

Joe Retail Theft Conviction (Felony Retail Theft Offense)

6 of every 100 individuals convicted of felonies in 2017 were retail theft convictions.

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 retail theft offender?

Joe Retail Theft Conviction (R.T.C.) is a 36-year-old, white male, who was arrested a county with an urban center.

- For every 100 retail theft offenders convicted in 2017, 64 were male and 36 were female.
- 50 were white, 45 black, 4 Hispanic, and 1 identified as another race.
- 35 in urban counties, 27 were arrested in Cook County, 22 in the collar counties, and 17 in rural counties.
- 15 were under the age of 25 when arrested on this case and 8 were over the age of 55.
- Statewide administrative data do not describe personal characteristics of Joe R.T.C., making it impossible to describe his education, employment, and other important aspects of his life.

What is Joe R.T.C.'s criminal history prior to this case?

Before this arrest, Joe R.T.C. had 18 prior arrests, 6 felonies, 8 misdemeanors, and 5 unknown or other.

- While the average is 18, the median, or 50th percentile, of prior arrests for drug offenders is 12.¹
- 50 were first arrested before turning 19 years old.
- Those prior arrests consisted of 10 property-related offenses, 3 person-related offenses, 2 drug-related offenses, and 3 other arrests.

Those 18 prior arrests resulted in 6 convictions for Joe R.T.C., including 3 felonies and 2 misdemeanors.

- Joe R.T.C.'s prior convictions included 4 property offenses, 1 person offense, and 1 drug offense.

55 retail theft offenders had prior prison sentences, 72 had prior probation sentences, 41 had prior conditional discharge dispositions, and 68 had prior jail sentences.²

For what is Joe R.T.C. arrested and convicted?

Joe R.T.C. was arrested for a Class 4, retail theft offense.

- 2 of 100 individuals arrested and convicted of retail theft were arrested for a Class 1 felony, 5 for a Class 2, 32 for a Class 3, 43 for a Class 4 offense, and 18 were arrested but had no felony charge in the data.
- Statewide administrative data do not describe precise details of the case against Joe R.T.C., including the dollar amount of the property stolen.

Joe R.T.C. was convicted of a Class 4, retail theft offense.

- Of every 100 retail theft offenders, 1 was convicted for a Class 2 felony, 37 for a Class 3, and 62 for a Class 4 felony.

What is his sentence?

Joe R.T.C. was sentenced to 2 years of probation and given 54 days credit for time served prior to sentencing.

- 35 of 100 were sentenced to prison, typically for 2 years.
- The best available statewide administrative data show that the 50 who received fines were charged \$597.

What will happen to Joe R.T.C. after his conviction?

Past trends show that by December 2020, 3 years after the guilty disposition, 88 of 100 retail theft offenders will likely be rearrested and 52 will have new convictions. Joe R.T.C. will most likely be rearrested and reconvicted for another property offense. Of retail theft offenders sentenced to IDOC, 80 will likely be rearrested and 51 will be reconvicted of a new crime 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 imposed.