

Joe Weapon Conviction (Felony Weapon Offense)

8 of every 100 individuals convicted of felonies in 2017 were convicted of weapon offenses.

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 weapon offender?

Joe Weapon Conviction (Joe W.C.) is a 24-year-old, black male, who was arrested in Cook County.

- For every 100 weapon offenders convicted in 2017, 97 were male and 3 were female.
- 75 were black, 14 white, 11 Hispanic, and 1 identified as another race.
- 69 were arrested in Cook County, 15 in urban counties, 8 in rural counties, and 8 in the collar counties.
- 55 were under the age of 25 when arrested on this case and 1 was over the age of 55.
- Statewide administrative data do not describe personal characteristics of Joe W.C., making it impossible to describe his education, employment, and other important aspects of his life.

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

Before this arrest, Joe W.C. had 9 prior arrests, 3 felonies, 4 misdemeanors and 2 unknown or other.

- While the average is 9, the median, or 50th percentile, of prior arrests for weapon offenders is 6.¹
- 77 were first arrested before turning 19 years old.
- Those prior arrests consisted of 2 drug arrests, 2 property arrests, 2 person arrests, and 3 arrests for crimes categorized as other.

Those 9 prior arrests resulted in 2 convictions for Joe W.C., including 1 felony and 1 misdemeanor.

- Joe W.C.'s prior convictions included 1 drug offense.

38 weapon offenders had prior prison sentences, 37 had prior probation sentences, 14 had prior conditional discharge dispositions, and 28 had prior jail sentences.²

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

Joe W.C. was arrested for Class 4, unlawful use of a weapon.

- 9 of 100 individuals arrested and convicted of weapon offense violations were arrested for a Class X felony, 4 for a Class 1, 22 for a Class 2, 28 for a Class 3 offense, 33 for a Class 4, and 4 were arrested but had no felony charge in the data.

Joe W.C. was convicted of a Class 4, unlawful use of a weapon.

- Of every 100 weapon offenders, 12 were convicted for a Class X felony, 1 for a Class 1, 32 for a Class 2, 17 for a Class 3, and 39 for a Class 4 felony.

What is his sentence?

Joe W.C. was sentenced to 3 years of prison and given 174 days credit for time served prior to sentencing.

- 22 of 100 were sentenced to probation, typically for 2 years.
- The best available statewide administrative data show that the 16 who received fines were charged \$686.

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

Past trends show that by December 2020, 3 years after the guilty disposition, 69 of 100 weapon offenders will likely be rearrested and 32 will have new convictions. Joe W.C. will most likely be rearrested and reconvicted for another offense categorized as other, possibly another weapons offense. Of weapon offenders sentenced to IDOC, 77 will likely be rearrested and 31 will likely be reconvicted within three years of exiting prison.

¹ The average number of prior arrests is influenced heavily by a small percentage of offenders 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.