balaclava. The Santa Cruz outstation (courtroom number #1) heard 816 cases; of this amount, 16 were disposed in other courtrooms. In particular, twelve (12) were disposed of in courtroom #1 (main court), 3 at children's court in Santa Cruz and 1 case in courtroom number 2 in Santa Cruz.

**Table 19.11: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of Portland for the 2019 calendar year**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2019	Number of new cases disposed of in 2019	Number of inactive cases in 2019	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	59	26	1	5.06	45.76
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	702	481	66	60.26	77.92
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	20	16	0	1.72	80.00
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	4	2	0	0.34	50.00
OA-Buff Bay (courtroom #1)	246	178	12	21.12	77.24
OA-Buff Bay #2 (courtroom #1)	2	1	0	0.17	50.00
OB-Manchioneal	132	92	12	11.33	78.79
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>*1165</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>76.14</b>

*\*There were 133 missing courtrooms/Outstation entries therefore the number in this table may not equate to the total 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 2019. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Port Antonio accounts for the highest share of new matters heard during the year with 60.26% of the total. In 2018, courtroom one also accounted for the highest share of new matters heard with 58.06%. The Buff Bay and Manchioneal outstations with 21.12% and 11.33% respectively of the total number of the new cases heard in the year ranked next. When compared to last calendar year both outstations also ranked second and third, with 18.70% and 11.66% respectively. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 481 cases, and had the third highest case disposal rate of 77.92%. The Manchioneal outstation with a disposal rate of 78.79% and Buff Bay outstation with a rate of 77.24% are among the top five on this measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 32.62% of the new cases heard for the year 2019, 2.62 percentage points above the 30.36% recorded in the 2018 calendar year. The

main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 67.38%, a decline of 2.26 percentage when compared to 2018.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in the said room. Of the 702 cases heard in courtroom one, 65 were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtrooms 2 and 3 disposed of 29 and 26 cases respectively, while night court sittings and the children's court disposed of 2 each. The remaining 6 were disposed at the outstation in Manchioneal. Of the 20 cases heard in courtroom two, six (6) were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtroom 1 and the outstation in Manchioneal disposed of 1 each while courtroom 3 disposed of the remaining 4 cases. Outstation 1 in Buff Bay heard 246 cases and of this number 7 cases were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations, namely, courtrooms 2 and 3 disposed of 2 and 3 cases respectively while a children's court and outstation #2 in Buff Bay disposed of 1 case each. The outstation in Manchioneal heard 132 cases and disposed of 2 cases outside of the said room, one each in courtrooms 1 and 2.

**Table 19.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of St. Ann for the 2019 calendar year**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2019</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2019</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2019</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
<b>ST.ANN'S BAY and the Claremont outstation</b>					
CH-Claremont (Children's Court)	33	18	2	1.54	60.61
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1007	460	154	46.99	60.97
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	329	58	152	15.35	63.83
Night Court (main courthouse)	2	1	0	0.09	50.00
OA-Claremont	100	51	5	4.67	56.00
OA-Claremont (Lay Magistrates')	22	8	5	1.03	59.09
<b>BROWNS TOWN</b>					
Children's Court	18	11	5	0.84	88.89
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	541	218	107	25.24	60.07
Lay Magistrates' Court	91	24	30	4.25	59.34
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>2143</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>61.08</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Ann for 2019. The data shows that courtroom 1 in both the main courthouse in St. Ann’s Bay and the Browns Town Court account for the largest shares of new cases heard in 2019 with 46.99% and 25.24% respectively of the total. The Lay Magistrates sittings in St. Ann’s Bay accounts for the third largest share of new cases heard, with 15.35%. When compared to the 2018 the data shows that courtroom 1 in both St. Ann’s Bay (main court) and Browns Town also accounted for the largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 51.99% and 60.76% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the St. Ann’s Bay Parish Court accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed of with 460 cases, 61 or 15.29% below the 399 matters recorded in the previous year and had the third highest case disposal rate of 60.97%. Cases heard in children’s court in Brown Town with a disposal rate of 88.89% and the Lay Magistrates Court in St. Ann’s Bay with a 63.83% disposal rate accounts for the highest disposal rates in 2019. As a whole, the

Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 30.33% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann in 2019. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 69.67% of the new cases heard in the year, an increase of 2.46 percentage points, up from the 67.21% recorded in 2018. The outstations apart from Brown's Town account for approximately 7.23% of the total.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in the said room. Of the 1,007 cases heard in courtroom 1 (main courthouse), 26 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation, 18 cases were disposed of in courtroom 2, seven (7) at night court sittings and 1 at the Lay Magistrates sittings at the outstation in Claremont. Of the 329 cases heard at Lay Magistrates sitting at the main courthouse, 2 were disposed of at night court.

**Table 19.13: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the parish of Clarendon for the 2019 calendar year**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2019</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2019</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2019</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Children's Court (main courthouse)	75	57	4	3.61	81.33
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	534	365	26	25.67	73.22
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	608	354	105	29.23	75.49
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	92	65	4	4.42	75.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	161	80	57	7.74	85.09
Night Court (main courthouse)	32	27	3	1.54	93.75
OA-Lionel Town	260	176	19	12.50	75.00
OB-Chapleton	245	158	27	11.78	75.51
OC-Frankfield	73	49	5	3.51	73.97
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>2080</b>	<b>1331</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>76.01</b>

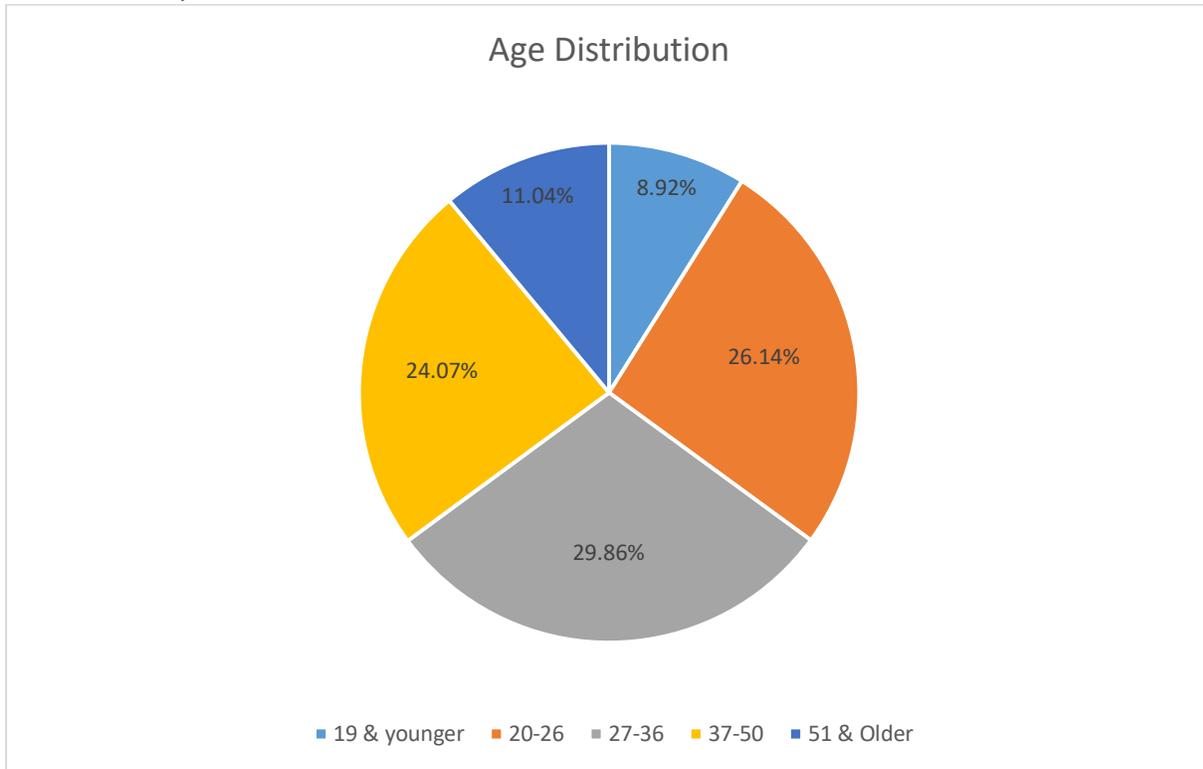
The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Clarendon for 2019. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 2 in May Pen accounted for the highest share of new matters heard in the year, with 29.23% of the total. Courtroom number 1 in May Pen and the Lionel Town outstation accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in 2019 with 25.67% and 12.50% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 365 cases, 35 cases fewer than the 330 disposed cases recorded for this courtroom in the 2018. However, this courtroom had the lowest case disposal rate of 73.22%. Night court (93.75%), Lay Magistrates sittings (85.09%) and children’s court (81.33%) were among the highest disposal rates in the parish for 2019. An estimated 27.79% of new cases heard in Clarendon during the Jan.-Dec 2019 period occurred at the outstation locations with the remaining 72.21% taking place in the main court in May Pen.

When compared to the 2018 calendar year the outstations accounted for 27.79% of new cases heard, while the main court accounted for the remaining 72.21%.

As mentioned not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 608 cases heard in courtroom 2, there were 7 cases disposed in other courtrooms, four (4) cases were disposed of in courtroom one, 2 were disposed at night court and one (1) was disposed of at Lay Magistrates' sittings. Of the 534 cases heard in courtroom number 1, one was disposed of in courtroom 2 and the outstation in Lionel Town, while the remaining 2 were disposed of at night court. Of the 92 cases heard in courtroom number 3 there were 2 cases disposed of in other courtrooms. In particular, one (1) case was disposed in courtroom 1 and 1 was disposed of at night court sittings.

This subsection now turns to an examination of gender and age distribution for cases filed across the parish courts as a whole in 2019 as well as the breakdown of the police stations and related entities from which cases have originated in each parish.

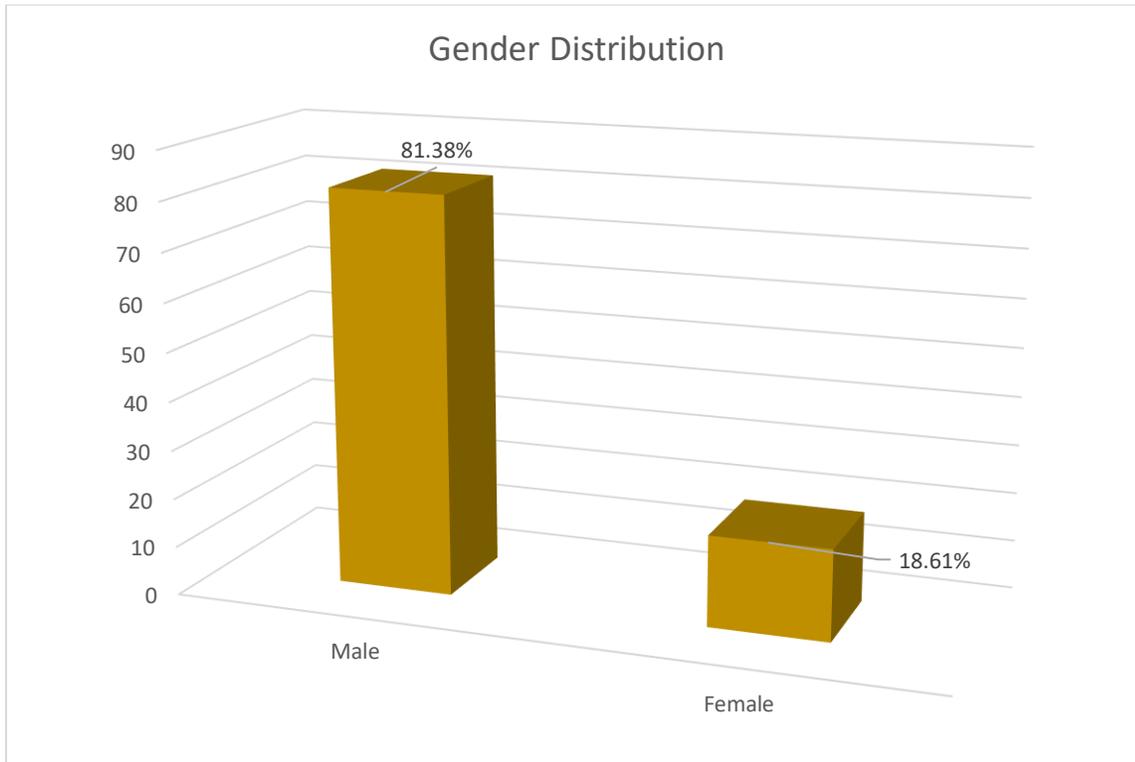
**Chart 3.0: Aggregate age distribution of offenders for all parish courts for the year ended December 31, 2019**



The above chart shows that of the total number of offenders, for which age data was readily available for the 2019 calendar year; the largest proportion, 29.86% were from the 27-36 age cohorts. This category is followed by the 20-26 age group with 26.14%, the 37-50 age group with 24.07% and the oldest age cohorts 51 and over category accounting for 11.04%.

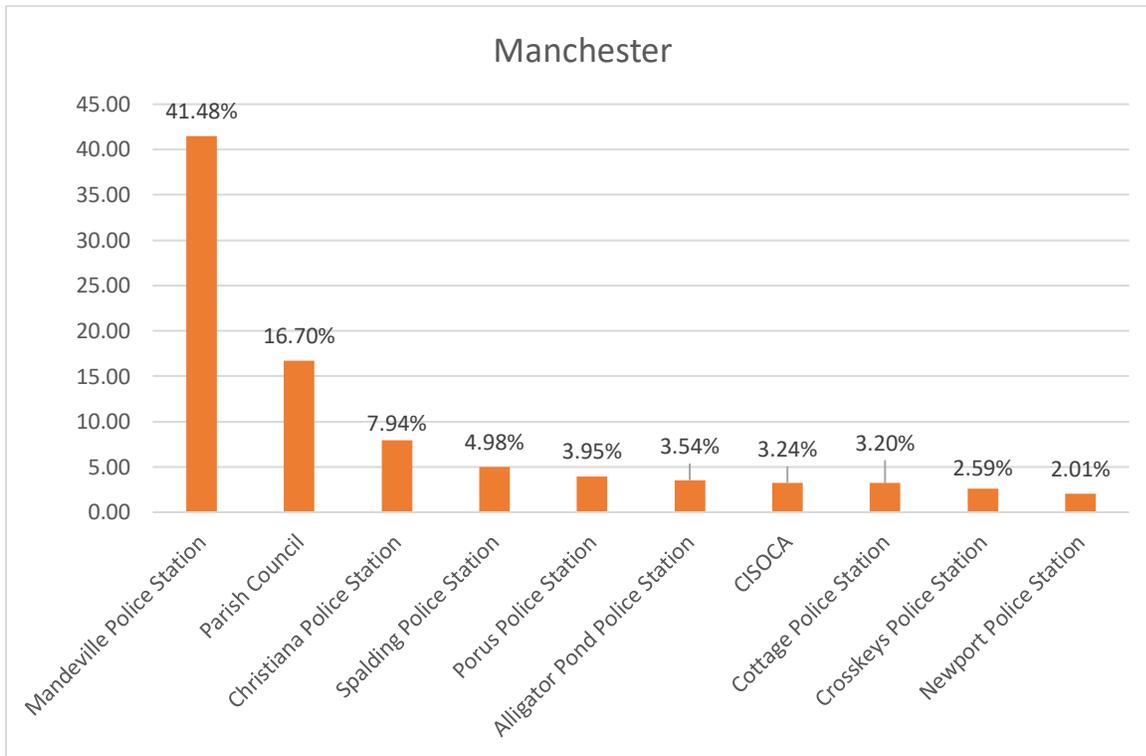
The youngest age cohort in the distribution accounted for the lowest proportions with the 19 years and younger accounting for 8.92% and of total offenders.

**Chart 4.0: Aggregate gender distribution of offenders for the year ended December 31, 2019**



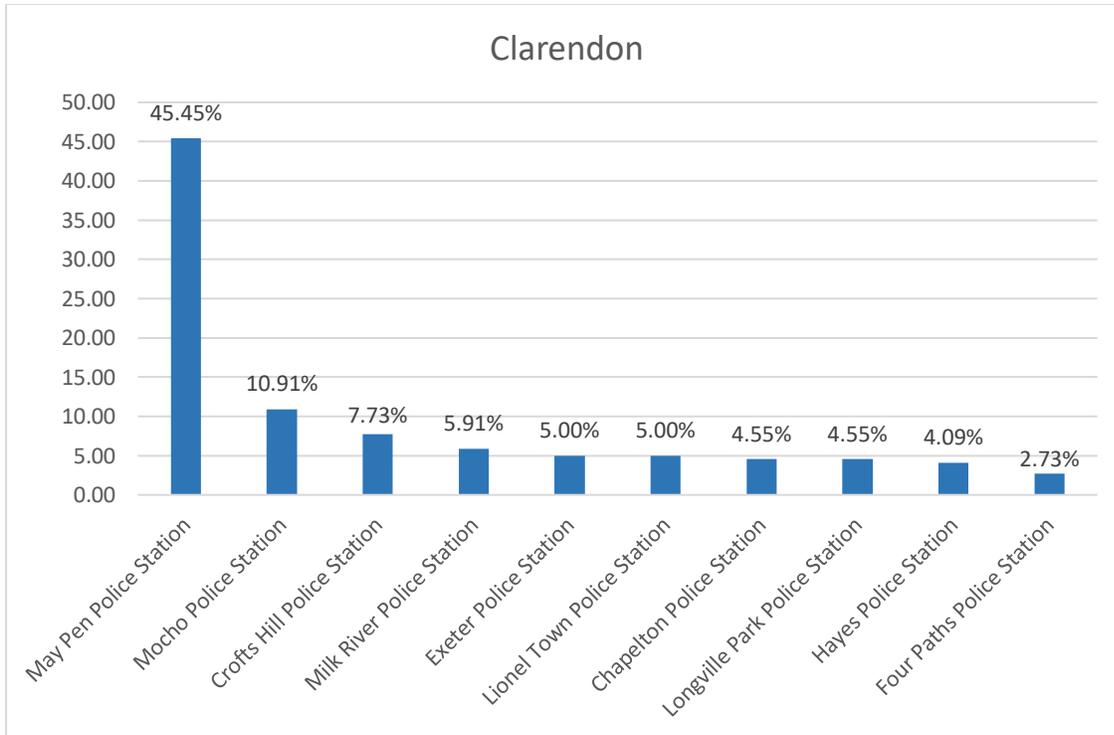
The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of offenders for the 2019 calendar year were male, accounting for roughly 81.38% of the total while females accounted for approximately 18.61%.

**Chart 5.0: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019**



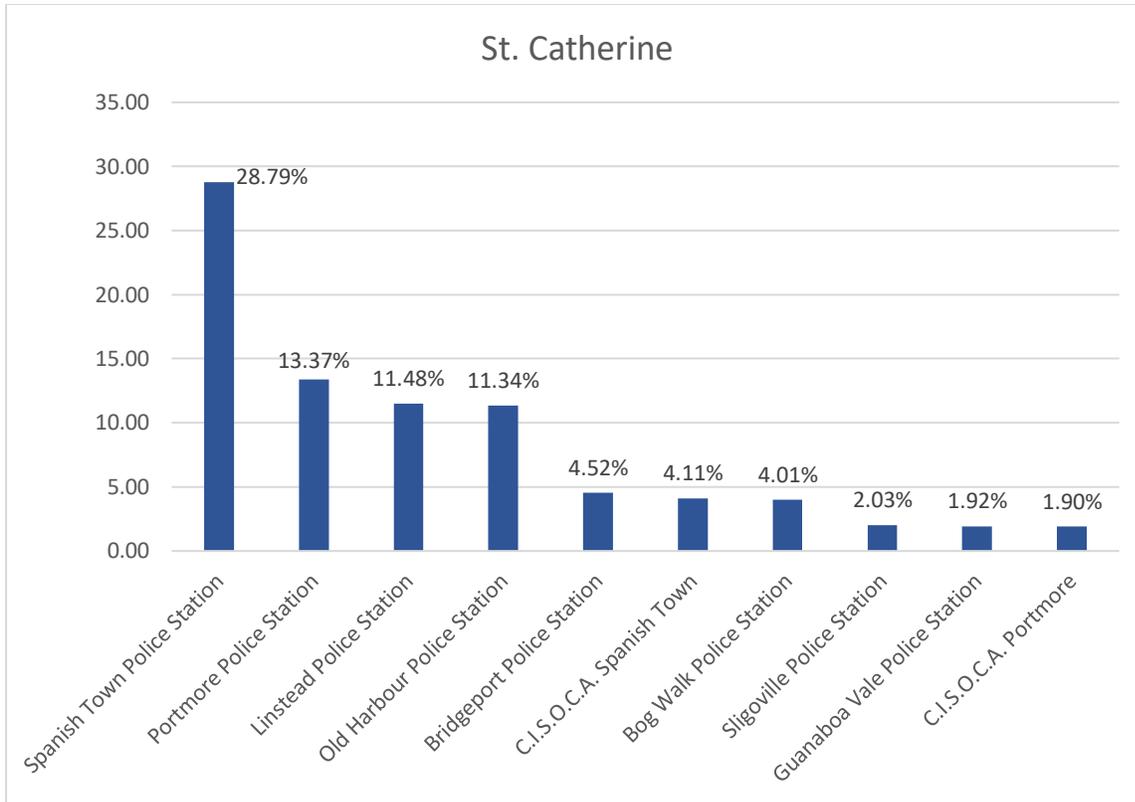
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Manchester Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 832 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 42.19%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Parish Council which accounts for 18.75% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the CISOCA with 5.89%. In the previous quarter, the top three was comprised of the Mandeville Police Station, the Parish Council and the Christiana Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 5.1: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019**



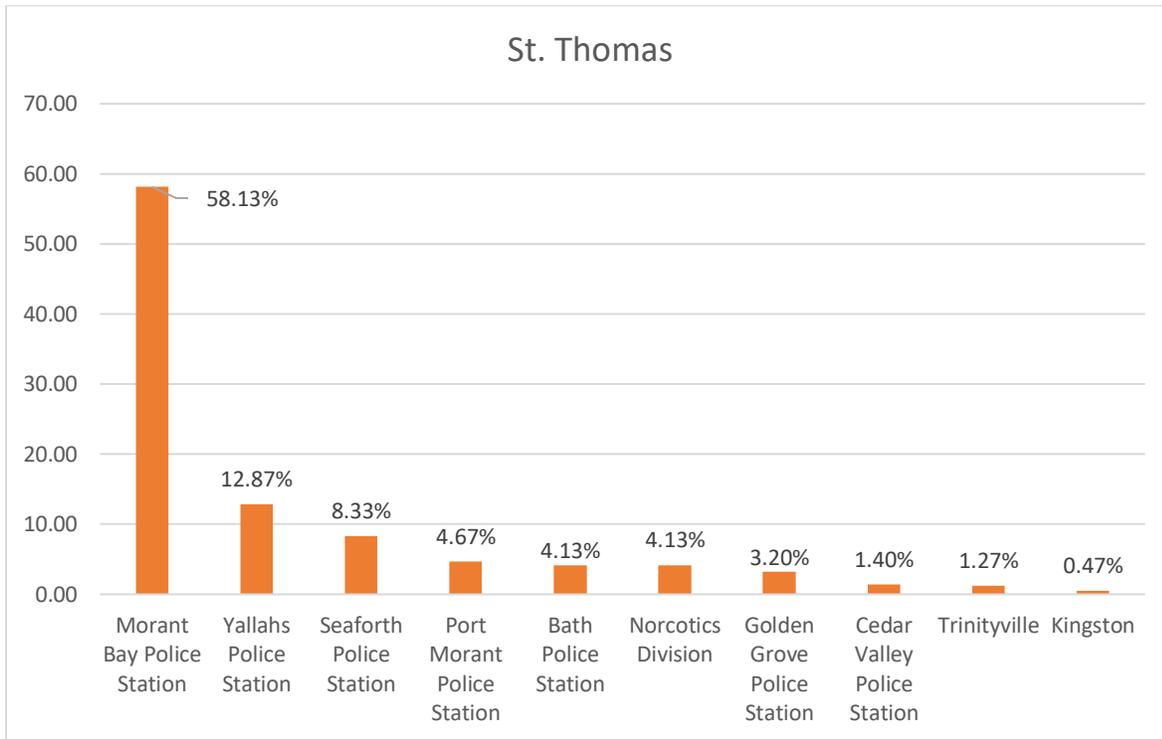
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 220 records indicate that for the 2019 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 45.45%, which were brought before the Court were reported in May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Mocho Police Station which accounts for 10.91% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Crofts Hill Police with 7.73%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 5.2: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019**



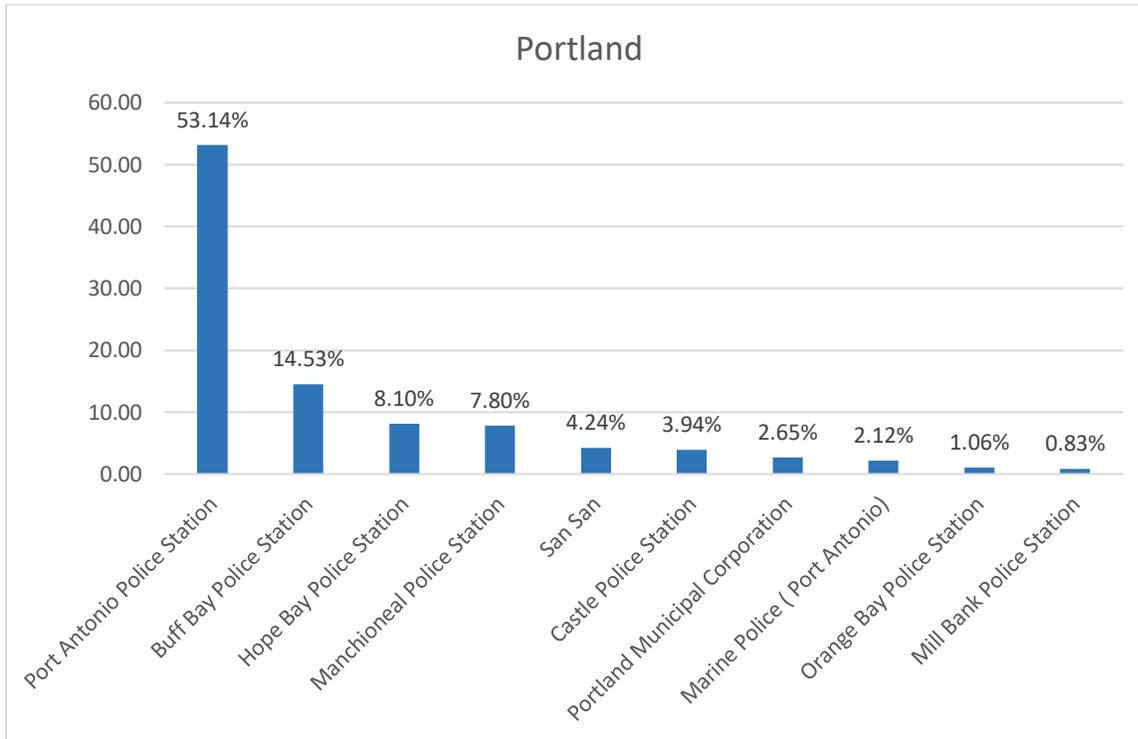
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 5617 records indicate that for the 2019 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 28.79%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Spanish Town Police Station. The Portmore Police Station, which accounts for 13.37% of total matters reported, followed this. The top three was rounded off by the Linstead Town Police Station with 11.48%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 5.3: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019**



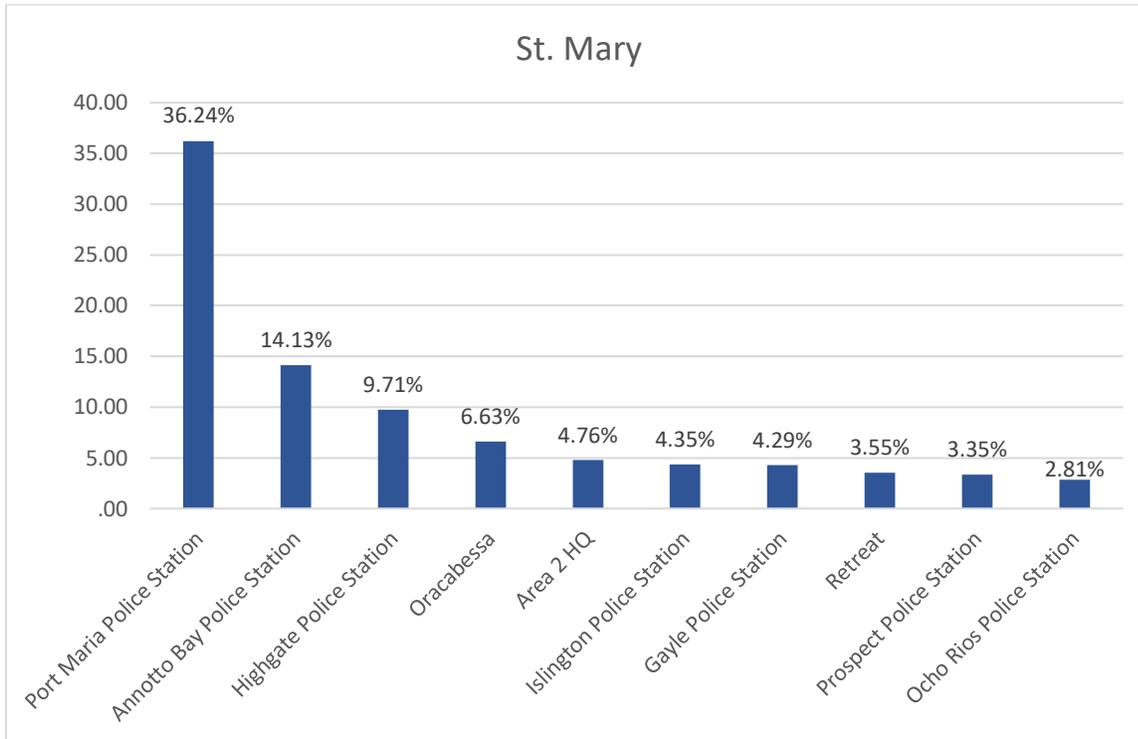
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1500 records indicate that for the 2019 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 58.13%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Yallahs Police Station, which accounts for 12.87% of total matters reported. The Seaforth Police Station rounded off the top three with 8.33%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 5.4: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019**



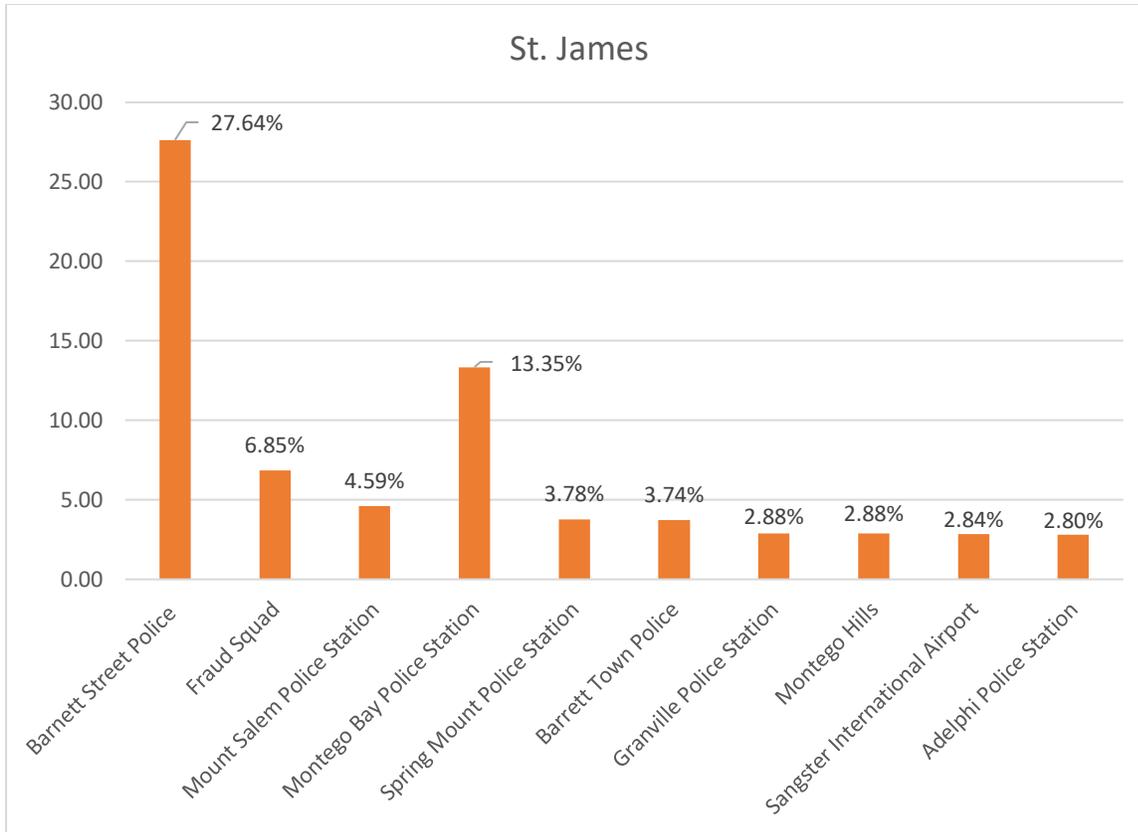
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Portland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1321 records indicate that the 2019 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 53.14%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Buff Bay Police Station, which accounts for 14.53% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Hope Bay Police with 8.28%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 5.5: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019**



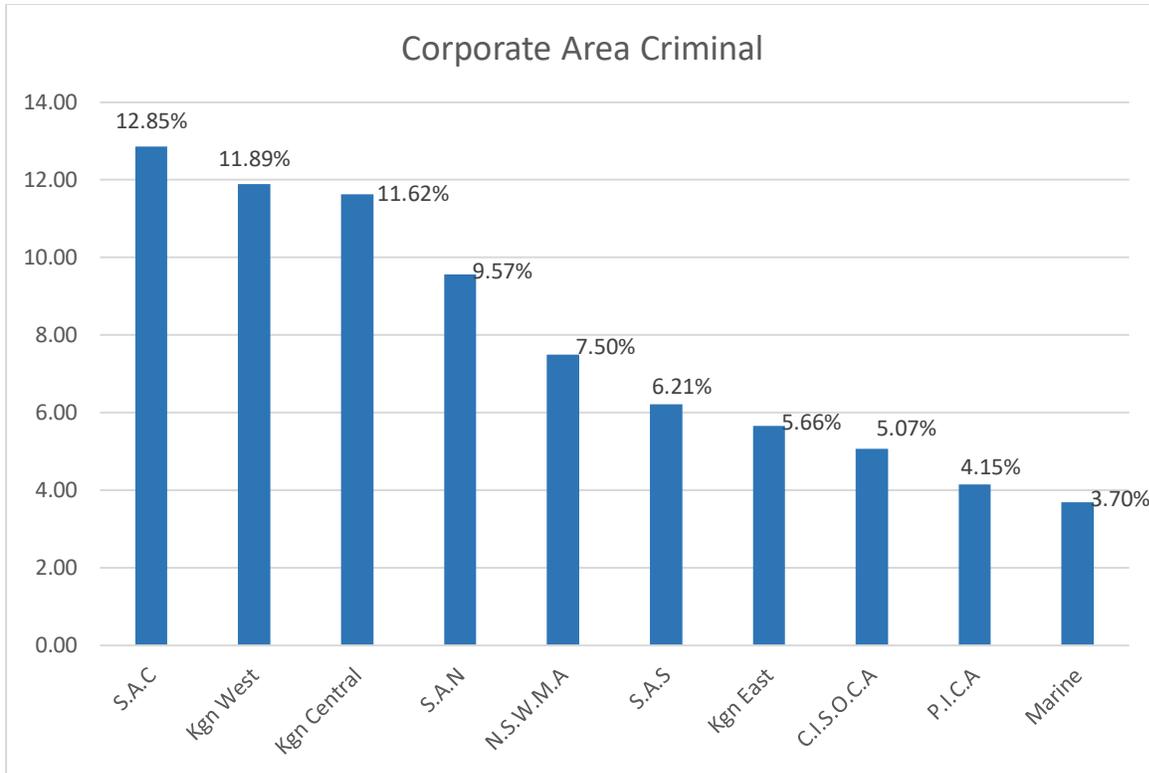
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1493 records indicate that for the 2019 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 36.24%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Annotto Bay Police Station, which accounts for 14.13% of total matters reported. The Highgate Police rounded off the top three with 9.71%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 5.6: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019**



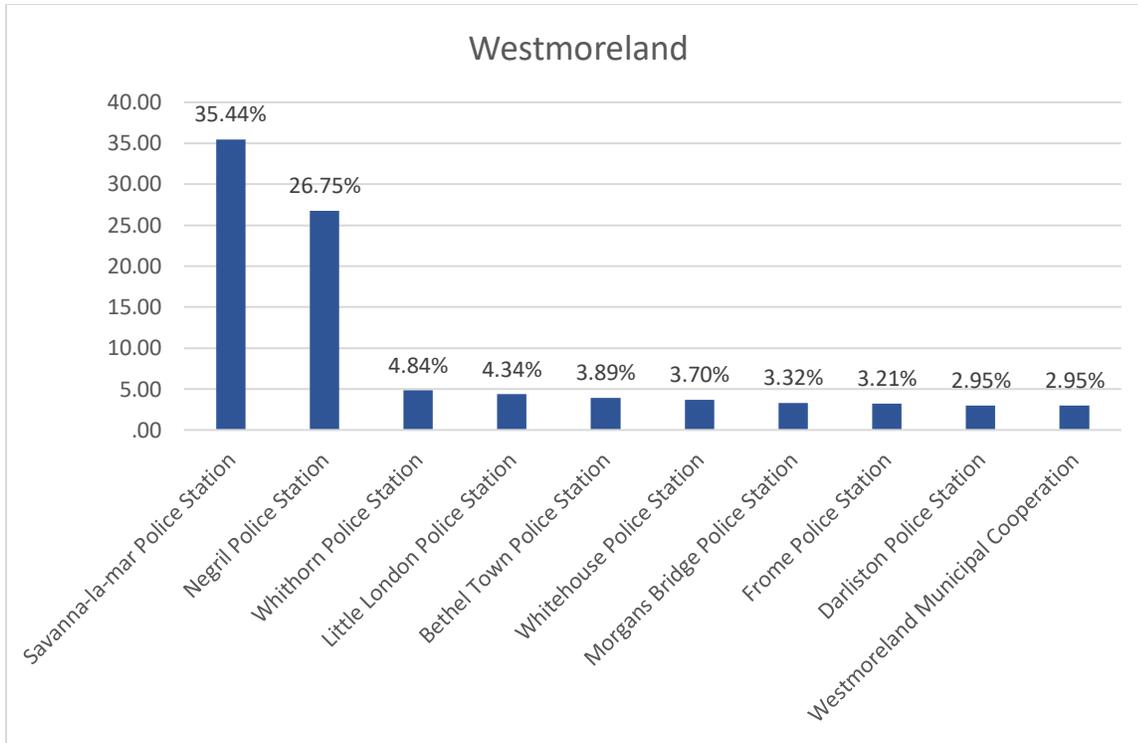
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. James Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 2569 records indicate that for the 2019 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 27.64%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Barnett Street Police Station. This was followed by the Fraud Squad Police Station, which accounts for 6.85% of total matters reported. The Mount Salem Police Station rounded off the top three with 4.59%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 5.7: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019**



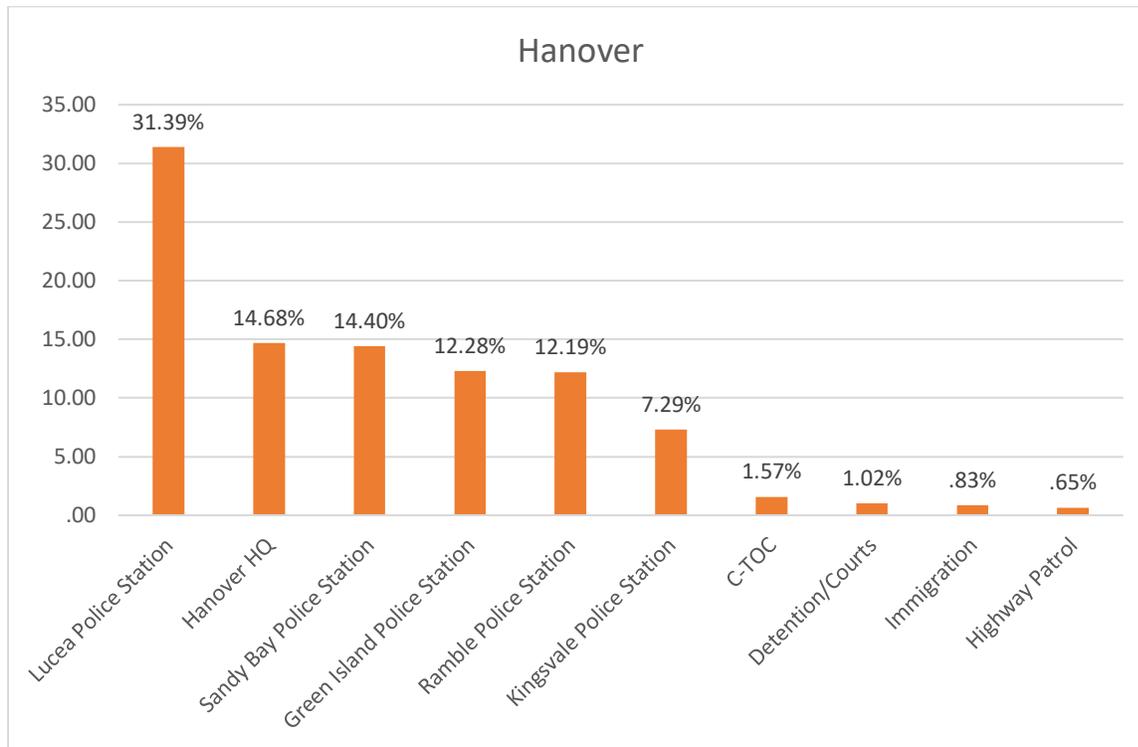
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 10197 records indicate that for the 2019 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 12.85%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in St. Andrew Central Police Station. This was followed by the Kingston West Police Station, which accounts for 11.89% of total matters reported. The Kingston Central Police rounded off the top three with 11.62%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 5.8: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019**



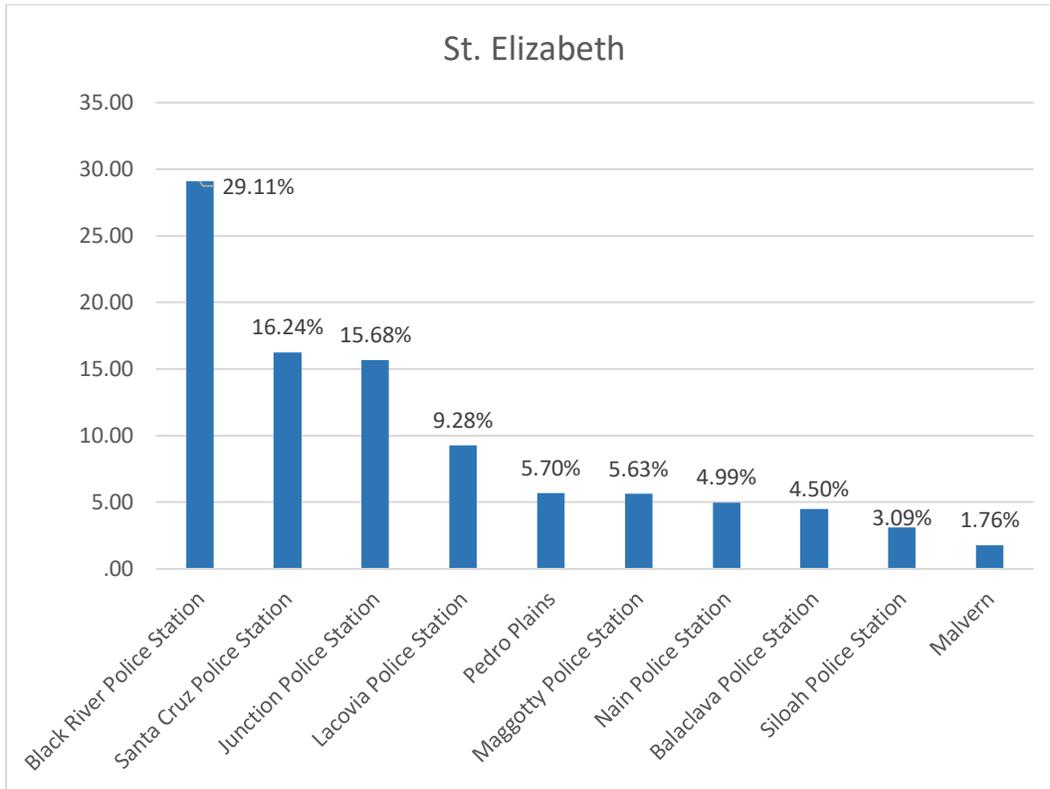
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Westmoreland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 2647 records indicate that for the 2019 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 35.44%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Savanna-la-mar Police Station. This was followed by the Negril Police Station, which accounts for 26.75% of total matters reported. The Whithorn Police Station rounded off the top three with 4.84%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 5.9: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019**



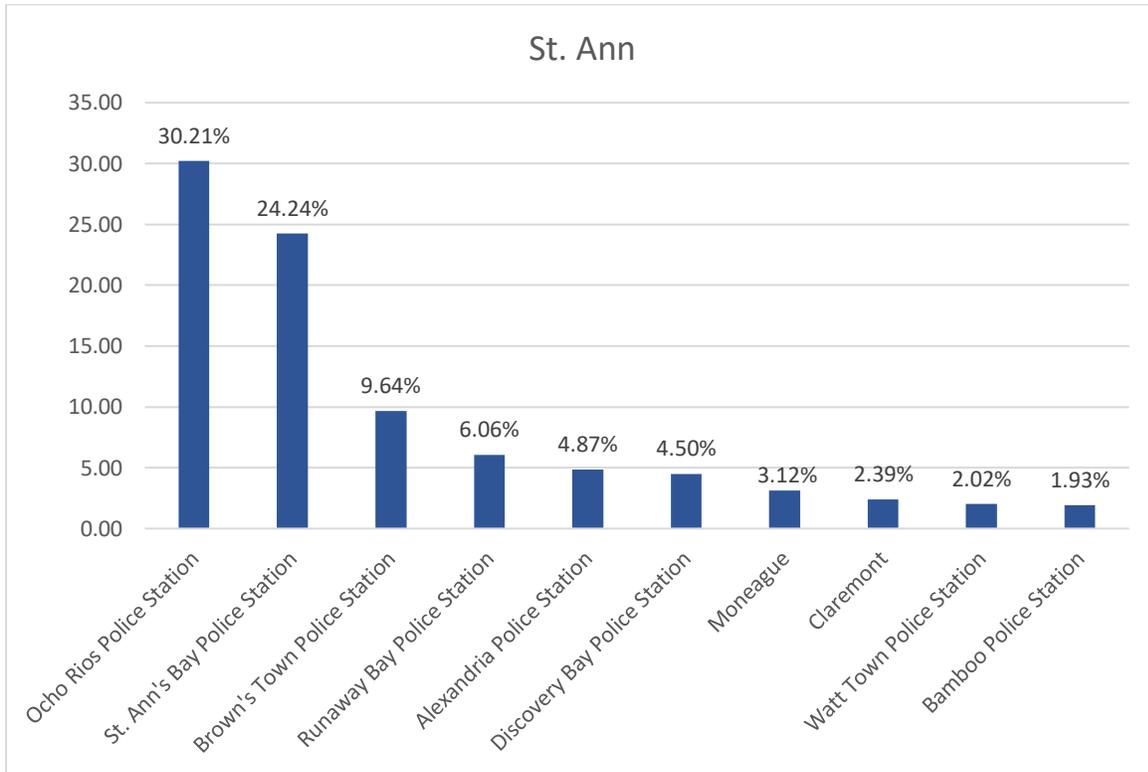
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Hanover Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1083 records indicate that for the 2019 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 31.39%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Hanover Headquarters, which accounts for 14.68% of total matters reported. The Sandy Bay Police rounded off the top three with 14.40%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 5.10: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019**



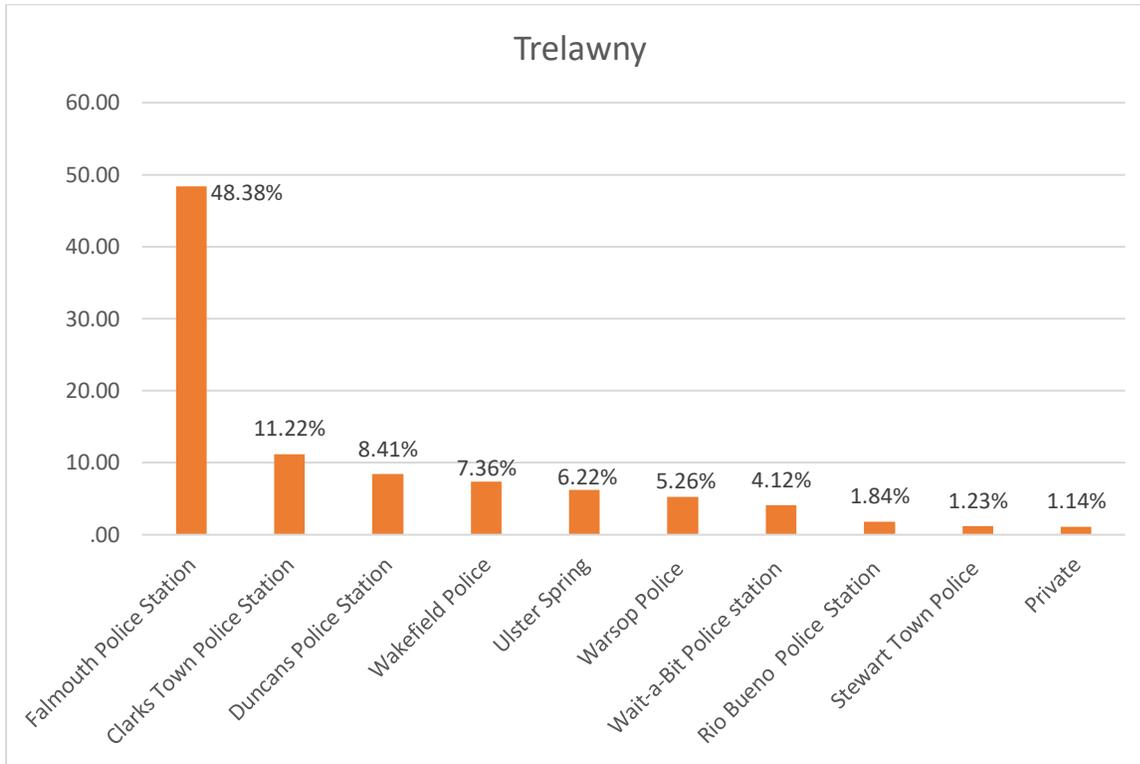
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1422 records indicate that the 2019 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 29.11%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Black River Police Station. This was followed by the Santa Cruz Police Station, which accounts for 16.24% of total matters reported. Junction Police Station rounded off the top three with 15.68%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 5.11: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019**



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1089 records indicate that for the 2019 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 30.21%, which were brought before the court, were reported in Ocho Rios Police Station. This was followed by the St. Ann's Bay Police Station, which accounts for 24.24% of total matters reported. The Brown's Town Police rounded off the top three with 9.64%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 5.12: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019**



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Trelawny Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1141 records indicate that as at December 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 48.38%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by Clarks Town Police Station, which accounts for 11.22% of total matters reported. The Duncan’s Police Station rounded off the top three with 8.41%. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

## Conclusion

The parish courts of Jamaica made considerable strides in 2019 in setting a solid foundation towards attaining the mission set out by the Honourable Chief Justice of becoming the best court system in the Caribbean region within three years and among the best in the world in six years. The key quantitative pivots of this mission rests on attaining a case backlog rate of under 5%, which depends on simultaneously meeting the targets of a 130% court-wide clearance rate and a trial date certainty rate of 95% across the court system. The Chief Justice has set out a range of operational interventions geared towards improving the overall productivity of the judiciary and the consequent attainment of the quantitative targets outlined.

Among the most noteworthy strides made by the criminal division of the parish courts in 2019 are the improvements in the case clearance and case disposal rates, both crucial indicators of how well the courts are managing their caseload. Eleven of the thirteen parish courts met or exceeded the international standard for case clearance rate in 2019, led by the parish courts of St. Mary (125.64%), St. Catherine (111.49%) and Portland (109.01%). The overall case clearance rate in the parish courts for 2019 was 101.60%, suggesting that for every 100 new cases filed across the courts, 102 cases were disposed. This represented an improvement of 7.29 percentage points when compared to 2018. The overall case disposal rate across the parish courts in 2019 was 73.75%, an increase of 2.83 percentage points when compared to 2018. Although there is no prescribed international standard for the case clearance rate, 70% is usually considered acceptable. The parish courts of St. Catherine (81.75%), Westmoreland (80.14%) and St. Mary (78.13%) were the leaders on this measure. In general, these combined

results indicate that the parish courts disposed of a larger share of both new and brought forward cases in 2019, thereby showing early promising signs in the drive to bolster productivity in the court system. The generally improved outcomes over the past two years are further reflected in the fact that, from the stock of cases filed since 2016, which were disposed, an estimated 41.11% were disposed within 90 days of filing while an estimated 63.43% were disposed within 6 months. If the current trend continues, these figures will progressively improve over the coming few years, resulting in a significant reduction in the case backlog rate across the courts and thus creating a more effective and efficient judiciary.

The progress being made by the parish courts with another important metric – the trial date certainty rate is less impressive, averaging 70% in 2019, a decline of roughly 11 percentage points when compared to 2018. The management of case readiness across the parish courts bears a strong correlation with the trial date certainty rates, as does the case file integrity rate in the long run. Although there are some reasons for adjournment which are outside of the court's direct control, continuously improving the case management and records management apparatuses will contribute appreciably to improving the trial date certainty rate. Sustainable improvements in this measure however requires a scientific approach to case scheduling which will in turn facilitate more robust and proactive case management practices. The expected introduction of the Judicial Case Management System (JCMS) throughout the courts will go a far way towards providing the depth needed in this area. The effects of deficits in case management is seen by the high incidence of adjournments across the courts as a whole, though strides are being made in this area. The case file integrity rate across the parish courts in 2019 was 93.40%, shy of the minimum prescribed international benchmark of 98%

but showing good signs of progress, climbing by 3 percentage points when compared to 2018. Missing and incomplete files have historically ranked high among the reasons for adjournment across most parish courts so if the progress observed is sustained, the trial date certainty rate will be positively impacted in the medium term.

The overall case congestion rate of 146.17% in 2019 is an indication that the parish courts as a whole are carrying roughly 46% more cases than their existing rate of clearance and implied state of resources would suggest that they are capable of carrying. The rate for all parish courts was over 100% in 2019. In order for the parish courts to make deep cuts in the case congestion rate the current rate of annual improvement in the case clearance rates will have to be sustained or improved. If such trend is sustained for the next 4-6 years, the parish courts can become near backlog free and the overall average case congestion rate will tend towards the ideal standard of 100%.

One variable, which can undoubtedly make a positive impact on the case congestion rate, the case clearance rate, the case congestion rate and the trial date certainty rate, is by improving the courtroom utilization rates. The report reveals that the overall courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in 2019 was 59.85% while the rate for night court matters was 51.55%. This means that about 3 in every 6 hours available for courtroom usage in the parish courts are actually utilized. Re-engineering the case scheduling apparatus in the parish courts can contribute appreciably to increasing this figure and thus facilitate further gains in the case clearance rate and other essential metrics.

Taken together, the statistics suggests that the parish of St. Mary, St. Catherine, St. James, Westmoreland and Portland are the top five performing criminal courts across the parish courts in 2019. With the current trend seen in the parish courts, there is a reasonable chance that the parish courts will meet the quantitative targets set out in the Chief Justice's Strategic Plan for the judiciary over the course of the next 4-5 years.

### **Recommendations**

Strong case management, stakeholder engagement and efficient use of available resources is at the heart the productivity of any modern court system. The clear vision set out by the Honourable Chief Justice for the next 3-5 years is for the court system to become highly efficient, delivering decisions and judgments to the public in a timely and effective manner. As it is a well-established fact that a strong judicial system is positively correlated with economic growth and development all over the world, the benefits of creating a first class judicial system are vast.

As the parish courts continue to make solid progress towards improving overall productivity, one of the main areas, which require continuous strengthening, is case management. Indeed, the required improvements in both hearing and trial date certainty rates across the parish courts are heavily conditional on improving the case management and scheduling apparatus. To accomplish this task, the pursuit of differentiated case management where cases are allocated to Judges and courtrooms based on relative complexity and required time is a path to consider. This is especially pertinent with the expected introduction of the Judicial Case Management System (JCMS) into the courts, which brings sophisticated scheduling capabilities, including Advanced Intelligent (AI) scheduling which allows for parameters such

as case age, case type, sequencing and other variables to be programmed and used to influence case allocation. These provisions are expected to radically improve scheduling in the courts, allowing for the vast majority of cases to be given specific appointments. Improved stakeholder engagement with the police, the medical services and the defense attorneys are also vital as they contribute to a sizeable share of total adjournments within the courts.

Many of the stronger performing courts utilize mediation facilities such as the Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) to a great extent in diverting cases and expediting disposition. There is also growing use of Restorative Justice Centres across the island. The data suggests that the increased use of these channels by the courts can considerably improve the use of judicial time in the short to medium term. Many of the better performing courts also do a fair job in managing the movement and storage of files amidst varying degrees of severity in space resource constraints. It is recommended that dedicating resources to improving the physical file storage spaces across the courts be made a priority item across the courts.

### Glossary of Statistical Terms

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

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

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

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

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

**Trial/hearing date certainty:** This is the proportion of dates set for trial or hearing which proceed without adjournment. For example, if 100 trial dates are set in a particular Term and 40 are adjourned, then the trial certainty rate would be 60%. The international standard for this measure is between 92% and 100%.

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

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

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

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

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

**Skewness:** This is measure of the distribution of scores in a data set. It gives an idea of where the larger proportion of the scores in a data set can be found. Generally, if skewness is positive

as revealed by a positive value for this measure, this suggests that a greater proportion of the scores in the data set are at the lower end. If the skewness is negative as revealed by a negative value for this measure, it generally suggests that a greater proportion of the scores are at the higher end. If the skewness measure is approximately 0, then there is roughly equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

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

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

**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.

---

<sup>i</sup> Source:

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

<sup>ii</sup> Source:

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

