

Joe E. (Elderly Felon)

6 of every 100 inmates leaving prison in FY 2017 were over the age of 60.

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 E. with a composite offender's experience.

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

E. is a 61-year-old, black male, born in Illinois. He considers himself single and reported to the Illinois Department of Corrections that he finished high school or obtained a GED.

- 6 of every 100 elderly offenders released in FY 2017 were over 60 years old.
- 61 were black, 32 white, and 7 Hispanic.
- 67 were born in Illinois.
- 43 reported being single like E., but 22 reported being married and 23 divorced.
- E. may have exaggerated on his education, but he probably completed high school (55 of every 100 reported completing high school or obtaining a GED, 33 completed less than that, and 12 were missing education-level data).

Before this incident, E. had at least **6 prior felony arrests** and **7 prior misdemeanor arrests**, as well as 11 arrests for unknown or petty offenses, 5 were for violent offenses, 11 were property, and 4 were drug offenses.

- From those 24 arrests, E. has been convicted of **4 felonies** and **2 misdemeanors**. 1 of the convictions was for a **violent** offense, 3 were for **property** offenses and 1 was for a **drug** offense.

What was his sentence?

E. most likely received a **Theft** or **Controlled Substance Possession** sentence in FY 2016, a **Class 4 felony**.

- E. was sentenced to **1 and a half years in prison** on a Class 4 felony; for all elderly inmates released on Class 3 or higher felonies, the average sentence length was 6 years
- Data do not show whether there was a plea agreement.
- 13 of every 100 elderly offenders were sentenced for theft, 12 for possession of a controlled substance, and 9 for a manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance.
- 25 of every 100 elderly offenders exiting prison had been readmitted for violating the conditions of mandatory supervised release (MSR, commonly known as "parole").
- E. was one of the 34 of every 100 inmates whose highest holding offense class was a Class 4 felony:
 - o 4 were held on first-degree murder.
 - o 11 were held on Class X felonies.
 - o 11 were held on Class 1 felonies.
 - o 25 were held on Class 2 felonies.
 - o 15 were held on Class 3 felonies.
- E. was unlikely to have been limited in good-time credits under Truth-In-Sentencing laws.
 - o More and more elderly offenders will be subject to TIS as this population grows in prisons.
 - o 9 of these 100 elderly offenders were sentenced under the 85% TIS rules.

How long was he incarcerated?

After being arrested in 2016, E. spent **175 days (6 months) in the local jail** prior to sentencing (median).

E. spent **1 year, 4 months in state prison** (median).

E. was **released from Stateville CC** in FY2017, with **almost 2 years in prison and jail**.

- 15 of every 100 elderly offenders released were from Stateville CC (maximum) and 8 were released from Dixon CC (medium).
- Four of every 100 elderly offenders were released from adult transition centers or electronic monitoring.
- 3 of every 100 elderly offenders had died.
- Individuals are typically released on Friday.

E. was **released to Mandatory Supervised Release**. Past trends show that, by June 2020 (three years from release), E. may be expected to be **rearrested once**.

- 53 of every 100 elderly offenders will *not* be rearrested; of those that are arrested, 20 will be reconvicted of a new offense within 3 years.
- 18 of every 100 elderly offenders released in 2017 are likely to 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.