

## Jane Conviction (Female Felony Offender)

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**17 of every 100 individuals convicted of felonies in 2017 were women.**

**Who is the typical offender?** To promote discussion of the common rather than the extreme case, SPAC analyzed the most common characteristics of people convicted of a felony offense in 2017. SPAC looked at convictions to capture a more accurate depiction of the average offender, most of whom (57%) did not get sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections.

### **Who is the average woman offender?**

Jane Conviction (C.) is a 32-year-old, white woman, who was arrested in Cook County.

- 58 were white, 36 black, 5 Hispanic, and 1 identified as another race.
- 31 were arrested in Cook County, 29 in rural counties, 25 in urban counties, and 14 in the collar counties.
- 22 were under the age of 25 when arrested on this case and 3 were over the age of 55.
- Statewide administrative data do not describe personal characteristics of Jane C., making it impossible to describe her education, employment, and other important aspects of her life.

### **What is Jane C.'s criminal history prior to this case?**

Before this arrest, Jane C. had 8 prior arrests, 2 felonies, 4 misdemeanors, and 2 unknown or other.

- While the average is 8, the median, or 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, of prior arrests for women offenders is 5.<sup>1</sup>
- 37 were first arrested before turning 19 years old, 1 had her first arrest after the age of 55.
- Those prior arrests consisted of 3 property-related offenses, 2 other arrests, 1 person-related offense, and 1 drug-related arrest.

Those 8 prior arrests resulted in 2 convictions for Jane C., including 1 felony and 1 misdemeanor.

- 22 women offenders had prior prison sentences, 47 had prior probation sentences, 26 had a prior conditional discharge disposition, and 40 had a jail sentence.<sup>2</sup>

### **For what is Jane C. arrested and convicted?**

Jane C. was arrested for either retail theft or possession of a controlled substance, both Class 4 felonies.

- 8 of 100 women arrested and convicted were arrested for a Class X felony, 9 for a Class 1, 14 for a Class 2, 23 for a Class 3, 30 for a Class 4, and 14 were arrested but had no felony charge in the data.
- Statewide administrative data do not include the precise type or amount of controlled substance. The data also do not describe the dollar value of stolen property.

Jane C. was convicted of either possession of a controlled substance or retail theft, both Class 4 felonies.

- As the cases progressed through the system, retail theft charges were slightly less likely to result in conviction than possession of a controlled substance.
- Of every 100 women offenders, 2 were convicted for Murder or a Class X felony, 7 for a Class 1, 18 for a Class 2, 30 for Class 3, and 43 for a Class 4 felony.

### **What is her sentence?**

Jane C. was sentenced to 2 years of probation and given 44 days credit for time served prior to sentencing.

- 22 of 100 were sentenced to prison, typically for 2.5 years.
- The best available statewide administrative data show that the 43 who received fines were charged \$1,207.

### **What will happen to Jane C. after her conviction?**

Past trends show that by December 2020, 3 years after the guilty disposition, 61 of 100 women offenders will likely be rearrested and 29 will likely have new convictions. Jane C. will most likely be rearrested and reconvicted for a property offense. Of women offenders sentenced to IDOC, 61 will likely be rearrested and 22 will be reconvicted of a new crime within three years of exiting prison.

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<sup>1</sup> The average number of prior arrests is influenced heavily by a small percentage of offenders with many prior arrests, leading to a high average number of prior arrests.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers are not mutually exclusive; one case may have multiple sentences imposed.