

Joey M. (Murderer)

2 of every 100 inmates leaving state prison had sentences for murders in SFY 2009.

Who is the average inmate coming out of state prison? What crime did he or she commit? How long did he or she spend in the system? What was his or her experience? To begin answering these questions, SPAC analyzed state prison releases from July 2008 to June 2009 (SFY 2009) to create an average “profile” using the most often occurring characteristics, as well as average and median (50th percentile) lengths of stay. The composite result, the hypothetical Joey, follows one murder offender’s experience to promote discussion of the regular DOC inmate released from state prison.

M. is a black male, born in Illinois as a U.S. citizen, and is 35. He considers himself single and reported to the Illinois Dept of Corrections (DOC) that he finished his junior year in high school.

- For every 100 murderers released in SFY 2009, 8 were women.
- 67 were black, 16 Hispanic, 16 white.
- 78 were born in Illinois, 83 born in the United States.
 - o After Illinois, next largest birthplaces were Mexico and Mississippi (4 each).
- 8 of these 100 murderers were younger than 25.
- Most reported being single like M., but 13 reported being married and 5 divorced.
- M. might have exaggerated on his education, but he probably completed at least half of high school (64 of the 100 reported completing more than 10th grade; 16 said 11th grade level, 11 said GED).

After being arrested for the murder in 1996, M. spent **501 days (1.5 years) in the local jail** prior to sentencing.

- A few of the 100 with long pre-custody jail time pulled the average upwards.

Before this incident, M. had been **arrested 6 times before** (1 was for a violent felony).

- From those 6 arrests, M. has been convicted of 1 felony for a person (i.e., violent) offense.

M. received a **sentence for First Degree Murder** in 1997.

- Data do not show whether there was a plea agreement.
- 43 of every 100 homicide offenders released in 2009 had sentences for First Degree Murder while 22 had sentences for Attempted Murder.
- 27 murderers had been admitted to state prison due to mandatory supervised release (MSR) technical violations prior to their release in SFY 2009.
- M. was one of the 55 of these 100 whose highest holding offense-class was a Murder Class felony.
 - o 24 were held on a Class X felony;
 - o 10 were held on a Class 1 felony;
 - o 6 were held on a Class 2 felony;
 - o 4 were held on a Class 3 felony.

M. received Day-for-Day good-time credits and received a determinate sentence.

- 2 of the 100 murderers released in SFY 2009 were still on indeterminate sentences.
- 3 had served 100% of their sentence under TIS laws (16 served on TIS-85% rules).

M. spent **9 years and 11 months in state prison**.

- A few of every 100 murderers have longer sentences and brought the average up to 10 years and 8 months of time served.

M. was **released from Stateville CC** on Friday, September 26, 2008.

- 11 of the 100 murderers released were from Stateville (maximum security) and another 11 were from Dixon (medium). 9 were from Illinois River (medium) and 7 from Danville (medium).
- No murder offenders were released from adult transition centers (ATC) or IDOC’s electronic monitoring.

M. was **released to Mandatory Supervised Release**. By June 2012 (3 years from release), M. was **rearrested once**.

- Most likely arrested for a misdemeanor person offense.
- M. is unlikely to be convicted again.
- 16 of every 100 murderers released in 2009 had been returned to prison for violating conditions of supervised release were they served the remainder of their time before being discharged without further supervision.