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Older Joe Conviction (Felony Offenders Aged 60 and Over)

2 of every 100 individuals convicted of felonies in 2017 were over 60.

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 older offender?

Older Joe is a 63-year-old, black male, who was arrested in a county with an urban center.
- For every 100 older offenders convicted in 2017, 88 were male and 12 were female.
- 53 were black, 39 white, and 7 Hispanic.
- 36 were arrested in urban counties, 27 in Cook County, 19 in rural counties, and 18 in the collar counties.
- Statewide administrative data do not describe personal characteristics of Older Joe, making it impossible to describe his education, employment, and other important aspects of his life.

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

Before this arrest, Older Joe had 18 prior arrests, 4 felonies, 5 misdemeanors, and 9 unknown or other.
- While the average is 18, the median, or 50th percentile, of prior arrests for older offenders is 11.[1]
- 21 were first arrested before turning 19, 17 had their first arrest after the age of 55.
- Those prior arrests consisted of 8 property-related offenses, 3 person-related offenses, 3 drug-related offenses, and 3 other arrests.

Those 18 prior arrests resulted in 5 convictions for Older Joe, including 2 felonies, 2 unknown or other, and 1 misdemeanor.
- Older Joe's prior convictions included 3 property offenses and 1 drug offense.

48 older offenders had prior prison sentences, 55 had prior probation sentences, 24 had prior conditional discharge dispositions, and 43 had prior jail sentences.[2]

For what is Older Joe arrested and convicted?

Older Joe was arrested for either DUI or possession of a controlled substance, both Class 4 felonies.
- 13 of 100 individuals arrested and convicted were arrested for a Class X felony, 10 for a Class 1, 16 for a Class 2, 15 for a Class 3, 32 for a Class 4, and 14 did not have any felony charge in the data.
- Statewide administrative data do not include the precise type or amount of controlled substance. The data also do not describe the dollar value of stolen property.

Older Joe was convicted of either possession of a controlled substance or DUI, both Class 4 felonies.
- As the cases progress through the system, DUI charges were slightly less likely to result in a conviction than possession of a controlled substance.
- Of every 100 older offenders. 6 were convicted for a Class X felony, 10 were convicted for a Class 1 felony, 23 for a Class 2, 18 for a Class 3, and 43 were convicted for a Class 4 felony.

What is his sentence?

Older Joe was sentenced to 2 years of probation and given 94 days credit for time served prior to sentencing.
- 38 of 100 were sentenced to prison, typically for 3 years.
- The best available statewide administrative data show that the 27 who received fines and fees were charged $1,157.

What will happen to Older Joe after his conviction?

Past trends show that by December 2020, 3 years after the guilty disposition, 39 of 100 older offenders will likely be rearrested and 15 will have new convictions. Older Joe will most likely be rearrested and reconvicted for an offense categorized as other. Of older offenders sentenced to IDOC, 47 will likely be rearrested and 20 will be reconvicted of a new offense within three years of exiting prison.

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[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.