



OPEN WORLD LEARNING

Does the budget of the State of Minnesota reflect the values of the state?

Algebra 1 - 2017

Dear Reader,

This briefing book reflects the work of the Open World Learning Community (OWL) Algebra 1 students when they were introduced to the MN State Dashboard and dug deeper into what it means to live in MN.

Students worked with several experts and were assisted by educators along the way but the topics are their own. Some of the topics cover areas where the students feel the state of MN is doing a good job and some are areas that are critical of the state Budget.

My goals as their math teacher is to get them to take a position and analyze their position mathematically and become more engaged as citizens in state government. As you read this you will see evidence that the students have worked hard toward both of these goals.

Immense gratitude goes out to the Office of Management and Budget who has helped us access data from state spending. Special thanks to Assistant Commissioner/Budget Director Margaret Kelly for reaching out to help us and instructing her staff to help us out where they can. Budget Division staff members who were vital to this project include, but are not limited to: Jim King, Marianne Conboy, and Weston Merrick.

Thank you to the State Senators and Representatives who came out to support our students and listen to them.

Thomas Totushek OWL Math Teacher

“Don’t tell me what you value, show me your budget, and I’ll tell you what you value.” Joe Biden

Student/Group District Locator

Name	last	House District	State Rep	Senate District	State Senator?	Group #
Molly	Y	43A	Peter Fischer	43	Charles Klobuchar	13
Evan	C	52A	Rick Hansen	52	Matt Klein	2
Mallory	G	52A	Rick Hansen	52	Matt Klein	11
Adrian	K	64A	Erin Murphy	64	Dick Cohen	18
Amaya	B	64A	Erin Murphy	64	Dick Cohen	20
Beth	T	64A	Erin Murphy	64	Dick Cohen	20
Cyrus	S	64A	Erin Murphy	64	Dick Cohen	5
Daniel	M	64A	Erin Murphy	64	Dick Cohen	12
Eliana	W	64A	Erin Murphy	64	Dick Cohen	12
Ingrid	E	64A	Erin Murphy	64	Dick Cohen	1
Isabella	G	64A	Erin Murphy	64	Dick Cohen	17
McG	G	64A	Erin Murphy	64	Dick Cohen	1
Natalie	W	64A	Erin Murphy	64	Dick Cohen	20
Paloma	L-G	64A	Erin Murphy	64	Dick Cohen	11
Sofia	D-D	64A	Erin Murphy	64	Dick Cohen	1
William	M	64A	Erin Murphy	64	Dick Cohen	8
Abe	B-B	64A	Dave Pinto	64	Dick Cohen	15
Ben	L	64B	Dave Pinto	64	Dick Cohen	11
Diego	K	64B	Dave Pinto	64	Dick Cohen	18
Hazel	C	64B	Dave Pinto	64	Dick Cohen	16
Henry	S	64B	Dave Pinto	64	Dick Cohen	2
Isaac	S	64B	Dave Pinto	64	Dick Cohen	4
Jonah	E	64B	Dave Pinto	64	Dick Cohen	6
Jonas	K-M	64B	Dave Pinto	64	Dick Cohen	16
Lily	D	64B	Dave Pinto	64	Dick Cohen	7
Marco	A	64B	Dave Pinto	64	Dick Cohen	19
Max	S	64B	Dave Pinto	64	Dick Cohen	15
Ryuki	W	64B	Dave Pinto	64	Dick Cohen	4
Aidan	C	65A	Rena Moran	65	Sandy Pappas	18
Desmond	H	65A	Rena Moran	65	Sandy Pappas	4
Libby	N	65A	Rena Moran	65	Sandy Pappas	10
Linnea	C	65A	Rena Moran	65	Sandy Pappas	7
Maria	G	65A	Rena Moran	65	Sandy Pappas	10
Ryan	A	65A	Rena Moran	65	Sandy Pappas	9
Teyonna	C	65A	Rena Moran	65	Sandy Pappas	9

Name	last	House District	State Rep	Senate District	State Senator?	Group #
Cy	C	65B	Carlos Mariani	65	Sandy Pappas	16
Erica	P	65B	Carlos Mariani	65	Sandy Pappas	20
Guadalupe	D	65B	Carlos Mariani	65	Sandy Pappas	16
Jalen	B-S	65B	Carlos Mariani	65	Sandy Pappas	6
Milani	D	65B	Carlos Mariani	65	Sandy Pappas	9
Noah	M	65B	Carlos Mariani	65	Sandy Pappas	19
Oliver	K	65B	Carlos Mariani	65	Sandy Pappas	8
Oskar	H	65B	Carlos Mariani	65	Sandy Pappas	6
Treasure	H	65B	Carlos Mariani	65	Sandy Pappas	17
Liam	B-S	66A	Erin Murphy	66	John Marty	15
Espen	A	66A	Alice Housman	66	John Marty	14
Flannery	C	66A	Alice Housman	66	John Marty	12
Keyana	F	66A	Alice Housman	66	John Marty	14
Stian	A	66A	Alice Housman	66	John Marty	6
Haakon	N	66B	John Lesch	66	John Marty	5
Jaylah	G	66B	John Lesch	66	John Marty	9
Naw	L	66B	John Lesch	66	John Marty	10
Sarah	L	66B	John Lesch	66	John Marty	3
Saw	H	66B	John Lesch	66	John Marty	18
Shanay	J	66B	John Lesch	66	John Marty	14
Ale	C	67A	Tim Mahoney	67	Foung Hawj	12
Alexis	L	67A	Tim Mahoney	67	Foung Hawj	13
Avniel	G	67A	Tim Mahoney	67	Foung Hawj	19
Gizelle	V	67A	Tim Mahoney	67	Foung Hawj	10
Isaac	M	67A	Tim Mahoney	67	Foung Hawj	4
Mark	M-M	67A	Tim Mahoney	67	Foung Hawj	8
Skyler	V	67A	Tim Mahoney	67	Foung Hawj	15
Yomaris	F	67A	Tim Mahoney	67	Foung Hawj	19
Anabel	W	67B	Sheldon Johnson	67	Foung Hawj	14
Anishka	A	67B	Sheldon Johnson	67	Foung Hawj	3
Avery	K	67B	Sheldon Johnson	67	Foung Hawj	8
Dulce	C	67B	Sheldon Johnson	67	Foung Hawj	7
Hope	S	67B	Sheldon Johnson	67	Foung Hawj	11
Jacob	S	67B	Sheldon Johnson	67	Foung Hawj	17
Joe	D	67B	Sheldon Johnson	67	Foung Hawj	5
Lily	L	67B	Sheldon Johnson	67	Foung Hawj	13
Max	M	67B	Sheldon Johnson	67	Foung Hawj	5
Sam	H	67B	Sheldon Johnson	67	Foung Hawj	2
Tanu	B	67B	Sheldon Johnson	67	Foung Hawj	13

Group 1

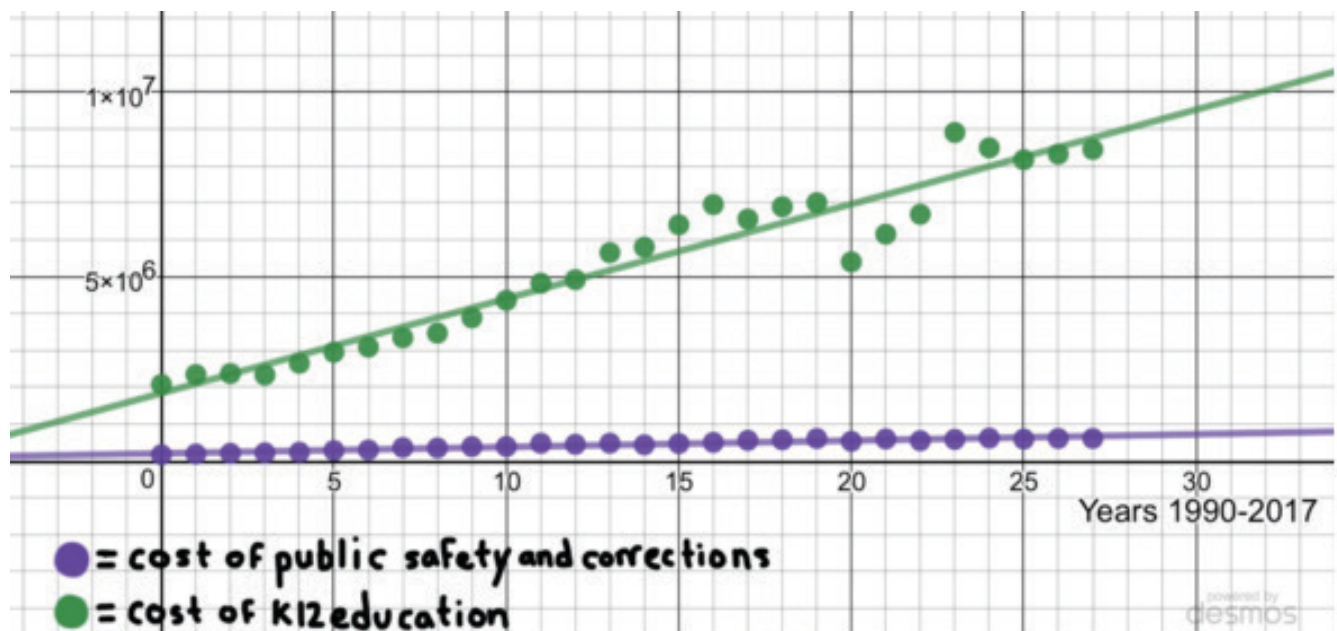
The Correlation between Cost of Correction and E12 Education

McG (64A), Ingrid (64A), and Sofia (64A)

It seems like there would not be a connection between spending on education and on cost of corrections and public safety, but they are closer than you might think. Our graphs say the amount spent in these two areas has increased together. In our project, we will talk more about our graphs, and make suggestions for Minnesota's budget.

Our graph demonstrates that the state spending on E12 education and on corrections and public safety have both been increasing at a pretty consistent pace, although E12 spending has been growing more rapidly than cost of corrections and public safety. This shows that our state's priorities are focused on education. This pays off, considering 92.4% of Minnesota students are high school graduates.

However, the cost to educate one student for a year is \$12,643, which is much less than the cost to house one inmate for a year, which is \$28,323. This means if the number of prisoners and the number of students were equal, we would be spending more on corrections and public safety than we would on E12 education. You could say that this goes against our claims, but actually, since the number of prisoners in Minnesota is significantly smaller than the number of students in Minnesota, the money given to cost of corrections and public safety is distributed across fewer people.



K12 education spending

0	2072191
1	2339757
2	2368138
3	2328367
4	2647294
5	2946042
6	3084857
7	3337326
8	3463919
9	3877761
10	4353114
11	4818844
12	4913217
13	5646759
14	5795825
15	6403189
16	6951485
17	6555846
18	6891690
19	7000452
20	5395913
21	6148293
22	6687479
23	8905875
24	8489103
25	8167803
26	8318265
27	8446373

public safety and corrections spending

0	166868
1	186639
2	205390
3	218036
4	234108
5	280539
6	296626
7	361374
8	350059
9	387686
10	389843
11	476388
12	447583
13	479791
14	435628
15	470205
16	501213
17	556075
18	571652
19	606324
20	531507
21	593990
22	548095
23	582952
24	617459
25	590573
26	608464
27	608017

A report by the US Bureau of a Justice found that there is an indirect correlation between rates of arrest and incarceration and educational attainment. 68% of inmates in state prisons across the US did not receive a high school diploma, whereas only 18% of the non-incarcerated population in the nation did not receive a high school diploma. The most common reason that incarcerated individuals dropped out of high school was because of behavioral or academic problems, with 35% dropping out for that reason. In the general population, the most common reason for dropping out, with 24%, was economic reasons, like needing a job. A report by the Alliance for Excellent Education found that Minnesota could save as much as \$107,000,000 per year by increasing the graduation rate in males by 5 percentage points.

The same report notes that the correlation between educational attainment and incarceration is tied to racial equity. Students that have been suspended in the past are twice as likely as students that haven't to drop out of high school, and African American students are twice as likely as non African Americans to get suspended. Latinos and African Americans are also extremely overrepresented in the Minnesota prison system, with African Americans making up 35% of the prison population, but less than 6% of the general population of Minnesota.

We suggest that the state focuses on funding programs that work to lower school suspension and expulsion rates and especially those rates among minority students. This will help lower the population of prisons in the future. We also believe that the state should work to further increase graduation rates, focusing specifically on the graduation rates of students of color. If the state makes calculated investments in educational programs, we believe they can also be an investment on public safety and corrections and an equal and diverse Minnesota community.

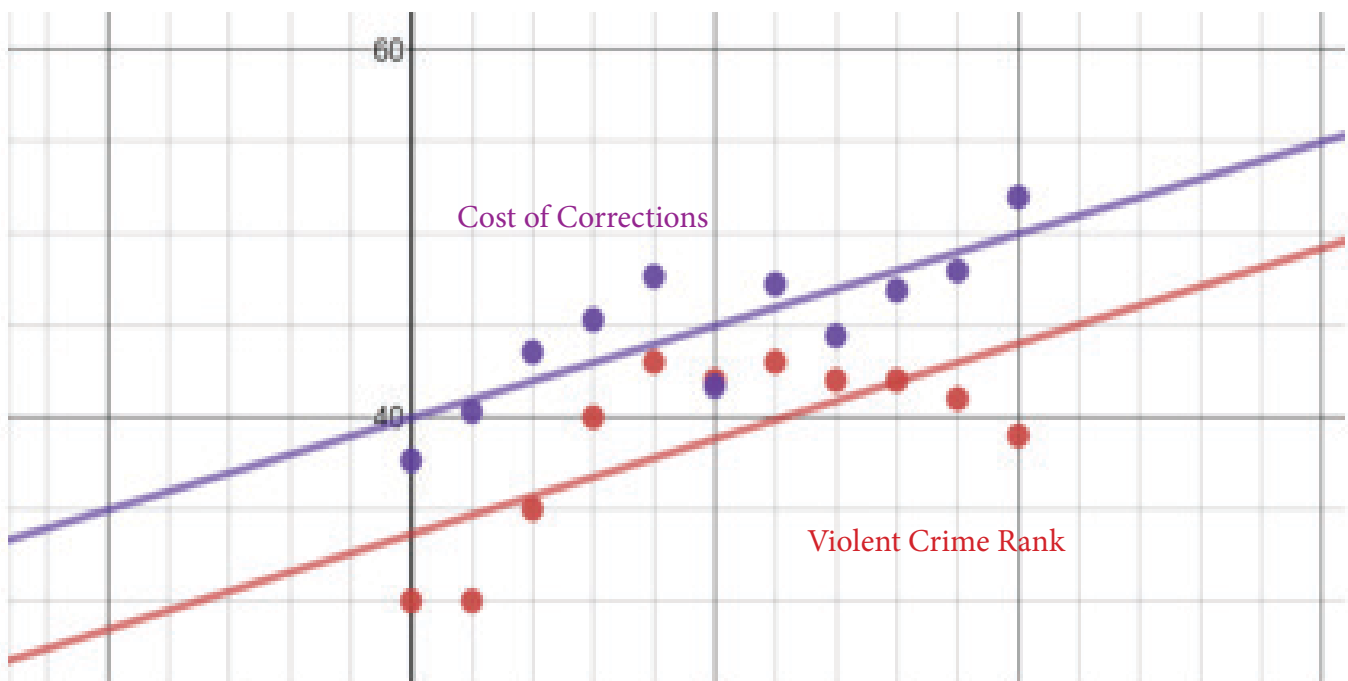
Our graph shows that both the spending on E12 education and on public safety and corrections have both been increasing steadily, and E12 spending has been growing more quickly.

Group 2

Cost of Corrections vs. Violent Crime

Henry (64B), Evan (54A), Samuel (67B)

Violent crime happens all over the world and affects cost of corrections a lot. A Cottage Grove man was arrested for killing his wife and trying making it look like a suicide. On Nov. 13th Amy Allwine was found dead by officials. It appears that she had committed suicide. Upon further review they realized there was no evidence that she had shot the gun herself and seemed setup. Their next door neighbor was shocked to hear the news and said that they were a happy couple and he never heard them have problems. Stephen also tried to pay people to kill his wife over several months and did it over the dark web. Stephen bought a drug that incapacitates people. This drug was found in Amy's body after death. He will be sentenced to 40 years in prison for second degree murder. Forty years is quite a long time, and probably very costly. If they state puts more money into violent crimes then they can be paying less in cost of corrections and saving money.



Violent crime rank

2000-2015

Year	Index	Violent
2005	32	30
2006	32	30
2007	31	35
2008	31	40
2009	31	43
2010	34	42
2011	33	43
2012	34	42
2013	33	42
2014	30	41
2015	30	39

Cost of corrections

Year	money
2005	376,502
2006	403,132
2007	435,376
2008	452,981
2009	476,637
2010	416,861
2011	472,330
2012	444,270
2013	468,946
2014	479,518
2015	519,648

The red dots and line are violent crime rank and the purple is cost of corrections over time. Our graph shows that the data of cost of corrections and crime rank are mostly parallel but have been getting farther apart but we predict that it will steady out. Because people are staying in prison there will be less criminals out in society so the violent crime will go down like it is and cost of corrections could even out with not as many new prisoners coming to prison but they will still be many prisoners in prison. By crime rank we mean the overall crime rank in Minnesota compared to other states in the US. By cost of corrections we mean the amount of money the state of Minnesota is spending to incarcerate felons. Over the course of ten years 2005 through 2015 the cost of corrections went up \$143,016,000 dollars. The lowest violent crime rank was 2005 and 2006 at rank 30. The highest rank was 2009 and 2011 at rank 43. Until 2006 crime did not start coming down until, slightly in 2014 and 2015.

We want the state to invest in a few strategies to reduce violent crime. A few of these are: Educating people on how to prevent it and showing them why it is very bad. You can also focus on hotspots with more crime. Control of illegal weapons so criminals can't get illegal weapons. By doing these things violent crime will decrease resulting in a corresponding decrease in cost of corrections.

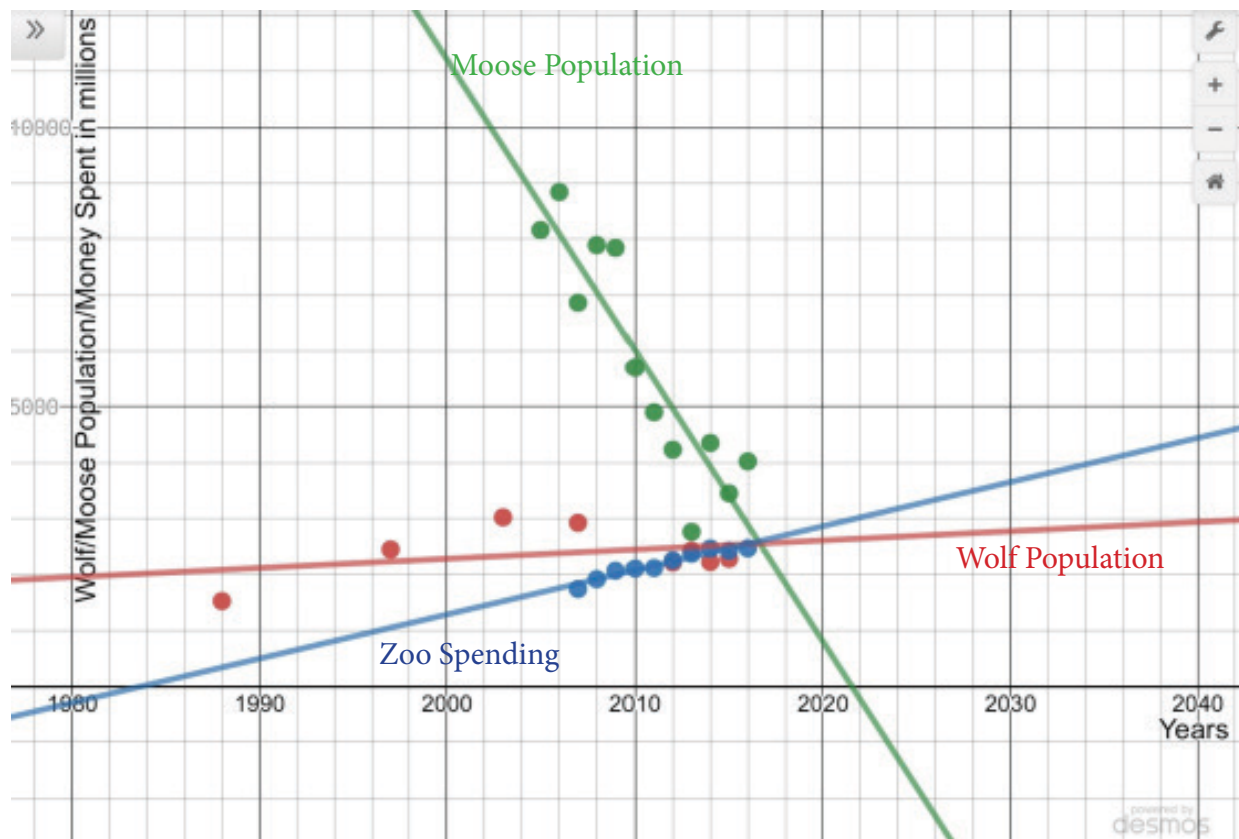
Our graph shows that when the violent crime rank goes up, the cost of corrections goes up. So if we put more money into stopping violent crime (and crime in general) we can level out the cost of corrections.


Group 3

Relation Between Endangered Wildlife Populations and Man Made Enclosures (Zoos) Cost

Anishka Altmann (67B) and Sarah Lipkin (66B)

In 1973 the grey wolf population disappeared from the west of the US and the only visits we got from this majestic species is when they came down from Canada for short visits. The wolf population started to decrease when the human population started to increase and the two species began competing for food and territory. Another difficulty that the grey wolves have faced is that people have over time retained a good deal of misinformation about the species. That chain of lies continued into the 20th century, as the year 2013 confirmed, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that a “canine believed to be a wolf” attacked a 16 year old boy while on a camping trip in northern Minnesota. After the attack a wolf was found nearby and immediately caught and shot dead without proof if it was the true attacker. The boy from the attack was unsure if the attacker was really a wolf or not.



x_1	 y_1
2005	8160
2006	8840
2007	6860
2008	7890
2009	7840
2010	5700
2011	4900
2012	4230
2013	2760
2014	4350
2015	3450
2016	4020

x_2	 y_2
1988	1521
1997	2445
2003	3020
2007	2921
2012	2211
2013	2423
2014	2221
2015	2278

x_3	 y_3
2007	1737
2008	1914
2009	2065
2010	2104
2011	2114
2012	2254
2013	2368
2014	2462
2015	2422
2016	2465

Although the wolf and moose populations have been decreasing since the 1900's, zoos and wildlife organizations work hard to keep that populations from hitting rock bottom.

With our data it is clear that while zoos are doing well with their spending in keeping the wolf population up, on the contrary, they are not doing as well with regards to the moose population which has continued at an alarming decline for the past 20 or so years. The data shows that there are few to no moose in the Minnesota zoo and this is a rather small but still important part of the reason why the moose population in Minnesota is declining.

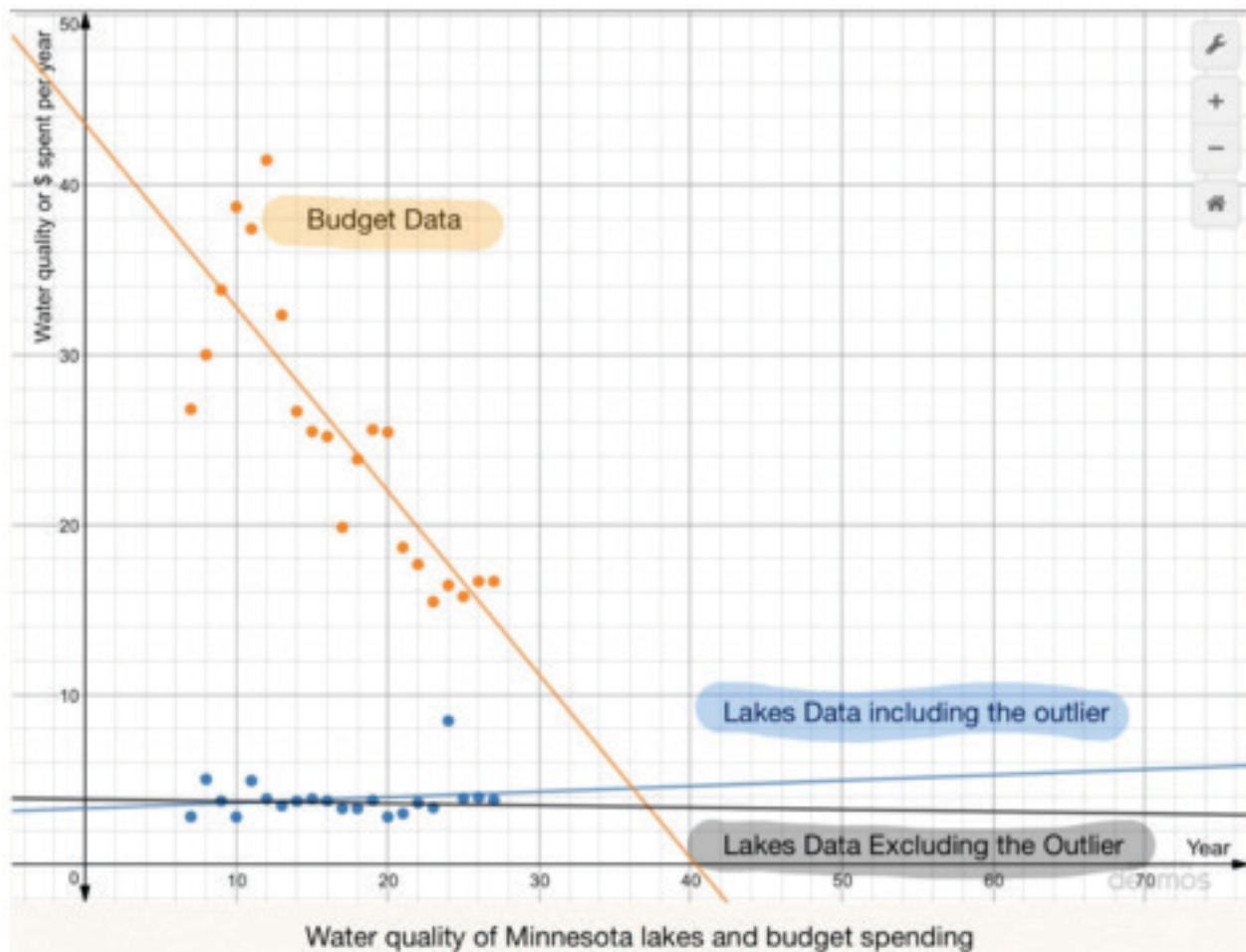
A plausible solution for the declining moose population would be to ban moose hunting and raise a certain number of moose in reserves that resemble or are their natural habitats. Also with the moose that are taken into the reserves we can study some of the diseases and bugs that are also threatening the moose population and find cures. To keep the wolf population from dipping down into the endangered range again, the State of Minnesota should continue making wolf reserves and other facilities like that will either keep their population at a constant or make it increase either of which would be fantastic. The thing to still keep in mind is that while it is good to have a high population, it still needs to be low enough as to not totally overrun the forests. If that does happen in will make that species eat more, then they will run out of food very quickly and that will make their population will crash into almost nothing.

Group 4

Water Quality of Minnesota Lakes v.s. Amount of Money Spent on the Environment

Isaac (64B), Isaac (67A), Desmond (65A), and Ryuki (64B)

We chose our topic because Minnesota is known for having a lot of lakes and we wanted to see exactly how good of a water quality the lakes have. Based on how Minnesota brags about lakes, it is kind of ironic how good the water is. Only %62 of Minnesota lakes have decent water quality, according to the Minnesota dashboard. If you think about it, there are about 11,842 lakes in Minnesota, so only approximately 7,342 of Minnesota lakes have good water quality. That's close to 4,500 that do not. It's bad. The lakes are important to our environment. Many plants and animals depend on those big bodies of water. They can not be polluted, junked up, or just plain ruined.



Below is the lakes data including the outlier

x_1	y_1
7	2.82
8	5.02
9	3.74
10	2.8
11	4.93
12	3.86
13	3.46
14	3.73
15	3.86
16	3.75
17	3.3
18	3.3
19	3.78
20	2.8
21	3
22	3.63
23	3.35
24	8.45
25	3.9
26	3.95
27	3.8

Below is the budget data

x_2	y_2
7	26.781115
8	29.992310
9	33.795209
10	38.689742
11	37.397729
12	41.436169
13	32.312943
14	26.653346
15	25.467282
16	25.170065
17	19.835157
18	23.826902
19	25.572301
20	25.42091
21	18.647601
22	17.649654
23	15.450733
24	16.426369
25	15.757904
26	16.646758
27	16.652520

First we looked for data at the Minnesota budget spending on environment and we found that the spending had a spike up, but was overall was decreasing. Then we started to look for data on water quality of lakes. We could not find a data on the water quality of the lakes in Minnesota anywhere at first. We tried to find random lakes by a random number generator, but we realized that there was not enough data on random lakes, so we decided to get data on lake Mille Lacs because there was a lot of reliable and recent data and there was enough data in our time frame so it worked out.

The website we came across had data on the water clarity of Lake Mille Lacs and was very helpful and informational. The water clarity is measured with a technique called Secchi which works by using a black and white disk and putting it in the water. Then the water clarity is calculated by how visible it is, in a certain depth in the lake (or any other water body). The source we used had several Secchi measurements each year and we averaged out the data from each year to calculate the average water clarity. Our budget data had a spike before the secchi data was being recorded so we cut the budget spending graph to put emphasis on the fact that the spending was decreasing. Our budget data started in 1990. The secchi data started in 1996. So we decided to cut out the budget data spending from before 1996. This also put emphasis on the fact that the budget spending is decreasing.

The graph has a negative correlation especially in the budget spending but, when we first looked at the graph there was a major outlier that has so much of a difference it made the line on the graph slope upwards. But it turns out that when it was removed, we noted that the slope was sloping slightly downwards. Together, the lines have a negative correlation. This means that water quality has been decreasing with the Minnesota state budget. It turns out that we could possibly turn it around and make the lakes clean by increasing the budget spending on the environment.

Overall, we predict that if the Minnesota budget spending on the environment is increased in future years, theoretically the water quality of the lakes should also increase with the budget. And as a result of this we could have a more stable ecosystem. The lakes are very important and we have prevent the decrease in water quality. We suggest that you raise environment funding so that the amount of money is no longer sharply dropping and the water quality of the lakes will hopefully start increasing.

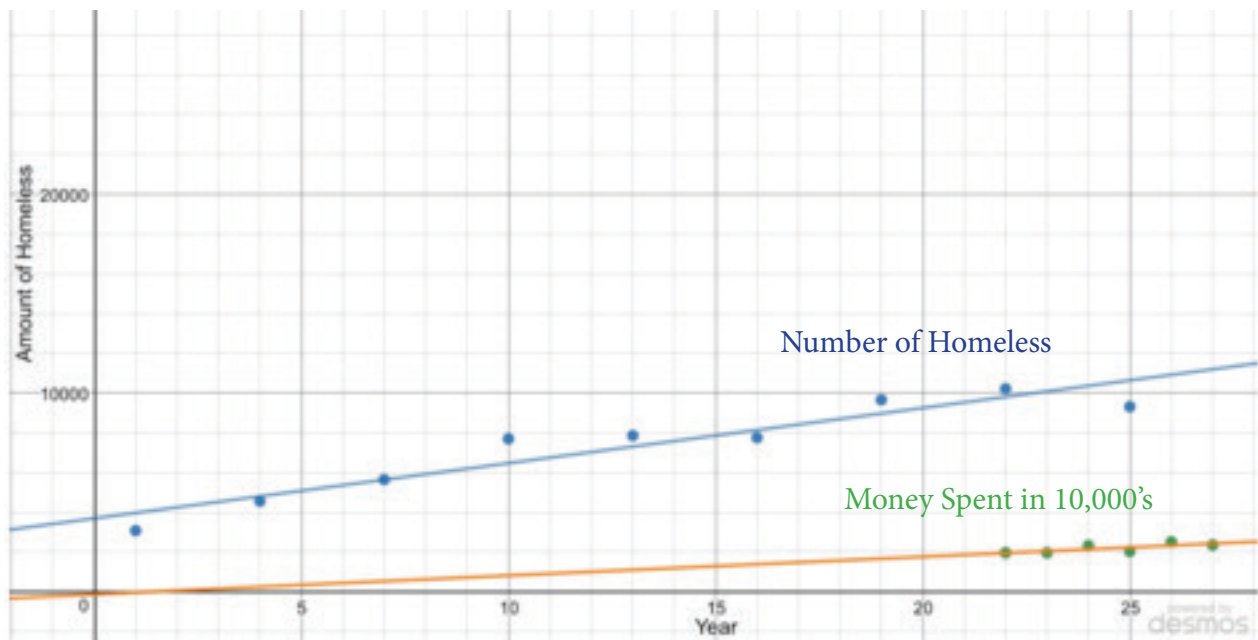
The MN state funding for the environment has been decreasing since 1996 and so has the water quality of lake Mille Lacs.

Group 5

Amount of Homeless People and the Amount Spent by Minnesota

Cyrus (64A), Haakon (66B), Max (67B), and Joe (67B)

About 10,214 people are going to experience homelessness on a given day in Minnesota with about $\frac{1}{3}$ of them being children and more than half of them being 21 or younger. Do you think this is the right way to grow up? Do you think this is the right way to start adulthood? Well we don't think it is. Jerome is homeless with his mother who has a very bad illness and his younger sister. They mostly live off of shelters and food drives right now just trying to get back on their feet. Jerome is just starting school again going into his freshman year. He can't help but think about how scared he is to start and how difficult it'll be knowing he has to support his family and do academics at the same time. How would you feel if you were in this situation? The amount of pressure on you to get your family back on track and trying to get your mother better again and feeding your younger sister at only age 15. Not mentioning getting passing grades at the same time. Just ask yourself should this really happen to people?




According to our data we are steadily gaining more homeless people every year. Almost every year we gain more homeless population we are spending more money on services for them. But from 2012 to 2015 we had a positive change. In 2012 we had 10,214 homeless people and that number dropped down to 9,312 in 2015. Although the homeless number dropped, we spent more money in 2015 than in 2012. According to the change in 2012 to 2015 if we spend more money in homeless people services we can lower our number of homeless each year until that number is next to zero. In the other years when the homeless count is going up. We are spending the right amount of money to help the population but not to make it smaller. That's why when we go above and beyond the bare minimum we can lower the number of homeless people each year until that number is zero.

This graph shows the amount of homeless people on top and the amount that the state spends on helping them is on the bottom. As you can see in the year 2015 when there was less homeless people the state had to spend less. The amount of homeless people have gone up drastically since 1991. It has increased by 12,036 homeless and is still going up today. As you can see by the lines of best fit if the state keeps following the current trend there will only be an increase of homeless and the amount that will have to be spent on them.

What our senators need to do to make sure that the homeless numbers are either 0 or less than 100, with those few people being at shelters. Since the graphs tell us that when there are more homeless people, the government spends the most money but when the numbers are lower, only a small amount of money is spent on making the number the tiniest bit smaller. By spending the extra money and putting in at least 5% more money, the number of homeless people would go down within the next couple years. The higher the amount of homeless people, the more money spent, which may seem good, but 10,214 homeless people is too many. If the senators push to spend even a small amount more than they usually do, it would change so much to the homeless veterans, children and civilians who do not have homes.

About 10,214 people are homeless on a given day in MN. This graph shows the correlation between the number of homeless people and how much the state spends on them on a given year.

x_1	 y_1
1	3079
4	4553
7	5645
10	7696
13	7854
16	7751
19	9654
22	10214
25	9312

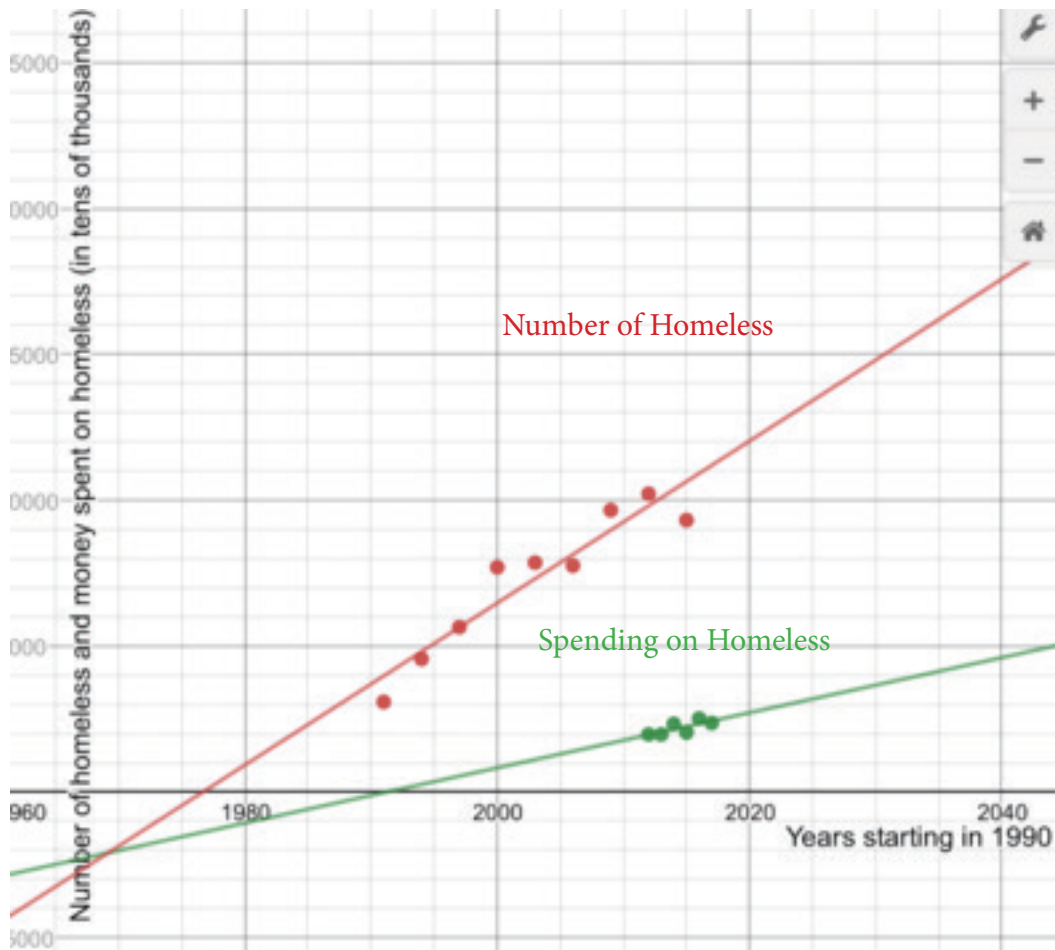
x_2	 y_2
22	1965.8000
23	1962.0600
24	2325.2700
25	2031.9100
26	2511.4000
27	2356.5100

Group 6

Money Spent on Subsidized Housing versus Number of Homeless People per Day

Oskar (65B), Jalen (65B), Stian (66A), and Jonah (65B)

Alex is 46, he and his kids are one of 10,000 Minnesotans that are homeless. They are living on the streets and in homeless shelters. One of Alex's sons is paraplegic, and no homeless shelters would take him in so they were forced to send him to foster care, his daughter can get into a shelter but it's only for women and children. His oldest son lives in hotels and on the streets, luckily his oldest son has a job, but sadly that's the only source of income in the whole family. By using Utah's method, housing the homeless, we can give a stable environment to families and chronically homeless. This will make families stay together because they won't be in different homeless shelters and it's cheaper to keep them off the streets.



The data shows that not enough money is being spent on subsidized housing for homeless people and families to live in their own home. We found that more people are experiencing homelessness, even though the government is spending more money. The amount of homelessness has gone up over the years and if we don't do something to stop it will get out of hand, based on the data we have.

The graph we created shows a positive correlation between the amount of homeless and the amount of money spent on them. As shown on the graph the number of homeless is rising at a constant rate, and not enough money is spent to keep that number down. The amount being spent on the homeless in Minnesota is nowhere near enough money to keep them off the streets, and in affordable housing. Only 28% of homeless Minnesotans are employed this shows that it's hard to get a job.

A next step for policy makers would be to raise the yearly spendings on subsidized housing. This would lower the amount of chronically homeless and solve other budget issues such as incarceration, and hospitalization. If people would spend more money we can keep more people off our city streets, by creating more affordable housing settlements such as the apartments located next to the Dorothy Day center. Another way would be to raise the minimum wage which would create more money for chronically homeless people without a college education, and prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place. This will help a lot, because Minnesota is the 4th most expensive housing market in the U.S.

x_2	 y_2
1991	3079
1994	4553
1997	5645
2000	7696
2003	7854
2006	7751
2009	9654
2012	10214
2015	9312

Every day, around 10,000 people go without homes. If the government spends more on subsidized housing, less people will sleep on our city's streets.

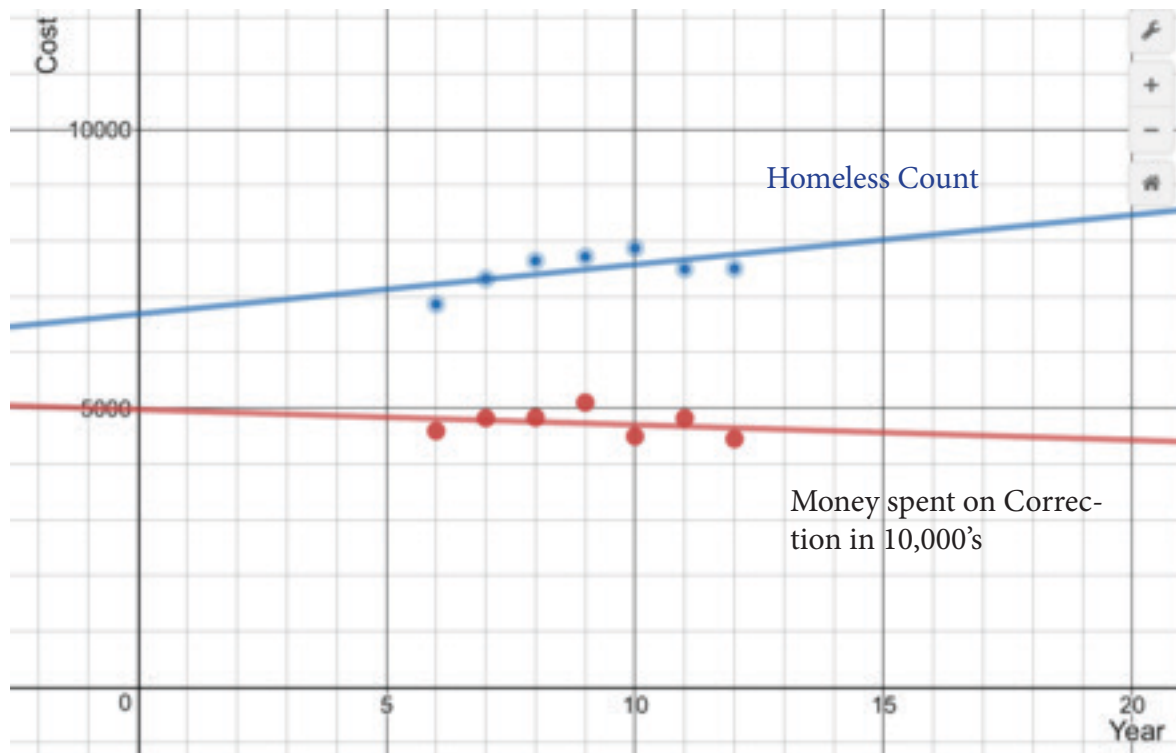
x_1	 y_1
2012	1965.8000
2013	1962.0600
2014	2325.2700
2015	2031.9100
2016	2511.4000
2017	2356.5100

Group 7

Cost of Corrections vs. Homelessness

Linnea (65A), Lily (64B), and Dulce (67B)

Michael Treadwell is a man who is homeless in New Hampshire and has been sent to jail for trespassing around 575 days. A story from National Public Radio tells us that the county has “spent \$63,000 dollars over the last six years keeping Treadwell in jail for a little more than trespassing” (a little more than trespassing meaning getting drunk a few times here and there). Treadwell has a mental illness called schizophrenia, so when others would know they're doing wrong, it's hard for him to recognize that he is. Instead of spending all the money on jailing or incarcerating Michael, why not spend less than that amount on a home for him and some help for his schizophrenia which would get him back on his feet and they may never need to pay correction fees again. Once Treadwell gets the help he needs and gets a paying job, he will be able to give back to our economy and pay taxes which will begin to make up for the money the county has spent incarcerating him.



Our graph has the number of homeless people in Minnesota and the cost of corrections, also in Minnesota. The data we have, is from the year 2006 through 2012. We got our data from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (number of homeless people) and the Minnesota Management and budget (the cost of corrections). Our graph shows us that from the years 2006 to 2010 the number of homeless people increased every single year; this was probably the effects of the 2008 financial crisis. In 2011 that number decreased drastically and in 2012 it increased slightly. The cost of corrections also increased a lot from the years 2008 to 2009. Something else that we found on the graph was in the year 2010 the cost of corrections really dropped and in the same year the number of homeless people went up. Which means that the state was probably not taking in a lot of inmates or they taking a few inmates out that weren't ready to leave jail; possibly because their jails were full or because they were going over the state budget. Those inmates that the state didn't take in probably ended up on the streets homeless and that's a reason for the increase in the number of homeless people and the decrease in cost of corrections in the year 2010.

Michael Treadwell has a mental illness called schizophrenia which limits him from knowing what the right thing to do is and what the wrong thing to do is. For example: committing a crime or restricting yourself. According to an Article from National Public Radio called trespass, jail, repeat: he has been sent to jail around 575 times for trespassing because he simply doesn't know better or what others would do around him. For the past 6 years, the city has spent around \$63,000 on bringing him in and out of jail every month. Sometimes even right after he gets out of jail he does something bad, and goes right back for doing something like drinking in public places, peeing in parks, disturbing customers and more. The city would save a lot more money getting him an apartment or health care or medication because if he got the help and care he needs then he could possible have an apartment and maybe one day become a tax paying citizen which would benefit our community because it would give us more money for roads and buildings.

x_2	y_2
6	6865
7	7323
8	7644
9	7718
10	7869
11	7495
12	7505

x_3	y_3
6	4591.11
7	4821.01
8	4830.48
9	5100.89
10	4494.48
11	4821.05
12	4447.70

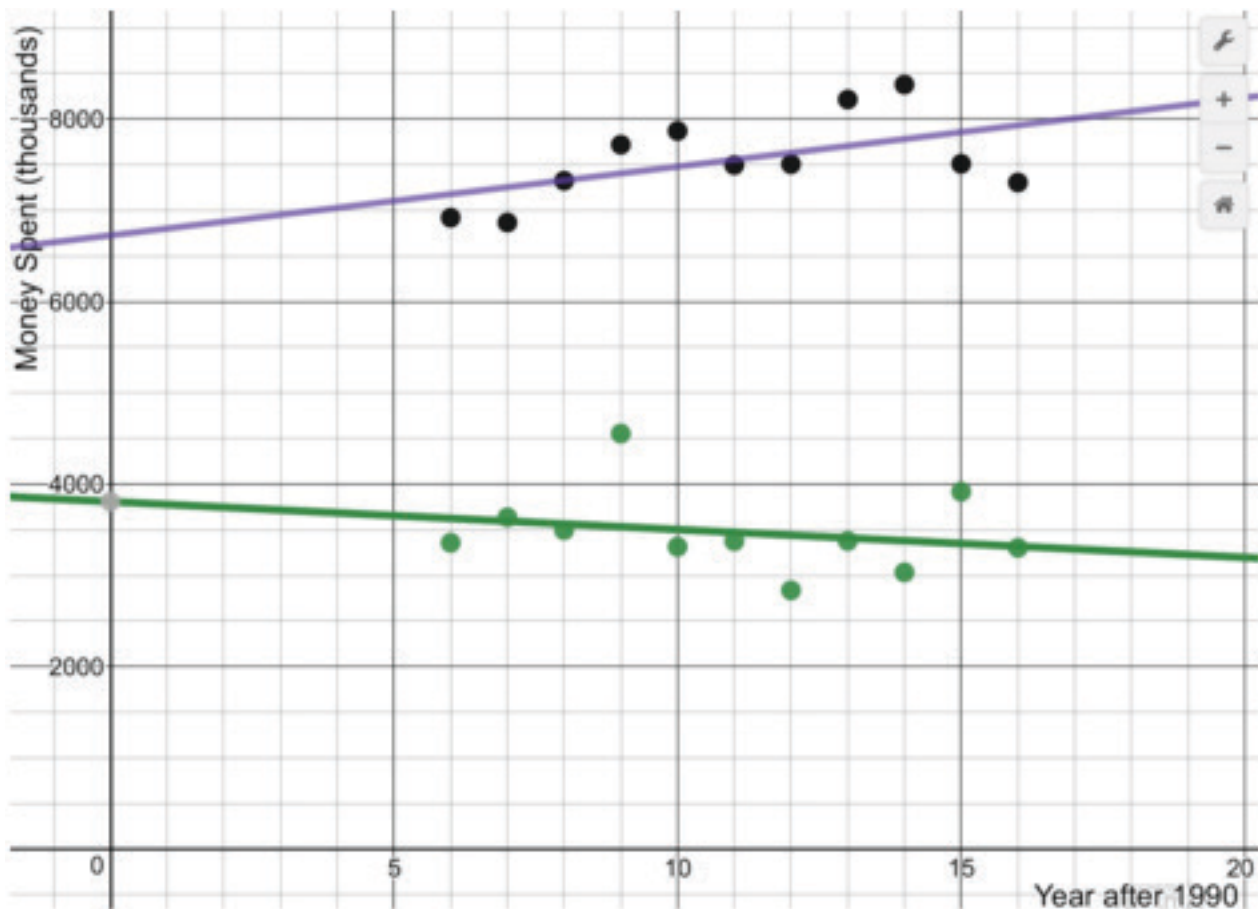
The slope in our graph shows that the cost spent on corrections has stayed flat. We propose that the money we spend on cost of corrections should go towards people who are homeless and giving them a home.


Group 8

Homeless Youth & Human rights

Avery (67B), Oliver (65B), Mark (67A), and William (64A)


Teresa Hamilton, who was 17 at the time this article was written, is homeless. She became homeless because her mom no longer wanted Teresa to live with her. Teresa and her sisters hardly ever went to school except when she lived in a shelter she went to school at the shelter. She did not go to a normal school because it went too fast for her. Robbie McLeod is homeless and is living on the streets. He became homeless at the age of 16 he was neglected by his mother and had Asperger's syndrome and struggles with anxiety. One day his mom gave his food to the dogs so he just got up and left. He ended up on the streets because he didn't like living in a shelter.



x_1	 y_1
6	3355
7	3634
8	3493
9	4552
10	3312
11	3373
12	2834
13	3375
14	3031
15	3916
16	3300

The data we received for the amount of money that the government spent on the homeless. Even if we couldn't find the amount the government spends on youth we found the in general amount they spend on homeless. The government spends a lot of money but it not enough to end homelessness. We found out on the top reasons youth are homeless: fighting frequently with parents or guardians 42%, told to leave or locked out 35%, parents' use of drugs or alcohol 25%, neglect/parents not meeting basic needs 25%, not willing to live by parents' rules 23%, lack of tolerance of sexual orientation or gender identity 23%, had mental health problems 21%, did not feel safe because of violence at home 21%. A lot of youth after they become homeless go to a shelter but a lot don't. With the people in a shelter they have the option of going to school and so do the the people not in shelters but a lot don't.

We think you should use more money on the homeless youth because it could lower the amount of the homeless people under the age of 21. It would help by getting them on the right track and possibly even go to college. Spending more money on homeless youth will also bring up the working population. It would also help them by stopping them from going to jail and taxpayers won't have spend as much money incarcerating them. There is a organization that I believe is called the bridge and the do a lot to help homeless youth they do a lot to help the people that go to them for help, they have one on one talks with the people that come in they don't tell anyone what you tell them unless it's self harm or thoughts of suicide, they have places for people to sleep, short term or long they would have a place for you to stay, they do have small programs and people come it, we feel like there should be more places like this.

x_2	 y_2
6	6918
7	6865
8	7323
9	7718
10	7869
11	7495
12	7505
13	8214
14	8377
15	7509
16	7304

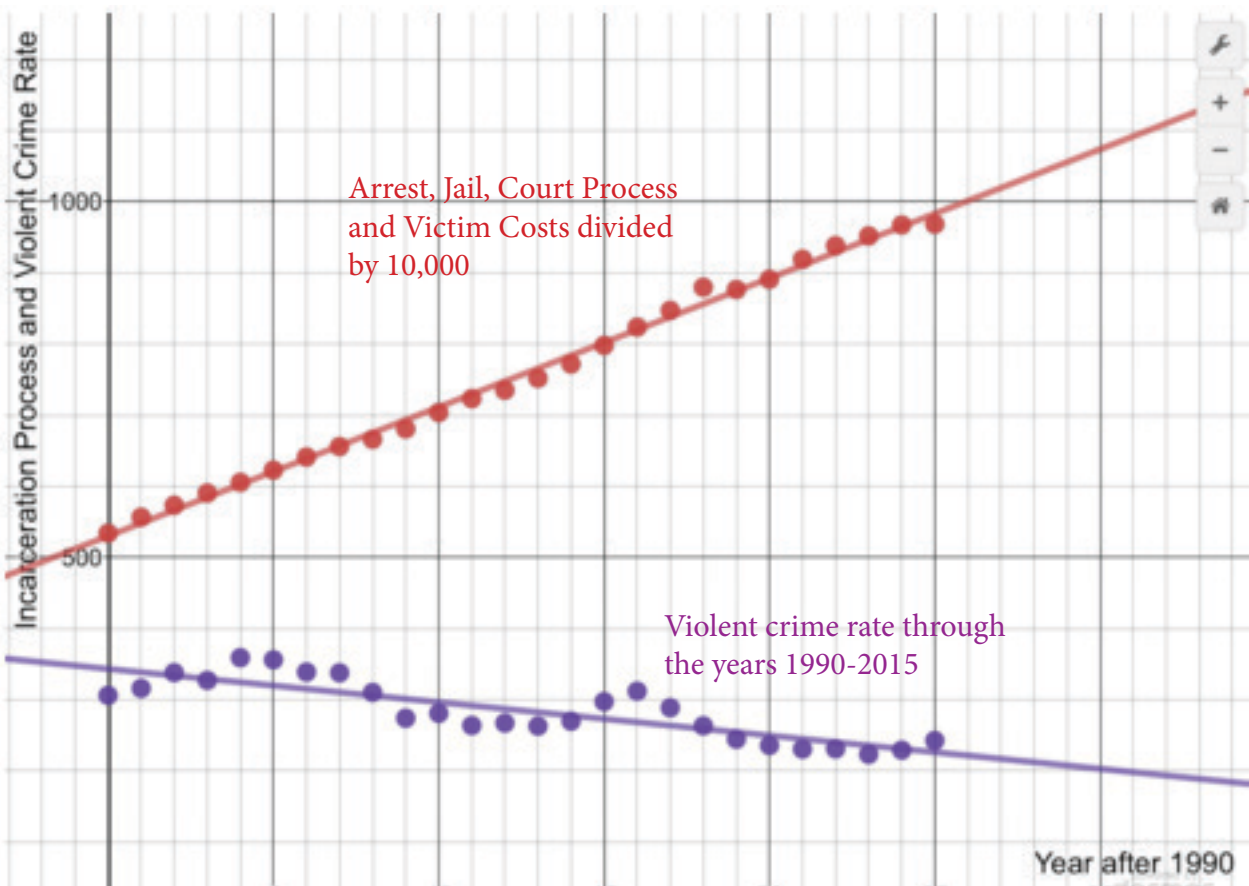
Homeless youth is a big problem in Minnesota because schools lack the money to provide these students with a quality education.


Group 9

How The Money MN Spends On Incarceration Affects the Violent Crime Rates.

Milani (65B), Teyonna (65A), Jaylah (66B), and Ryan (65A)

MAVI (Minneapolis Anti-Violence Initiative) pairs Minneapolis police officers and Hennepin County sheriff's deputies with probation officers from the Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections. MAVI is meant to deter criminals from committing more crimes after they're released. From June 1997 through September 1998, MAVI teams visited 331 juveniles and 398 adults in Minneapolis, including 50 violent gang members who were previously identified and warned not to cause trouble. The commander of the gang unit believes MAVI has had a deterrent effect because probationers don't like being personally known by probation and police officers. Furthermore, MAVI participants worked with the courts to place more tight conditions on pretrial release, such as curfews, restrictions on visiting certain areas, and association with undesirable people.



x_1	 y_1
0	534.0108
1	556.4826
2	573.2343
3	590.3945
4	605.5119
5	622.6721
6	641.0581
7	655.7669
8	665.9814
9	680.6901
10	703.5705
11	723.1822
12	735.0310
13	751.7826
14	771.8029
15	797.9519
16	823.6923
17	847.1528
18	879.6797
19	876.5500
20	890.9278
21	919.0502
22	938.0695
23	951.8100
24	967.2501
25	968.3982


According to our second data set; which shows the rate of violent crimes in Minnesota, the violent crime rate has gone down 63.5% since 1990, which means that the amount of money the state spends on the incarceration process and other costs that come with it, such as victim costs and post jail and prison supervision costs is decreasing the violent crime rate in MN. The total cost of incarceration for violent crimes in 2017 is \$9,953,071.68. Our first data set is the amount of money the state spends on arrest, jail, court process, victim and supervision costs in 1990 dollars.

The red line on our graph is the process of incarceration costs in ten thousands. Since we couldn't gather the data we needed which was the exact costs of incarceration, victim and supervision costs from 1990-2017, our group decided to take the cost of violent crimes in prisons and jails in MN in 2017 and adjust with inflation as the years go back. The purple line represents the violent crime rate in Minnesota. Violent crimes in our graph include felony homicide, assault and sex assault. So in short, our graph embodies the number of the cost of incarceration and process victims between the direct correlation court process, victims and supervision.

Nearly 50% of Minnesota's crimes happen in Hennepin County, where about 25% of the MN population lives. Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek, who is also president of the state sheriffs' association, said that during 2016, the group worked hard to pass legislation for mandatory sentences for illegal guns used in drug crimes. It's also a primary focus for the sheriff's offices Violent Offender Task Force. Speaking of drug crimes, Jonathan Thompson, the executive director of the National Sheriffs' Association in Alexandria, Va., explains in "Minnesota Sees Spike in Violent Crime Rate", an article in the Star Tribune, that "The explosion of cheap and potent heroin has been a key factor in the surge of violent crimes. The opioid mixed with fentanyl adds an additional layer of danger." he goes on to explain why drugs play a crucial role in the violent crime rate in MN; "When you have supply and demand, crimes follow quickly thereafter. It cuts across all demographics and geographical boundaries."

We believe that the state is doing well on decreasing the violent crime rate but they don't necessarily need to spend that much on incarcerating people. In fact, in the previously mentioned Star Tribune article, it says that by this year (2017), the BCA (Bureau of Criminal Apprehension) plans to require law enforcement agencies to use a new and more detailed crime reporting system. Instead of reporting on 10 crime categories, agencies will have 62 and provide more detail on each incident. The FBI will then use the data for better crime analysis.

We suggest that instead of spending more money on the incarceration process, the state of Minnesota should spend more on post-jail and prison community supervision, so that agencies like MAVI and Minnesota HEALS (Health, Education and Law and Safety Program) can help get people back out into the community safely.

x_2	 y_2
0	306.1
1	316
2	338
3	327.2
4	359
5	356.1
6	338.8
7	337.8
8	310.2
9	274
10	280.8
11	263.7
12	267.2
13	262.9
14	269.8
15	297.3
16	312
17	288.7
18	263.3
19	244.5
20	235.7
21	230.5
22	230.9
23	223.2
24	229.1
25	242.6

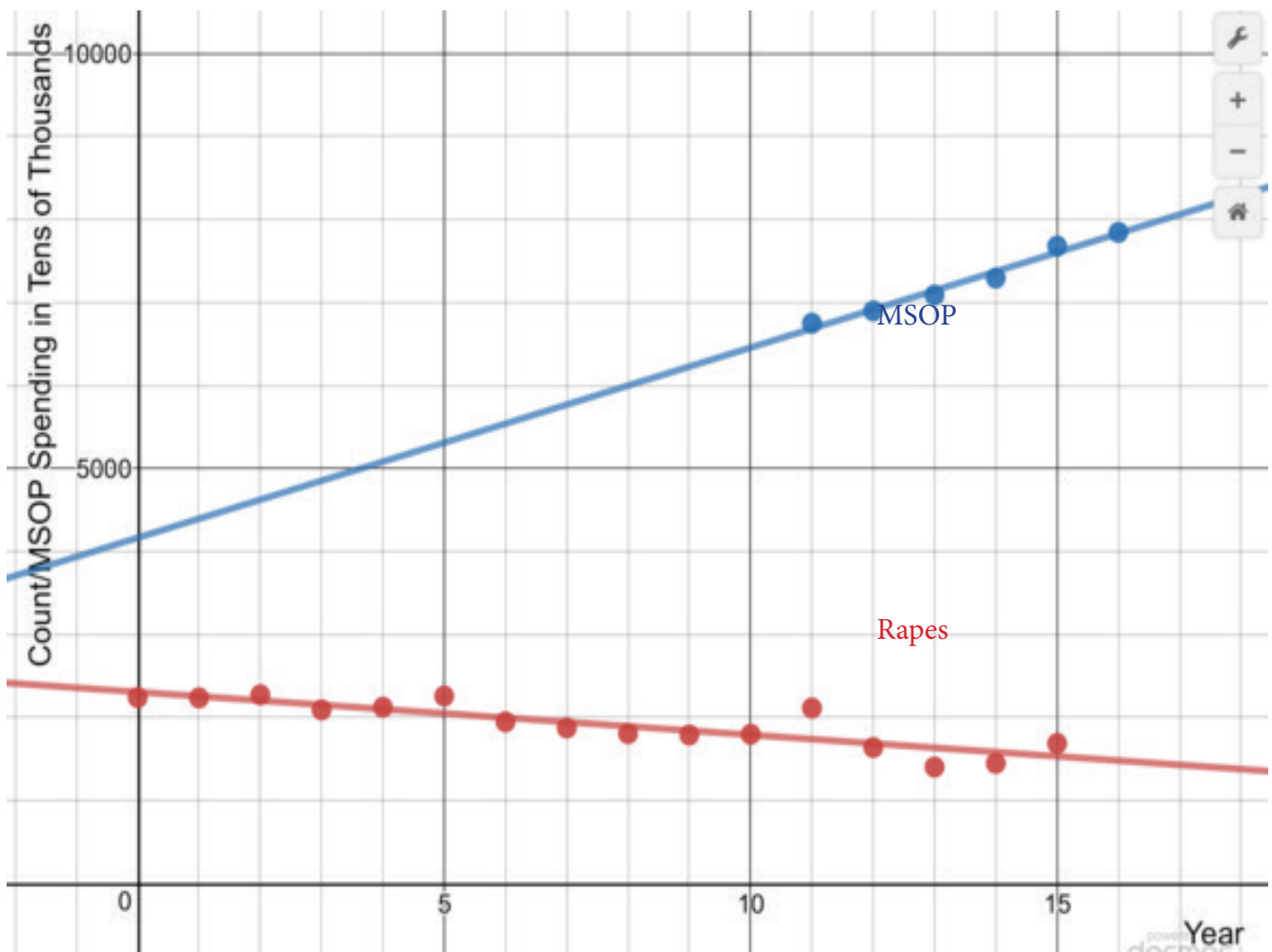
Minnesota spends a lot of money on costs associated with violent crime and since 1990 the violent crime rate has decreased 63.5%.

Group 10

Statistics on Sexual Violence

Libby (65A), Maria (65A), Naw (66B), and Gizelle (67A)

There was a news report of many sexual assaults recorded at the State Colleges and Universities in Minnesota. Some of the assaults happened but the charges were dropped before they could be fully investigated into. The Office of Higher Education found that for some campuses there are some sexual assaults that happened in 2015 but were never taken to court. The University of Minnesota that had the most recorded cases in the state. In larger colleges there are more reported assaults than community colleges. When victims reported the assaults only 54% would report to the police, they would drop investigations most of the time due to the victim not talking or not cooperating. In 2015, there were 79 cases where the accused students were responsible for the sexual assault(s). When the actions were to be reported the person who did it would get either suspended, expelled or they would face other penalties. They try not to jump to conclusions with a single reported sexual assault but if more are reported then to investigate, they are encouraged to come forward.




x_1	 y_1
0	2240
1	2236
2	2273
3	2092
4	2123
5	2258
6	1947
7	1873
8	1805
9	1789
10	1798
11	2113
12	1638
13	1403
14	1448
15	1686

Some of our sources that we used were from people like, Weston Merrick and Amy Kenzie. From Weston we got percentages of reported rapes and from Amy we got the spending on sexual violence from 2011 to 2016.

As the spending on sexual violence increases, the reported rapes decreases. At the disaster centers website it shows us how many reported rapes there are throughout the year. The Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) showed us how much money the state spends each year to detain sexual offenders. Because of the vast amount spent on preventing sexual violence and rape, the rate of the sexual abuse has slightly decreased. For example in 2013 the state spent \$73,412,000 and 235 rapes were reported. Our graph states that because of the sexual violence spending the reported rapes has gone down.

Looking at the graph it says the more the Minnesota Sex Offender Program spends on sexual violence the number of reported rapes gradually goes down. The societal cost of sexual assault is high, currently \$139,000 for adults and \$184,000 for youth. If we focus more on sexual violence then we would see that red line go down even more and it would also resolve other problems like post traumatic stress disorder and addictions caused by said diagnoses. We would save the United States 3.1 trillion dollars if we completely eliminate it. The idea is unpractical but we believe educating people on sexual violence may help prevent it and may help the victims of this world wide problem of sexual violence find hope once more.

Sexual Violence in Minnesota has gone down. perhaps due in part to the amount spent for Minnesota Sexual Offender Program.

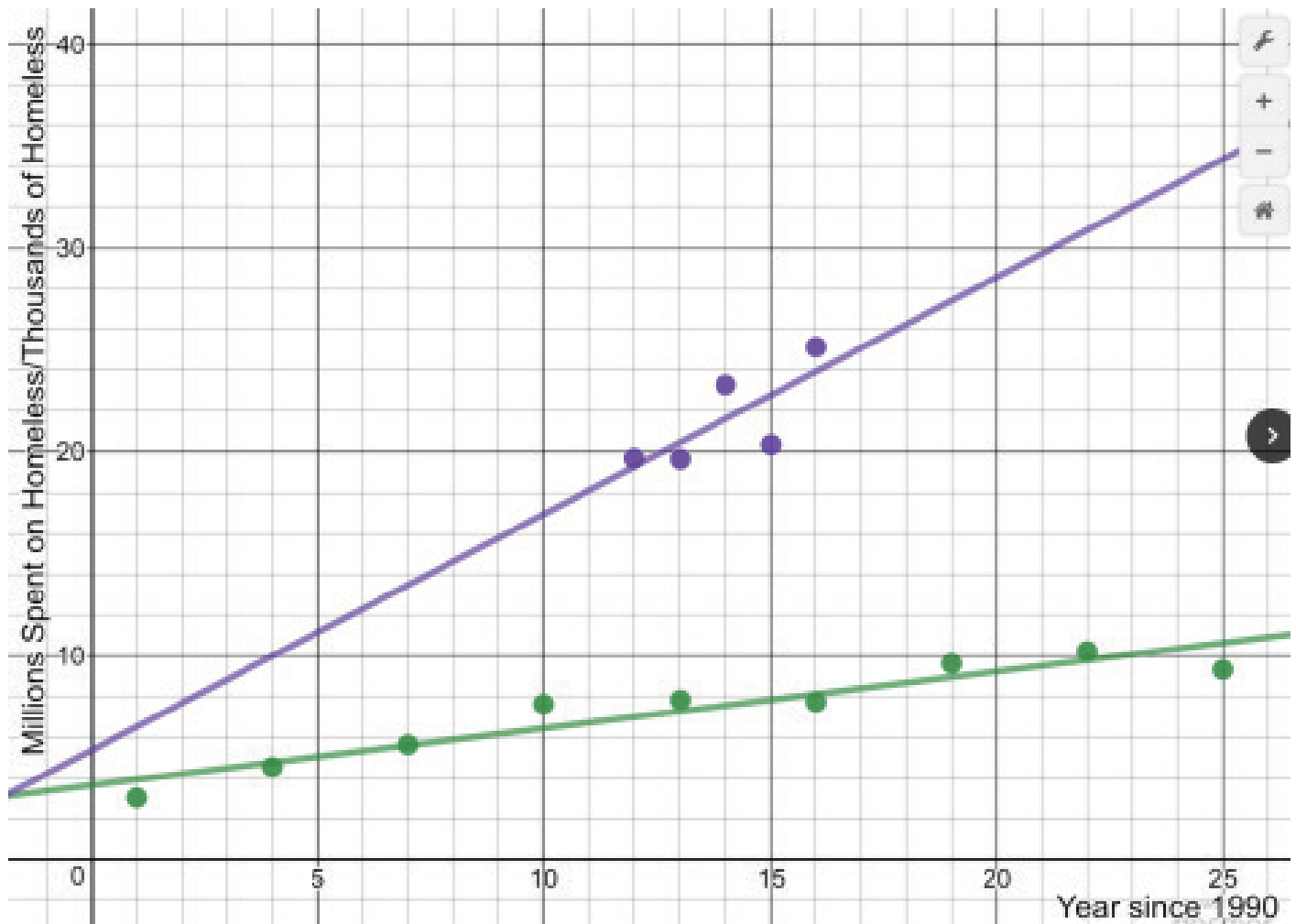
x_2	 y_2
11	6750.3000
12	6898.8000
13	7088.500
14	7294.3000
15	7679.8000
16	7844.5000


Group 11

How Much Minnesota Spends on Homelessness

Hope (67B), Paloma (64A), Ben (64B), and Mallory (52A)


Ron, a 49 year old man and his wife, Carla have 3 boys. They are all homeless now because their former landlord wouldn't fix what they needed in their apartment. The city council gave the landlord 10 days to fix these things, but when he didn't, the family complained again and were evicted. They had to move out and they couldn't keep all their possessions so now they are living on the streets with very few things. Ron also lost his job because he couldn't keep his laptop, which is what he did his work on. Most people think homelessness is associated with alcohol and/or drugs, but this unfortunate family just found themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time.



x_1	 y_1
12	19.65
13	19.62
14	23.25
15	20.31
16	25.11

We got our data from websites and from a source who works with the Minnesota state budget. We found information on the amount of homeless people in the state on the Wilder Research Minnesota Homeless Study website. On this website it was already in the form of a graph but it was being compared to something else, so we had to make a new graph comparing both sets of data. The other data we got, about how much money was spent on homelessness in Minnesota was from Marianne Conboy, whom our teacher emailed.

The thousands of homeless people per year goes up steadily, while the money spent on homelessness goes up but not at the same rate. People are becoming homeless faster than the government can give enough money to help get people into housing. Our graph states that the government needs to budget more money per year towards homelessness.

x_3	 y_3
1	3
4	4.5
7	5.6
10	7.6
13	7.8
16	7.7
19	9.6
22	10.2
25	9.3

We think that if Minnesota could look at the homeless people numbers while they decide on the budget, they could think of a way to strategically spend the money so it goes a much longer way. Minnesota should still spend more on homelessness but they could find a way to make it impact more people. We think they should do that because it could help get more homeless families into housing. The more they spend on homelessness now, the less they'll have to do later, because the children of homeless people usually are still homeless once they turn 18. In our data, you can see that the amount of homeless people is drastically increasing every year, but by spending more to get as many of those people into housing as possible now, it'll make sure that Minnesota has to spend less later, for less homeless people in all.

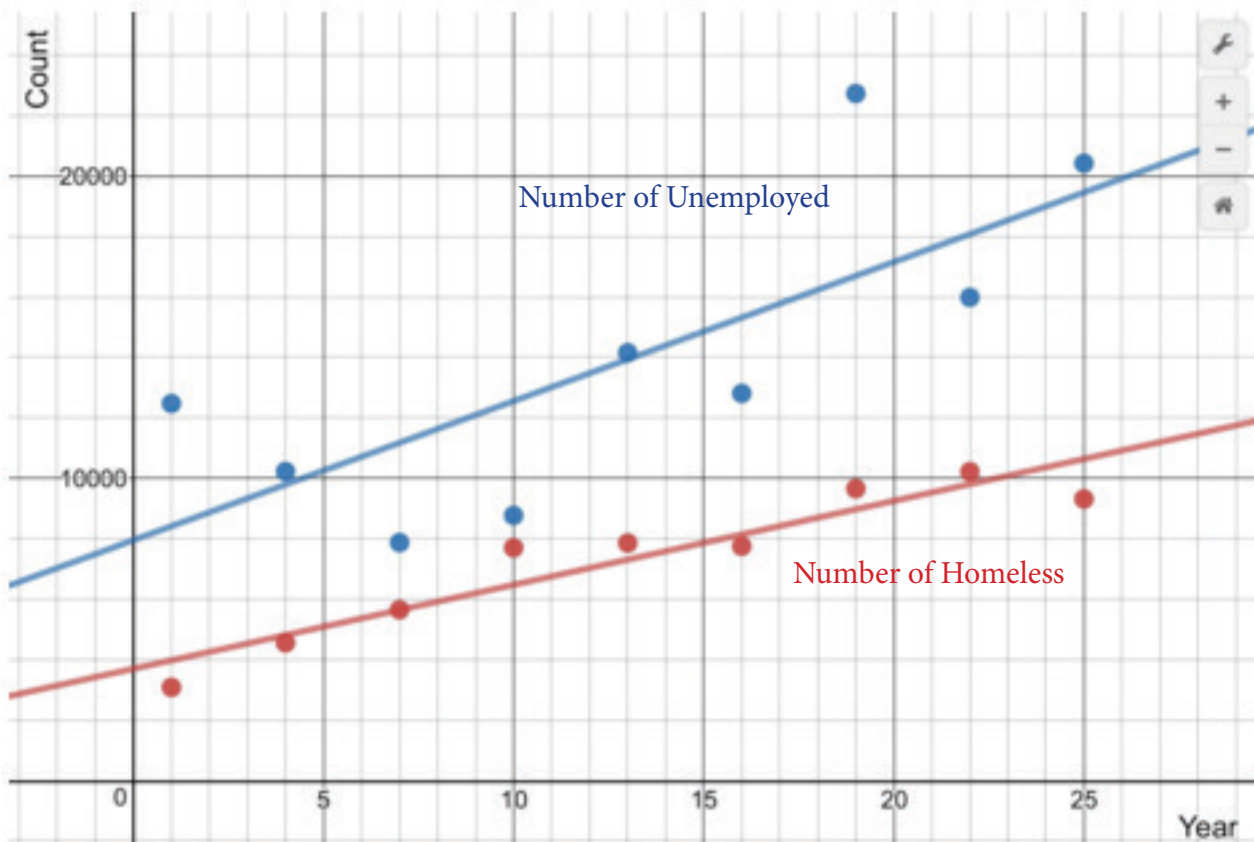
Thousands of Minnesotans are homeless on any given day. The amount of money Minnesota spends on homelessness is increasing, but not growing at the same rate homeless people are.



Group 12

How Unemployment Leads to Homelessness

Daniel (64A), Elaina (64B), Alejandra (67A), and Flannery (66A)

Just a couple years ago, Izabela was living in her rented apartment and her career was on the right track. After living in her apartment for seven years, she was fired from her job and her landlord kicked her out of her home, because the contract she signed when she moved wasn't valid and she couldn't pay the rent. She found a welcoming homeless shelter, and they helped her find an organization that helped her get a job. She began working and later moved into her old apartment again. It took her a year to get back on her feet and she's very grateful to the homeless shelter for helping her return to her old life. "Such a lot has happened over this year. I am very hopeful for the next year too, that I may be able to stay on longer in this job or a similar one" Izabela said. Not many people get this lucky in finding shelters.



x_1	 y_1
1	3079
4	4553
7	5645
10	7696
13	7854
16	7751
19	9654
22	10214
25	9312
x_2	 y_2
1	12470.4
4	10222.9
7	7869.5
10	8766.4
13	14151.6
16	12805.9
19	22731.3
22	15984.7
25	20423.8

We found the data of unemployment from The Bureau of Labor Statistics which shows that throughout December 2006 to June 2009, the percentage of unemployed had gone up to 8.1% but went down in April 2015 to 3.7%. But what we found out was that the number of homeless people has gone up by over 5,000 people known but is estimated to be at least a little over 15,000 people and this information was found on a website called mnhomeless.org, a Minnesota Homeless Study.

According to this graph the unemployment and homelessness rate have a positive correlation. This means that as more people lose their job more people become homeless. The number of homeless people in 1991 was 3079 and that is nothing compared to 9312 homeless people in 2015. Now for unemployment in 1991 the numbers were 12470 and in 2015 there were 20423. Even though the unemployment numbers are all over the place so that doesn't make it the best to base something off of, you can still see it has a positive slope, just like homelessness, and that is a big problem for Minnesota. The point of this graph is to show that as unemployment numbers go up throughout the years the number of homeless people also goes up and even though we have gotten better at helping these homeless people it is still a big problem.

We want the Minnesota state budget to reflect the number of homeless people, which is steadily rising. We recommend giving more funding to organizations that are focused on the homeless population. If people are employed, they have less of a chance to become homeless, so we should help people find jobs that match their skills and needs, or teach them skills that will be useful in the workplace. We should also help the homeless find an affordable home or apartment to decrease their chances of ending up on the streets. We also found out that most homeless people in Minnesota are minors, and we should focus on them to make sure they break the cycle of poverty. To summarize, we should help homeless people in any way we can if we want to end homelessness for good.

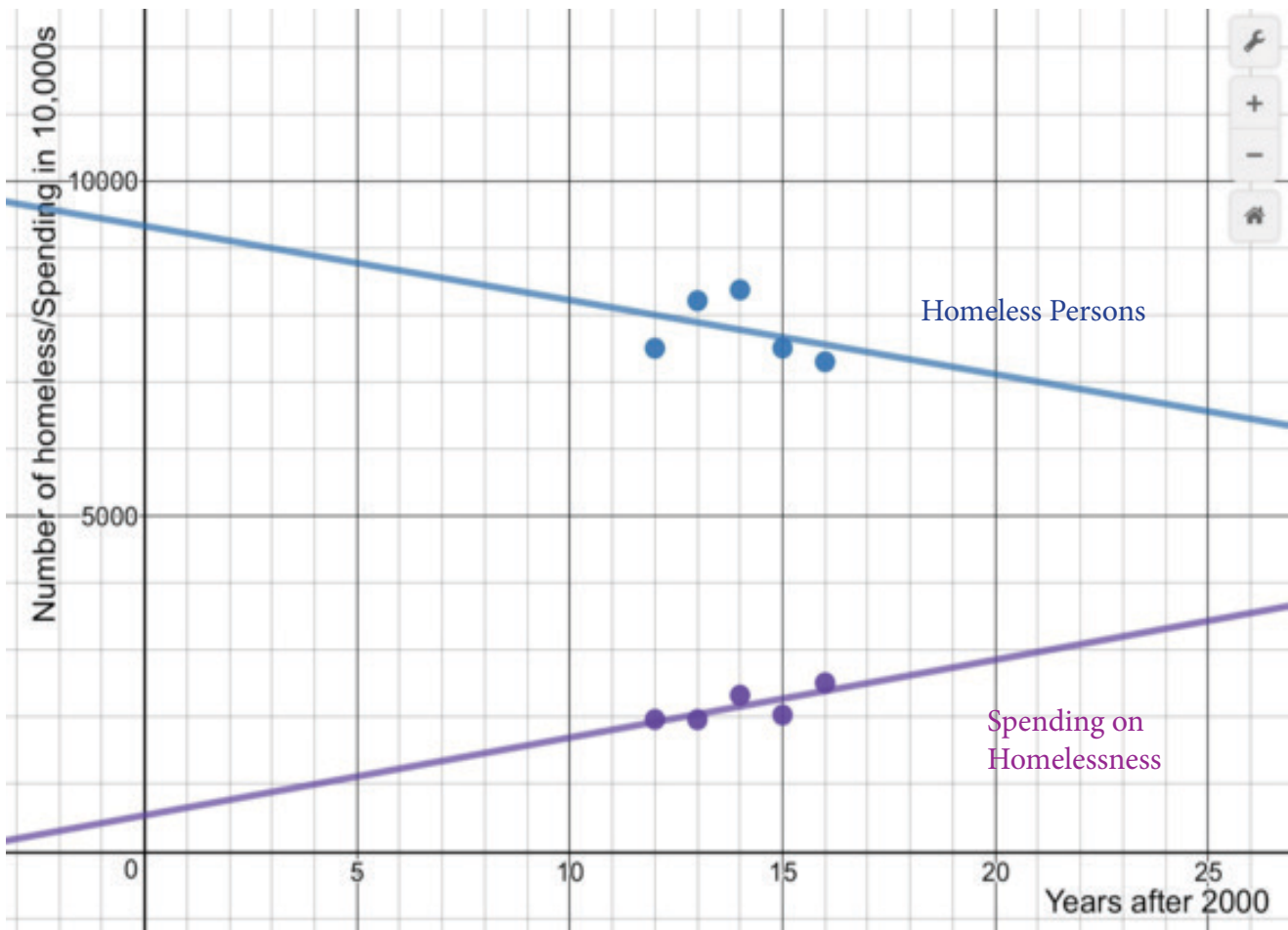
A way to end homelessness is to make sure that people can get new jobs when they are homeless so they can get money and have a chance to work their way from the bottom.


Group 13

Homelessness and State Spending On It

Alexis (67A), Lily (67B), Molly (43A), and Tanushri Buck (67B)


A woman became homeless at the age of 30. She lost her job a few months before and started jumping from houses to houses for a place to sleep. She was scared and didn't know what to do. When she didn't have any more house to sleep at, she then called 2-1-1, a emergency homelessness line, and they told her about the emergency shelter. That night a young woman found her and took her to the shelter. There was a 24 year old women who first became homeless when she she was 13 years old. She went to jail a lot and depended on the costly corrections system to get by. After that, she was in and out of shelters and on the streets. Now she has her own apartment with her child.



x_1	 y_1
12	7505
13	8214
14	8377
15	7509
16	7304

Everyday there are thousands of homeless people in Minnesota. These people may be out of a home because of family issues, past traumatic experiences, or many other reasons. There is an average of 7,304 homeless people everyday. From the MN dashboard, we obtained the data of the total of homeless people documented every year from 2012-2016. On the graph, that is represented by the blue points and line. As for the purple points, they represent how much the state is putting into affordable housing programs. We received this set of data from Marianne Conboy from Minnesota Management and Budget Office. As you can see on the graph, the line for total amount of homeless people is decreasing and looking at the state spending line, it is increasing. So this tells us that the over the last 5 years, the state has put more into the programs which in result has brought the homelessness rate down.

The return on investment (ROI) of supportive housing programs “is at least \$123 million per year, with a return of 1.44 to 1”. (Return on investment in supportive housing in Minnesota from Wilder research) This means that for every dollar the state puts into the programs, they receive \$1.44 back. Eventually the ROI would have to be even, meaning as the state puts \$1.00 in, they’d receive \$1.00 back. The government should continue to fund these programs as well as continue to study the data in case the ROI goes under \$1.00, in which case the state would have to adjust their spending. As said in the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a 1-bedroom apartment is \$724/mo and a 2-bedroom \$924/mo. It also mentions that the minimum wage of a person \$9.00. This indicates that for the homelessness rate to continue to decrease, the state has to pay attention to the pricing of housing for a low income worker to be able to afford it.

x_2	 y_2
12	1965.8000
13	1962.0600
14	2325.2700
15	2031.9100
16	2511.4000

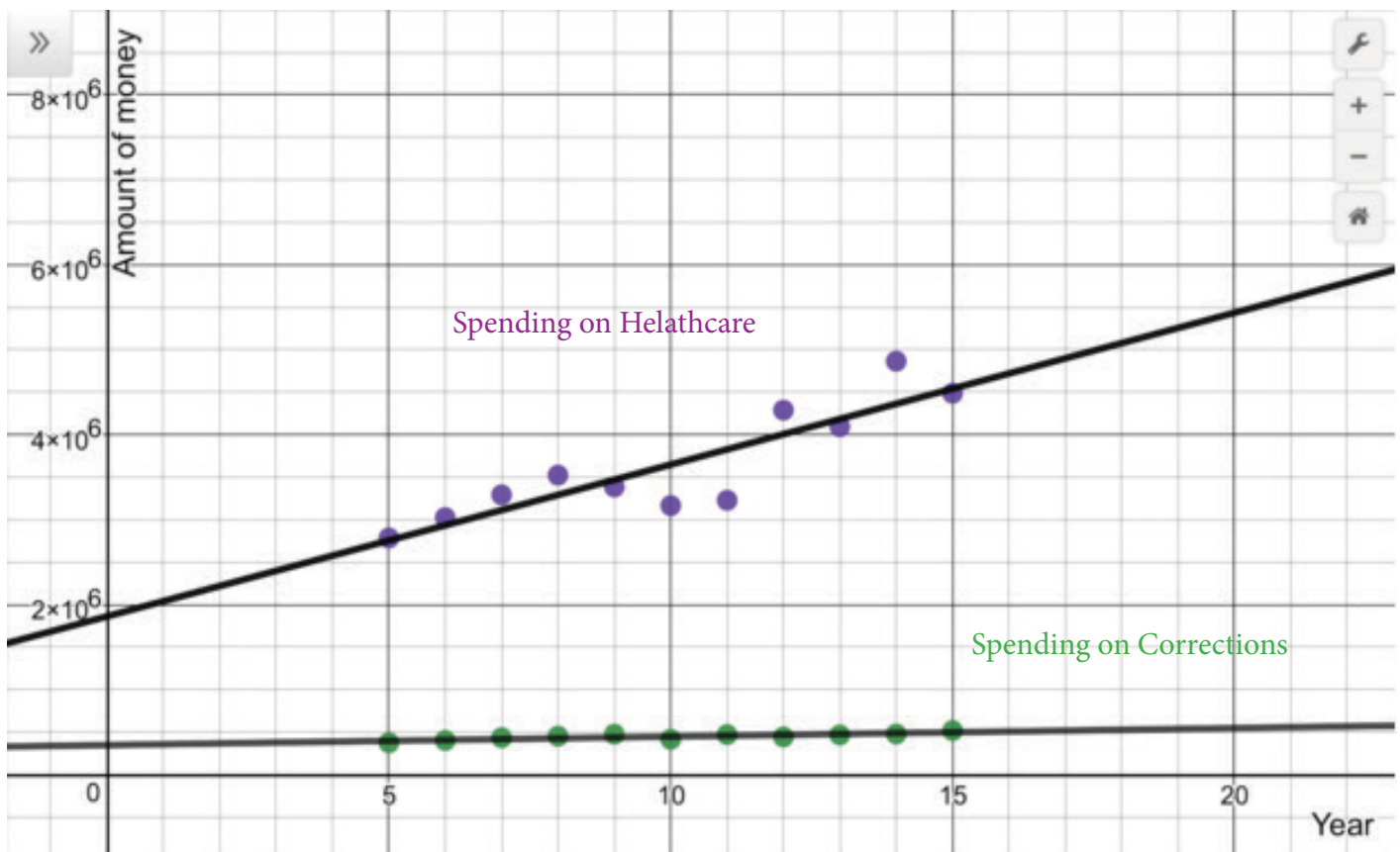
Homelessness is a problem in Minnesota and over the past few years the rate of homelessness has gone down. The state has increased this budget.

Group 14

Mental illness and sickness in Prisons

Keyana (66A), Anabel (67B), Espen (66A), Shanay (66B)

“It is difficult for prisoners with hepatitis C to obtain medication just because they are prisoners”. Not allowing inmates health care is a violation of the 8th amendment “Excessive bail shall not be required nor excessive fines imposed nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted.” The federal bureau of prisons has rules and guidelines for ill prisoners. But most inmates are in state prisons not federal ones. The association of state correctional administrations and Yale University sent a survey to the correctional departments that are buying these medications. And less than 1% of the inmates with hepatitis C have been given access to these




x_1	 y_1
05	2785008
06	3025384
07	3292509
08	3524154
09	3385813
10	3166111
11	3227869
12	4288490
13	4093265
14	4864532
15	4487472

The green line on the graph is the Spending on Cost of Corrections and the purple line is health care. Our data starts at the year 2005 - 2015. We got our cost of corrections data from Jim King who works on the budget for the corrections department in the Minnesota Budget Office. We got our health care data from the general fund spending major area document. Our graph represents the money given to health care (purple) and the cost of corrections (green) as you can see health care has gotten more money than the cost of corrections. We wanted to show the difference between the two and how you can give the cost of corrections department more money.

We want to to give the Department of Corrections more money for three reasons. We want more money put towards improving the preventative health care given to inmates during incarceration. We also want more programs for inmates after they have been released from jail to provide them with better access to health care and housing. Finally, we want better care for inmates who are sick and with mental illness. This makes good financial sense because the average return on investment for preventative care is \$4.7 for every \$1 in cost with some programs returning up to \$36!

As Dostoevsky said “The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.” So let’s make our prisons a healthier place and a place of rehabilitation and less of a punishment.

x_2	 y_2
05	376502
06	403132
07	435376
08	452981
09	476637
10	416861
11	472330
12	444270
13	468946
14	479518
15	519648

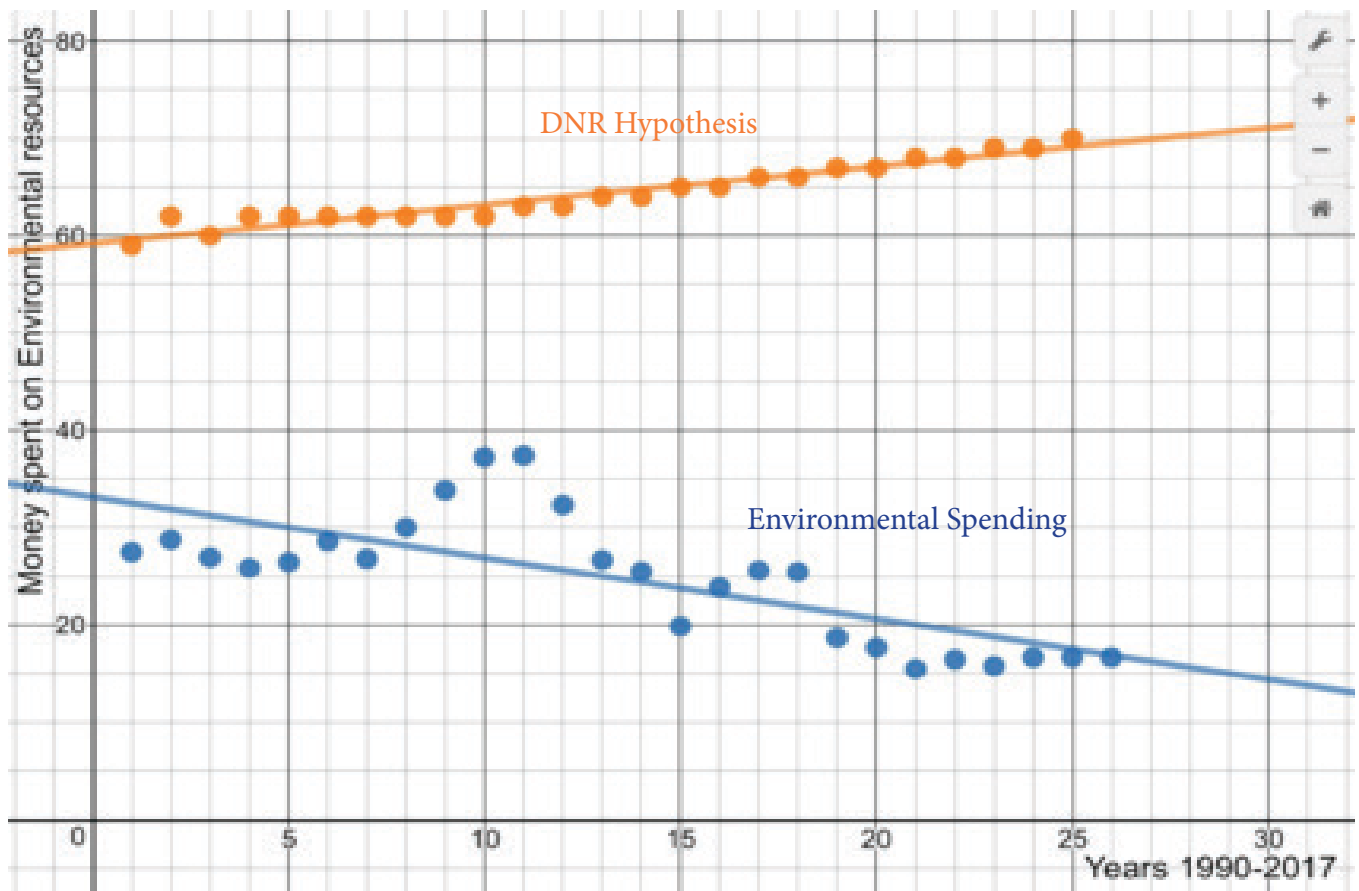
70% of inmates struggle with mental illness. 28.5% of budget goes to health care 5.2% of the budget goes to corrections.

Group 15

Why is the MN Government Spending Less on Environmental Resources?

Max (64B), Skylar (67A), Liam (66A), and Abraham (64A)

My family has a cabin on Sand Lake, our family bought it in the early 1900's. We love the lake so much and find tons of enjoyment in it and it's beautiful. However, in recent years the lake has been filling up with weeds and has tinted green water that used to be crystal clear and that makes it hard to catch fish and drive the boats through the lakes. We need to have this big ugly loud weed tearer to even move our boat or have a decent view out the window, and it pollutes the air and water also making our lake not as beautiful as it once was.



x_1	y_1
1	27.465564
2	28.726732
3	26.918392
4	25.836585
5	26.441117
6	28.564849
7	26.781115
8	29.992310
9	33.795209
10	37.227539
11	37.397729
12	32.312943
13	26.653346
14	25.467682
15	19.835157
16	23.826902
17	25.572301
18	25.426291
19	18.647601
20	17.643806
21	15.450733
22	16.426369
23	15.757904
24	16.646758
25	16.652520
26	16.652520

The data for our project we got from general fund spending by major area PDF (blue graph) and the Minnesota DNR website. We are sad to see that the MN government has been spending less in the past few years on Environmental Resources. The amount spent rose a lot around 2007 and then started decreasing and this year and last year the Minnesota government spent the least amount of money. This is bad for the environment because water pollution is rising and this causes diseases in the water fowl and in the fish which also pollutes all of our famous lakes making our state ugly and decreasing wildlife populations, air quality, and water quality.

Our second graph (orange) shows the percent of lakes with high quality water. As the spending for Environmental Resources decreases the amount of lakes with good quality water increases. This is what the DNR projects will happen with the lakes but we think if the spending decreases then the percentage of lakes with good water will also decrease. We still have over 60% good lakes, and this is ok, but we hope we can raise that percentage up a lot. If the Minnesota state government spent more money on Environmental Resources then we would most likely have a higher number of good lakes, better air quality, and wildlife populations would rise and make Minnesota a more beautiful state.

We are hoping we can get the Minnesota government to spend more on Environmental Resources to help the number of polluted lakes to decrease. Please help us keep Minnesota's 10,000 lakes clean.

x_1	y_1
1	59
2	62
3	60
4	62
5	62
6	62
7	62
8	62
9	62
10	62
11	63
12	63
13	64
14	64
15	65
16	65
17	66
18	66
19	67
20	67
21	68
22	68
23	69
24	69
25	70

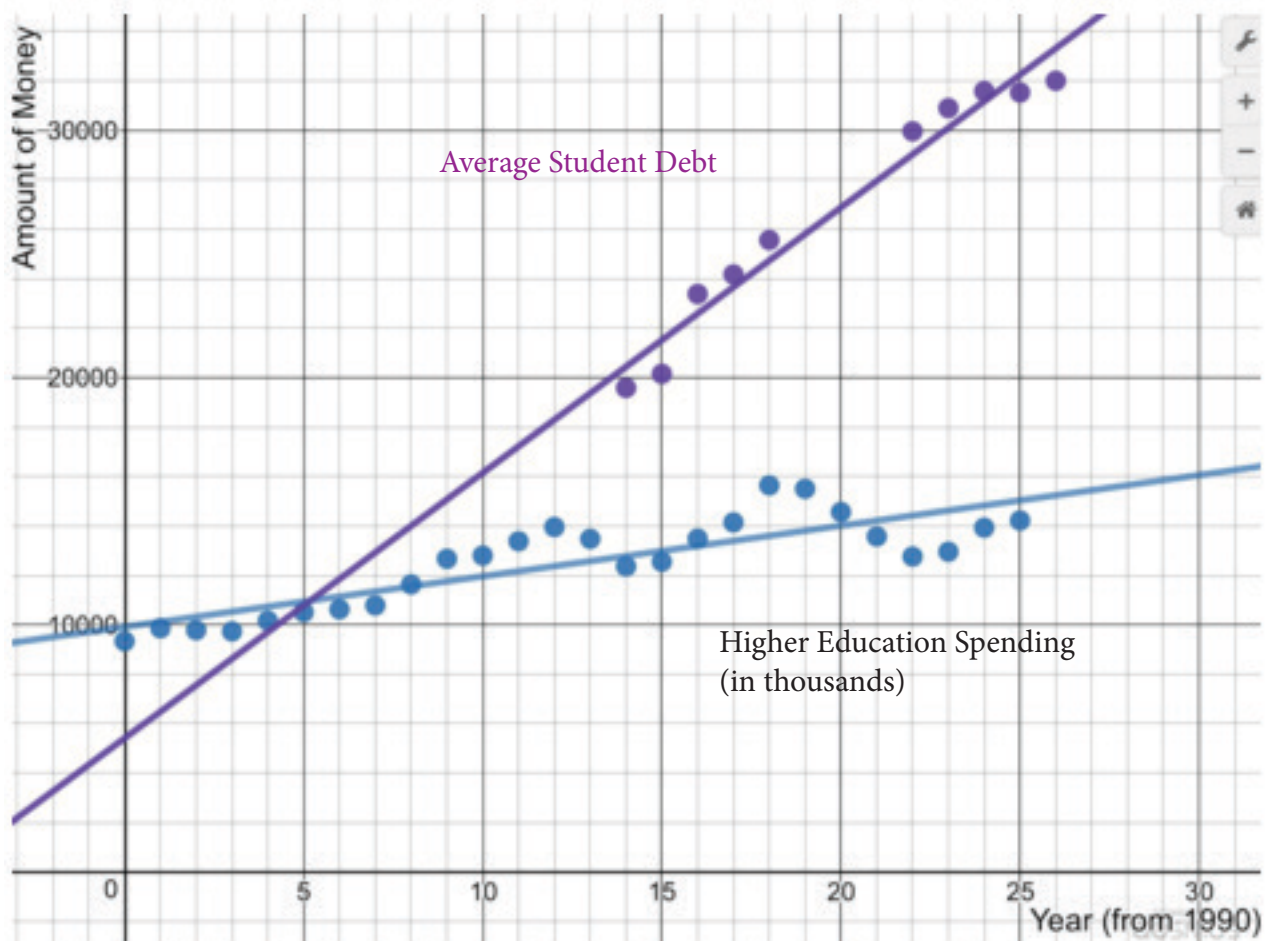
The water pollution in Minnesota is increasing. This is because our state has been slowly been putting less money into environmental protection.

Group 16

How the Higher Cost of College Leads to More Student Debt

Jonas (64B), Guadalupe (64B), Cyprian “Cy” (65B), and Hazel (64B)


On January 27, 2017, single parent Louise Renas posted an article on studentdebtcrisis.org about her story. She started college late (after becoming a mom to 3), soon after finishing her eldest son started college. Because of this, she helped him with loans, with help he ended college \$25,000 in debt. The youngest of her children is currently in college, and currently has \$50,000 in loans and has to pay 11% in interest (still having 1 year of school left). She suspects he'll leave with \$65,000 in loans. Her middle child didn't like the debt and dropped out.




When a student goes to college, they have to first, pay to get in, then they have to pay for their books, food, and room. By 2016 the average student loan debt has reached thirty two thousand dollars in Minnesota, this, we can change. "But why should I care?" you think to yourself, "it doesn't matter, I'm not affected by it." Well, not being affected by student debt won't stop you from paying a price. Because your income is directly affected by our state being number 5 in student loan debt in the country, a little over 10 percent of your income is being used to pay for student loan debt. In comparison, you're paying more for student loans than you are for mortgages and credit cards. Another reason why the state should spend more on student loan debt is that when students fresh out of college want to potentially create new local businesses can't because they would have to pay off student loan debts, rent, and the cost of purchasing items to sell. The high amount of students in high student debt prevents new businesses from appearing, which then leads to slower economic growth in Minnesota. If this trend continues, the slowed economic growth would eventually lead to there being no more local businesses as it would be so unprofitable that people would stop making local businesses altogether.

The graph at left is of 12 years worth of student loan debt and how much the state has been spending on higher education. The graph shows that the more the state spends on higher education, the less costly the average student loan debt is. This means that if the state spent more on higher education, and more specifically, student loan debt, the average student loan debt would eventually fall to a point where the student loan debt is easily manageable by the college students who would be paying for those loans. This increased ease of management may encourage more first in the family college students, which will in turn, make not only the state, but the nation smarter as a whole. Large amounts of debt could lead to students not being able to support the housing or car markets by buying homes, apartments, or cars. Alternatively, this could also lead to students having to pay debts when they should be retired. Which leads to less jobs in the job market for students who need to pay their student loans, and inevitably creates more students in debt. Debt can also make aspiring entrepreneurs rethink their choices, ultimately getting rid of much needed jobs and services.

We are asking that the state help pay the difference between the average amount of debt and how much they are paying currently on higher education. We hope this will convert the positive slope of debt to a negative one, ultimately getting rid of debt. We suggest increasing the amount spent on higher education by twice the rate of growth in college tuition, until the average student loan levels out or starts to decrease. Please help stop the student debt crisis.

x_2	 y_2
14	19580
15	20144
16	23375
17	24169
18	25558
22	29958
23	30894
24	31579
25	31526
26	32000

Recently student debt has climbed much faster than state spending on higher education. We suggest that the state spend more on higher education to help slow the growth of college debt.

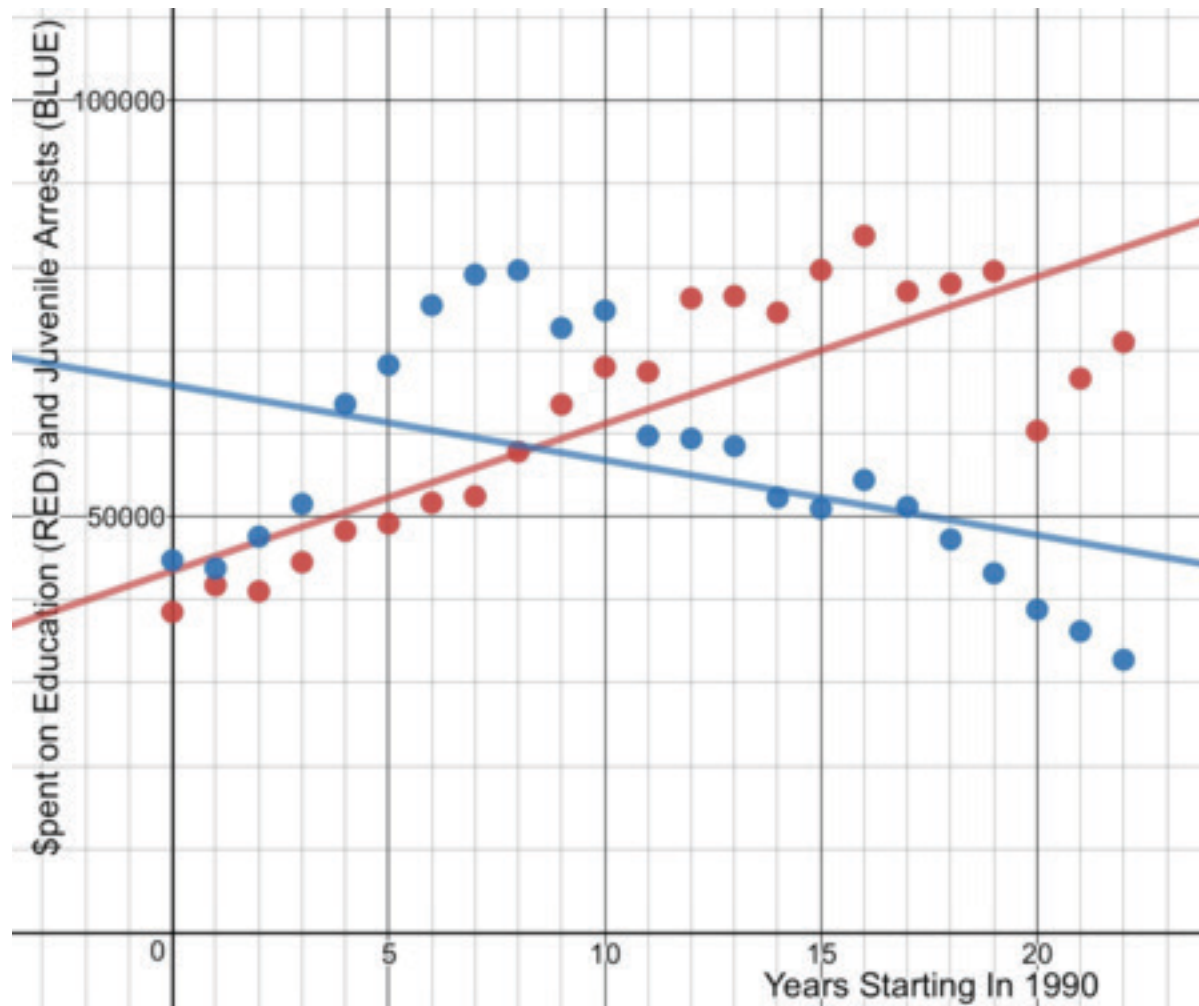
x_1	 y_1		
0	9333.10	10	12795.84
1	9855.54	11	13374.95
2	9779.34	12	13949.32
3	9729.75	13	13470.62
4	10158.98	14	12356.04
5	10505.55	15	12544.81
6	10621.46	16	13478.80
7	10778.81	17	14136.50
8	11628.95	18	15634.13
9	12665.27	19	15498.03
10	12795.84	20	14559.40
11	13374.95	21	13566.73
12	13949.32	22	12754.46
13	13470.62	23	12950.95
14	12356.04	24	13923.46
15	12544.81	25	14214.15

Group 17

Comparing Minnesota's Juvenile Crime Rates with the Amount Spent on Education

Isabella (64A), Jacob (67B), and Treasure (66B)

Chicago is a dangerous city to live in, especially for kids and teens. 250 students were being shot each year, with about 20-30 deaths. Kids in Chicago are more likely to join a gang than in most other parts of the US. Most students being shot were males that had bad grades, a criminal background, went to juvenile detention, or a mix of each. Tony DiVittorio, a social worker, started a program known as the Becoming A Man (BAM) program where he would work with students to teach them to think before they act. He did this through Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. In these programs, Tony and other BAM counselors talk with the kids and help them with the problems they might face in their lives, there were some activities that would teach the boys lessons on thinking before acting. By the end of the first year of the program, there was a decrease in Chicago's juvenile crime.



Year	\$ Spent on Education	Juvenile arrests
1990	\$3,850,105.51	44720
1991	\$4,171,690.53	43758
1992	\$4,098,904.23	47554
1993	\$4,448,901.23	51497
1994	\$4,827,354.21	63499
1995	\$4,915,509.11	68212
1996	\$5,165,283.04	75387
1997	\$5,240,963.40	79072
1998	\$5,777,126.40	79584
1999	\$6,345,173.17	72657
2000	\$6,795,605.45	74751
2001	\$6,736,988.72	59671
2002	\$7,622,308.55	59348
2003	\$7,649,197.54	58460
2004	\$7,450,780.03	52266
2005	\$7,961,822.91	50942
2006	\$8,373,470.57	54384
2007	\$7,702,364.95	51138
2008	\$7,797,552.10	47229
2009	\$7,948,890.44	43170
2010	\$6,028,087.26	38795
2011	\$6,658,439.04	36192
2012	\$7,095,524.91	32759

Though Minnesota's crime rates are nothing like Chicago's, during 2016 in Minnesota there was a rise in crime. In Minneapolis alone there were 4,605 violent crime incidents (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) reported in 2016. That's a 4.3 percent increase from the previous year.

When comparing the amount spent on education by the Minnesota state budget and juvenile arrest numbers we found that as the amount spent on education goes up the juvenile arrest numbers go down. In 1990 the Minnesota state budget spent approximately \$3,850,105,000 on education, there were 44,720 juvenile arrests. In 2012 the Minnesota state budget spent approximately \$7,095,524,000 on education, there were 32,759 juvenile arrests. According to a study by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis the state can yield up to \$16 for every \$1 invested in high quality early education. Where are they saving this money? The Justice System. A high school dropout is eight times more likely to be incarcerated than a high school graduate.

There are ways to improve graduation rates and keep kids in school other than counseling programs. By investing in schools it allows for smaller classes so teachers can help students individually. Children need a stable environment to learn and grow. Many children find stability in their school and their teachers. Minnesota must continue to invest in its' schools in order to keep children in school and out of trouble. We must teach children to grow and become contributing members of society. As Frances Perkins once said "The people are what matter to government, and a government should aim to give all the people under its jurisdiction the best possible life."

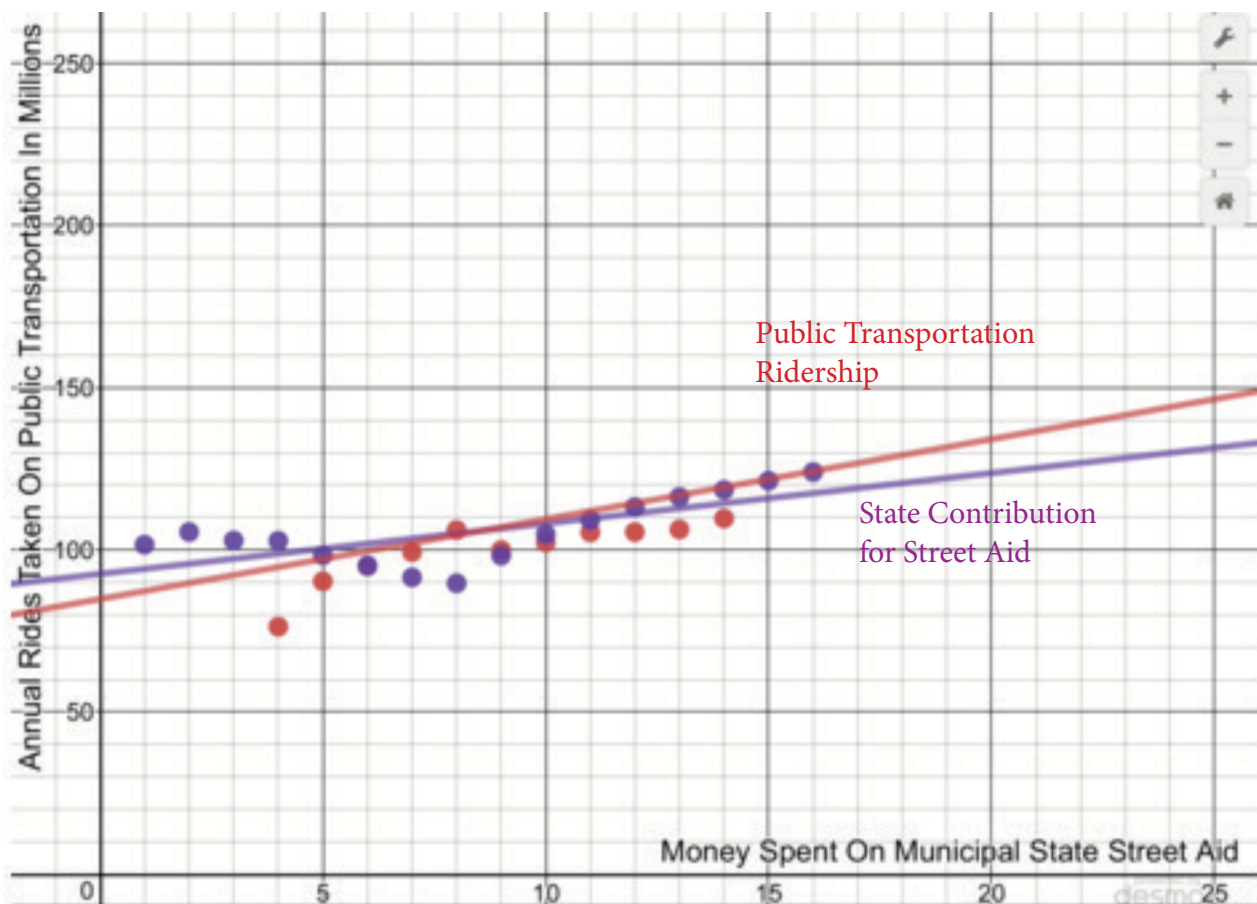
Our project is comparing the amount spent on education and the number of juvenile arrests. We found that as the amount spent on education goes up juvenile arrest numbers go down.


Group 18


Transportation vs Municipal street state-aid

Diego (64B), Adrian (64A), Saw (66B), and Aidan (65A)

Many people in the Twin Cities use transportation, and street aid benefits multiple areas of transportation. Adding more money into street aid will benefit all people who use transportation. One person who benefits from public transportation is Matthew Stremcha of Duluth, Minnesota, he said “I get chauffeured to work. During my commute I read, doze, listen to music and I watch the sunrise. I don't think about parking or traffic or road construction or people who text while driving.” Many other people use public transportation to go to work to visit friends or family. Great River school doesn't provide bus service so students take public transportation to get to school. Some people that use it because they don't want to drive their own car due to the weather or other reasons.



x_1	 y_1
1	101.6
2	105.5
3	102.9
4	102.8
5	98.3
6	95.2
7	91.5
8	89.7
9	98.2
10	104.8
11	109.2
12	113.2
13	116.3
14	118.5
15	121.3
16	124.0

x_2	 y_2
4	76.3
5	90.3
6	94.9
7	99.3
8	106.1
9	99.9
10	102.3
11	105.4
12	105.5
13	106.3
14	109.7

According to Itasca Project Regional Transit System Return on Investment Assessment, 40% of downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul commuters use transit. According to The Met Council, transit riders are more than 1/3 of peak hour users of major freeways. The Met Council also said that building out a full transit system would give many regional employers access to an additional half a million people within half hour commute. Our data also showed the importance of public transportation. Our rides data was from the Minnesota Dashboard. Our Municipal Street Aid data came from a Legislative Analyst at the House of Representatives Research Department. Our graph showed that when the money spent on Municipal Street Aid increased the number of rides taken on public transportation increased. Looking at our graph it's clear that even though state is spending more money on municipal street aid, is not negatively affecting public transportation ridership, as you can see public transportation is going up at the same time they're spending more in municipal street aid.

Because many people in the Twin Cities use transportation and it benefits employers we believe that the government should spend more money on street aid. According to the Itasca Project Regional Transit System Return on Investment Assessment, building the 2030 regional plan would result in \$6.6 – 10.1 billion in direct benefits, on a \$4.4 billion investment (between 2030 - 2045). Accelerating the system buildout to 2023 would result in increased direct benefits: \$10.7 – 16.5 billion on a \$5.3 billion investment. More community growth near transit stations would also increase the return on investment by additional \$2 - \$4 billion. In addition to the quantified direct benefits, the region would benefit from many wider economic benefits like increased access to employers (an additional 500,000 within 30-minute commute) and 30,000 more construction jobs with \$4.3 billion dollars in economic impacts.

Money spent on transportation is money well spent for all Minnesotans.

Many people in the twin cities use transportation, and street aid benefits multiple areas of transportation. Adding more money into street aid will benefit all people who use transportation.

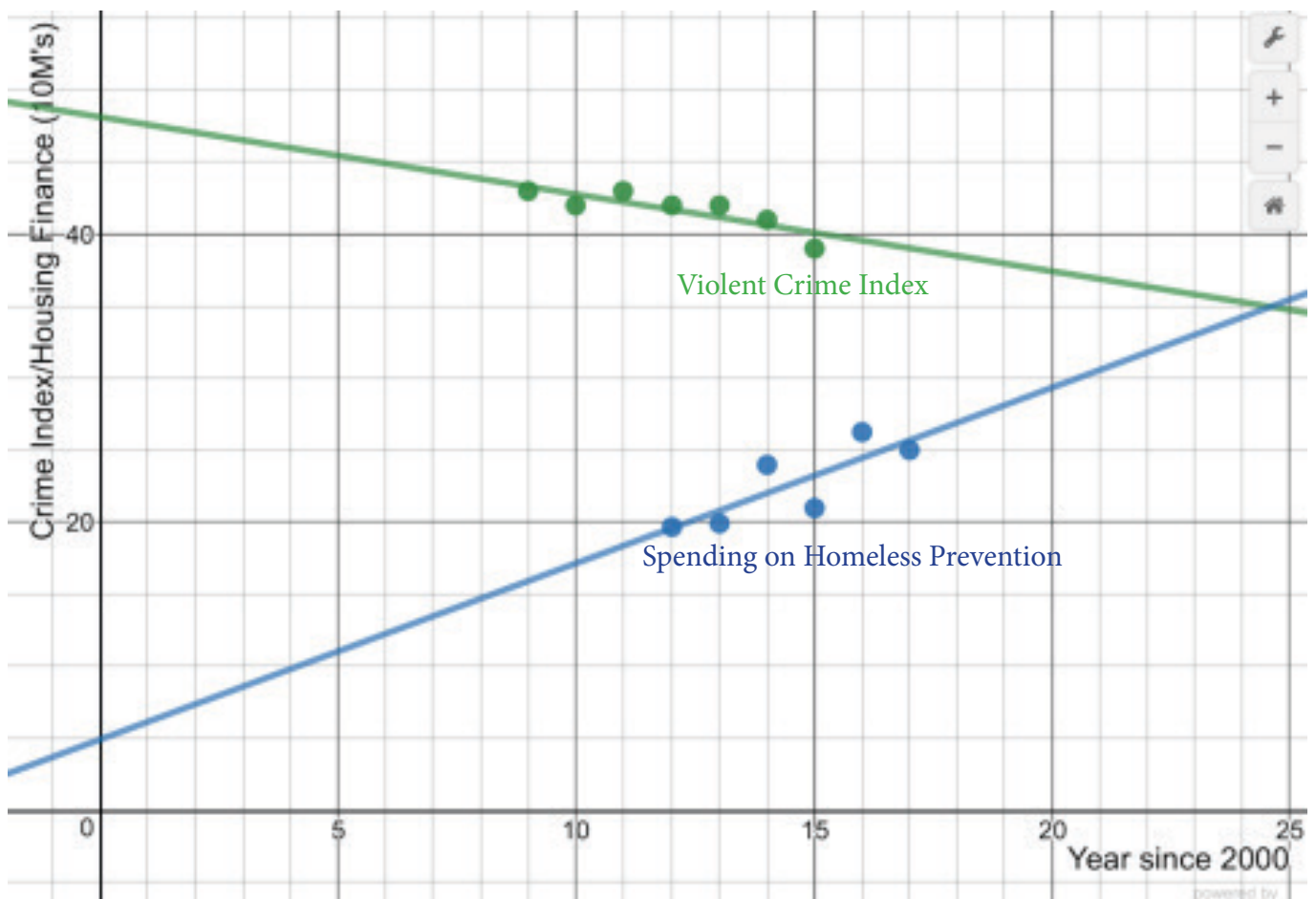
Group 19

Violent Crimes Affect Vulnerable Individuals Leading them to Homelessness

Yomaris(67A), Marco(64B), Avniel(67A), and Noah(65B)

"Two things happened when I turned 12, my Father who used to beat the hell out of us left home and the other thing that happened is I started using drugs... One of my friends said 'Here try this it will make you feel better', and it did. When I turned 13, my Mum found a new partner who lived at home with us. He raped me regularly and abused my younger sisters as well. I was only 13." When Rebecca turned 14 she was tired if the abuse and asked her mother to pick between her or her boyfriend. Then her mom decided that she rather be with her boyfriend, and that's when Rebecca's homelessness commenced.

Violent abuse affects both female and male which leads to homelessness.




x_1	 y_1
9	43
10	42
11	43
12	42
13	42
14	41
15	39

“I was very afraid of knives. My father used a kitchen knife to give me a “Glasgow Smile” when I was four years old. He blinded my left eye with his cigar at sixteen, cutting the eyelid away first so I would have no choice but to watch. Then he made me retrain myself in how to shoot. So I swallowed my fear of my boss returning and traded the man’s drugs for a handgun. I didn’t use it, but showing it to others kept me safer than I had been. I learned how to hide it, but also, that sleeping was dangerous.

One day my dad never came back. I waited and watched, but the dangers were growing where I was. The few women there were used by the violent people, or were duped into sex by using their mental illness against them. I stepped in to help one woman, but then didn’t use her myself. When they saw that, they called me a faggot and raped me, too.

My blind eye still hurt. I had no medicine for it, or for the rapid cycle bipolar I’d suffered since childhood. I had tried to get over my fear and ask for help, but people didn’t want to help me. Most of them just looked through me until mental illness and drugs made me fear I was truly fading and they actually couldn’t see me. The few who helped at all always wanted something, and the men who traded oral sex for a hot meal just threw me back on the street again no matter how I begged or what I promised to do. Each time I was afraid the person I approached might be one of my abusers, and the fear was choking me. Eventually, I stopped trying.”

x_2	 y_2
12	19.658
13	19.908
14	23.976
15	20.976
16	26.253
17	25.003

This man suffered a lot while growing up, he tried to get help, various times not intelligently but he soon gave up and ended up homeless, he received help and started his new life. He has a son now, and he's making sure his son doesn't go through the same pain he had to go through.

We obtained the data from Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and Minnesota's Crime Statistics. Our graph shows that the crime statistics has decreased and the homelessness has increased. We would like to know what you have done to prevent homelessness and crime.

You guys have obviously done a good job on decreasing the amount of homelessness throughout the years. Unfortunately the crime statistics instead of decreasing have increased. We recommend a program that provides donations that include clothing, transportation devices such as bikes for those in need to prevent people from stealing and committing crimes, we also suggest a service or support group that helps young teens and adults to recognize when they're being sexually harassed or abused and defend themselves.

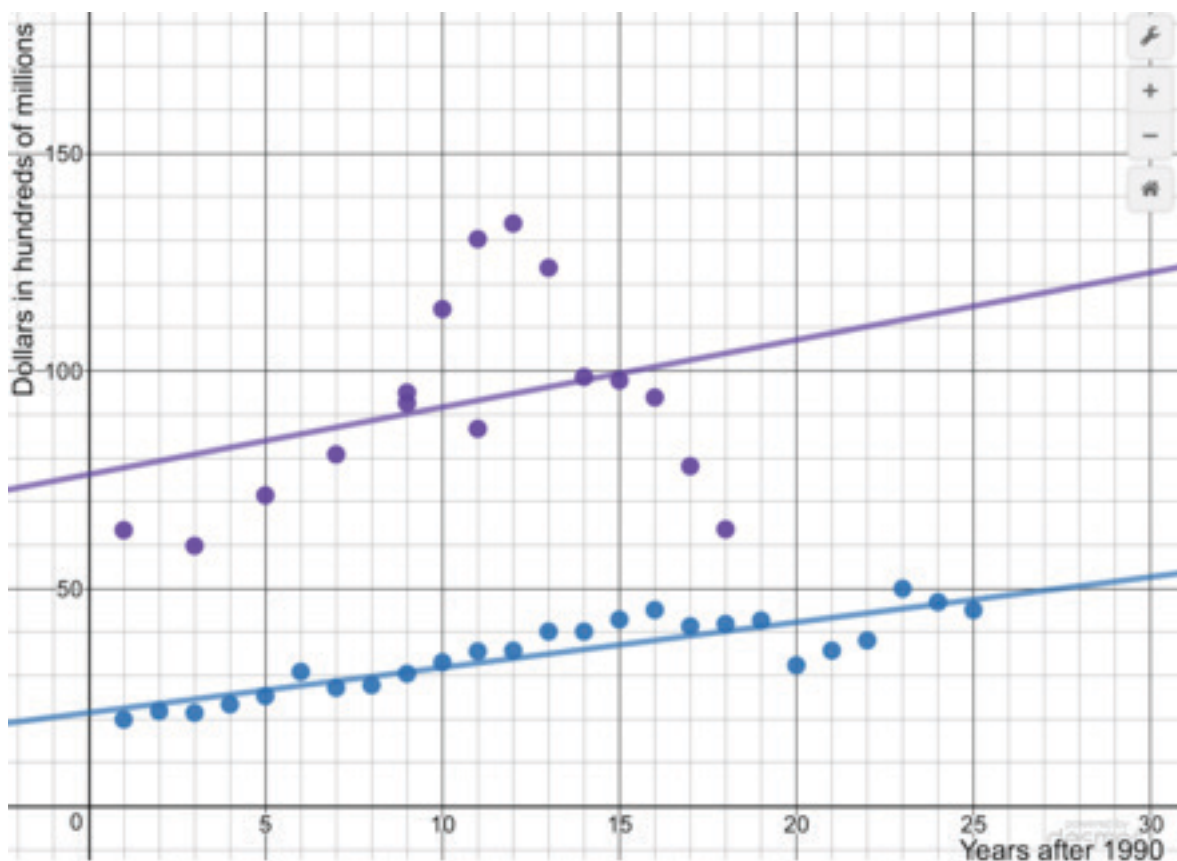
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Group 20

Money Spent on Education and Juvenile Crime Rate

Beth (64A), Erica (65B), Amaya (64A), and Natalie (64A)

“I meant it as a joke” Nick said. He had lit a hole underneath the soap dispenser with a lighter to clog it, as he was skipping class hiding away in the bathroom. He attempted to put out the flame with a paper towel, but it caught on fire. “I tried to put out the flame with another paper towel, but that caught on fire too,” he said. He eventually was caught and he pleaded guilty to larceny, which got him six months of probation and had to do 20 hours of community service. His second offense was treated more harshly, serving six months in a juvenile detention facility. This is an example of juvenile crime, and we thought that if the state spent more on education, instances like these would be less and less common.



x_2	y_2
1	63.4
3	59.8
5	71.4
7	80.8
9	92.6
11	86.7
9	95.0
10	114.2
11	130.3
12	133.9
13	123.7
14	98.6
15	97.8
16	93.9
17	78.1
18	63.6

The less education a person has they're more likely to be involved in juvenile crime. By simply spending more money on education youth can have a better education so they don't end up going in the wrong path.

In health class we read a book about decision making. That story was one of the many included, and it intrigued all of us. We decided to figure out if the amount of spending on education would increase or decrease the amount of juvenile crime.

We collected our data the way that most do. We searched the internet using common key terms, trying to generalize what we were searching for. Then, we found what we wanted and had gotten some research done with that data. We called several different people at the budget office, but we could not find what we were looking for there. Finally we were able to get a set of education spending data from our math teacher. After that we found our second set, the juvenile crime rate. Unfortunately, we weren't able to use all of the years' data from the education set, because we were unable to find years farther past 1990.

Surprisingly enough, the data that we found shows that the more the state of Minnesota spends on education, there are more juvenile crimes.

Because of this surprising result, our suggestion for the budget workers is to look deeper at the data they find. To look at more specific areas of the education spending, and compare those to the juvenile crime, and see what is making the crime increase. The policy you should consider is spending less on education and focusing a little deeper on spending the minnesota budget on different things to fulfill the enjoyment of youth so they could be independent and successful in different areas besides education so the don't get involved in juvenile crime.

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Group 20

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General Fund Spending by Major Area

General Fund Spending Major Area (FY 1990-2017)

(\$ in thousands)	ACTUAL FY 1990	ACTUAL FY 1991	ACTUAL FY 1992	ACTUAL FY 1993	ACTUAL FY 1994	ACTUAL FY 1995	ACTUAL FY 1996	ACTUAL FY 1997	ACTUAL FY 1998	ACTUAL FY 1999	ACTUAL FY 2000	ACTUAL FY 2001	ACTUAL FY 2002
Education Finance	\$2,072,191	\$2,339,757	\$2,368,138	\$2,328,367	\$2,647,294	\$2,946,042	\$3,084,857	\$3,337,326	\$3,463,919	\$3,877,761	\$4,353,114	\$4,818,844	\$4,913,217
Higher Education	933,310	985,554	977,934	972,975	1,015,898	1,050,555	1,062,146	1,077,881	1,162,895	1,266,527	1,279,584	1,337,495	1,394,932
Intergovernmental Aids	1,027,128	1,050,137	891,705	941,069	1,007,298	1,041,702	1,072,480	1,075,339	1,154,024	1,208,516	1,233,172	1,242,533	1,286,040
Health Care	738,961	835,997	1,056,662	1,139,337	1,298,528	1,427,149	1,383,280	1,462,253	1,509,239	1,581,165	1,718,600	1,883,462	2,212,259
Health & Human Services	588,878	669,394	781,646	802,927	768,389	797,978	776,030	820,995	869,942	916,838	883,520	959,817	928,975
Public Safety & Corrections	166,868	186,639	205,390	218,036	234,108	280,539	296,626	361,374	350,056	387,689	389,843	476,388	447,583
Environmental Resources	147,366	160,613	155,033	153,257	160,859	178,704	172,492	197,607	226,131	254,599	264,360	301,242	238,630
Economic & Workforce Dev.	134,228	120,747	134,510	136,084	163,952	152,408	168,647	178,852	210,620	207,732	269,795	242,775	204,953
Transportation	103,541	31,786	36,910	37,057	42,349	49,316	52,302	62,907	62,907	69,418	72,399	149,972	199,898
General Government	293,123	339,201	322,381	359,326	358,536	396,972	405,565	435,956	481,845	491,735	508,673	594,658	609,975
Debt Service & Other	189,295	182,954	200,452	194,497	207,000	201,071	197,589	241,826	245,637	291,439	255,190	307,072	285,553
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300,031	200,659	88,850	7,000	2,146
Dedicated Expenditures	24,063	40,446	40,101	43,040	60,981	80,134	91,344	118,592	156,300	136,579	159,186	139,658	29,795
Total Spending	\$6,418,952	\$6,943,225	\$7,170,862	\$7,325,972	\$7,965,192	\$8,602,570	\$8,763,358	\$9,370,908	\$10,193,546	\$10,890,657	\$11,476,286	\$12,460,916	\$12,753,956

General Fund Spending Major Area (FY 1

(\$ in thousands)	ACTUAL FY 2003	ACTUAL FY 2004	ACTUAL FY 2005	ACTUAL FY 2006	ACTUAL FY 2007	ACTUAL FY 2008	ACTUAL FY 2009	ACTUAL FY 2010	ACTUAL FY 2011	ACTUAL FY 2012	ACTUAL FY 2013	2-14 Fcst FY 2014	2-14 Fcst FY 2015
Education Finance	\$5,646,759	\$5,795,825	\$6,403,189	\$6,951,485	\$6,555,846	\$6,891,690	\$7,000,452	\$5,395,913	\$6,148,293	\$6,687,479	\$8,905,875	\$8,489,103	\$8,167,803
Higher Education	1,347,062	1,235,604	1,254,481	1,347,880	1,413,650	1,563,413	1,549,803	1,455,940	1,356,673	1,275,446	1,295,095	1,392,346	1,421,415
Intergovernmental Aids	1,473,924	1,359,985	1,282,292	1,395,351	1,485,376	1,519,008	1,432,783	1,561,560	1,343,058	1,412,369	1,306,636	1,343,550	1,609,723
Health Care	2,596,127	2,546,612	2,785,008	3,025,384	3,292,509	3,524,154	3,385,813	3,166,111	3,227,869	4,288,490	4,093,265	4,364,532	4,487,472
Health & Human Services	925,551	934,510	923,669	884,286	1,018,479	1,106,317	1,074,237	937,767	1,095,006	1,096,604	1,114,303	1,210,480	1,280,973
Public Safety & Corrections	479,791	435,628	470,205	501,213	556,075	571,652	606,324	531,507	593,990	548,095	582,952	617,459	590,573
Environmental Resources	201,320	197,484	201,792	164,151	202,802	226,015	223,925	166,920	162,974	145,622	157,085	153,137	161,967
Economic & Workforce Dev.	177,008	159,294	151,253	153,574	170,912	266,204	162,252	148,872	163,109	147,069	177,400	235,639	194,810
Transportation	108,351	71,151	73,330	99,941	109,828	137,303	108,146	92,422	65,051	65,067	66,634	153,065	106,760
General Government	615,068	562,174	636,851	632,475	714,876	744,304	836,095	720,368	762,356	704,674	792,491	801,881	793,429
Debt Service & Other	295,499	265,706	323,453	352,447	399,651	409,296	452,855	429,123	401,118	192,056	223,000	619,935	632,805
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0	0	10,247	10,248	10,250	12,648	20,414	24,138	34,181	61,619
Dedicated Expenditures	27,698	35,786	23,123	34,113	27,238	35,405	18,464	10,203	2,590	321	329	189	1
Total Spending	\$13,894,158	\$13,599,759	\$14,528,646	\$15,542,300	\$15,947,242	\$17,005,008	\$16,861,397	\$14,626,956	\$15,334,735	\$16,583,706	\$18,739,203	\$19,415,497	\$19,509,350

General Fund Spending Major Area (FY 1

(\$ in thousands)	2-14 P1ng FY 2016	2-14 P1ng FY 2017
Education Finance	\$8,318,265	\$8,446,373
Higher Education	1,424,665	1,424,665
Intergovernmental Aids	1,631,568	1,664,182
Health Care	4,863,957	5,094,694
Health & Human Services	1,289,510	1,297,198
Public Safety & Corrections	608,464	608,017
Environmental Resources	164,067	164,067
Economic & Workforce Dev.	194,980	194,138
Transportation	106,476	106,570
General Government	793,808	797,025
Debt Service & Other	621,884	646,410
Capital Projects	68,953	69,189
Dedicated Expenditures	1	1
Total Spending	\$20,086,598	\$20,512,529

