

Joe Wey Ponn (Weapon Felon)

10 of every 100 inmates leaving state prison in FY 2017 had a sentence for a weapon violation.

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 Wey Ponn with a composite offender's experience.

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

Joe Ponn is a 28-year-old, black male, born in Illinois. He considers himself single and reported to the Illinois Department of Corrections that he finished his junior year in high school.

- 2 of every 100 weapons offenders released in FY 2017 were female.
- 78 were black, 13 Hispanic, and 9 white.
- 91 were born in Illinois.
- 43 of these 100 weapon offenders were younger than 25 and 2 were above 55.
- Most reported being single, although 8 reported being married, 4 divorced.
- Ponn might have exaggerated on his education, but he probably completed at least half of high school (27 of every 100 reported completing high school or obtaining a GED, 37 completed less than that, and 37 were missing education-level data).

Before this incident, Ponn had **4 prior arrests for felonies** and **7 prior arrests for misdemeanors**, as well as 3 more arrests with an unknown or petty offense class. 4 of those arrests were for violent offenses, and 6 arrests were for property or drug offenses.

- From those 14 arrests, Ponn has been **convicted of 2 felony** offenses and **1 misdemeanor** offense.

What was his sentence?

Ponn received a **4 year prison sentence for UYW-Felon, a Class 2 felony**.

- Data do not show whether there was a plea agreement.
- 29 offenders were sentenced to 1 year in prison for a Class 4 weapons offense.
- 46 of every 100 offenders were sentenced for UYW-Felon while 38 were sentenced for UYW or aggravated UYW.
- 27 of every 100 offenders exiting prison had been readmitted for violating the conditions of mandatory supervised release (MSR, commonly known as "parole").
- Ponn was 1 of the 43 of every 100 weapons offenders held as a Class 2 felon.
 - o 17 were held on a Class 3 felony.
 - o 29 were held on a Class 4 felony.
- Ponn was not limited in good-time credits under truth-in-sentencing laws.

How long was he incarcerated?

After being arrested in 2015, Ponn spent **191 days (6 months) in jail** prior to sentencing (median).

Ponn **spent 8 months in state prison** (median).

Ponn was **released from Stateville CC** in FY 2017 after **1 year, 2 months of incarceration in prison and jail**.

- 34 of every 100 weapons offenders were released from Stateville (maximum security). Vandalia (minimum) had 8 exits and East Moline (minimum) had 7.
- One of these offenders was released from an adult transition center and none from electronic monitoring program.
- Individuals are typically released on a Friday.

Ponn was **released to Mandatory Supervised Release**. Past trends show that, by June 2020 (three years from release), Ponn is likely to be **rearrested 3 times and convicted of one felony**.

- Most likely to be arrested for "other," drug, or violent offenses. "Other" includes registration and misdemeanor offenses.
- 27 of the weapon offenders released in 2017 are likely to return to prison for violating conditions of supervised release, for which they will serve the remainder of the supervision period before being fully discharged.