



Open World Learning Community Algebra 1

Guiding Question:

"Does the budget of the state of Minnesota
match the values of the state?"

 Education

Contributing to a Better World

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Open World
Learning



Kurt Hahn, the 20th Century educator once said:

"There are three ways of trying to win the young. There is persuasion, there is compulsion, and there is attraction. You can preach at them: that is the hook without a worn. You can say, You must volunteer, and that is of the devil. You can tell them, You are needed. That appeal hardly ever fails."

Too much of education is about persuasion or compulsion. The State of Minnesota has declared that 8th graders must learn about scatterplots, correlation, and interpolation/extrapolation. Compulsion. This project was born from the question "How could we turn this compulsion into an attraction?"

Students are inherently curious and if the question were framed in such a way that they could instead help our state with their understanding, then it will have been offered as an appeal. So instead, I asked the question "Does the budget of the state of Minnesota match the values of the Minnesota?" By looking at trends in the budget over time in conjunction with other trends the students care about like homelessness, cancer deaths, car accidents, etc. the students could craft arguments to present to policy makers, their state senators, and state representatives in the Rotunda of the Capitol itself to help influence the future of the state.

Over the years, we have done this project several times and each time I have two favorite moments. The first moment is the when I tell the students that we are presenting in the Capitol to their policymakers and they think it is an unsurmountable obstacle. The second time is when we finish at the Capitol and they realize that they have overcome an obstacle they previously thought was impossible.

The Briefing Book you have in your hand is the result of hours of research, writing, and revision, revision, revision. This Book contains the data, story, interpretation, and call to action my students have prepared. Please enjoy their thoughtful and thorough research.

Thomas Totushek

National Board-Certified Mathematics Teacher

Open World Learning Community, a Saint Paul Public School

Student by Names Alphabetical

Name	Group	District	Name	Group	District
Adelaide M.	11	64A	Kaden M.	4	65B
Alex S.	16	64B	Kai W.	2	64A
Alexander G.	6	53B	Ke'Mya L.	5	67A
Alva H.	10	66B	Kmwee H.	8	65B
Annabelle W.	13	65B	Kyle P.	12	65A
Anneli L.	1	65B	Liam N.	15	64B
Ariel O.	5	66B	Liam T.	7	66B
August S	7	65A	Lucas R.	12	65B
Beejan D.	17	64B	Lucille S.	14	67B
Ben H.	7	67A	Margot C.	3	67B
Benjamin D.	15	67B	Moises GR.	1	65B
Calvin H.	11	64A	Naw P.	8	66B
Charley C.	2	64A	Neve D.	10	64B
Constance V.	13	65A	Nicholas V.	12	44B
David H.	4	66A	Oskar S.	12	66B
Dylan B.	7	64B	Owen M.	4	64A
Emily T.	13	63A	Owen M.	17	63A
Grayden S.	11	64B	Remy S.	10	60B
Gwyneth H.	5	47A	RJ W.	14	67B
Harvey M.	14	65A	Roman R.	16	66A
Henry C.	3	64A	Rupert S.	17	64B
Hiroko Z.	14	66A	Rylan M.	4	66B
Ian M.	16	64B	Samuel K.	6	66B
Ingrid T	13	64B	Soren J.	11	66A
Iyanna K.	2	67A	Tait V-N	15	64A
Jackson V.	6	65A	Victor D.	3	66B
Jae L.	10	65B	WahWah S.	8	67A
Jermiah S.	1	66B	Yenay A.	1	47A
Joaquin P	15	65B	Zack M.	17	66B
Johnny G.	3	64A			
Juniper K.	2	65A			
Justin B.	6	65A			

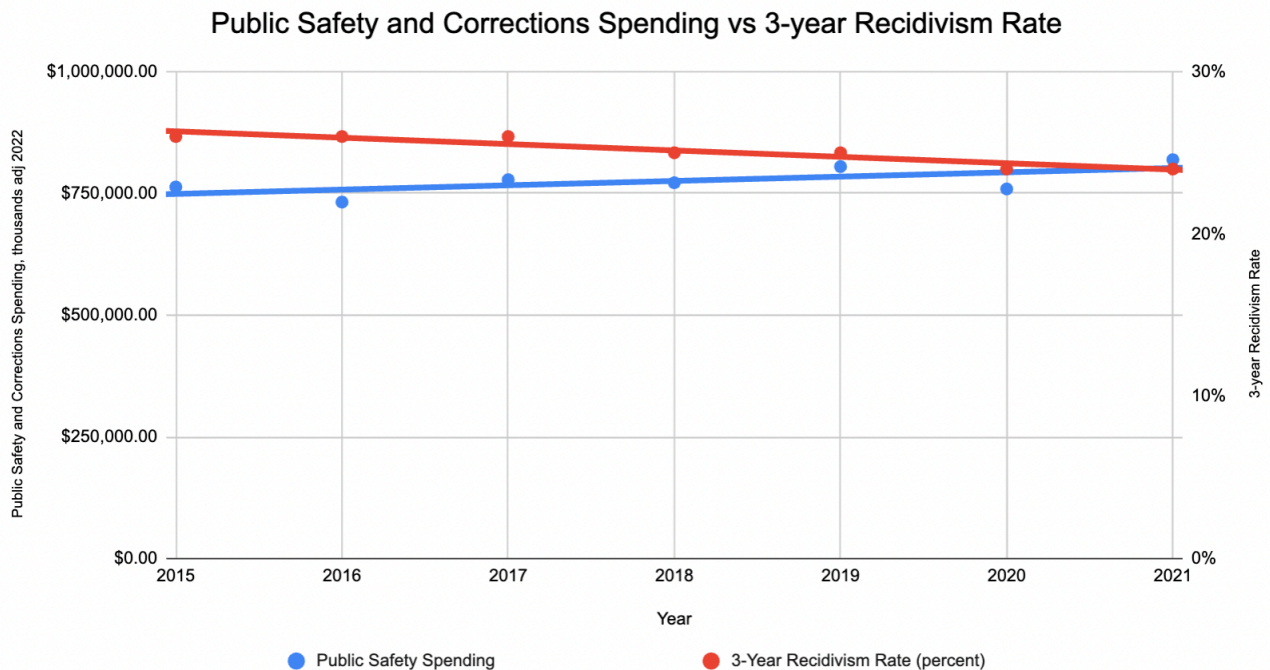
Students by District Numerically

Name	Group	District	Name	Group	District
Nicholas V.	12	44B	Anneli L.	1	65B
Yenay A.	1	47A	Moises GR.	1	65B
Gwyneth H.	5	47A	Kaden M.	4	65B
Alexander G.	6	53B	Kmwee H.	8	65B
Remy S.	10	60B	Jae L.	10	65B
Emily T.	13	63A	Lucas R.	12	65B
Owen M.	17	63A	Annabelle W.	13	65B
Charley C.	2	64A	Joaquin P	15	65B
Kai W.	2	64A	David H.	4	66A
Henry C.	3	64A	Soren J.	11	66A
Johnny G.	3	64A	Hiroko Z.	14	66A
Owen M.	4	64A	Roman R.	16	66A
Adelaide M.	11	64A	Jermiah S.	1	66B
Calvin H.	11	64A	Victor D.	3	66B
Tait V-N	15	64A	Rylan M.	4	66B
Dylan B.	7	64B	Ariel O.	5	66B
Neve D.	10	64B	Samuel K.	6	66B
Grayden S.	11	64B	Liam T.	7	66B
Ingrid T	13	64B	Naw P.	8	66B
Liam N.	15	64B	Alva H.	10	66B
Alex S.	16	64B	Oskar S.	12	66B
Ian M.	16	64B	Zack M.	17	66B
Beejan D.	17	64B	Iyanna K.	2	67A
Rupert S.	17	64B	Ke'Mya L.	5	67A
Juniper K.	2	65A	Ben H.	7	67A
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Harvey M.	14	65A			

MN Public Spending on Public Safety and Corrections vs. Three-Year Adult Recidivism Rates

Yenay A. 47A, Jermiah S. 66B, Anneli L. 65B, and Moises GR. 65B

After getting turned down 17 times from job to job, Ernesto Sanchez was considering going back to gangbanging to support his family until the Horizon CEO, Kurt Scepaniak gave him a chance. Scepaniak says that Sanchez is one of the most loyal and hardworking employees he's had. Sanchez was grateful for his new opportunity to turn his life around. He is now able to pay bills, and put food on the table for his family. Sanchez is one of the more lucky people. Most people don't have a chance to change and get out of the cycle of being in and out of jail.



We collected our data on MN Public Safety and Corrections from General Fund Spending by Major Area, and our data on the state's recidivism rates from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and Minnesota Gov Supervised Release Outcomes. Looking at the graph, we found that as the state spends more money on public safety and corrections, recidivism rates steadily decrease.

Recidivism is expensive for the state, as there's fewer workers, and more people in jail. If these people are re-educated and re-introduced to having and maintaining jobs, it'll actually make the state more money. We know because of Results First that there are methods proven to be effective in lowering adult recidivism, and many of those methods yield the state money. We ask for the state to increase public safety and corrections spending, and to directly target proven effective recidivism-lowering initiatives.

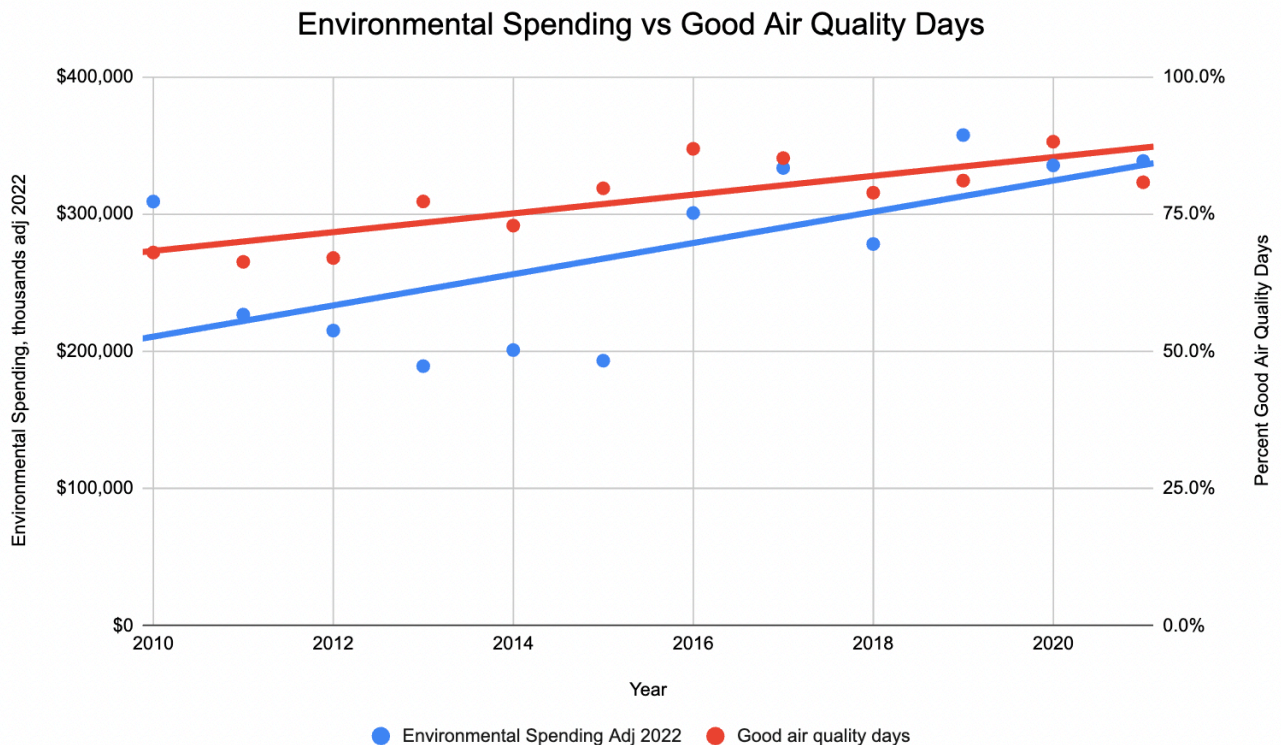
Year	Public Safety Spending (actual, thousands)	Public Safety Spending (Thousands, Adj 2022)	3-Year Recidivism Rate (percent)
2015	\$634,412	\$763,193.51	26%
2016	\$616,920	\$732,098.40	26%
2017	\$672,085	\$778,109.59	26%
2018	\$680,538	\$771,913.56	25%
2019	\$720,728	\$805,012.22	25%
2020	\$696,470	\$759,043.26	24%
2021	\$762,068	\$819,069.71	24%
Source	General Fund Spending by Major Area	Inflation Calculator - BLS.gov - Bureau of Labor Statistics	Bureau of Justice Assistance Minnesota Gov Supervised Release Outcomes

Spending more money concentrating on public safety is essential to lower recidivism rates in Minnesota.

Minnesota State Environmental Spending vs. Air Quality in St. Paul

Juniper K. 65A, Kai W. 64A, Charley C. 64A, and Iyanna K. 67A

Wendell is one of the 369,238 people that live with asthma in Minnesota and she is steroid dependent. Because of this, she is largely affected by anything in the air such as smoke, exhaustion, and pollution. These conditions flare up her asthma and cause attacks that affect her daily life. She used to be able to walk, bike, hike, and swim but because of recent air quality trends, she is no longer able to do those things. Even further, she was fired from her last job for missing too many work days due to her asthma and now needs to apply for social security disability insurance. It's a battle for her to plan each day around the temperature, humidity, and air quality index if she is even able to leave her house. For her and many others to enjoy their quality of life, the air needs to be cleaner.



This is how spending money on the environment helps with air quality in Minnesota. The sources were from the General Funding Spent by Major Area, MN Compass, Health State MN, MN government, and American Lung Association. The MN compass was used to find the percentage of days with good air quality, the general funding spent by major area chart was used to find the spendings on the environment, the American Lung association was used to find the pathos paragraph, and everything else was used to get more information on the topic. The graph says how much money is spent on the environmental issues, and how that corresponds to the air quality in Minnesota. The graph shows that our air quality and money spent on environmental issues are at a positive correlation. So if as much money wasn't put into the environment, the air quality rating would decline.

Minnesota has an overall good air quality, but when the state of Minnesota spends more money on taking care of the environment, we as a community see better air quality standards. Many people's health depends on the quality of the air, so Minnesota needs to be spending more money on ensuring that the air quality ratings remain "good." If environmental spendings were increased, expect the air quality standards and overall environment to improve.

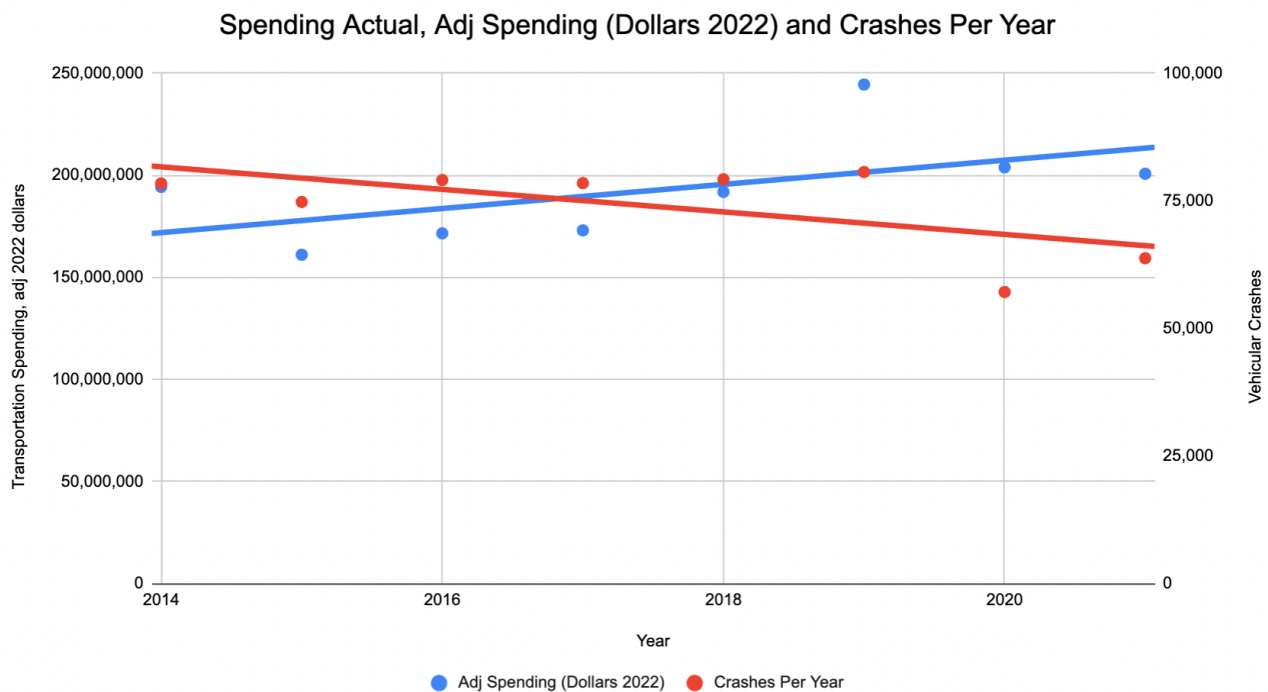
Year	Environmental Spending Actual	Environmental Spending Adj 2022	Good Air Quality Days (St. Paul)
2010	\$166,920	\$309,163	68.0%
2011	\$162,974	\$226,759	66.3%
2012	\$145,622	\$215,106	67.0%
2013	\$157,085	\$189,186	77.3%
2014	\$150,912	\$200,906	72.9%
2015	\$238,204	\$193,184	79.7%
2016	\$270,810	\$300,796	86.9%
2017	\$230,496	\$333,629	85.2%
2018	\$300,895	\$278,204	78.9%
2019	\$289,305	\$357,626	81.1%
2020	\$296,151	\$335,508	88.2%
2021	\$247,829	\$338,706	80.8%
Source	General Fund Spending by Major Area	BLS.gov inflation Calculator	MN Compass

"Minnesota's air currently meets all federal air quality standards. However, any levels of air pollution below the standards can affect people's health." Says the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Minnesota State Spending on Transportation vs. Motor Vehicle Accidents

Victor D. 66B, Margot C. 67B, Johnny G. 64A, and Henry C. 64A

March 11, 2014, Anand Baskaran, 30, died because of a pothole or a crack along a winter-worn stretch of a Minneapolis interstate. Baskaran was a motorcyclist who was going very fast on the interstate and crashed at around 9:50 PM. He was wearing a helmet. This could have been avoided if the roads were in better condition with more care put into them.



We are studying the State Spending On Transportation vs. Motor Vehicle Accidents. Our data was taken from the Minnesota Management and Budget and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. In the graph above this paragraph, The red line shows the amount of motor vehicle accidents during the year, and the blue line shows the amount of State spending on transportation. This graph shows that Vehicle accidents are going down, while the State spending is going up, which means the more money the State uses on transportation to make it safer and more comfortable, the amount of accidents goes down.

Overall, Motor vehicle accidents are going down, as spending on transportation goes up. So what is happening is good, what we ask of you is to start putting more of Minnesota's budget and time in repairing and maintaining roads and infrastructure. Because Minnesota has cold, wet winters, the roads are getting large cracks and potholes from the ice and the salt Minnesota uses on the roads. We think Minnesota should start putting more focus on making streets safe and driveable.

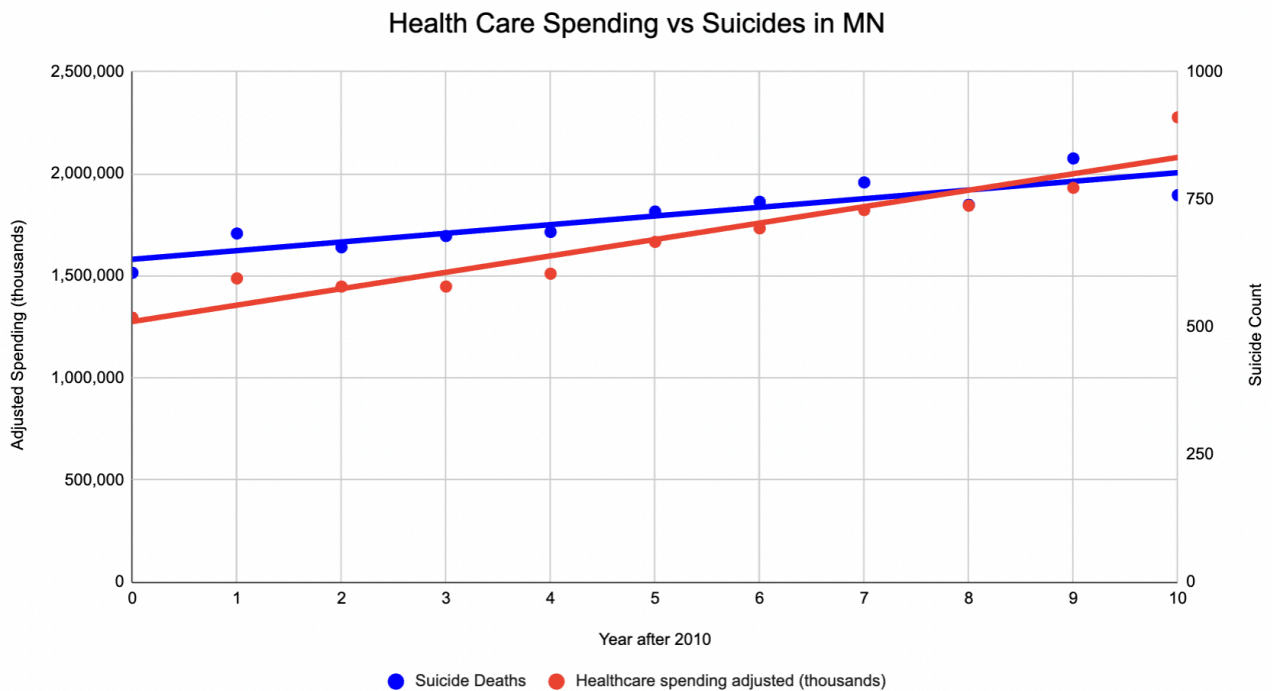
Year	Spending Actual	Adj Spending (Dollars 2022)	Crashes Per Year
2014	151,071,000	194,292,822	78,396
2015	125,134,000	161,079,097	74,772
2016	135,089,000	171,538,329	79,069
2017	139,653,000	173,008,489	78,465
2018	158,052,000	191,830,150	79,215
2019	204,508,000	244,422,939	80,636
2020	174,820,000	203,871,167	57,127
2021	174,550,000	200,746,313	63,751
Source	General Fund Spending by Major Area	BLS.gov Inflation Calculator	MN Department of Public Safety

The more money Minnesota spends on transportation, motor vehicle accidents go down, which is good.

Statewide Suicide Rate vs. Mental Health Spending

David H. 66A, Owen M. 64A, Rylan M. 66B, and Kaden M. 65B

Brian Koland was a beloved elementary school principal for 30 years. He was a brother, a husband, and a father of two. And he's gone. He took his own life in October of 2021. He was in a facility that was supposed to be helping him. The facility staff thought he was safe, and let him go on an unsupervised walk. His brother says he knew every kid in his school. There were 400 kids, and he knew all their names. It was clear that he was loved.



The data were collected on suicide rates vs. the state's spending on healthcare and was acquired from the Minnesota Department of Health, World Atlas, NAMIMN, and the CDC. The data seems to show that while both are increasing, the suicide rates have been on a steady incline, where healthcare spending was on a much slower climb. Evidently, simply raising our healthcare spending is not enough.

We believe that the state needs to do more to help people have better alternatives to taking their own life. Instead of simply throwing money at the problem, harder work should be put into making sure that the help we give people is quality help, and that we have enough of it. Part of the reason help is so hard to find is because there's not enough providers, and the prices continue to increase. If we put more money into getting quality mental health services, more people can get the help they need. Doing this will also have incredible economic benefits, as people will be able to work and contribute to society.

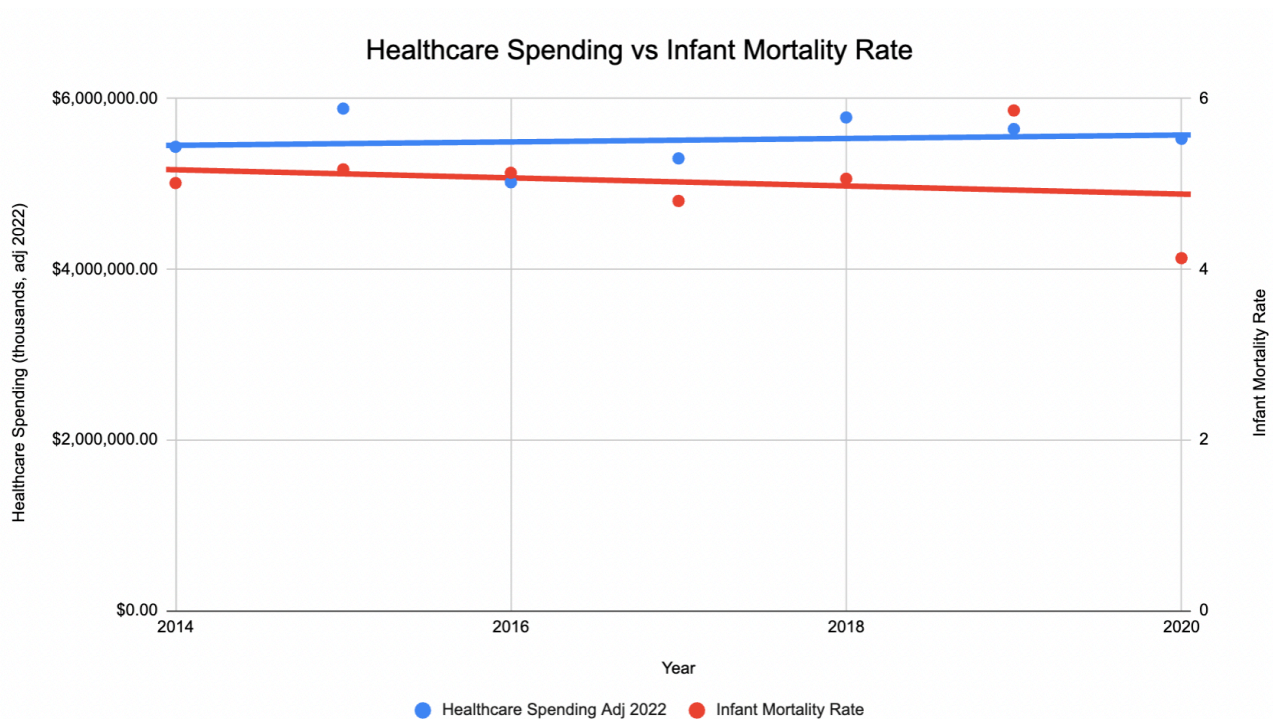
Year	Suicide Deaths	Healthcare Spending Actual	Healthcare spending adjusted
2010	606	937,767k	1,294,732k
2011	683	1,095,006k	1,487,551k
2012	656	1,096,604k	1,447,382k
2013	678	1,114,303k	1,447,665k
2014	686	1,181,078k	1,510,555k
2015	726	1,301,626k	1,666,220k
2016	745	1,372,120k	1,732,669k
2017	783	1,479,023k	1,822,109k
2018	739	1,527,624k	1,843,808k
2019	830	1,624,958k	1,931,329k
2020	758	1,962,788k	2,276,253k
Source	Suicide in Minnesota 1999-2017 CDC	General Fund Spending by Major Area	www.bls.gov Inflation Calculator

We need to continue raising the mental health budget so people can get the help they need and come back into the workforce.

Healthcare Spending vs. Infant Mortality Rates in MN

Gwyneth H. 47A, Ariel O. 66B, and Ke'mya L. 67A

Christine Daniels, was five months into her pregnancy, Daniels felt her blood pressure surge. She had a headache and the skin on her feet were stretched and cracked open. Her legs felt so heavy to the point where she could hardly walk to her Mom's apartment, which was just around the corner. There wasn't any hospital near her rural town and help was 70 miles away. Not too long later, she went into labor, and was told by her doctors that her and her baby may not survive. She was told her baby had fluid in her brain. She ended up having a C-Section emergency, and the child, now 5, has permanent brain damage, can't walk or talk, has seizures and needs five medications a day. Which could have been prevented if she got medication for her blood pressure and better health checkups with doctors who told her about her baby.



The data from the graphs above show that as healthcare spending is going up infant mortality rates decrease. We got our infant mortality data from the CDC. We got our spending data from the General Fund Spending by Major Area. We adjusted all spending data to 2022 dollars using the BLS.gov inflation calculator to account for inflation.

Black and Indigenous women should not have a more likely chance for their babies to die. They should be able to live a healthy life and not die before they get that chance. It's unfair that Black women and Indigenous women have to suffer with their child either having really bad conditions, or even dying, but white women have a way lower chance of that happening. Black and Indigenous women's health problems while pregnant are 2-4 times higher than white women. Some Black and Indigenous women's doctors treat them lesser than white women while pregnant, this has to end.

Year	Healthcare Spending Actual, thousands	Healthcare Spending, Adj 2022 thousands	Infant Mortality Rate
2014	4,248,812	\$5,434,074.99	5.01
2015	4,889,416	\$5,881,935.63	5.17
2016	4,229,041	\$5,018,599.08	5.13
2017	4,464,982	\$5,298,590.05	4.8
2018	5,093,997	\$5,777,965.88	5.06
2019	5,051,639	\$5,642,393.69	5.86
2020	5,072,579	\$5,528,316.91	4.13
Source	General Fund Spending by Major Area	bls.gov	CDC

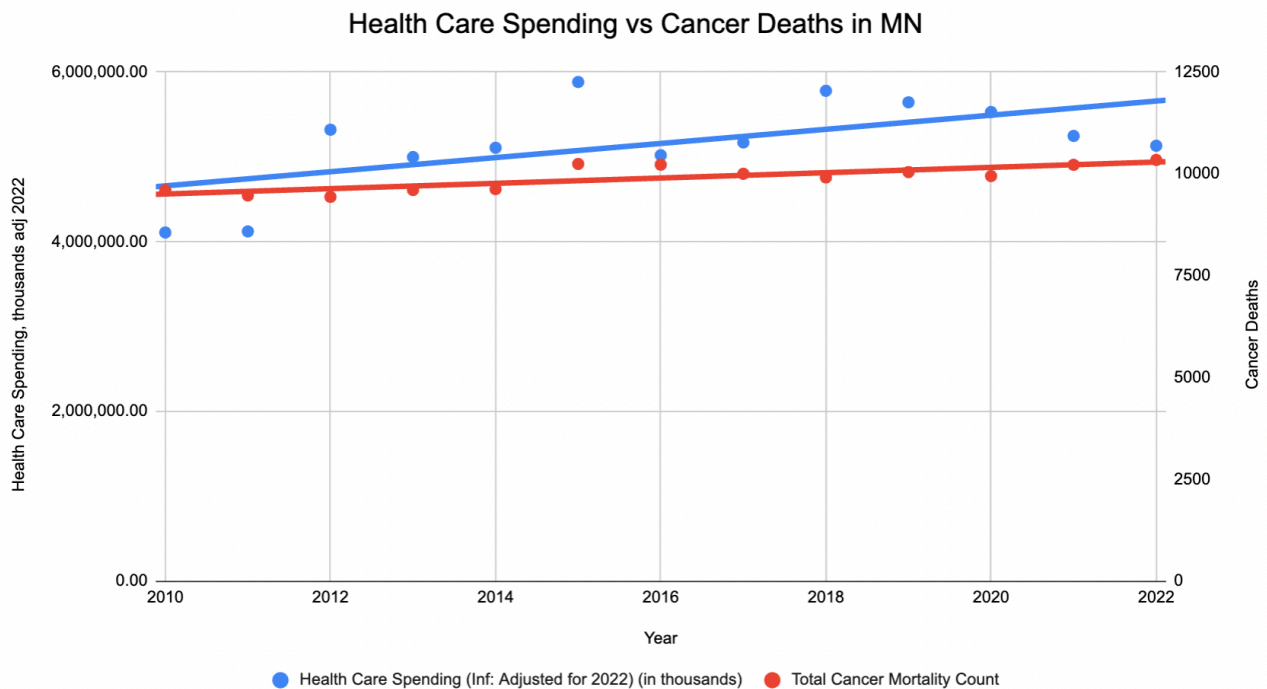
“We need to spend more on healthcare, because when we do, infant mortality rates steadily decrease.”

Group 6

Health Care Spending vs. Cancer Deaths

Jackson V. 65A, Sam K. 66B, Xander G. 53B, and Justin B. 65A

"One day you're in your apartment cooking, and then they call you and give you the news and I ran straight to the toilet." "I was sick. Immediately sick to my stomach, a bad dream." The news was that she got breast cancer. Andi Skillings was only 29 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Now, she wants other Hispanic women to get screened in case it might save their lives too.



We are studying the relationship between Minnesota's Health Care Spending to the Minnesota Cancer Mortality Count. Our data for the cancer deaths comes from multiple different websites, including a document from the Minnesota Department of Health, the CDC, and two sites in the ACS Journals Online Library. We had gotten our data for Minnesota's Health Care Spending from Minnesota Management and Budget.

Minnesotans shouldn't have to depend on their paychecks just to get basic help that everyone needs. If we spend more on healthcare we will get a better workforce in return because more people will get the help they need faster. People will also be more reluctant to go get screenings and check ups more often since there would be less of a financial fear.

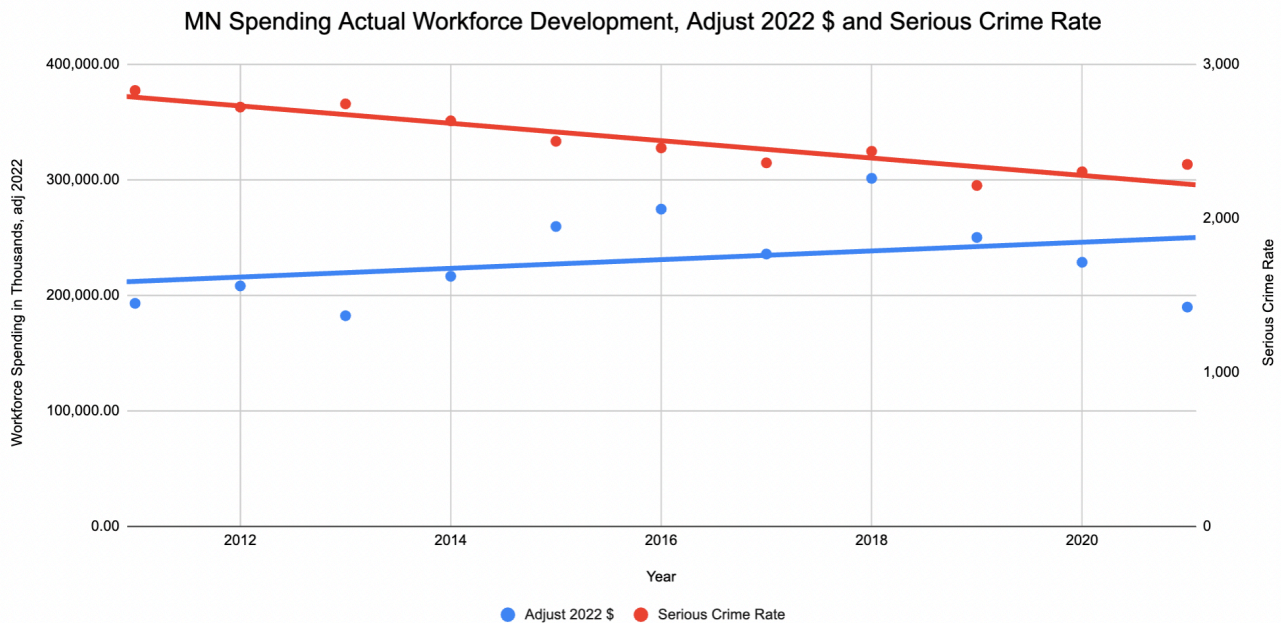
Year	Health Care Spending (in thousands)	Health Care Spending (Adjusted 2022, in thousands)	Total Cancer Mortality Count
2010	3,166,111	4,107,979.60	9599
2011	3,227,869	4,120,863.46	9468
2012	4,288,490	5,319,305.52	9434
2013	4,093,265	4,997,452.09	9603
2014	4,248,812	5,106,726.33	9624
2015	4,889,416	5,881,935.63	10242
2016	4,229,041	5,018,599.08	10224
2017	4,464,982	5,169,354.01	10000
2018	5,093,997	5,777,965.88	9910
2019	5,051,639	5,642,393.69	10042
2020	5,072,579	5,528,316.91	9944
2021	4,880,869	5,245,951.78	10,220
2022	5,130,443	5,130,443	10,340
Source	Minnesota Management and Budget	BLS.gov Inflation Calculator	MDH, CDC, and ACS

Around 10,000 people die from cancer each year in Minnesota. We need more money put into research and medical care for those that have cancer.

Crime Rates vs Spending on Economic and Workforce Development

Dylan B. 64B, Liam T. 66B, Ben H. 67A, and August S. 65A

A man named Adoniyah Israel learned welding, machining and computer science while he was locked up for 24 years after a homicide. Being behind bars gave him opportunities and training that helped him land a job in a metal-working shop after he was released in February. He said the pay is decent and the job comes with health and dental benefits. Most convicted felons don't get these kind of opportunities but he feels fortunate for them.



For our expedition project we studied the crime rates vs the money spent on the Workforce Development. We used the Minnesota compass to find the data for the crime rates and we used the General Fund Spending by major area PDF to find the spending on the Actual Workforce Dev.

The red line represents the Crime Rates and the blue line represents the spending on the Workforce Dev (adjusted to inflation). Our lines say that when money is spent on the Workforce Dev the Crime rates go down. Because as you can see on the graph as the Spending goes up the crime rates go down.

Our ask to the policy makers is to spend more money on workforce development. It will lower crime rates and overall give criminals a better life. The ROI of this investment will be lowering expenditures on law enforcement as well as the justice system, and lower the taxes associated with rehabilitation centers, police protection, jails, halfway houses, and prisons.

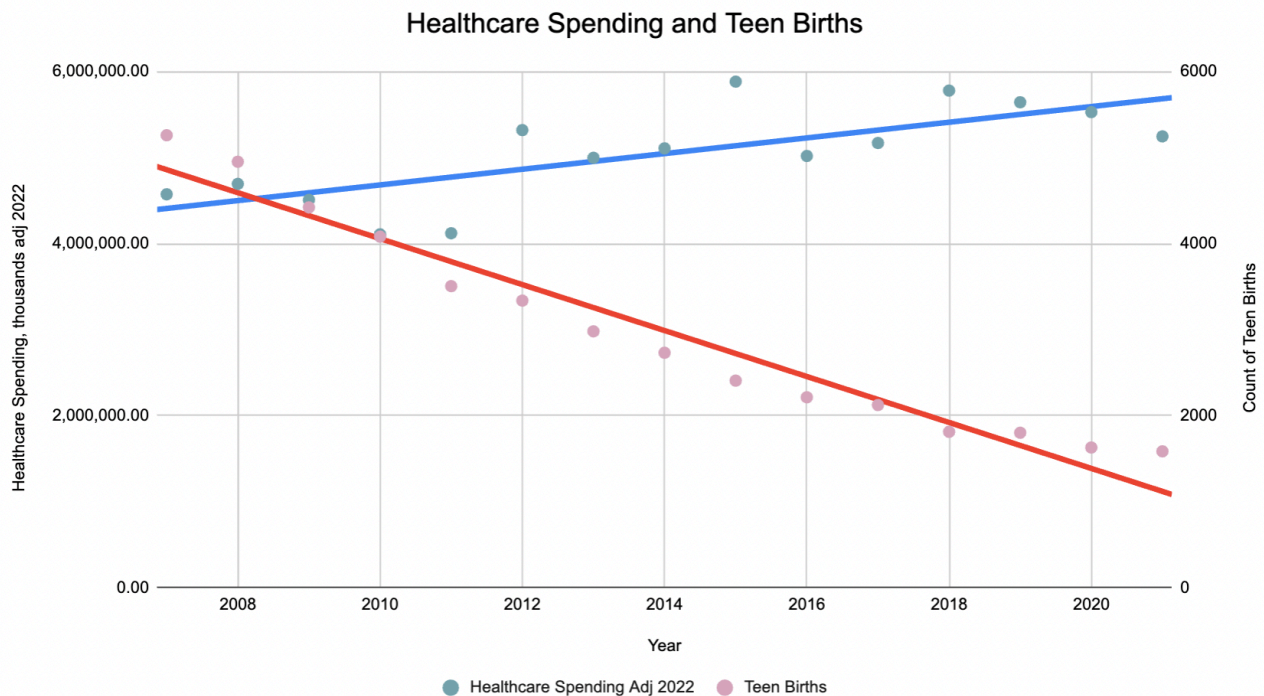
Year	MN Spending Actual Workforce Development	Workforce Development Adjust 2022 \$	Serious Crime Rate
2010	148,872	193,159.10	2,831
2011	163,109	208,233.33	2,723
2012	147,069	182,419.67	2,744
2013	177,400	216,587	2,634
2014	216,068	259,696.16	2,501
2015	228,371	274,728.83	2,458
2016	198,722	235,823.22	2,361
2017	260,318	301,384.39	2,436
2018	220,596	250,215.33	2,214
2019	204,761	228,706.40	2,303
2020	174,251	189,906.31	2,351
2021	170,750	183,521.88	2,377
Source	General Fund Spending by major area	Bls.gov Inflation Calculator	MN Compass

Many criminals end up having a terrible life but sometimes Workforce Development can help them, so lets make these opportunities available for all.

Healthcare Spending vs. Number of Births to Teen Mothers

WahWah S. 67A, Kmwee H. 65B, and Naw P. 66B

Mulu was just 7 when her father died and her mother gave her up to adoption because she couldn't support Mulu. Mulu wanted an education but her adoptive family didn't want to send her to school because they wanted her to work for them at home so at just 12 Mulu ran away looking for somewhere to go and she met a man that offered her a job at his house as a maid. The man, who was in his 40s, harassed Mulu and raped her multiple times while she begged him not to but he threatened her. After a few months of the continuous rape Mulu felt weird and told the woman living next to them and the woman said she was pregnant. Mulu told the man but he kicked her out and moved houses. She tried many ways to get rid of the baby but it didn't work she slept out on the streets for more than 5 months with only eating dirty food from the garbage but then she told her birth mother but her mother did not accept Mulu and pushed her away so Mulu was pregnant at just 13 with no one by her side and with nowhere to go home.



We are studying the number of births to teen mothers. We found that the number of teen births went down dramatically when the government spent more on Healthcare. We got our data for the amount of money spent from the General Fund Spending by Major Area and we got our data from the CDC for the number of births to teen mothers.

As young women, we want to make sure that other young women have the best chances to have a good life. We know that when teens have children, it makes it much more difficult for those women to have a better life. So we want the state of Minnesota to continue to focus on lowering the number of births to teen moms so that women overall can have better lives. Research shows that women who have their first child later in life tend to make more money over their lifetimes.

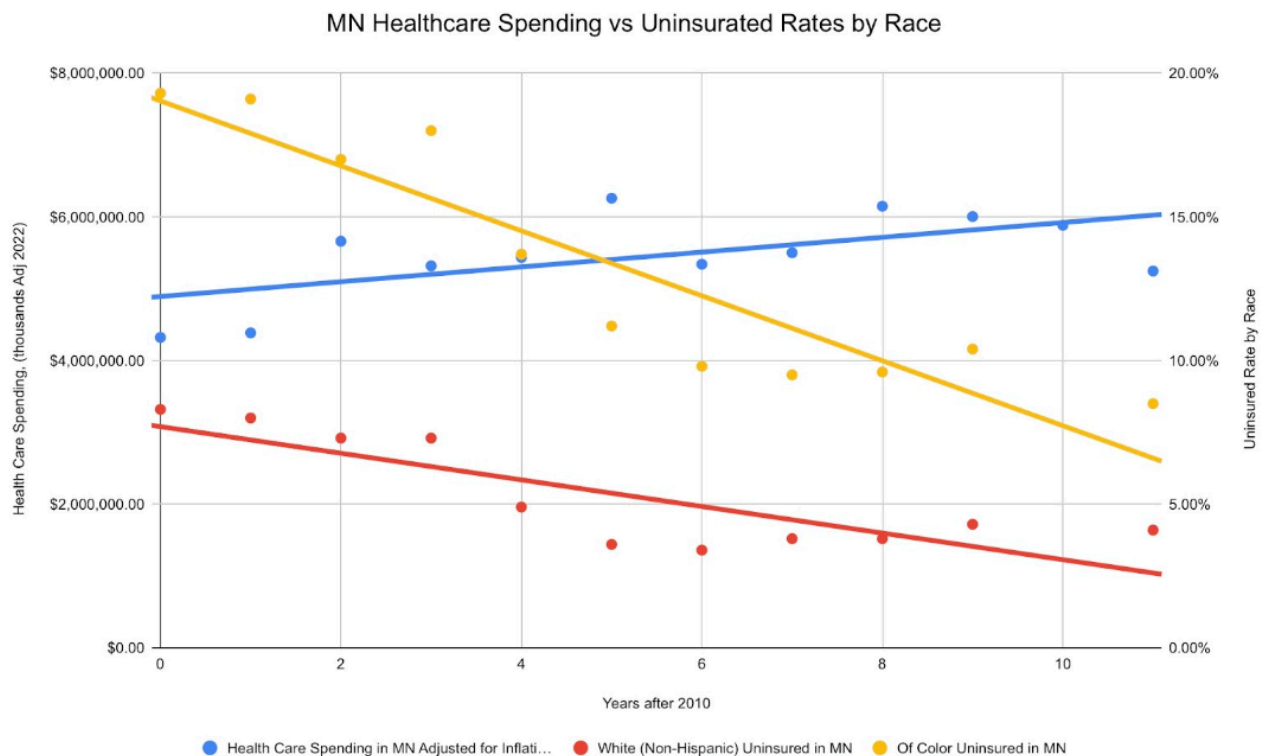
Year	Healthcare Spending, Actual thousands	Healthcare Spending, Adj 2022 thousands	Teen Births
2007	3,292,509	4,573,167.74	5259
2008	3,524,154	4,693,996.82	4951
2009	3,385,813	4,508,387.93	4421
2010	3,166,111	4,107,979.60	4081
2011	3,227,869	4,120,863.46	3506
2012	4,288,490	5,319,305.52	3338
2013	4,093,265	4,997,452.09	2981
2014	4,248,812	5,106,726.33	2732
2015	4,889,416	5,881,935.63	2408
2016	4,229,041	5,018,599.08	2215
2017	4,464,982	5,169,354.01	2125
2018	5,093,997	5,777,965.88	1814
2019	5,051,639	5,642,393.69	1803
2020	5,072,579	5,528,316.91	1631
2021	4,880,869	5,245,951.78	1587
Sources	General Fund Spending by Major Area	bls.gov inflation calculator	CDC

Lower birth rates to teen mothers make it so that young women have the best chances to have a good life.

Health Care Spending vs. Uninsurance Rates by Race

Neve D. 64B, Juliette L. 65B, Alva H. 66B, and Remy S. 60B

Jada Baldwin had so much life ahead of her. She was supposed to be the maid of honor at her best friend's wedding. She was supposed to lead the drama ministry at her church. She was supposed to have a long, happy life with her mother and sister. But Jada's life was cut short. Jada had type 1 diabetes, and like many other people in the US and Minnesota, Jada was forced to choose between paying her bills or paying \$300 for the insulin that kept her alive. Until insulin prices skyrocketed, her insurance covered her medication. After they stopped paying for it, she couldn't afford it herself, and she couldn't afford to keep up with other insurance expenses. Jada had to keep up with her bills and rent, and to do that, she had to forgo paying for and taking her medication. Jada died 4 weeks after she stopped taking insulin.



There's a gap between the rate of insuredness across races in Minnesota. Data shows that as healthcare spending increases, the gap will close.

We searched for data about the gap of insurance between people of color and white people. We collected our spending rates on healthcare in Minnesota from Minnesota Management and Budget. We got our data for uninsured persons by race from MNCompass. The data we collected showed that between 2010 and 2021, the percentage gap between races shrank substantially, from around a 16% gap to a mere 4%. The amount spent to close this gap was only a difference of 19% between the two years. We think that if we continue to increase healthcare spending, we can shrink the gap further and eventually close it.

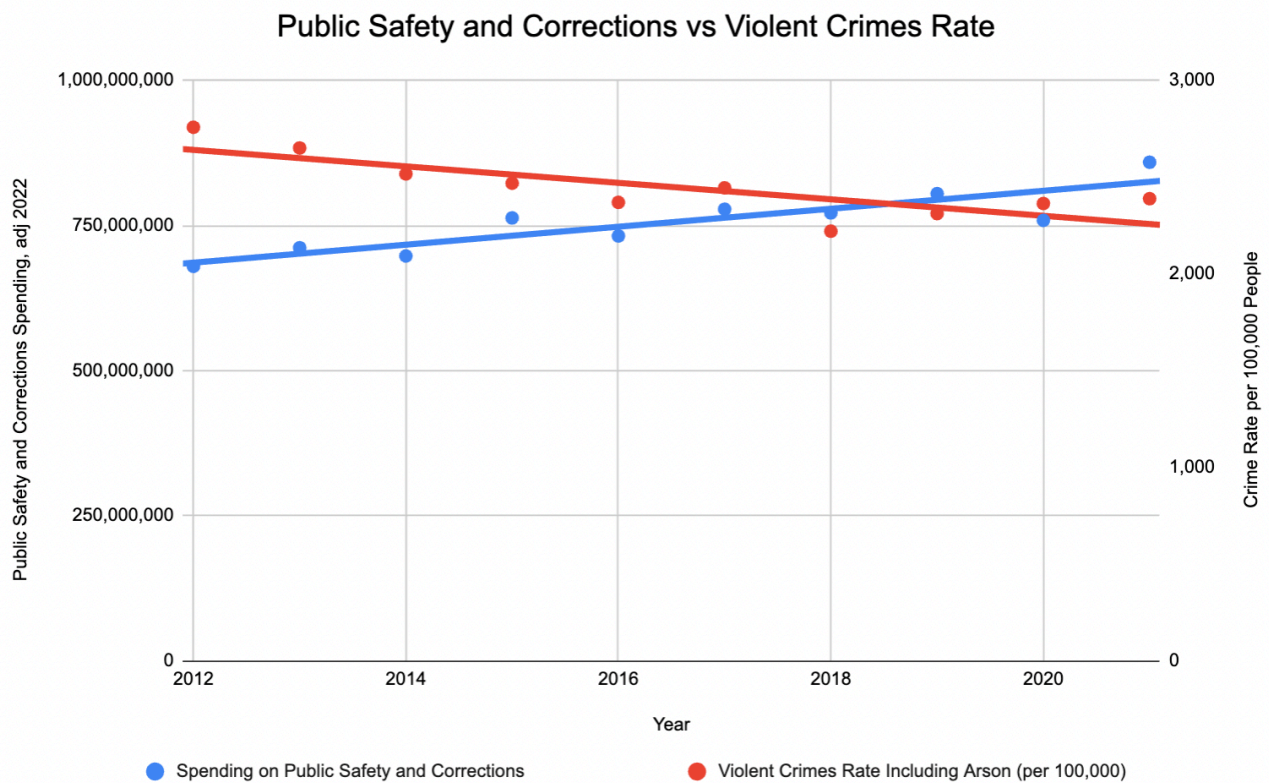
In order to shrink the gap between white people and people of color who are insured, Minnesota should continue to increase spending on healthcare. This will also increase the amount of people that can afford health insurance. This will eventually remove the gap that shouldn't have been there in the first place, as well as lower the percentage of uninsured persons overall.

Year	Health Care Spending in MN (by thousands)	Health Care Spending in MN Adjusted for Inflation (by thousands)	White (Non-Hispanic) Uninsured in MN	Of Color Uninsured in MN
2010	\$3,166,111	\$4,321,606.67	8.3%	19.3%
2011	\$3,227,869	\$4,385,016.86	8.0%	19.1%
2012	\$4,288,490	\$5,660,280.83	7.3%	17.0%
2013	\$4,093,265	\$5,317,796.12	7.3%	18.0%
2014	\$4,248,812	\$5,434,074.99	4.9%	13.7%
2015	\$4,889,416	\$6,258,976.35	3.6%	11.2%
2016	\$4,229,041	\$5,340,298.65	3.4%	9.8%
2017	\$4,464,982	\$5,500,717.20	3.8%	9.5%
2018	\$5,093,997	\$6,148,341.98	3.8%	9.6%
2019	\$5,051,639	\$6,004,079.42	4.3%	10.4%
2020	\$5,072,579	\$5,882,690.15		
2021	\$4,880,869	\$5,245,951.78	4.1%	8.5%

MN Public Safety and Corrections Spending vs. Violent Crime Rate

Calvin H. 64A, Grayden S. 64B, Soren J. 66A, and Adelaide M. 64A

On July 15 2017 the Police were called for a possible sexual assault by recently engaged Justine Damond, unarmed Damond was Shot through an open patrol car window, “you shouldn’t shoot unarmed people who call the cops” Bennett said in a telephone interview. The Minneapolis Police Chief said the fatal shooting of an unarmed Australian woman by a Junior police officer violated department training and procedure. Minneapolis police chief then said “She didn't have to die.”



We have been studying the Minnesota violent crime rate vs. the spending on public safety and corrections and we’ve acquired all of our data from the Minnesota Compass. The funding put into public safety and corrections has been on the rise while the crime rate has been gaining down, meaning the more money we use to fund public safety and corrections the more crime goes down.

We need to continue increasing funding for public safety and corrections in order to increase the physical safety of our community. Increased funding leads to decreases in violent crime. Public safety and corrections officers deserve high quality training in order to respond appropriately. Additional money for public safety and corrections programming should also be allocated to police training to reduce tragedies like the death of Justine Damond. Increased funding for public safety is essential to safe communities.

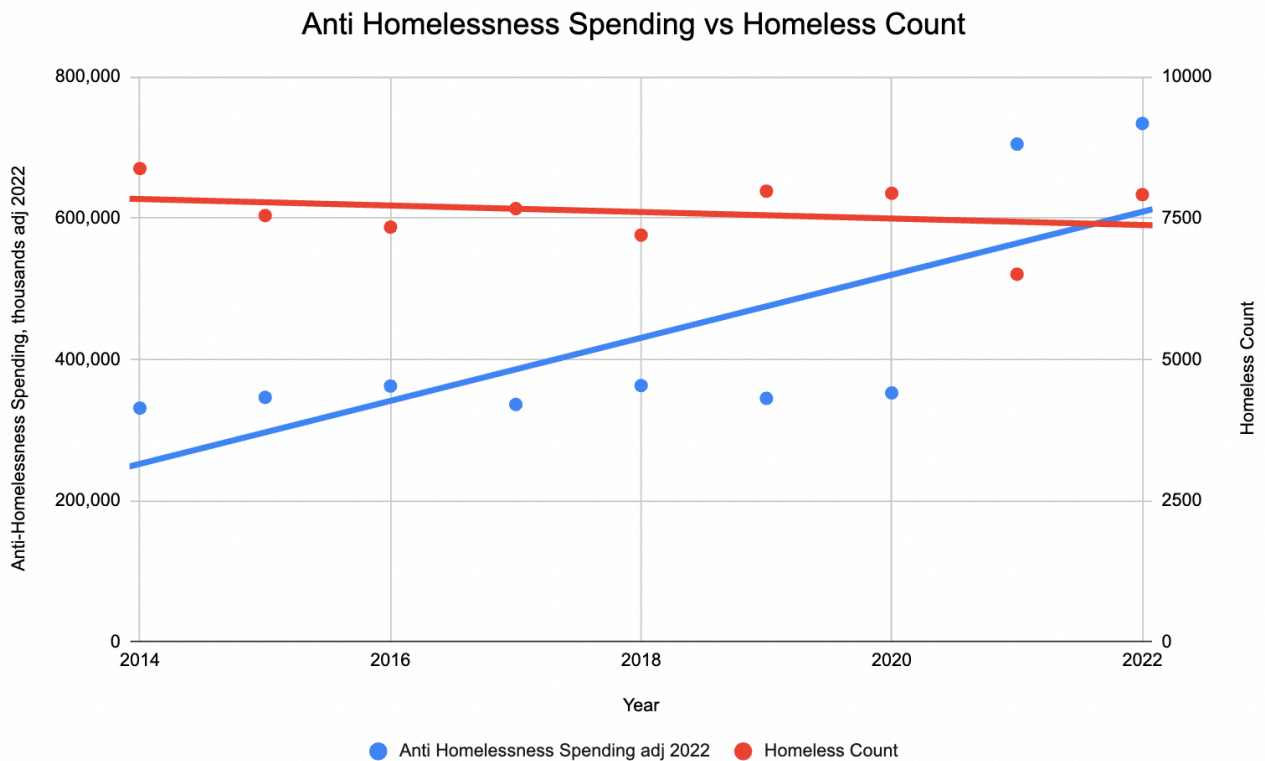
Year	Spending on Public Safety and Corrections (Actual)	Spending on Public Safety and Corrections (Adjusted, 2022)	Violent Crimes Rate Including Arson (Per 100,000 Residents)
2012	548,049,000	679,782,410	2,758
2013	582,952,000	711,723,940	2,651
2014	580,405,000	697,599,590	2,517
2015	634,412,000	763,193,510	2,469
2016	616,920,000	732,098,400	2,370
2017	672,085,000	778,109,590	2,445
2018	680,538,000	771,913,560	2,221
2019	720,728,000	805,012,220	2,312
2020	696,470,000	758,988,760	2,364
2021	762,068,000	859,089,560	2,389
Source	General Fund Spending by Major Area	BLS.gov Inflation Calculator	MN Compass

We need to raise the spending for public safety and corrections because we need first responders who respond safely and in time.

Number of Homeless Persons vs. Money Spent on Housing in Minnesota

Oskar S. 66B, Kyle P. 65A, Lucas R. 65B, and Nicholas V. 44B

A man named Eric who chose not to tell his last name for privacy reasons, was interviewed about the destruction of the Cedar Riverside encampment. It was torn down because of a homicide within the encampment. He said “Anywhere you go, there’s gonna be problems and violence. Are they gonna keep moving us everytime something happens?” This shows the neglect that they faced as a community, there are ways to stop this from happening and making them move every time something bad happens.



On a night in January 2022 7,917 people experienced homelessness. 40% of the homeless persons had to go unsheltered. This number increased from 2020 to 2022 by 3.4%. Along with this rate of persons becoming homeless the rate of unsheltered homelessness people grew and grew. All of the deaths that this creates could be easily avoided by spending more on anti-homelessness spending to make more shelters for them.

We ask that you help the forgotten members of our society and raise funding for the homeless. There are homeless drives and homeless shelters that you can give money to. So they can have a constant food source. Homeless shelters can provide a warm safe home for the homeless. There can be rehabilitation places to help the homeless to learn how to spend money. These can also help with past drug addicts so they don't go back to them and end up on the streets again.

Year	Anti Homelessness Spending actual	Anti Homelessness Spending adj 2022	Homeless Count
2014	273,057	331,190	8377
2015	285,378	346,322.25	7546
2016	302,602	362,377.51	7341
2017	287,913	336,377.29	7668
2018	317,170	363,042.29	7200
2019	306,054	344,967.33	7977
2020	320,626	352,623.85	7940
2021	704,735	704,735	6508
2022	733,967	733,967	7917
Source	MN Housing Finance Agency Budget Documents	bls inflation calculator	MN Compass

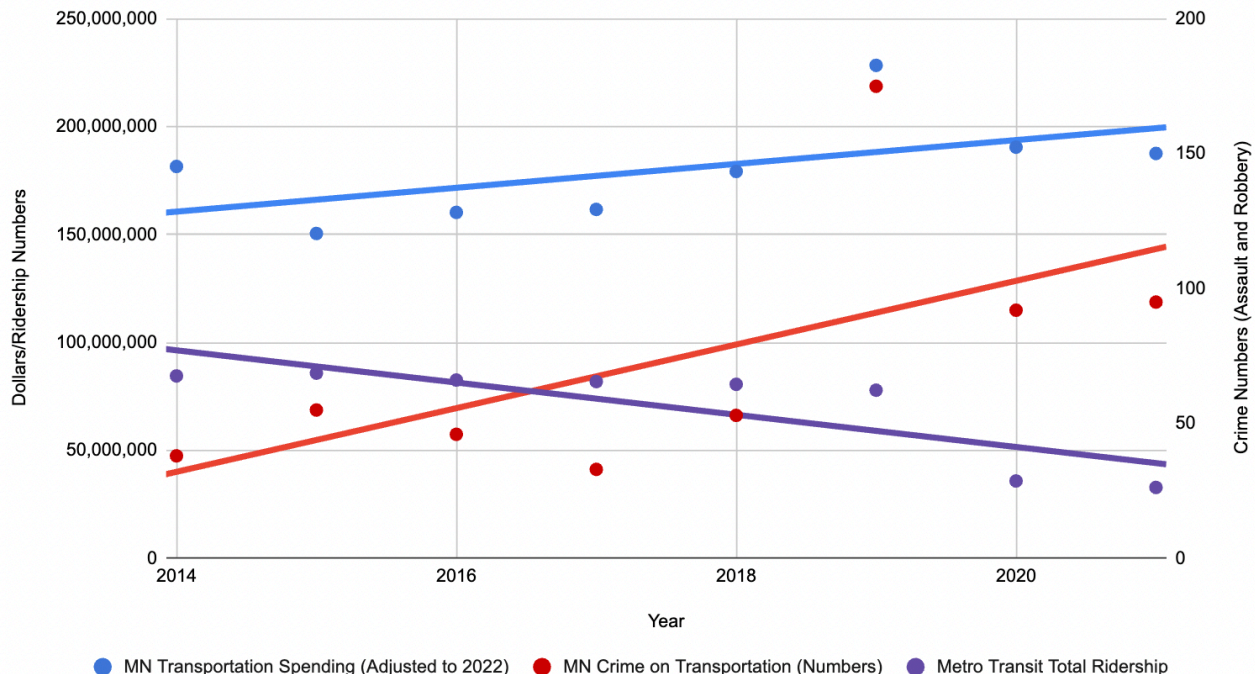
Homeless individuals are the forgotten members of our society, often overlooked and ignored, but deserving of compassion and support.

MN State Spending on Transportation vs. Crime on Public Transportation

Annabelle W. 65B, Constance VG. 65A, Emily T. 63A, and Ingrid T. 64B

On February 28, a transgender woman was waiting for the light rail at one of the Minneapolis stations when she was brutally assaulted. A 911 call was quickly made explaining how someone was lying on the floor, with “visible brain matter” coming from a head wound, all over the ground of the station. The woman was found by the Metro Transit Police, unresponsive, horribly bruised, and bleeding from serious head trauma. Rushed to the hospital in critical condition, a CT scan revealed a fractured rib, collapsed lung, and an internal cranial bleed. Surveillance cameras showed three men throwing objects at her, beating her, pushing her down the Metro Transit stairs, then beating her again on the ground level of the station. She is currently in stable condition but this woman will forever be traumatized because the transportation system failed to protect her.

Transportation Spending vs Crime and Ridership Numbers



We are studying the number of crimes on public transportation compared to the MN state spending on transportation and total ridership. We received our data from Minnesota General Fund Spending, Metro Transit performance, and the National Department of Transportation and adjusted our data with the CPI inflation calculator. With the data we collected, it shows that Minnesota spending on overall transportation has been increasing, the total ridership declining, and crime on public transportation rising. Based on our data, we believe that when we increase spending on safety on public transportation, crime will decrease and in result ridership will go up.

Overall, spending on transportation has increased but we have to remember that state spending on transportation doesn't always go towards public transportation like the light rail. Only 29% of Minnesota's spending on transportation goes to rail and mass transportation. We need to start putting more spending into the safety of pedestrians that depend on public transportation. As many people can't afford cars, more people are turning to buses and light rails to get around, which they need to trust with their safety. When they can't trust the safety of the public transportation, they will be forced to try to live without public transportation. Good safety and investing in better public transportation will fulfill concerns in the community and in turn, more ridership statewide.

Year	MN Spending on Transportation	MN Transportation Spending (Adjusted to 2022)	MN Crime on Transportation (Numbers)	Metro Transit Total Ridership
2014	151,071,000	181,575,050	38	84,535,525
2015	125,134,000	150,535,390	55	85,832,185
2016	135,089,000	160,309,990	46	82,624,627
2017	139,653,000	161,683,920	33	81,927,424
2018	158,052,000	179,273,580	53	80,653,414
2019	204,508,000	228,423,810	175	77,927,249
2020	174,820,000	190,526,430	92	35,862,563
2021	174,550,000	187,606,120	95	32,864,284
Sources	General Fund Spending by Major Area	www.bls.gov	Transportation.gov	Metro Transit

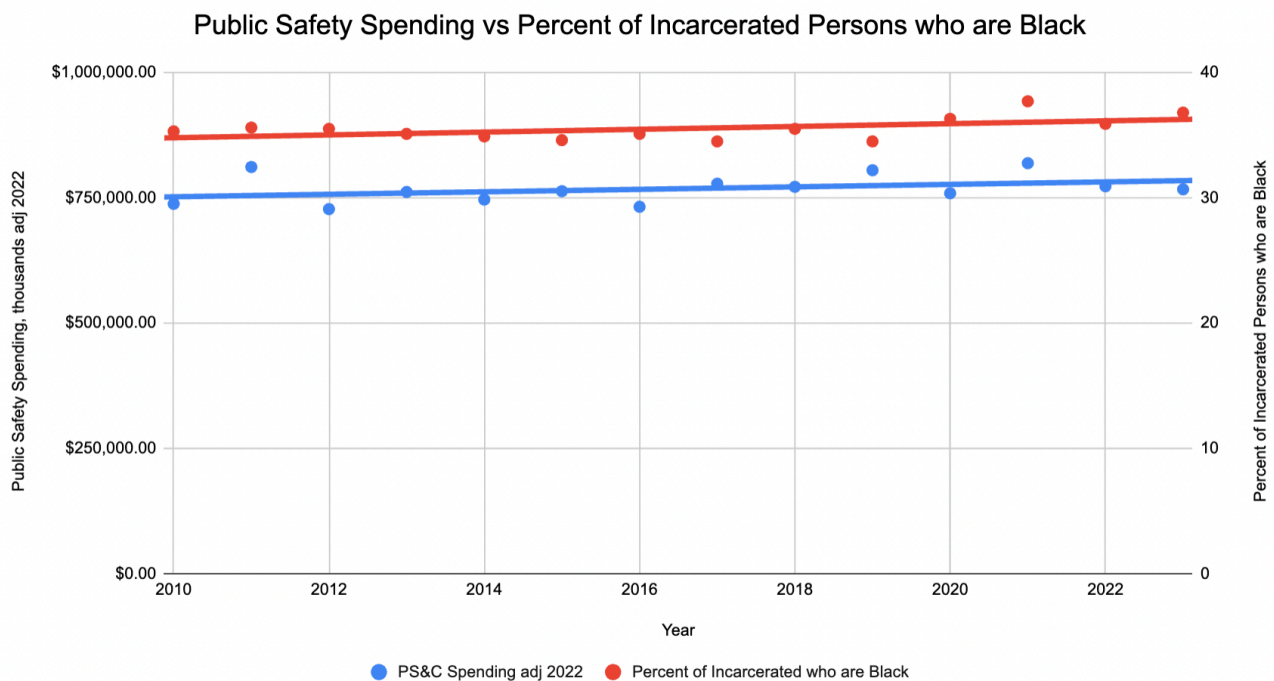
By increasing spending on transportation, we will see a decline in crime numbers, and a larger amount of citizens riding public transportation.

State Prison Population of Black Persons vs. Spending on Corrections

RJ W. 67B, Harvey M. 65A, Lucille S. 67B, and Hiroko Z. 66A

On a night in 1997 intoxicated David Jones invaded the home of his neighbor and attempted to sexually assault her. Upon discovering her boyfriend was in the house he fled, but when the police arrived he acted as a concerned neighbor. David claimed he had seen Sherman Townsend flee the scene. Despite many inconsistencies and lack of evidence tying Sherman to this crime, Sherman went to prison after David testified that it was Sherman who was the perpetrator.

Sherman Townsend was unjustifiably convicted and imprisoned for over ten years after being falsely accused by the actual perpetrator of a home invasion in the year 1997.



Our data shows that spending on Public Safety and Corrections has been flat for the last 13 years. Over that time, the percentage of Black persons who are incarcerated has also been flat. We got our spending data from General Fund Spending by Major Area, which we adjusted for inflation using the BLS Inflation Calculator. Our data on the number of Black persons incarcerated in Minnesota was found using information from the MN Department of Corrections.

Only 6% of the population of MN is Black, yet nearly 37% of the population in MN prisons is Black. We believe that this is unfair. We know that Black persons face unequitable outcomes in the justice system. We want increased spending for Public Safety and Corrections with the goal of creating a more equitable justice system for Black Minnesotans. The prison population of Minnesota should reflect the population of the state.

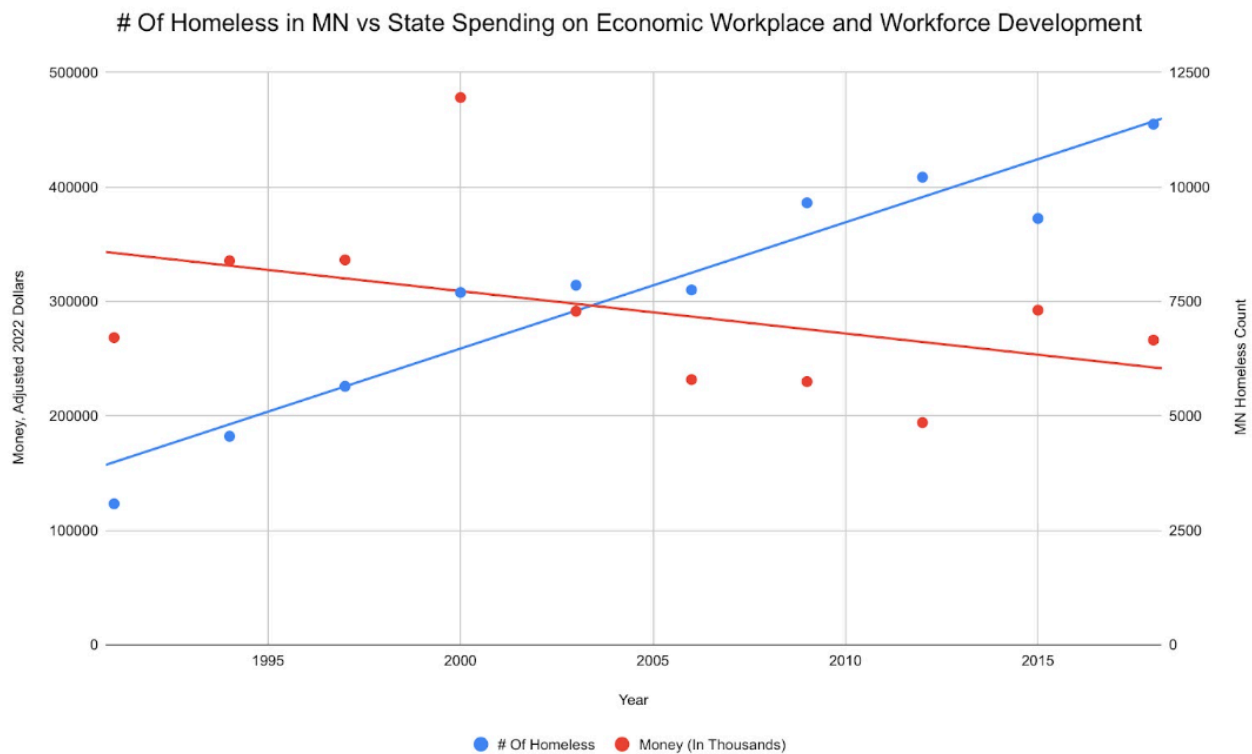
Year	Public Safety and Corrections Spending, thousands actual	PS&C Spending thousands adj 2022	Count of Black Persons Incarcerated
2010	\$531,507	\$737,924.13	35.3
2011	\$593,990	\$811,431.83	35.6
2012	\$548,095	\$727,456.38	35.5
2013	\$582,952	\$761,574.08	35.1
2014	\$580,405	\$746,460.44	34.9
2015	\$634,412	\$763,193.51	34.6
2016	\$616,920	\$732,098.40	35.1
2017	\$672,085	\$778,109.59	34.5
2018	\$680,538	\$771,913.56	35.5
2019	\$720,728	\$805,012.22	34.5
2020	\$696,470	\$759,043.26	36.3
2021	\$762,068	\$819,069.71	37.7
2022	\$772,234	\$772,933	35.9
2023	\$766,933	\$766,933.00	36.8
Source	General Fund Spending by Major Area	Bls.gov inflation calculator	MN DOC

Too many Black persons are incarcerated, more money needs to be spent to create a more equitable justice system in Minnesota.

Economic and Workforce Development Spending vs. Homeless Count

Tait V.-N. 64A, Benji D. 67B, Joaquin P. 65B and Liam N. 64B

Imagine being cold, hungry, and alone without a home. This is the harsh reality of Marcus. Marcus, a homeless man living in Minneapolis was a convicted felon making it hard for him to find a job. One day Marcus walked into a restaurant named Abi's Cafe looking for money but Abigail Baires, the owner of the cafe, had a different idea. Abi offered Marcus a job, and before he started working she also gave him a free meal. If businesses have more funding, more homeless individuals would have the opportunity to be hired.



Our data shows that the more money put into economic workforce development the lower the homeless population will be in Minnesota.

We are studying the number of homeless people versus economic and workforce development money spending, our data is from Minnesota Compass and General Fund Spending by Major Area. The red line is an average of the red data points representing the money (adjusted for 2022 using the BLS inflation calculator, in thousands) spent on economic and workforce development. The blue is also an average and represents the number of homeless people. The data shows as we are spending less money on economic and workforce development the number of homeless people are going up. We need to spend more money on economic and workforce development to decrease the number of homeless individuals.

We are asking that more money be put into the economic and workforce development. As you can see in our graph, the money in workforce development has been going down over the years and the number of homeless is going up over the years. This means the more money put into economic and workforce development will lower the number of homeless persons in Minnesota.

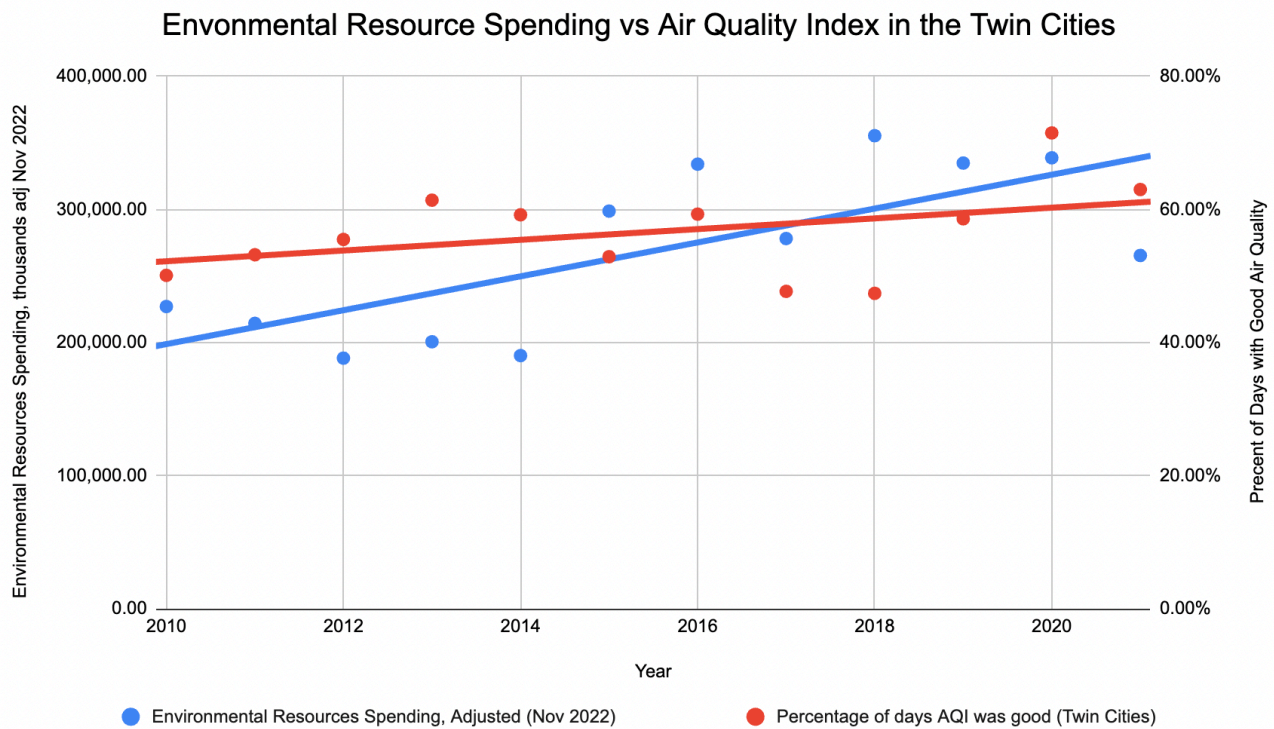
Utah has recently implemented a “housing first” model. This model essentially gives homeless people houses, it costs less to give homeless people housing so they can get a job instead of keeping them homeless and jobless living in their cities. We think that Minnesota should implement a similar model.

Year	Econ & Workforce Spending act. Money in Thousands	Econ & Workforce Spending adj. Money in Thousands	Number of Homeless Individuals
1991	120,747	268,379	3,079
1994	163,952	335,496	4,553
1997	178,852	336,311	5,645
2000	269,795	478,166	7,696
2003	177,008	291,444	7,854
2006	153,574	231,693	7,751
2009	162,252	229,896	9,654
2012	147,069	194,113	10,214
2015	198,722	292,339	9,312
2018	220,596	266,254	11,371

Environmental Resources Spending vs. Percentage of Days with Good Air Quality Index Twin Cities

Alex S. 64B, Ian M. 64B, and Roman R. 66A

Zhara Danelle Dooley grew up in the Rondo neighborhood in St. Paul which is located right by interstate 94. She's had asthma for as long as she can remember. "I grew up next to a highway," she said "You never really think about it because it's just a part of life. It's not a big deal. But then, when you think about how bad the air quality can be, that's a big thing." Zhara said. Zhara has said her asthma attacks sometimes hospitalize her. She keeps an inhaler handy but before 2018 she couldn't afford it. She was only able to when her new job's insurance started covering it.



We are studying Environmental Spending vs. Percentage of days with a good air quality index in the Twin Cities. First we gathered our data on the Air quality index from the Minnesota Compass. Then we gathered our data on Environmental resources spending from Minnesota general fund spending by major area. Our blue line is Environmental resources spending Adjusted to Nov 2022 using the BLS Gov inflation calculator. Our red line is the percentage of days where the AQI was rated good in the twin cities. If we spend more money on environmental practices we can improve air quality and save money along with many people's lives.

Air pollution from fossil fuel's costs the average Minnesotan \$2500 which is a combined 15 billion dollars that Minnesotans have to deal with and that's only healthcare costs. We need to continue spending more money on Environmental resources. Spending more on environmental resources will help our air quality achieve better standards and will also help save money along with people's lives. To decrease cases like Zhara's, Increasing spending on environmental resources is absolutely essential.

Year	Environmental Resources Spending actual (Thousands)	Environmental Resources Spending (adj Nov 2022) (Thousands)	Percentage of days AQI was good (Twin Cities)
2010	166,920	227,117.18	50.10%
2011	162,974	214,468.25	53.20%
2012	145,622	188,311.54	55.50%
2013	157,085	200,652.74	61.40%
2014	150,912	190,251.84	59.20%
2015	238,204	298,799.81	52.90%
2016	270,810	334,046.46	59.30%
2017	230,496	278,191.40	47.70%
2018	300,895	355,421.61	47.40%
2019	289,305	334,862.37	58.60%
2020	296,151	338,807.01	71.50%
2021	247,829	265,450.44	63.00%
Source	General Fund Spending by major area	BLS.gov inflation calculator	MN compass

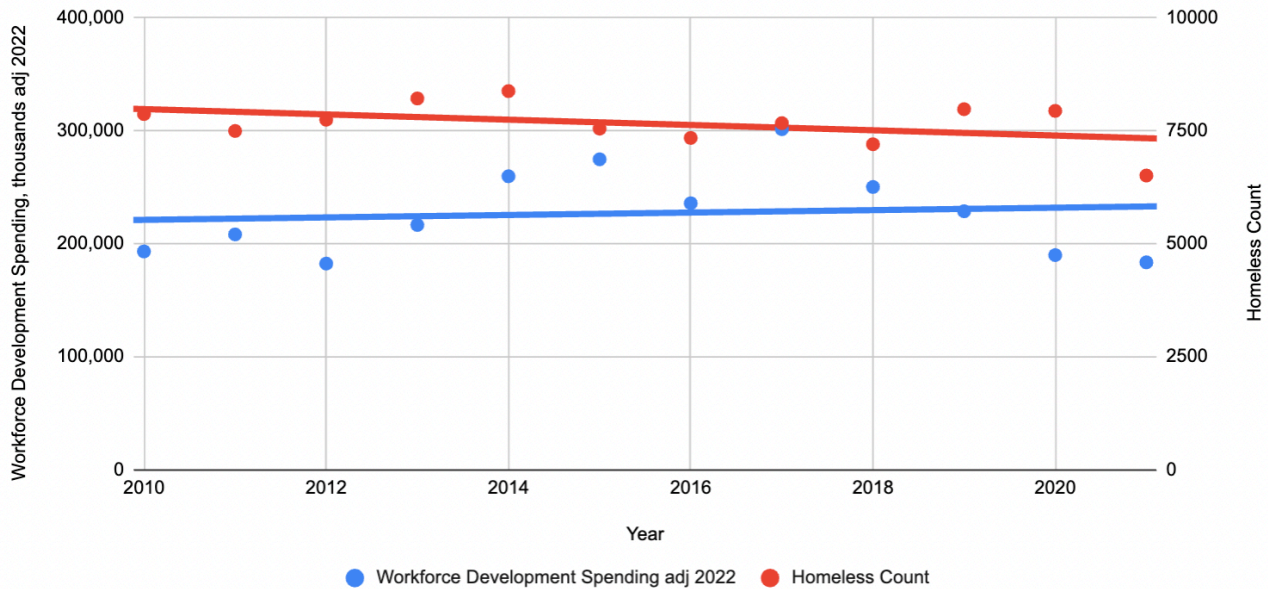
If we spend more money on environmental practices we can improve air quality and save money along with many people's lives.

MN Spending on Economic Workforce Development vs Homeless Count

Zack M. 66B, Beejan D. 64B, Rupert S. 64B, and Owen M. 63A

James Myers first became homeless in Minneapolis in March of 2019, just after serving in the Moose Lake correctional facility. He'd been staying with his dad and stepmom after his release, but when his stepmother contracted Covid-19, he moved into his car off Olson Memorial Highway to isolate himself. He'd now begin staying in a Catholic Charities shelter after some women who gave him food and water recommended it to him. He eventually saved up enough money to buy an apartment, but he struggled to find a place that would accept Ex-Felons. That's when Hennepin County stepped in with its efforts to move people from shelters to hotels from the pandemic, and Myers got on the list to move into the Millennium Hotel.

Workforce Development Spending actual, Workforce Development Spending adj 2022 and Homeless Count



On any given night in Minnesota, the number of homeless people in Minnesota is estimated at 14,000 people, and over the course of the year, a near 40,000 people.

We've been studying homelessness in Minnesota. We get our data from Minnesota compass.org. Our graphs show how many people are experiencing homelessness and the Workforce Development Spending.

Year	Workforce Development Spending actual	Workforce Development Spending adj 2022	Homeless Count
2010	148,872	193,159	7869
2011	163,109	208,233	7495
2012	147,069	182,419	7744
2013	177,400	216,587	8214
2014	216,068	259,696	8377
2015	228,371	274,728	7546
2016	198,722	235,823	7341
2017	260,318	301,384	7668
2018	220,596	250,215	7200
2019	204,761	228,706	7977
2020	174,251	189,906	7940
2021	170,750	183,521	6508
Source	General Fund Spending by Major Area	BLS.gov Inflation Calculator	MN Compass

Spending more money on the Economic Workforce Development will give people training for jobs or hire paying jobs making them less likely to become homeless, lowering the number.

