

Joe D. (Drug Offense)

26 of every 100 inmates leaving state prison in FY 2017 had sentences for a drug offense.

Who is the typical offender? To promote discussion of the common rather than the extreme case, SPAC analyzed the most common characteristics of people leaving state prison from July 2016 to June 2017 (fiscal year 2017) for each type of crime. SPAC used people exiting prison to be able to accurately reflect their length of stay and recidivism patterns. The analysis uses the most common, average, and median (50th percentile) metrics to produce a hypothetical Joe D. with a composite offender's experience.

Who is the average drug offender coming out of state prison?

Joe D. is a 36-year-old, black male, born in Illinois. He considers himself single and reported to the Illinois Department of Corrections that he completed high school.

- 11 of every 100 drug offenders released in FY 2017 were women.
- 65 were black, 27 white, and 7 Hispanic.
- 85 were born in Illinois.
- 16 of every 100 drug offenders were younger than 25 and 5 were above 55.
- Most reported being single like D., but 13 reported being married and 6 divorced.
- D. might have exaggerated on his education, but he probably completed at least half of high school (42 of every 100 reported completing high school or obtaining a GED, 40 completed less than that, and 17 were missing education-level data).

Before this incident, Joe D. had **6 arrests for felonies, 7 arrests for misdemeanors, and 6 arrests for unknown or petty offenses**. 4 of these arrests were for property offenses, 6 were drug offenses, and 3 were violent offenses.

- From those 19 arrests, D. had **3 felony** convictions and 2 misdemeanor or petty offense convictions, including **2 drug offenses, 1 violent** offense, and **1 property** offense.

What was his sentence?

Joe D. was **sentenced in 2016 to 1 year, 8 months for Class 4 Possession of a Controlled Substance**.

- For all drug offenders who were convicted of higher felony classes (Class 3 or above), the average sentence was 4.5 years in prison.
- Data do not show whether there was a plea agreement.
- 48 of every 100 drug offenders were sentenced for a possession of a controlled substance (typically Class 4 felony) while 44 were sentenced for manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance (typically Class 1 or 2).
- 22 of every 100 drug offenders exiting prison in FY 2017 had been re-incarcerated for violating the conditions of their mandatory supervised release (MSR, commonly known as "parole").
- D. was one of the 45 of every 100 drug offenders held on a Class 4 felony
 - o 8 were held on Class 3 felonies.
 - o 19 were held on Class 2 felonies.
 - o 21 were held on Class 1 felonies.
 - o 7 were held on Class X felonies.
- D. was typically not limited in good-time credits under truth-in-sentencing laws.

How long was he incarcerated?

After being arrested in 2016, Joe D. spent **145 days (5 months) in jail** prior to sentencing (median).

D. spent **11 months in state prison** (median).

D. was **released from Stateville CC** in FY 2017 after a **total of 1 year, 4 months in prison and jail**.

- 20 out of every 100 drug offenders were released from Stateville (maximum security).
- 7 offenders were released from adult transition centers or electronic monitoring.
- Individuals are typically released on a Friday.

D. was released on **Mandatory Supervised Release**. Past trends show that, by June 2020 (3 years from release), D. is likely to be **rearrested twice**.

- Most likely to be rearrested for a drug offense.
- 33 out of the 100 drug offenders will be convicted within 3 years, most often for a drug offense.
- 17 of every 100 drug offenders released in 2017 will be returned to prison for violating conditions of supervised release, for which they will serve the remainder of the supervision period before being fully discharged.