

Joey M. (Murderer)

2 of every 100 inmates leaving state prison in FY 2017 had sentences for murders.

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 Joey M. with a composite offender's experience.

Who is the average murderer coming out of state prison?

M. is a 43-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 completed his GED. For every 100 murderers released in FY 2017:

- 6 were women.
- 66 were black, 15 Hispanic, and 19 white.
- 83 were born in Illinois.
- 4 were younger than 25 when released and 18 were above 55.
- Most reported being single like M., but 10 reported being married and 7 divorced.
- M. might have exaggerated on his education, but he probably completed at least half of high school (41 of the 100 reported completing high school or obtaining a GED, 40 completed less than that, and 19 were missing education-level data).

Before this incident, M. had **9 prior arrests** (3 were for violent offenses).

- From those 9 arrests, M. has been convicted twice, once for a **violent** offense, once for an unknown offense.

What was his sentence?

M. was sentenced to **31 years in prison for first degree murder** in 1997.

For every 100 murderers released from prison:

- Data do not show whether there was a plea agreement.
- 52 had sentences for First-Degree Murder
- 23 had sentences for attempted murder or conspiracy to commit murder.
- 18 had been readmitted for violating the conditions of mandatory supervised release (MSR, commonly known as "parole").
- M. was one of the 52 of every 100 murderers whose highest holding offense-class was first-degree murder.
 - o 23 were held on Class X felonies, mostly attempted murder;
 - o 16 were held on Class 1 felonies;
 - o 3 were held on Class 2 felonies;
 - o 5 were held on Class 3 felonies.
- 5 of every 100 murderers admitted to prison were sentenced to natural life without the possibility of parole.
- 5 of every 100 murderers die while in prison.

M. received Day-for-Day good-time credits and received a determinate sentence.

- 2 of every 100 murderers *released* in FY 2017 were sentenced to indeterminate sentences prior to 1977.
- 5 had served 100% of their sentence under post-1999 truth-in-sentencing (TIS) laws.
- 21 served 85% of their attempted-murder sentences under TIS requirements.

How long was he incarcerated?

M was arrested for the murder in 1995 in Cook County and spent **872 days (2.4 years) in the local jail** prior to sentencing (median).

M. spent **15 years and 4 months in state prison** (median).

M. was **released from Stateville CC** in FY 2017 after a **total of 18 years in prison and jail**.

For every 100 murderers released:

- 15 were from Stateville (maximum security); 14 were from Dixon (medium).
- 79 went onto mandatory supervised release. 21 were released without parole or MSR because their sentences were fully discharged.
- 5 of every 100 died in prison.
- No murder offenders were released from adult transition centers or electronic monitoring.
- Individuals were typically released on a Friday.

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

- Most likely arrested for a misdemeanor offense.
- M. is unlikely to be convicted again; however, 22 of every 100 murderers are reconvicted within three years.
- 16 of every 100 murderers released in 2017 will be returned to prison for violating conditions of supervised release. 8 of every 100 will return for a new sentence or from resentencing.