

Joe Wey Ponn (Weapon Felon)

6 of every 100 inmates leaving state prison had a sentence for a weapon violation 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 Joe, follows one average offender’s experience to promote discussion of the regular DOC inmate released from state prison.

Ponn is a black male, born in Illinois as a U.S. citizen, and is 27. 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 weapons offenders released in SFY 2009, 1 was a woman.
- 77 were black, 14 Hispanic, 9 white.
- 89 were born in Illinois, 99 born in the United States.
 - o After Illinois, next largest birthplaces were Mississippi and Mexico (2 each).
- 41 of these 100 weapon offenders were younger than 25.
- Most reported being single, although 11 reported being married, 4 divorced.
- Ponn might have exaggerated on his education, but he probably completed at least half of high school (66 of the 100 reported completing more than 10th grade, 29 said 11th grade, 14 said GED).

After being arrested in 2007, Ponn spent **117 days (4 months) in the local jail** prior to sentencing.

- A few of the 100 with long pre-custody jail time pulled the average upwards to 160 days (5 months).

Before this incident, Ponn had been **arrested 15 times before** (at least 2 of which were for felony drug arrests and 1 for a felony “other” arrests).

- From those 15 arrests, Ponn has been convicted twice for a felony “other” offense, once for a felony drug offense.

Ponn received a **sentence for UYW-Felon, a Class 2 felony** in 2007.

- 56 of the 100 weapon offenses were sentenced for UYW-Felon while 35 were for aggravated UYW.
- 36 of the 100 weapon offenders had returned to prison on technical violations of their mandatory supervised release (MSR) terms prior to their release in SFY 2009.
- 6 had received completely new sentences during their supervision.
- Ponn was one of the 67 of the 100 weapons offenders held as a Class 2 felon.
 - o 33 were held on a Class 3 felony.
- Ponn was not limited in good-time credits under Truth-In-Sentencing laws.

Ponn spent **6 months in state prison**.

- A few of the 100 weapons offenders with longer sentences brought the average up to 10 months of time served.

Ponn was **released from Stateville CC** on Friday, May 15, 2009.

- 10 of the 100 weapons offenders released were from Stateville (maximum security). Vienna (minimum) and Pinckneyville (medium) had 9 each.
- 1 of these offenders was released from an adult transition center (ATC) and none from DOC’s electronic monitoring.
- For most weeks, Friday is the most typical date for individuals to be released.

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

- Most likely arrested for “other,” drug, or person (i.e., violent) offenses.
- Of all the arrests, has a small chance of being convicted of an “other” offense.
- 14 of the weapon 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.