

## **J.T. (Joe Retail Theft)**

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6 of every 100 inmates leaving state prison had sentences for retail theft 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 (50<sup>th</sup> percentile) lengths of stay. The composite result, the hypothetical Joe, follows one average offender’s experience to promote discussion of the regular DOC inmate released from state prison.

J.T. is a black male, born in Illinois as a U.S. citizen, and is 40. 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 retail theft offenders released in SFY 2009, 21 were women.
- 66 were black, 27 white, 7 Hispanic.
- 80 were born in Illinois, 98 born in the United States.
  - o After Illinois, next largest birthplaces were Mississippi (4), Missouri (3), and Arkansas and Tennessee (1 each).
- 9 out of every 100 exiting retail theft offenders were younger than 25.
- Most retail theft offenders reported being single like J.T., but 15 reported being married, 12 divorced.
- J.T. may have exaggerated on his education, but he probably has completed at least half of high school (79 of every 100 reported completing more than 10<sup>th</sup> grade; 20 said 11<sup>th</sup> grade level, 16 said GED).

After being arrested in 2008, J.T. spent **53 days (2 months) in the local jail** prior to sentencing.

- A few of the 100 with long pre-custody jail time pulled the average upwards to 79 days (3 months).

Before this incident, J.T. had **7 arrests for felonies** and **13 arrests for misdemeanors** (most were property or drug offenses).

- From those 20-plus arrests, J.T. has been convicted of 1 felony property offense.

J.T. received a **sentence for a Retail Theft offense, a Class 4 felony**.

- Data do not show whether there was a plea agreement.
- 22 out of every 100 property offenders were sentenced for Retail Theft under Class 3 and 4 felonies.
- 17 of every 100 retail thieves had been admitted to state prison due to mandatory supervised release (MSR) technical violations prior to their release in SFY 2009.
- J.T. was one of the 58 of these 100 whose highest holding offense-class was a Class 4 felony.
  - o 42 were held on Class 3 felony.
- J.T. was not limited in good-time credits under Truth-In-Sentencing laws.

J.T. spent **4 months in state prison**.

- A few of the 100 retail theft offenders with longer sentences brought the average up to 6 months of time served.

J.T. was **released from Vandalia CC** on Thursday, July 3, 2008.

- 20 of the 100 retail theft offenders released were from Vandalia (minimum security facility) and Vienna (minimum). 15 releases were from East Moline (minimum), Lawrence (medium), and Shawnee (medium) CCs.
- Very few were released from adult transition centers (ATC) and none from DOC’s electronic monitoring.

J.T. was **released to Mandatory Supervised Release**. By June 2012 (3 years from release), J.T. was **rearrested 3 times**.

- Most likely arrested for property or “other” offenses.
- Of all the arrests, J.T. is likely to be convicted for 1 more property offense (possibly a felony).
- 10 of every 100 retail theft offenders released in 2009 had been returned to prison for violating conditions of supervised release where they served the remainder of their time before being discharged without further supervision.