
Joe Young Adult Conviction (Felony Offender, 25 years old or younger)

33 of every 100 adults convicted of felonies in 2017 were 25 or younger.

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 young adult offender?

Joe Young Adult (Joe Y.) is a 21-year-old, black male, who was arrested in Cook County.

- For every 100 young offenders convicted in 2017, 87 were male and 13 were female.
- 55 were black, 34 were white, 10 were Hispanic, and 1 identified as another race.
- 47 were arrested in Cook County, 21 in urban counties, 19 in rural counties, and 13 in the collar counties.
- Statewide administrative data do not describe personal characteristics of Joe Y., making it impossible to describe his education, employment, and other important aspects of his life.

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

Before this arrest, Joe Y. had 6 prior arrests, 2 felonies, 3 misdemeanors, and 1 unknown or other.

- While the average is 6, the median, or 50th percentile, of prior arrests for young offenders is 4.¹
- 20 were first arrested before turning 19.
- Those prior arrests consisted of 2 property offenses, 1 drug offenses, 1 person offenses and 2 other arrests.

Those 6 prior arrests resulted in 1 conviction for Joe Y., typically a felony.

- 23 had prior prison sentences, 33 had prior probation sentences, 12 had a prior conditional discharge disposition, and 26 had a prior jail sentence.²

For what is Joe Y. arrested and convicted?

Joe Y. was arrested for a Class 4, possession of a controlled substance offense.

- 1 of 100 young individuals arrested and convicted were arrested for Murder, 13 were arrested for a Class X felony, 12 for a Class 1, 19 for a Class 2, 18 for a Class 3, 28 for a Class 4, and 10 did not have a felony charge in the data.
- Statewide administrative data do not describe precisely the amount of type of controlled substance.

Joe Y. was convicted of a Class 4, possession of a controlled substance offense.

- Of every 100 young offenders, 1 was convicted for Murder, 8 for a Class X, 13 for Class 1, 25 for a Class 2, 18 for Class 3, and 29 for a Class 4 felony.

What is his sentence?

Joe Y. was sentenced to 2 years of probation and given credit for serving 106 days credit for time served prior to sentencing.

- 43 of 100 were sentenced to prison, typically for 3 years.
- The best available statewide administrative data show that the 33 who received fines were charged \$1,162.

What will happen to Joe Y. after his conviction?

Past trends show that by December 2020, 3 years after the guilty disposition, 78 of 100 young offenders will be rearrested and 42 will have new convictions. Joe Y. will most likely be rearrested and reconvicted for a property offense. Of young felons sentenced to IDOC, 81 are likely to be rearrested, and 44 will be reconvicted 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.