

Joe Drug Conviction (Felony Drug Offense)

30 of every 100 individuals convicted of felonies in 2017 were convicted of drug crimes.

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 drug offender?

Joe Drug Conviction (D.C.) is a 31-year-old, black male, who was arrested in Cook County.

- For every 100 drug offenders convicted in 2017, 81 were male and 19 were female.
- 50 were black, 43 white, 6 Hispanic, and 1 identified as another race.
- 45 were arrested in Cook County, 25 rural counties, 18 in urban counties, and 12 in the collar counties.
- 26 were under the age of 25 when arrested on this case and 4 were over the age of 55.
- Statewide administrative data do not describe personal characteristics of Joe D.C., making it impossible to describe his education, employment, and other important aspects of his life.

What is Joe D.C.'s criminal history prior to this case?

Before this arrest, Joe D.C. had 12 prior arrests, 4 felonies, 5 misdemeanors, and 4 unknown or other.

- 58 were first arrested before turning 19 years old, 1 had his first arrest after the age of 55.
- While the average is 12, the median, or 50th percentile, of prior arrests for drug offenders is 8.¹
- Those prior arrests consisted of 4 drug-related arrests, 3 property-related arrests, 3 arrests for crimes categorized as other, and 2 person-related arrests.

Those 12 prior arrests resulted in 3 convictions for Joe D.C., including 2 felonies and 1 misdemeanor.

- Joe D.C.'s prior convictions included 1 drug offense and 1 property offense.

39 drug offenders had a prior prison sentence, 50 had prior probation sentences, 25 had a prior conditional discharge disposition, and 45 had a prior jail sentence.²

For what is Joe D.C. arrested and convicted?

Joe D.C. was arrested for a Class 4, possession of a controlled substance offense.

- 22 of 100 individuals arrested and convicted of drug law violations were arrested for a Class X felony, 15 for a Class 1, 9 for a Class 2, 12 for a Class 3, 34 for a Class 4, and 9 were arrested but had no felony charge in the data.
- Statewide administrative data do not describe the precise type or amount of controlled substance that Joe D.C. possessed.

Joe D.C. was convicted of a Class 4, possession of a controlled substance offense.

- Of every 100 drug offenders, 6 were convicted for a Class X felony, 17 for a Class 1, 11 for a Class 2, 15 for a Class 3, and 51 for a Class 4 felony.

What is his sentence?

Joe D.C. was sentenced to 2 years of probation and given 82 days credit for time served prior to sentencing.

- 41 of 100 were sentenced to prison, typically for 2.5 years.
- The best available statewide administrative data show that the 28 who received fines and fees were charged \$1,620.

What will happen to Joe D.C. after his conviction?

Past trends show that by December 2020, 3 years after the guilty disposition, 67 of 100 drug offenders will be rearrested and 33 will have new convictions. Joe D.C. will most likely be rearrested and reconvicted for another drug offense. Of drug offenders sentenced to IDOC, 67 will likely be rearrested and 33 will be reconvicted within three years of exiting prison.

¹ 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.

² Numbers are not mutually exclusive; one case may have multiple sentences.