



# 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**

#WeAreCrew



Open World  
Learning



I'll never forget March 2020. The Saint Paul Teachers strike had just started and there was news of a virus spreading in China. The NBA shut down games after hearing about Gobert testing positive and the NCAA followed suit and cancelled March Madness. On a much smaller scale, my students were not going to be able to present at the Capitol like we had been doing for years.

Fast forward and we have experienced a tremendous amount of turmoil from the murder of George Floyd, civil unrest, a contentious election cycle, an insurrection, and the introduction to a few new Greek letters. Through it all, students have persevered and worked with their teachers to reimagine what the learning partnership could look like and as ever have been at the forefront of making the world a better place.

This briefing book is a document designed to accompany student presentations which will return to the Capitol Rotunda this year. Students have worked really hard on areas they are passionate about to bring this project to completion. The goals were: to help them understand scatterplots and lines of best fit, to help them understand topics that affect them, and to learn how to lobby their politicians to make their voices heard. But more than anything, it was to show them that even if a task seems monumental, scary, and undoable, if you break it down into doable parts and persevere, they will find they are capable of doing amazing things.

Thomas Totushek

Open World Learning Community  
Nationally Board-Certified Math Teacher

**"Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value." - Joe Biden**

Student Name	Group Number	District	State Rep	State Senator
Patrick T.	14	52A	Rick Hansen	Matt Klein
Cam S.	10	54A	Keith Franke	Karla Bigham
Kyler A.	7	63A	Jim Davnie	Patricia Torres Ray
Yonas A.	6	64A	Kaohly Vang Her	Erin Murphy
Joseph S.	7	64A	Kaohly Vang Her	Erin Murphy
Elijah H.	11	64A	Kaohly Vang Her	Erin Murphy
Margaret M.	14	64A	Kaohly Vang Her	Erin Murphy
Fiona C.	2	64B	Dave Pinto	Erin Murphy
Isaac W.	4	64B	Dave Pinto	Erin Murphy
Oscar M.	7	64B	Dave Pinto	Erin Murphy
Collin L.	9	64B	Dave Pinto	Erin Murphy
Harper K.	9	64B	Dave Pinto	Erin Murphy
Samuel R.	9	64B	Dave Pinto	Erin Murphy
Ian O.	13	64B	Dave Pinto	Erin Murphy
Lizzie D.	3	65A	Rena Moran	Sandra Pappas
Sincere M.	4	65A	Rena Moran	Sandra Pappas
Aria K.	9	65A	Rena Moran	Sandra Pappas
Kendra J.	12	65A	Rena Moran	Sandra Pappas
Caleb E.	16	65A	Rena Moran	Sandra Pappas
Nina L.	2	65B	Carlos Mariani	Sandra Pappas
Grant W.	4	65B	Carlos Mariani	Sandra Pappas
Alex P.	8	65B	Carlos Mariani	Sandra Pappas
Alastor P.	10	65B	Carlos Mariani	Sandra Pappas
Emma O.	10	65B	Carlos Mariani	Sandra Pappas
Sylvia C.	12	65B	Carlos Mariani	Sandra Pappas
Jordan E.	13	65B	Carlos Mariani	Sandra Pappas
Nino V.	14	65B	Carlos Mariani	Sandra Pappas
Olivia F.	14	65B	Carlos Mariani	Sandra Pappas
Seth J.	15	65B	Carlos Mariani	Sandra Pappas
Sir Nakhai G.	16	65B	Carlos Mariani	Sandra Pappas

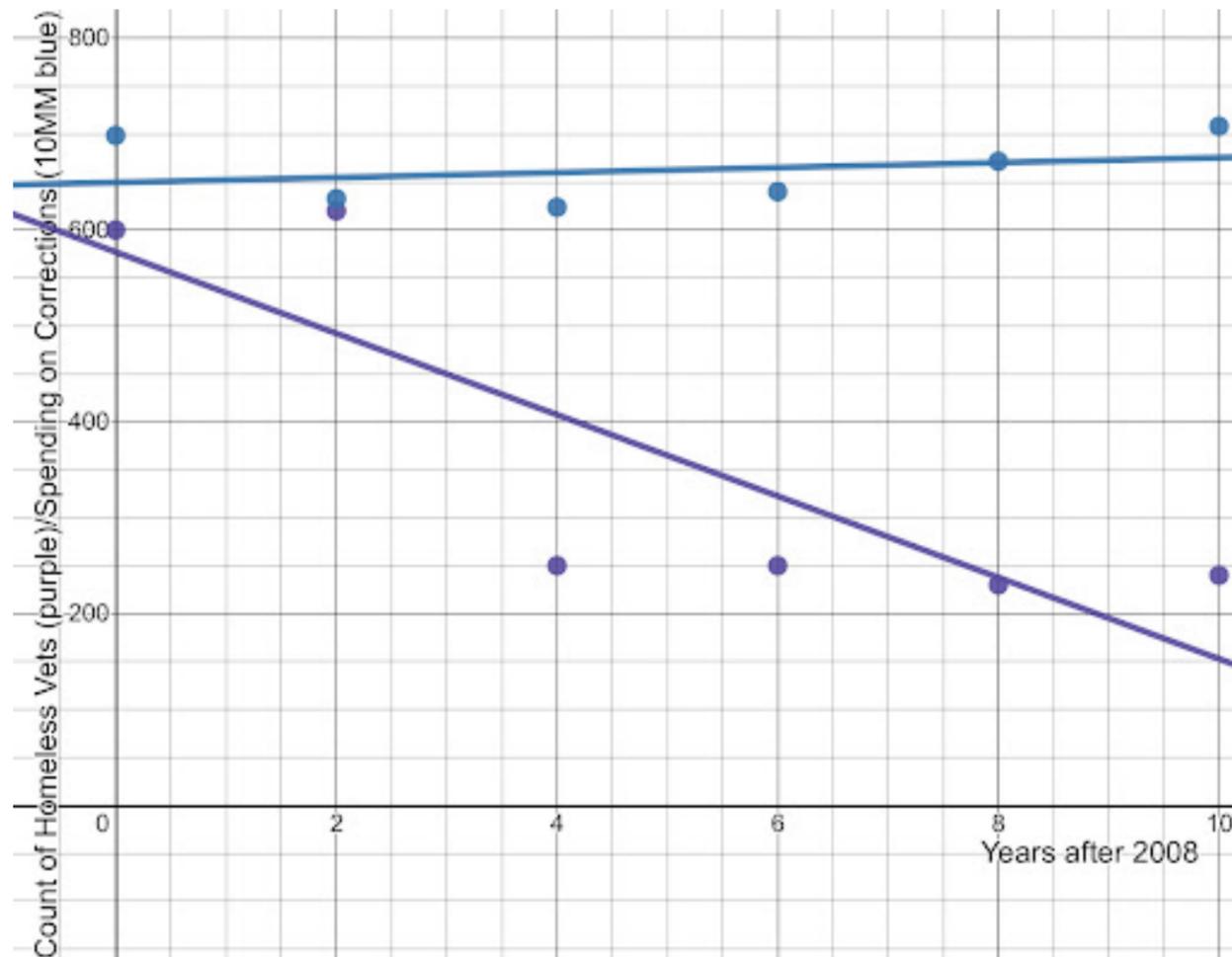
Student Name	Group Number	District	State Rep	State Senator
August C.	1	66B	Athena Hollins	John Marty
Titus G.	1	66B	Athena Hollins	John Marty
Valentine T.	2	66B	Athena Hollins	John Marty
Claire A.	3	66B	Athena Hollins	John Marty
Maren S	10	66B	Athena Hollins	John Marty
Donnara I.	13	66B	Athena Hollins	John Marty
Brandon X.	14	66B	Athena Hollins	John Marty
Blue N.	15	66B	Athena Hollins	John Marty
Brandon X.	15	66B	Athena Hollins	John Marty
Jensina E.	1	67A	John Thompson	Foung Hawj
Anya R.	3	67A	John Thompson	Foung Hawj
Bryan A.	4	67A	John Thompson	Foung Hawj
Lillypa X.	6	67A	John Thompson	Foung Hawj
Omar G.	6	67A	John Thompson	Foung Hawj
Xavier H.	6	67A	John Thompson	Foung Hawj
Rayne V.	7	67A	John Thompson	Foung Hawj
Parker B.	8	67A	John Thompson	Foung Hawj
Rainboo F.	11	67A	John Thompson	Foung Hawj
Teddie L.	1	67B	Jay Xiong	Foung Hawj
Amya W.	2	67B	Jay Xiong	Foung Hawj
Alice W.	15	67B	Jay Xiong	Foung Hawj

Group 1

# Public Safety Spending vs. The Number of Homeless Veterans

Jensina E. (67A), August C. (66B) Titus G. (65A) and Teddie L. (67B)

Dan Abrego had been one of the 2,284 homeless veterans from the state of Minnesota who haven't had access to housing since late 2014. Dan Abrego was a Vietnam-era veteran that didn't go to the Veterans Association for decades after being discharged from the Army in around 1972. Abrego said "A lot of us don't want to come into the system," he said at a speech at the Veterans Plaza. "We want to feel like we're free." While he eventually found himself homeless, sleeping at friends houses and living in his car. When The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs started tracking veteran homelessness across Minnesota, Dan Abergro saw this and joined the state and local leaders on Tuesday to celebrate 13 more central Minnesota counties that have effectively ended homelessness for veterans. The goal for The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs is to rapidly respond and make homelessness for veterans rare and nonrecurring.



We got our data from data-z.org, BLS.gov Inflation Calculator, and General Fund Spending by Major Area. We used data-z.org to find the count of homeless veterans, the General Fund Spending by Major Area was used to get Public Safety and Corrections Spending, and the BLS.gov Inflation Calculator was used for calculating Spending Public Safety and Corrections. On the graph, the count of homeless veterans is dropping down, while the spending on corrections is slightly ascending on the graph, which we did not expect. We expected the trends to be closer in direction.

From this information we would like for bills like the "No Homeless Vets" bill from Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans to keep going and help homeless vets. This has helped many veterans to not be homeless as you can see on the graph where there's a major drop from the year 2010-2018. In conclusion, what we are asking for is bills to keep being passed to help homeless vets.

Year	Count of Homeless Vets	Public Safety and Corrections Spending (actual, thousands)	Spending Public Safety and Corrections (adjusted 2020 dollars, thousands)
2008	600	\$571,652	\$698,643
2010	620	\$531,507	\$632,772
2012	250	\$548,095	\$623,796
2014	250	\$580,405	\$640,092
2016	230	\$616,920	\$671,746
2018	240	\$680,538	\$708,279
Source	data-z.org	General Fund Spending by Major Area	BLS.gov Inflation Calculator

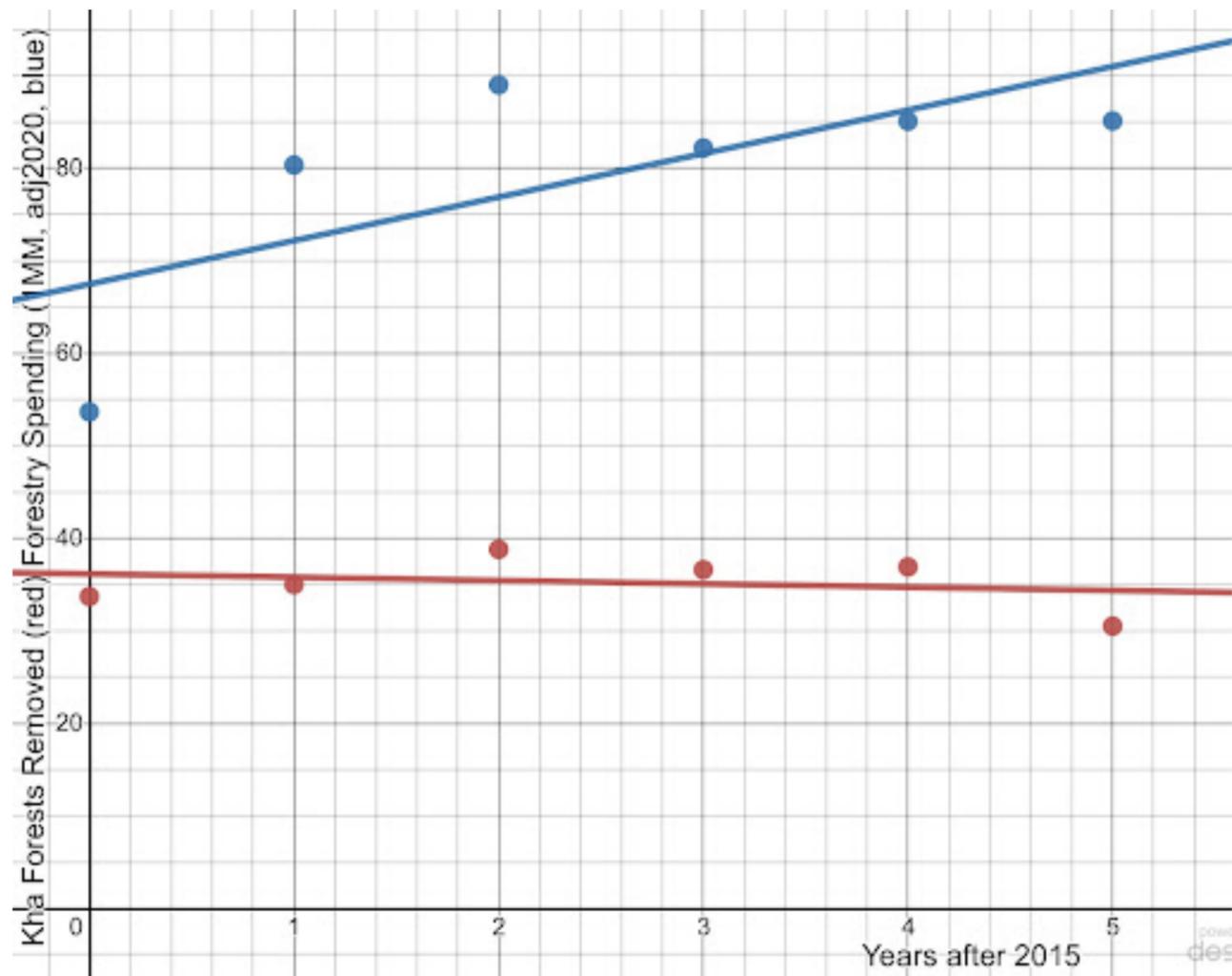
"While a majority of Minnesota's more than 300,000 veterans are doing well and have stable housing, one homeless veteran is too many," said Derek Holt, homeless programs coordinator for the state DVA.

Group 2

# Acreage of Woodland Destroyed vs. State Spending on Forestry

Fiona C. (64B), Nina L. (65B), Valentine T. (66B), and Amya W. (67B)

Just 2 years ago, Lee Frelich saw the fingerprints of climate change on the forest he had studied since he was young. Frelich has seen with his own eyes Minnesota, his home, becoming a prairie land; he had warned hundreds that the prairie land would expand across much of Minnesota by 2100. "If the existing forests die and you don't get fast recovery from other species, then you get a lot of problems," Reich said, such as reduced water quality, even more wildfires and air pollution.



We collected our data on the Acreage of woodland destroyed and the spending on forestry by looking at the Governor's Budget, and the Department of natural resources. Our data concludes that throughout the years the acreage of woodland destroyed decreased when the state spending on forestry increased. Even though the acreage of woodland destroyed is decreasing, we still have a long way to go. To ensure the safety of the species that are native to Minnesota's forest we need to continue to increase the state spending on forestry.

Year	Acreage Destroyed (kha)	Actual State Spending	Adjusted State Spending (2020 Dollars)
2015	33.7	\$48,605,000	\$53,651,530
2016	35	\$73,764,000	\$80,319,490
2017	38.8	\$83,763,000	\$88,982,000
2018	36.6	\$78,944,000	\$82,162,000
2019	36.9	\$82,996,000	\$85,059,760
2020	30.5	\$85,091,000	\$85,091,000
Source	Global Forest Watch.org	DNR Agency Reports	BLS Inflation Calculator

Forests are an essential part of our ecosystem, without them we wouldn't have breathable air and homes for many species. Increasing the spending on forestry will help decrease the acreage of woodland destroyed in the future.

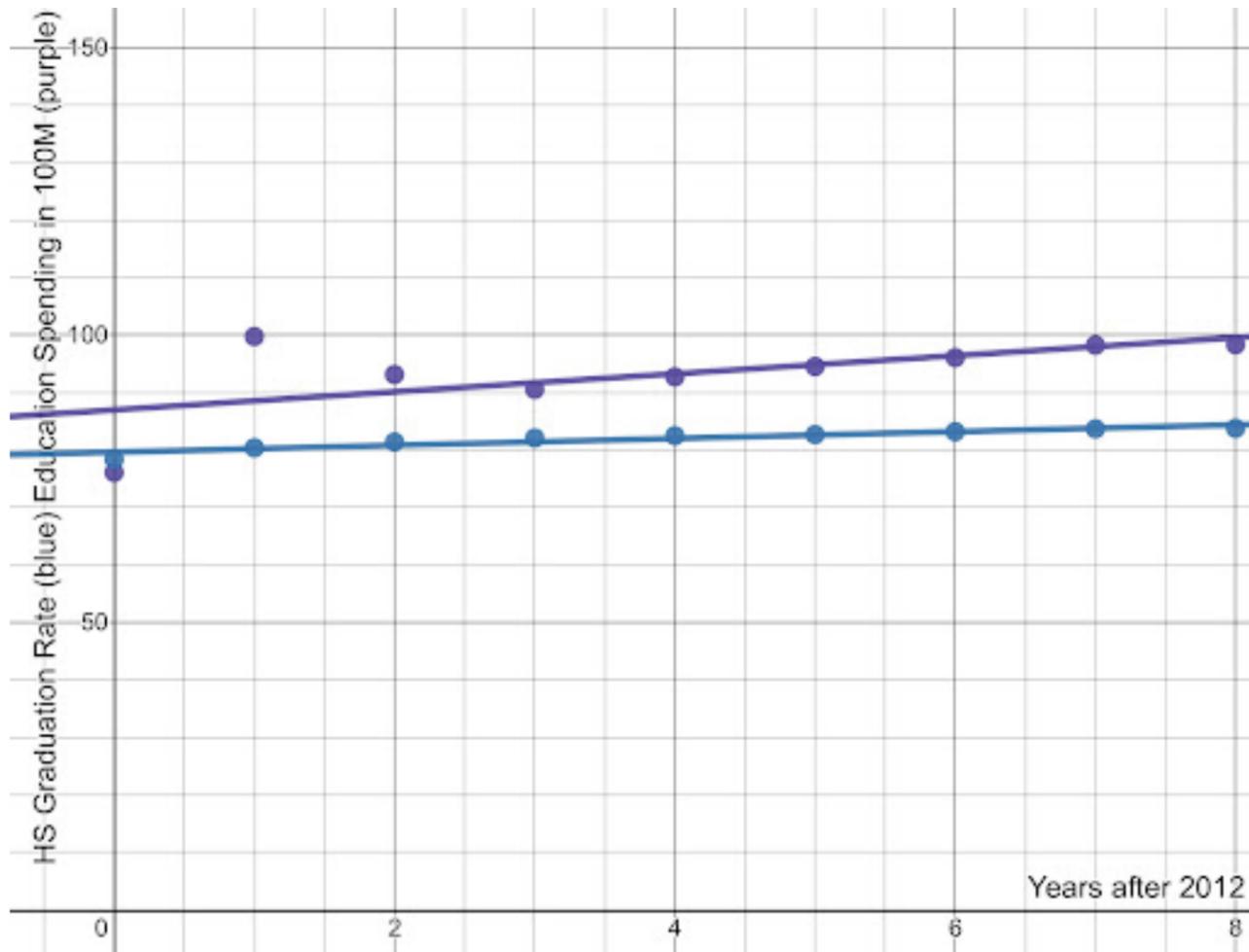
Group 3

# MN PreK-12 Education Spending vs. High School Graduation Rate

Claire A. (66B), Lizzie D. (65A), and Anya R. (67A)

With only 2 weeks left until he graduated, Edmond dropped out of high school. He was on probation, depressed, and was struggling to stay in school along with caring for his son. He had just been fitting in at his high school when he got into a fight. The fight ended with Edmond being arrested. He had forgotten he had a pocket knife on him and was arrested for unlawful use of a weapon.

Edmond spent a week in jail waiting for his trial. He fought the case for a year. The judge reduced the charge to a misdemeanor and gave Edmond community service. He slowly lost motivation to be in school. His teachers tried to help but it wasn't enough. He eventually dropped out just a mere 2 weeks until graduation.



Our data from MN Compass and General Fund Spending shows that when education spending goes up, graduation rates rise as well. Although the education spending is rising, the graduation rate is making a slow climb. Right now about 1 in 5 students do not graduate on time or at all. We know that when education spending rises graduation rates go up. We need to increase education spending so we can have every student graduate on time.

Year	Education Finance (actual, thousands)	Education Finance (adjusted 2020, thousands)	Graduation Rate
2012	\$6,687,479	\$7,611,125	78.4%
2013	\$8,905,875	\$9,976,780	80.4%
2014	\$8,446,137	\$9,314,704	81.4%
2015	\$8,204,234	\$9,056,017	82.1%
2016	\$8,516,938	\$9,273,848	82.5%
2017	\$8,901,333	\$9,456,001	82.7%
2018	\$9,233,048	\$9,609,422	83.2%
2019	\$9,587,811	\$9,826,219	83.7%
2020	\$9,835,739	\$9,835,739	83.8%
Source	General Fund Spending by Major Area	Bls.gov Inflation Calculator	MNCompass.org

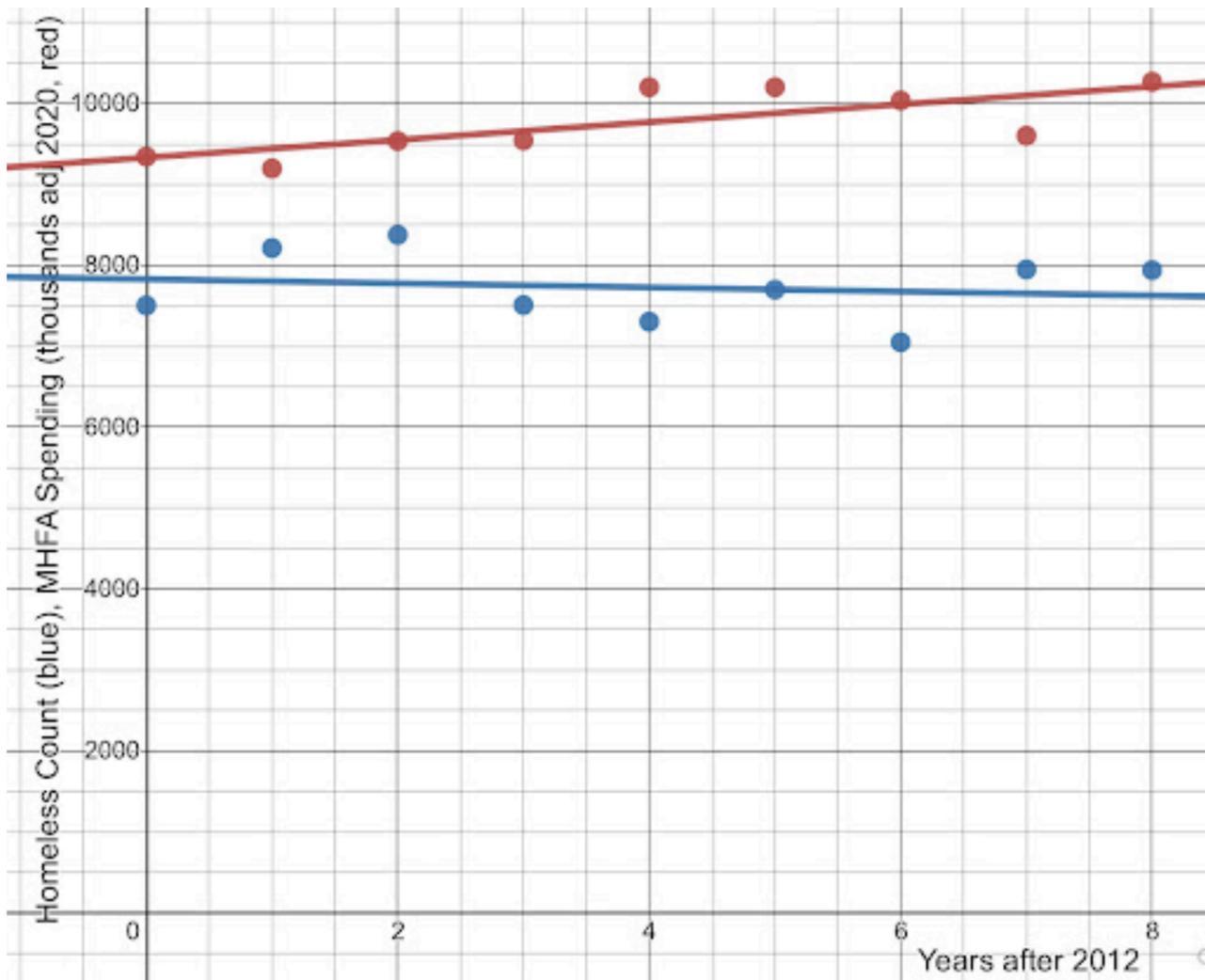
About 1 in 5 students don't graduate on time. We believe increasing education spending will help every single student graduate on time.

Group 4

# Anti-Homelessness Spending vs. Count of Homeless Individuals

Grant W. (65B), Sincere M. (65B), Isaac W.(64B), and Bryan A. (67B)

Imagine having no place to sleep, having to take refuge under the side of a bridge, in an abandoned building, or in an alleyway, with little to no money giving you very little to eat, and having to survive freezing cold winters. Little to no jobs will be available, and the only shelter you have are people who open up shelters for others like you. Well this is what many people in Minnesota have to go through every winter, with some of them even being children. One example of someone who had to go through this is Valencia McMurray. She had to stay at friends' places, skip a lot of school, and live in an emergency teen shelter, all at 16 years old, with nobody else. Think of how many people are living out this scenario right now. To help this, we can cut spending on things that we put too much money into, and put that money into ensuring everyone has a home.



When more money is spent on anti homelessness initiatives, the amount of homeless people goes down. If we want to drive the amount of homeless people down, we'll have to spend more money on initiatives that help get rid of homelessness. One initiative we can focus on is homeless shelters, which provide a temporary home for homeless people. If we build more of these, we could eliminate a problem that homeless people face for a bit, and help them get back on their feet.

Year	Number Homeless	Spending on Homelessness (actual)	Spending on Homelessness (adj 2020)
2012	7,505	\$7,465,000	\$9,343,921
2013	8,214	\$7,465,000	\$9,197,238
2014	8,377	\$7,862,000	\$9,535,736
2015	7,509	\$7,862,000	\$9,544,323
2016	7,304	\$8,519,000	\$10,201,829
2017	7,700	\$8,519,000	\$10,201,829
2018	7,050	\$8,769,000	\$10,037,260
2019	7,950	\$8,519,000	\$9,602,151
2020	7,940	\$10,269,000	\$10,269,000
Source	MHFA Homeless numbers from 2017-2020 from House of Rep		BLS Inflation Calculator

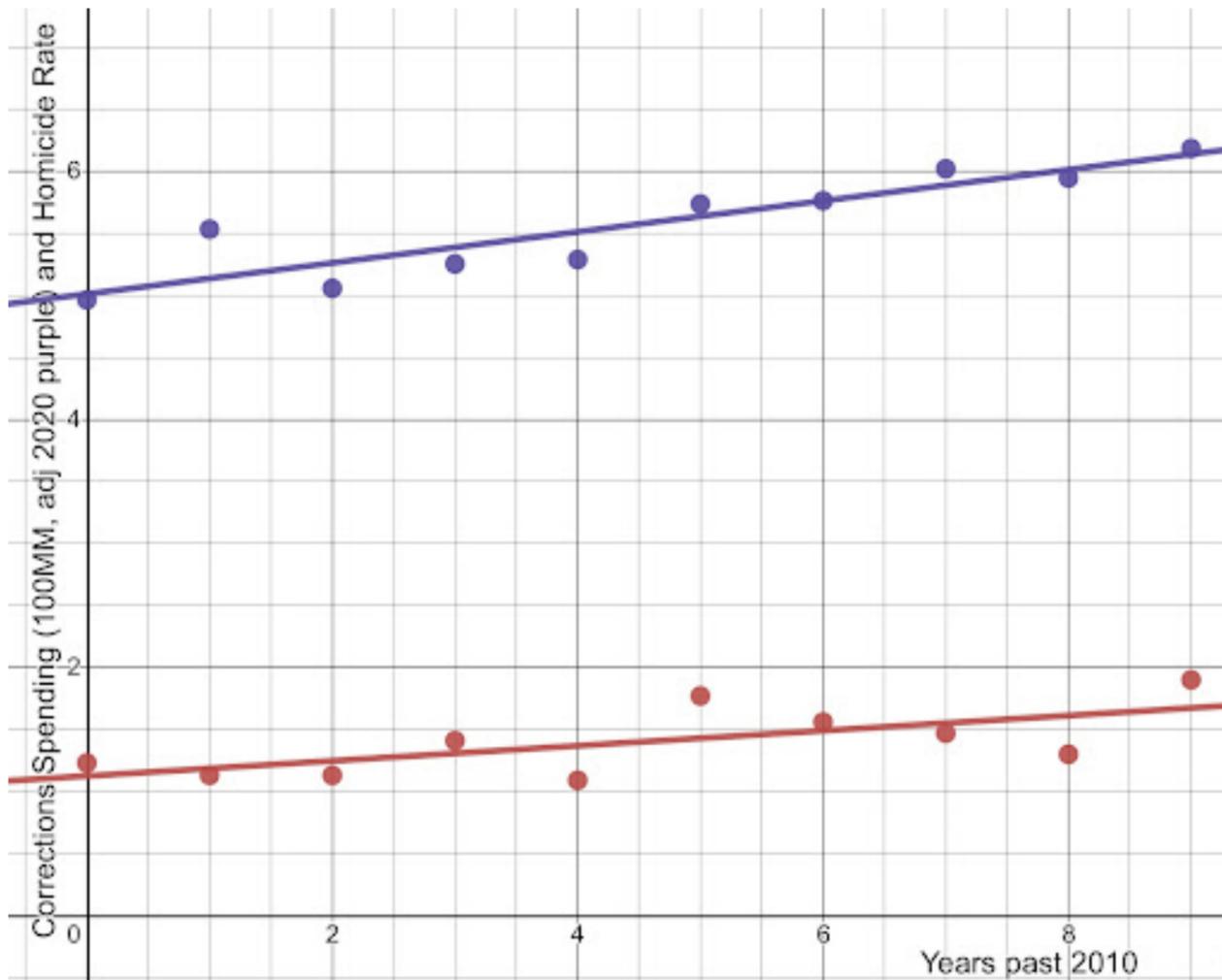
We need to increase anti-homeless spending to help homeless people with getting back on their feet and get them a place to live for a while like shelters.

Group 6

# MN Spending on Corrections vs Homicide Rates in MN

Xavier H. (67A), Lillypa X. (67A), Yonas A. (64A), and Omar G. (67A)

On March 24 of this year, a 13 year-old boy was stabbed to death in his home. His mother was injured but later survived with “non-life threatening injuries”. The police were sent to his home when they got a report that night of a domestic disturbance. The police later arrested a man that was known to the victims. That 39-year-old was arrested on murder charges which included 2 second-degree charges, one of them with the intent and another without intent while committing a felony. As 13 year-olds, this murder hits close to home.



We got our data from [efsgv.org](http://efsgv.org), [BLS.gov](http://BLS.gov) Inflation Calculator, [Jim King MMB](http://Jim King MMB), [house.leg.state.mn.us](http://house.leg.state.mn.us), [health.ny.gov](http://health.ny.gov) and [kare11.com](http://kare11.com). In the data, we found out regardless of the increase in corrections spending, the homicide rate has continued to increase. We are in effect squandering money. Something needs to change.

We really like the Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act and hope it stays because it helps the inmates who got a lot more years behind bars than they should have. To get best correctional outcomes - more safety in prisons for inmates and staff, safer communities for families in Minnesota and successfully helping people who are incarcerated to return back to their community. The only problem is that increased spending on corrections is not working because as you can see in the graph, the crime rates have gone up despite our spending also going up. We think that Minnesota should spend money on proven interventions to lower the homicide rate.

Year	Age-Adjusted Homicide Rate per 100,000	Spending on Corrections, Actual (thousands)	Spending on Corrections, Adjusted 2020 (thousands)
2010	1.23	\$416,861	\$496,283
2011	1.13	\$472,330	\$553,291
2012	1.13	\$444,270	\$505,631
2013	1.41	\$468,946	\$525,336
2014	1.09	\$479,518	\$528,830
2015	1.77	\$519,648	\$573,599
2016	1.56	\$529,187	\$576,216
2017	1.47	\$566,686	\$601,998
2018	1.30	\$571,223	\$594,508
2019	1.90	\$603,322	\$618,324
Source	<a href="https://efsgv.org/state/minnesota/">https://efsgv.org/state/minnesota/</a>	Jim King, MMB	BLS Inflation Calculator

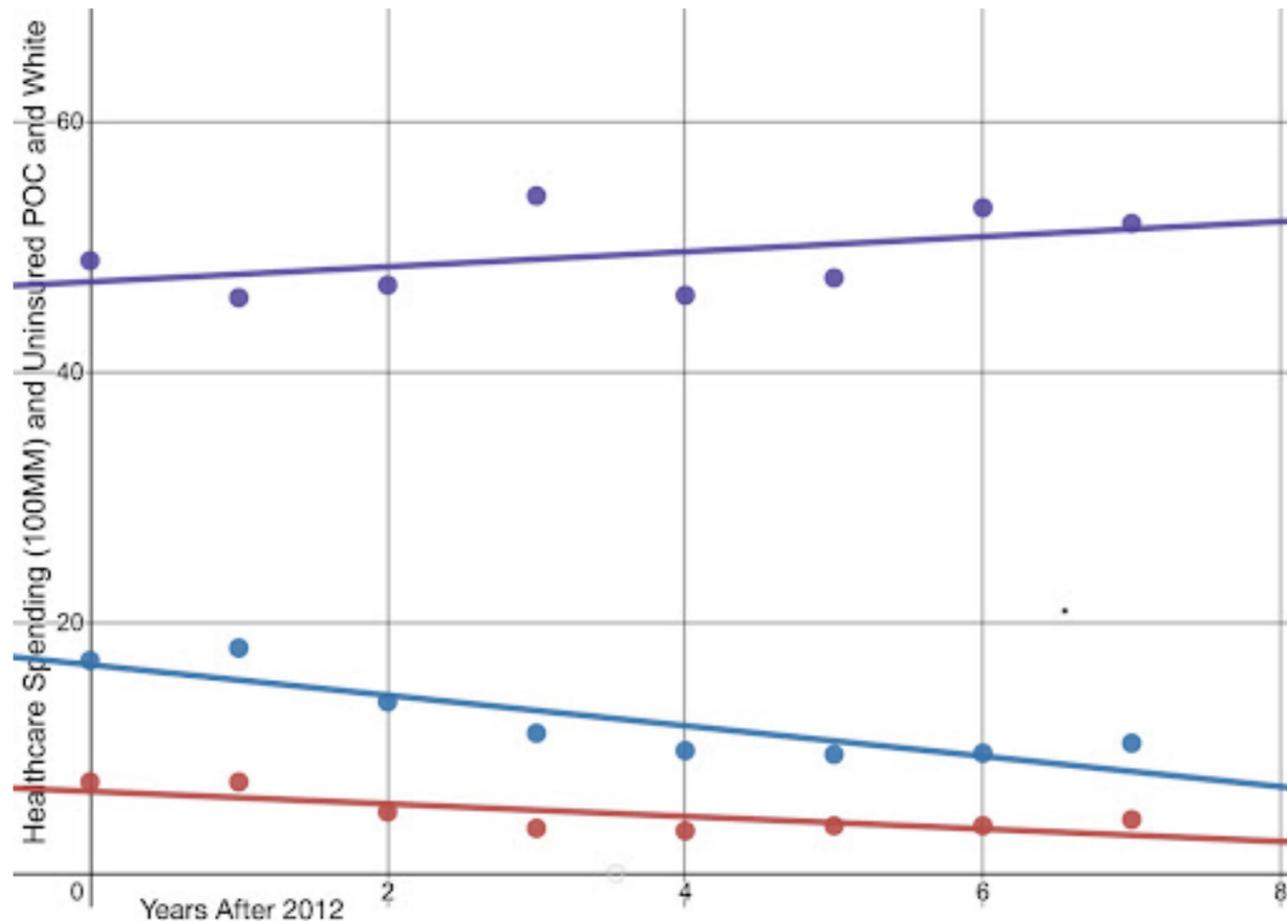
“The answers we received from experts, victims and even law enforcement prompted [a] focus on preventing and solving crime, as opposed to focusing solely on punishing crime.”

Group 7

# Healthcare Spending in Minnesota vs. Percent of Healthcare Coverage by Race

Kyler A. (63A), Rayne V. (67A), Oscar M. (64B), and Joseph S. (64A)

Alicia’s mom didn’t have to die. Alicia Parma’s mother died in 2009 from metastatic breast cancer. Her mother had not wanted to be seen or treated, because she knew she couldn’t have paid for the fees she would have owed. By the time she died she owed thousands of dollars in medical bills. “Those who struggle with breast cancer should not lose their life because they can’t pay their medical bills.” Alicia’s heartbreaking story happens everyday in Minnesota, and we should do something to change it.



We collected our data on healthcare spending from Minnesota Management and Budget and our data on uninsured people by race from MNCompass. Our data shows that increased funding for healthcare lowers the amount of people without insurance overall and shrinks the gap between people of color and white people.

Part of the American Dream is the ability to live long and plentiful lives, for people to be able to live that life they need to have access to affordable health care. Increased healthcare spending results in a decrease in the percent gap between uninsured people of color and white people, that means that a continual increase in spending will eventually lead to complete insurance coverage in the state of Minnesota. If more resources are spent on health insurance the racial insurance gap can be lowered, and people who need health insurance can have access to health benefits and live happier, longer lives.

Year	Healthcare Spending (actual)	Healthcare Spending (adj 2020)	Uninsured White	Uninsured POC
0	4,288,490,000	4,894,174,000	7.3%	17%
1	4,093,265,000	4,598,044,000	7.3%	18%
2	4,248,612,000	4,698,584,000	4.9%	13.7%
3	4,889,416,000	5,411,837,000	3.6%	11.2%
4	4,229,041,000	4,617,501,000	3.4%	9.8%
5	4,464,982,000	4,756,207,000	3.8%	9.5%
6	5,093,997,000	5,316,177,000	3.8%	9.6%
7	5,051,639,000	5,191,440,000	4.3%	10.4%
Source	General Fund Spending By Major Area	General Fund Spending By Major Area	MNCompass	MNCompass

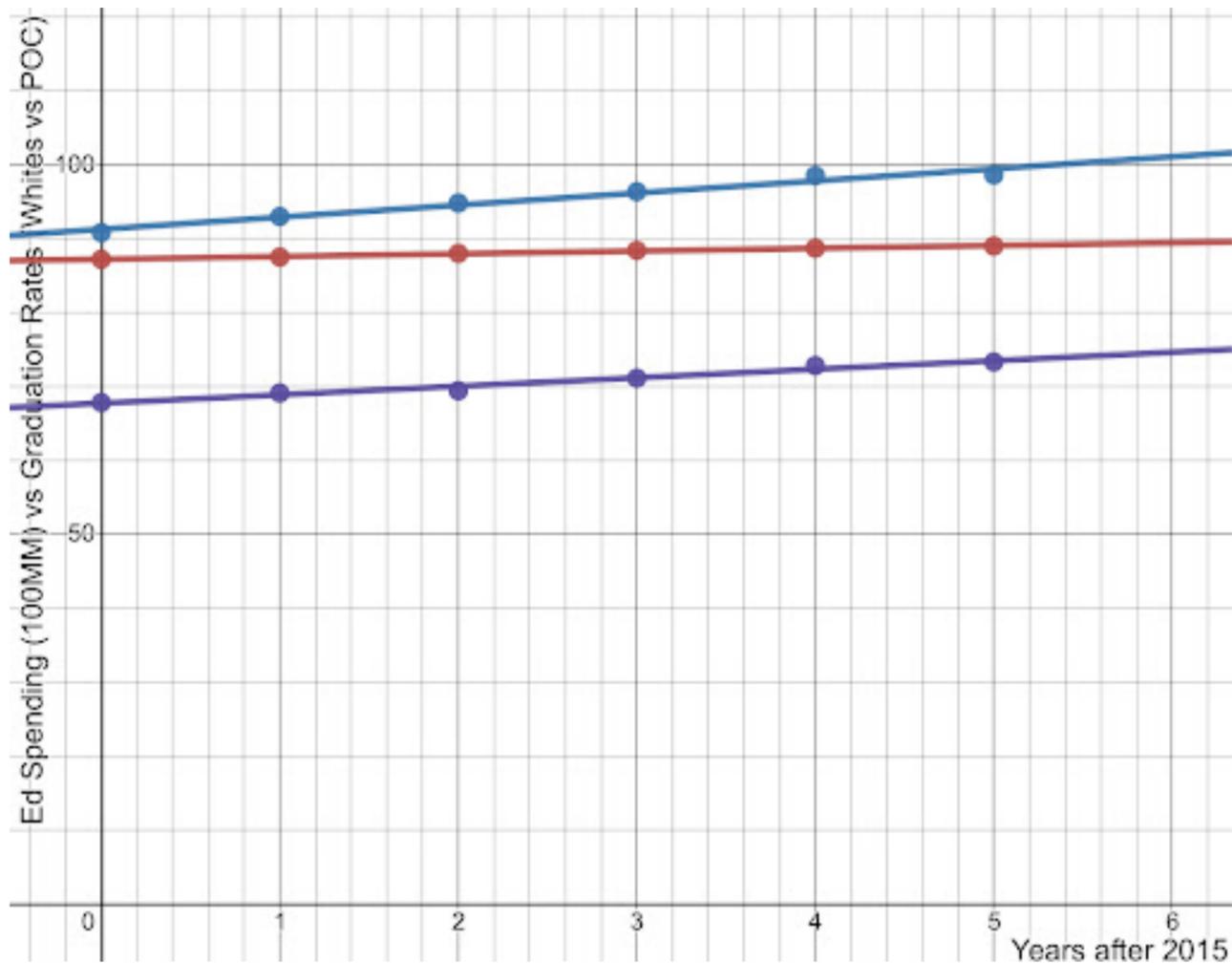
“Increased healthcare spending results in a decrease in the percent gap between uninsured people of color and white people.”

Group 8

# Graduation Rates vs PreK-12 Education Spending

Za'im D. (65A), Alex P. (65B), and Parker B. (67A)

Amira is a girl who struggled to complete high school. Her mother died when she was at the age of four from breast cancer. Her father took care of her and her three siblings for the next ten years until he sadly passed as well. After the passing of her father Amira went into a deep depression and she shut herself from the world. Her older brother stayed back from college and he took her and her sisters in and he put full attention on them. She was able to escape her depression, and now she is on her way to med school.



Our graph focuses on the graduation rates of Students of Color and White Students. We compare those rates to the Educational funding over the last five years. We also note the graduation rate gap in which Whites Students are graduating at a higher rate than Students of Color, and the fact that this gap is slowly decreasing. Minnesota needs to keep spending money to raise the graduation rates overall, and to close the gap between White Students and Students of Color.

Year	PreK-12 Education Funding (actual)	Education Funding (adj 2020)	Graduation Rate White	Graduation Rate POC
2015	\$8,204,234	\$9,080,835.59	87.2%	67.8%
2016	\$8,516,938	\$9,299,264.25	87.5%	69.1%
2017	\$8,901,333	\$9,481,916.08	88.0%	69.4%
2018	\$9,233,048	\$9,635,757.85	88.4%	71.1%
2019	\$9,587,811	\$9,853,148.73	88.7%	72.8%
2020	\$9,835,739	\$9,862,695.00	89.0%	73.3%
Source	General Fund Spending by Major Area	BLS.gov Inflation Calculator	MNcompass.org	MNcompass.org

“If Minnesota continues to increase educational funding, students will have more support, it will increase graduation rates, and close the graduation gap.”

Group 9

# Chemical Water Pollution vs Funding for the MPCA

Aria K. (65B), Collin L. (64B), Harper K. (64B), and Sam R. (64B)

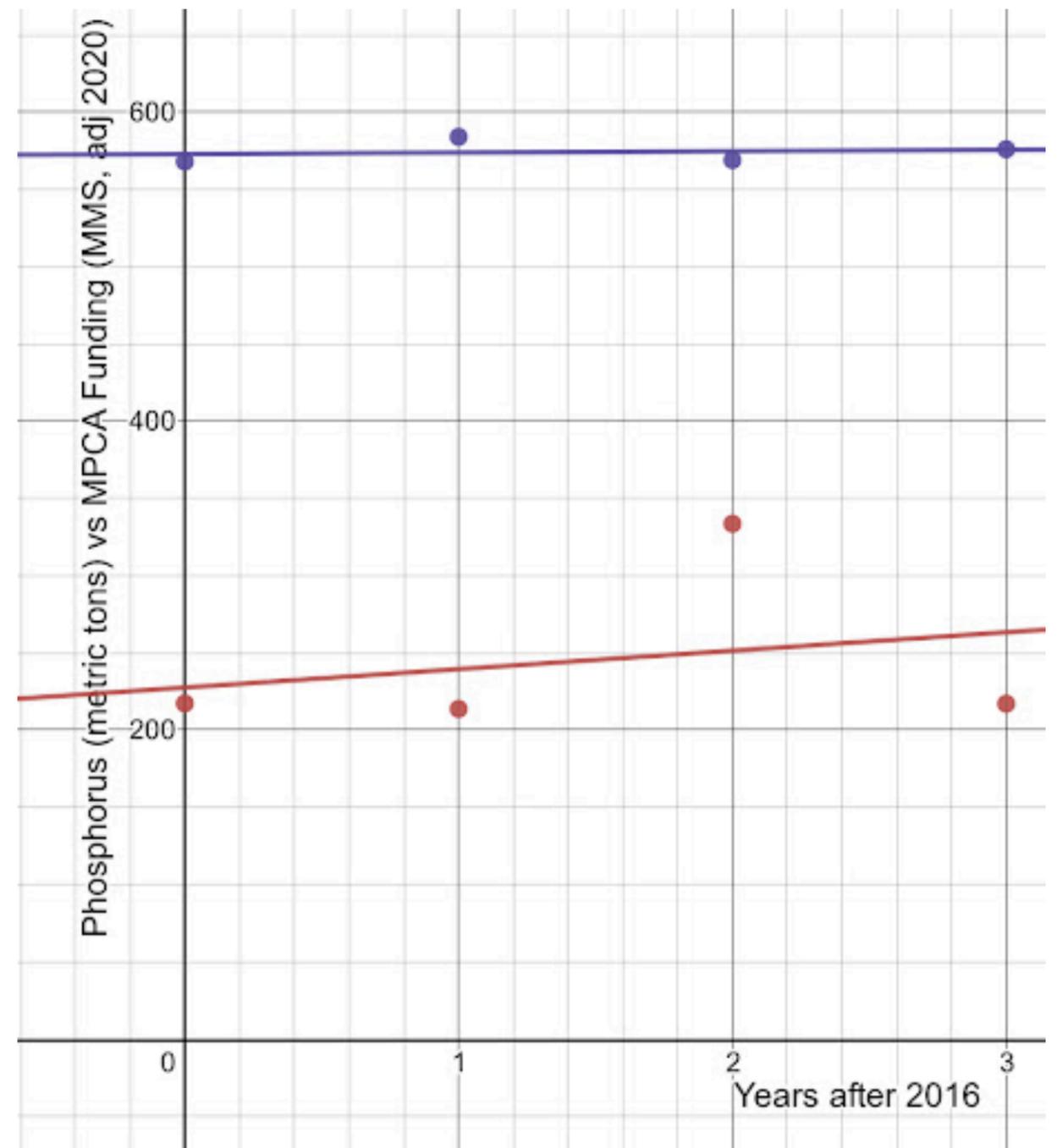
Celia Stewart went through something that no mother should have to go through when her infant daughter died due to dangerously high nitrate levels that caused neural tube defects.

When a huge dairy operation owned by the Wysocki Family of Companies moved into her community, no one thought it was going to have any adverse effects. However, the cow's manure, which was being used as fertilizer, was also silently spreading nitrates into the water that everyone was drinking.

Suspicion began to spread among local residents as they began to hear about the rising nitrate levels in their wells. Everyone's internal nitrate levels were rising rapidly. Those high nitrate levels resulted in the death of Celia Stewart's unborn child.

Our information, from the 2020 Pollution report to the legislature and Biennial budget reports, shows that when spending on MNPCA goes up, phosphorus in our waterways is staying relatively the same. Increasing funding on cleaning the phosphorus in our waterways doesn't seem to be making a long term impact. So we ask that the state changes the way that manure and fertilizer is discarded. This means adding buffers to streams that are near farmland, more ground covering to absorb the runoff, and controlled drainage systems from farms.

Year	State Funding for MPCA (thousands)	State Funding for MPCA (adj 2020, thousands)	Phosphorus Recorded in Water (metric tons)
2016	\$199,598	\$217,336.51	568
2017	\$201,238	\$213,777.72	584
2018	\$320,528	\$333,593.94	569
2019	\$211,865	\$217,133.18	576
Source	Biennial Budget Reports	BLS.gov Inflation Calculator	2020 Pollution Report to the Legislature

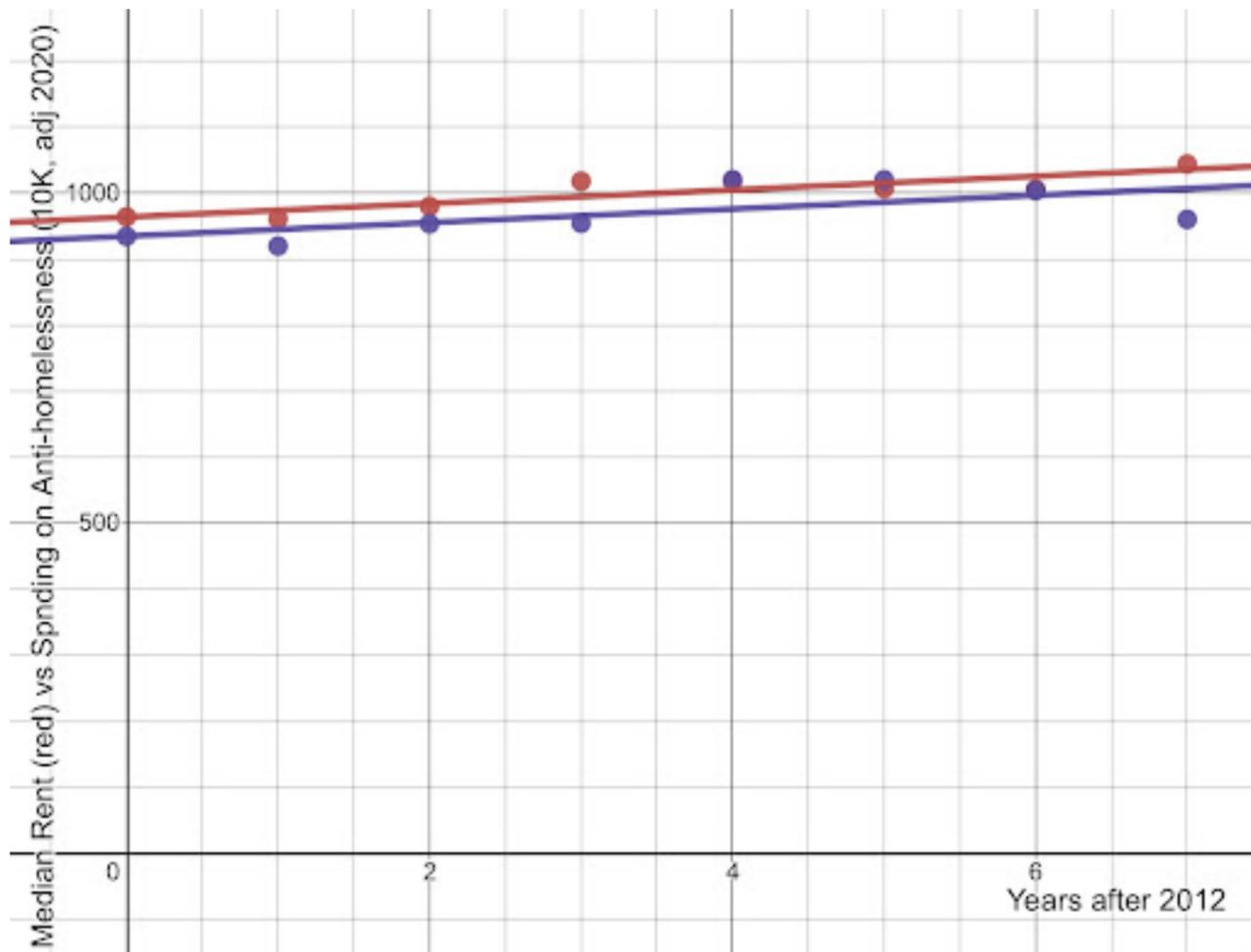


"No one has the right to use America's rivers and America's Waterways, that belong to all the people, as a sewer."  
Lyndon B. Johnson

# MN Spending on Homelessness vs Median Rent in MN

Maren S. (66B), Emma O. (65B), Alastor P. (65B), and Cam S. (54A)

Kiara, a 32 year old mother of two is struggling because of the increase in rent, to nearly \$1,600 a month. She makes \$15 an hour working from home as a medical biller. She must work from home because she can't afford child care for her 1 year old child. After she pays her rent and buys groceries, there's little left over. She says "I am trying to figure out what I can do. Rent is so high that I can't afford anything."



Rental prices these days have been increasing sharply. Because of this people with low paying jobs have been losing their homes and apartments due to the unnecessary widespread rent increase. Higher rent prices are expected to be the main reason for inflation in future cases. Inflation is rising prices in economies. Rent increases can lead to homelessness when you can't afford it. Rent prices have increased an average 8.86% per year since 1980, consistently outpacing wage inflation by a significant margin. Median rent is \$1,104 in Minnesota, and that is way more than many people can afford.

Year	Median Rent in MN Actual	Median Rent (adj 2020)	Actual Spending on Homelessness	Spending on Homelessness (adj 2020)
2012	\$865	\$964	\$7,465,000	\$9,343,921
2013	\$876	\$961	\$7,465,000	\$9,197,238
2014	\$907	\$980	\$7,862,000	\$9,535,736
2015	\$942	\$1,018	\$7,862,000	\$9,544,323
2016	\$955	\$1,018	\$8,519,000	\$10,201,829
2017	\$968	\$1,007	\$8,519,000	\$10,201,829
2018	\$987	\$1,006	\$8,769,000	\$10,037,260
2019	\$1,016	\$1,044	\$8,519,000	\$9,602,151
Source	Dept of Numbers MN	BLS Inflation Calculator	MHFA	BLS Inflation Calculator

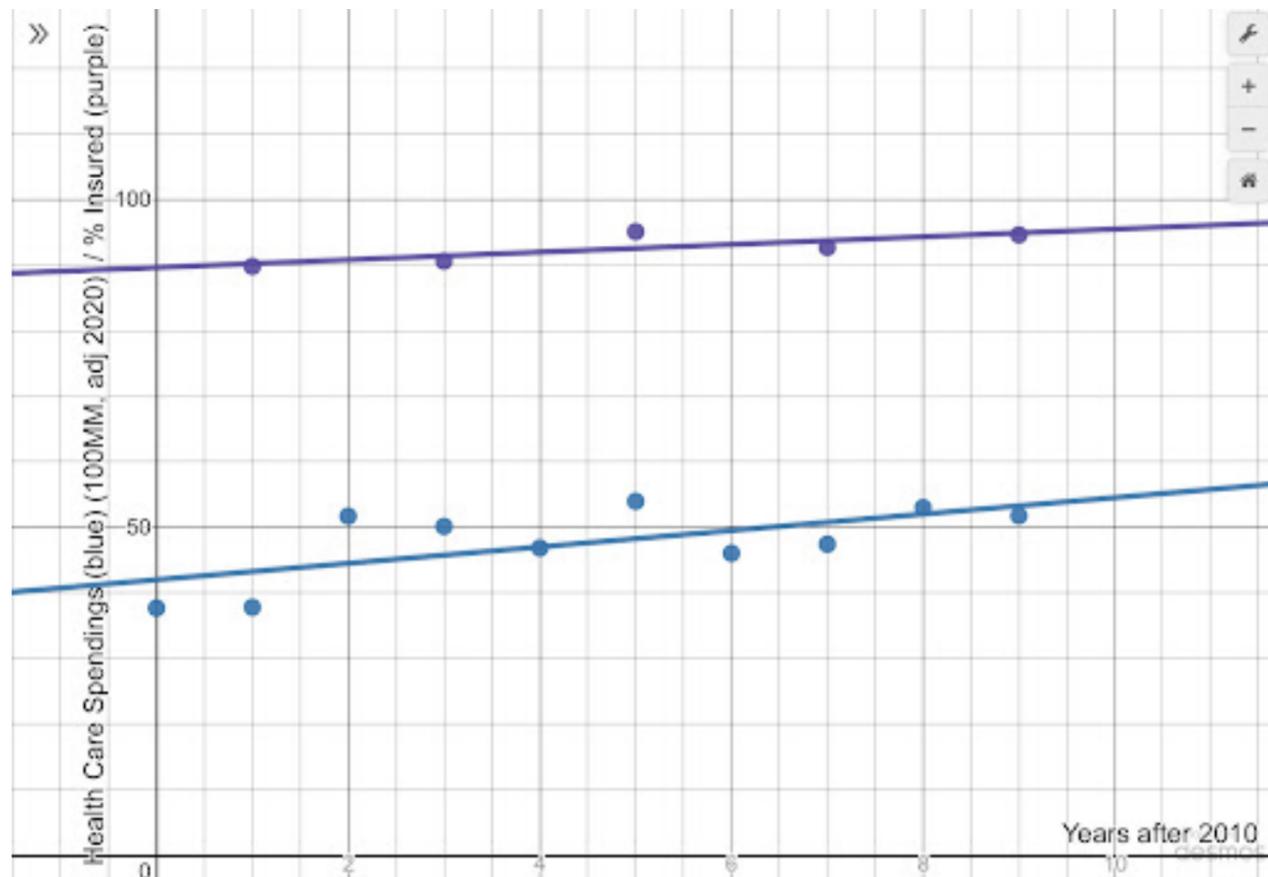
“I can't afford anything!” Said Kiara Age, struggling with rent and taking care of her children.

Group 11

# Percentage of People With Health Care vs State Spending on Department of Health and Human Services

Eli H. (64A) and Rainboo F. (67A)

In 2014, 25 year old Matthew Fentress passed out while stuffing cannolis for senior citizens at his job as a cook for a senior living facility. He was diagnosed with viral cardiomyopathy, a heart condition after having the flu. His health worsened in 2017 so doctors put him in a medical coma and inserted a pacemaker and defibrillator. Although he had insurance he couldn't pay what he owed to the hospital so the hospital sued him. Then he filed for bankruptcy in his twenties. About a year later he had a panic attack sending him back into the emergency room. This time he got financial aid from the hospital and made a payment plan but could barely pay it back and almost filed for bankruptcy again. He owed the hospital over a third of his salary.



We got our data from the Minnesota Department of Health website. In this graph you can conclude that the percent of Minnesotans insured increases with the state spending. In Minnesota from 2011-2015 14,027 deaths out of 76,907 deaths of people under 75 could have been avoided with health care treatment. These deaths also lost the state an estimated productivity of 1.3 billion dollars. We need to continue to increase state spending on health care to help people like Mathew Frentriss.

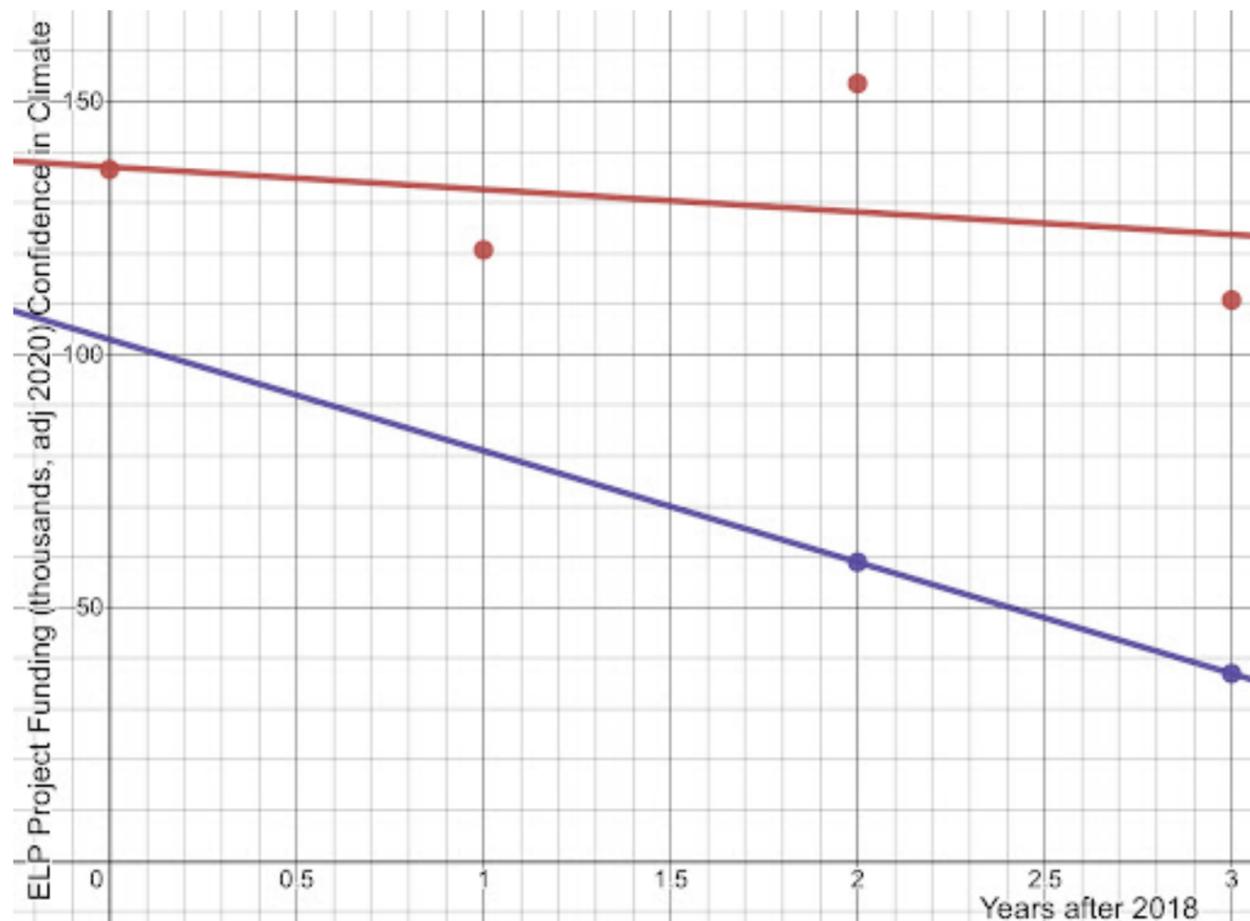
Year	Healthcare Spending (thousands)	Healthcare Spending (adj 2020, thousands)	% People with Healthcare
2010	\$3,166,111	\$3,769,330.05	
2011	\$3,227,869	\$3,781,151.80	89.8%
2012	\$4,288,490	\$5,170,522.17	
2013	\$4,093,265	\$5,013,853.27	90.6%
2014	\$4,248,812	\$4,685,743.09	
2015	\$4,889,416	\$5,397,046.45	95.1%
2016	\$4,229,041	\$4,604,880.78	
2017	\$4,464,982	\$4,743,207.93	92.7%
2018	\$5,093,997	\$5,301,647.66	
2019	\$5,051,639	\$5,177,251.64	94.6%
Source	General Fund Spending by Major Area	BLS.gov Inflation Calculator	MN Department of Health

“Too many people under 75 had their lives cut short because of lack of access to effective and timely health care treatments,” said Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm

# Women’s Confidence in a Supportive Small Business Political Climate vs. ELP Project Funding

Gretta L. (65B), Sylvia C. (65B), Kendra J. (65A), and Edenbliss W. (65B)

Starting a business should be easy, but for Gail Warrior it wasn’t. Back in 2000 Gail Warrior wanted to start a business, but couldn’t get a loan unless her husband co-signed. She went to a few more banks and kept getting turned down. She finally was able to get money from a women only venture capital firm, and now she has created one of the largest and minority-owned construction companies in the US.



Our graph shows that the percentage of women who are confident in a positive political climate is going down. At the same time, in Minnesota the ELP funding (grants for business startups) is going down. Data on women business creation in Minnesota was hard to come by because the Office on the Economic Status of Women (OESW) is not staffed. We are asking for the Legislature to resume fully funding the OESW so that business creation by women can be studied more thoroughly.

Year	ELP Project Funding Actual	ELP Project Funding (adj 2020)	% Somewhat Confident or Very Confident
2018	\$1,312,242	\$1,365,734	
2019	\$1,177,537	\$1,206,817	
2020	\$1,535,575	\$1,535,575	59
2021	\$1,123,240	\$1,107,734	37
Source	MN DEED Drew Lindorfer	BLS Inflation Calculator	Guidant Women in Business Trends

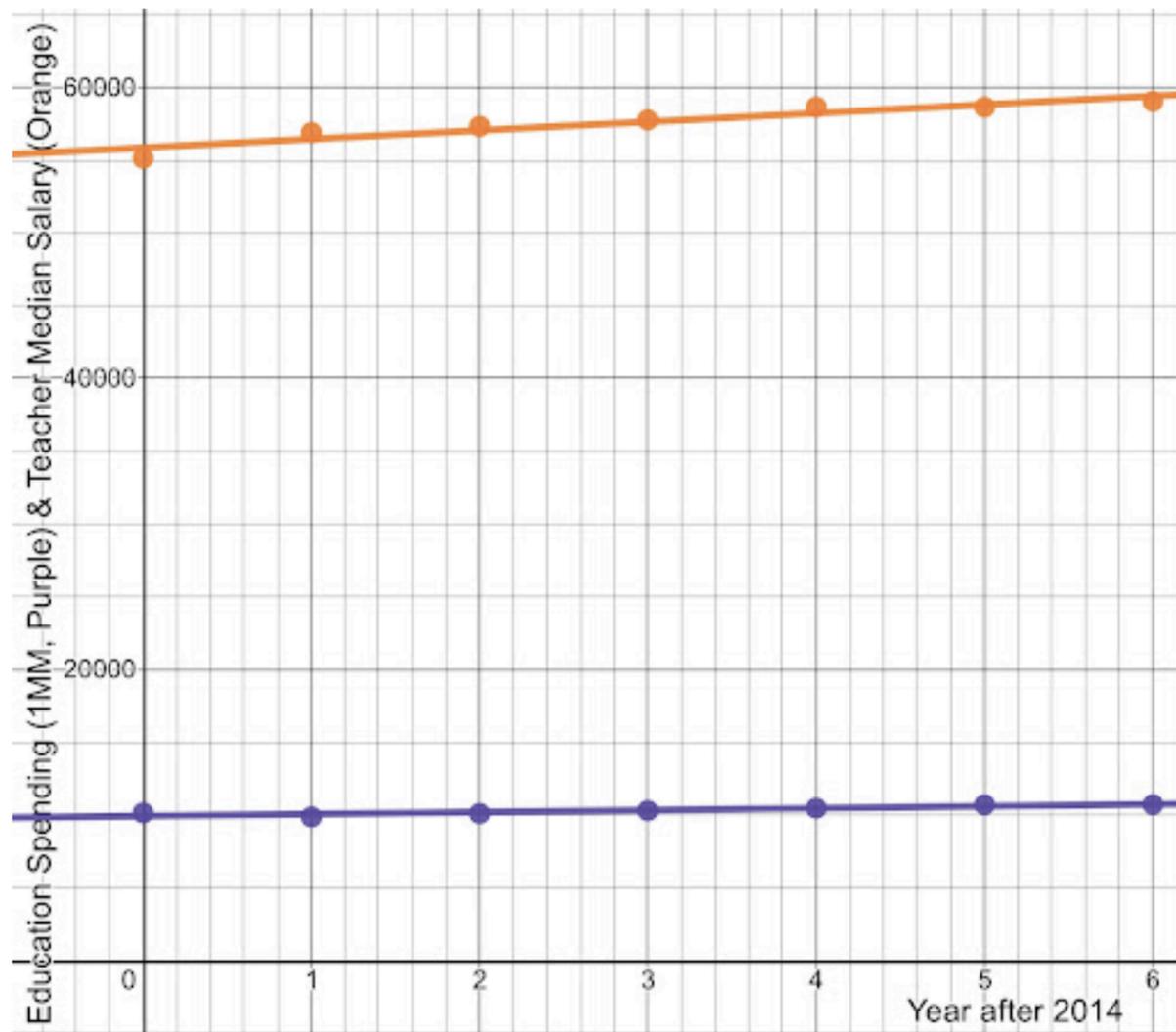
A fully funded Office on the Economic Statistics of Women is necessary in order to better study the difficulties women are facing in business creation.

# Median Teacher Salary VS Education Spending in the State of Minnesota

Jordan E. (65B), Ian O. (64B), and Donnara L. (66B)

Hope Brown is a 56 year-old US History Teacher that has been teaching for 16 years. She makes about \$55,000 a year. She works a second job in guest services for \$9 an hour. Herself and her husband started a summer business leading historical tours. Hope Brown is given \$50 each semester by the school for her students but ends up spending \$400 every semester out of her own pocket. She had a broken tooth and couldn't afford to get it fixed, and once took a sick day because she didn't have enough gas money to make it to work. She has donated plasma twice before just for gas money. This is no way to treat our teachers.

The median salary for a teacher in Minnesota is \$60k, that means ½ of all teachers in Minnesota make less than 60k. That's less than the average salary of a truck driver who isn't required to attend college for 4 or more years. For how many years of college that teachers need to get a job, teaching is among the lowest paying full-time jobs in the USA right now. Especially egregious for how much work, time, and effort is needed to become and be a teacher. The only way to raise teacher salaries is to put more money into K-12 spending. Our teachers aren't paid enough and need to be a higher priority, they need to be paid what they are worth, and not whatever's leftover in the funds for K-12 education spending.



Year	Educational Spending	Educational Spending (Adj 2020)	Median Teacher Salary
2014 (0)	\$8,446,137,000	\$10,151,569,470	\$55,151
2015 (1)	\$8,204,234,000	\$9,869,640,110	\$56,913
2016 (2)	\$8,516,938,000	\$10,107,042,520	\$57,346
2017 (3)	\$8,901,333,000	\$10,305,560,350	\$57,782
2018 (4)	\$9,233,048,000	\$10,472,765,550	\$58,663
2019 (5)	\$9,587,811,000	\$10,709,040,040	\$58,663
2020 (6)	\$9,835,739,000	\$10,719,415,550	\$59,069
Source	General Fund Spending by Major Area	BLS.gov Inflation Calculator	NCES.ED.GOV

For how many years of college that teachers need to get a job, teaching is among the lowest paying full-time jobs in the USA right now.

# MN Spending on Corrections vs Three-year Adult Recidivism Rates

Margaret M. (64A), Pat T. (52A), Nino V. (65B), and Olivia F. (65B)

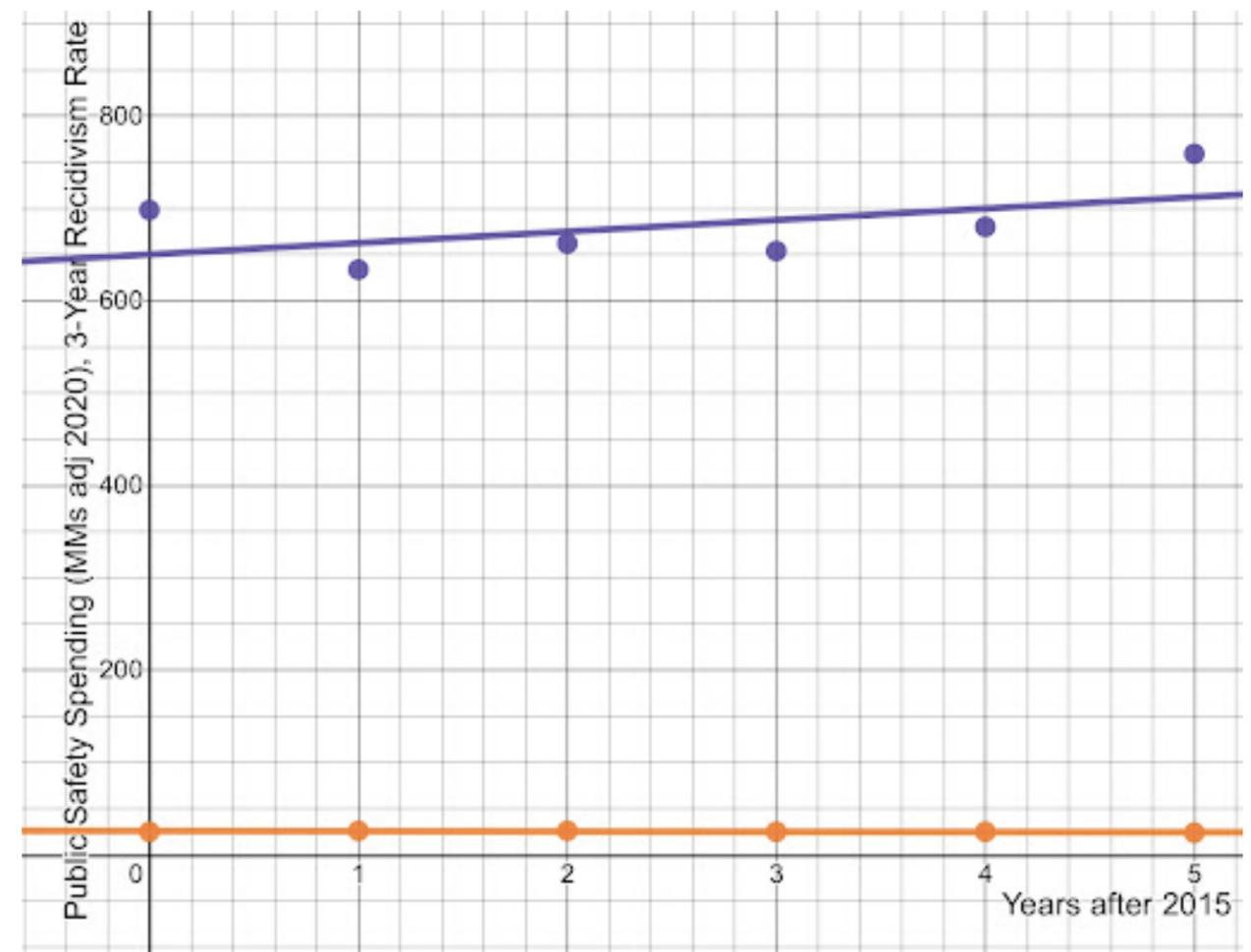
Adoniyah Israel was convicted of homicide and served 24 years in prison. During his time spent he decided to maximize his chances of survival upon joining back into civilian life. He did this by learning welding, machining, and computer science. This training behind bars allowed him to earn a job in metal working upon leaving prison in february of 2017. He felt fortunate for the opportunity because he knew that for most; getting a job after prison would be near impossible. He credits the Power of People Leadership Institute, a Minneapolis based organization built around helping those in need of counseling, and in need of help with housing, getting a job, all the way to transportation. Co-founder of the institution, Shane Price said that Israel was eager to take advantage of the opportunity given to him "Rehabilitation, in our mind, is always about the offender's decision to change his life and have a changed mind and changed attitude to meet with opportunity." One of the most important elements to success after incarceration for Adoniyah was the career training he received, this paired with an organization that helps people in similar situations to him created an opportunity that is usually uncommon especially five years after the fact.

Year	Public Safety Spending (millions)	Public Safety Spending (millions, Adj 2020)	3-Year Recidivism Rate
2015	\$519.65	\$698.26	25%
2016	\$529.19	\$633.72	26%
2017	\$566.69	\$662.08	26%
2018	\$571.22	\$653.84	25%
2019	\$603.32	\$680.03	25%
2020	\$696.47	\$759.04	24%
Source	General Fund Spending by Major Area	BLS.gov Inflation Calculator	<a href="https://mn.gov/doc/assets/DOC%202020%20Performance%20Report%20%28final%29_tcm1089-466714.pdf">https://mn.gov/doc/assets/DOC%202020%20Performance%20Report%20%28final%29_tcm1089-466714.pdf</a>

In order to decrease recidivism rates, Minnesota must increase spending on Pre-Release Services and Community Supervision.

This graph compares Minnesota Public Safety and Corrections spending (Purple) and the three year rate of recidivism among formerly incarcerated individuals (Orange). Despite the increased spending on Public Safety and Corrections, the rate of recidivism stayed consistent. This data shows that no matter how much money the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) is allocated, the rate of recidivism statewide will remain unaffected under current policy.

In order to change Minnesota's recidivism rates, The DOC needs to even out their expenditures. Currently, the DOC spends roughly 21% of their budget on Post-release Services and Community Supervision but 73% on Incarceration and Pre-release Services. The other 5% is used for Organizational, Regulatory, and Administrative services. This is likely because Incarceration and Pre-release Services are some of the more expensive sections of the DOC's budget. Although proper funding for these services is almost always valuable, Post-release Services have some of the lowest General Fund Spending overall (after Organizational, Regulatory and Administrative Services). By increasing funding for Post-release Services and Community supervision, we may find a way to finally lower Minnesota's three year recidivism rates.

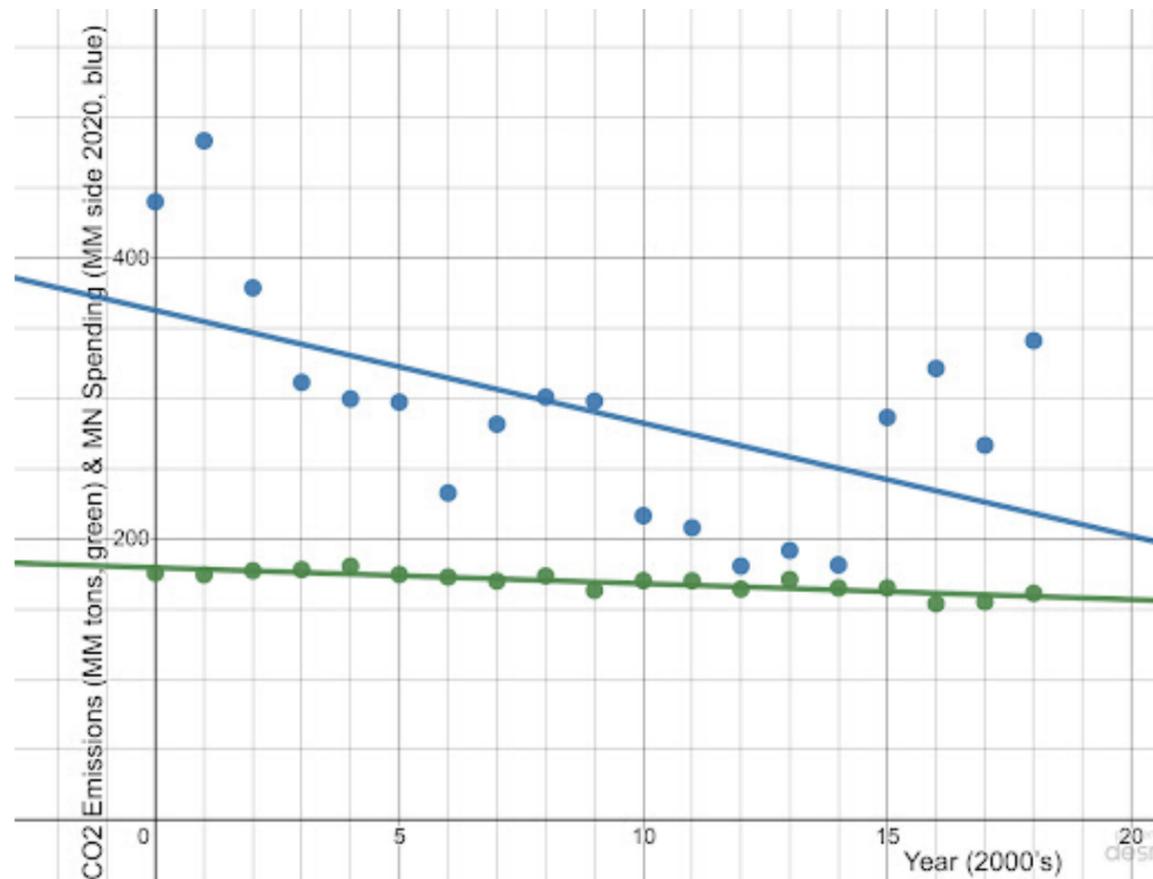


Group 15

# Environmental Budget vs Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Seth J. (67B), Alice W. (67B), Brandon X. (66B), and Blue N. (66B)

People are facing climate change throughout the world. As we focus on Minnesota, citizens find themselves having to adapt and protect animals and nature that are specific to Minnesota. For Chris Heeter, a nature guide, who shows people animals and landscapes they hardly ever see, He hasn't seen a moose in a decade, because of ticks running wild with our warmer climate. Adam Muntstenteiger sees the devastation every day of more than 440,000 acres of trees in Minnesota's tamarack forest dead because of eastern larch beetles. As Minnesota continues getting warmer, we've gotten strange and severe weather year round, like In southern Minnesota, where we had 16 confirmed tornadoes on December 15 2021. The sudden heat from global warming caused and still causes tornadoes to touch down, damaging the surroundings. After all these events it is clear that climate change will continue to bring harsh weather to the world.



From the data we have, we can see a clear message when looking at the graph and table for the data. We can see that, while the spending may be overall lower than when it started, the steepness of it is mostly due to a steep decline in spending from 2010 to 2014. In the same place, we also see a rise in CO2 emissions. From this information, we can deduce that with handling CO2 emissions and spending, we should focus on consistency. The more consistency we have, the more the CO2 emissions will fall.

Year	Environment al Resource Spending (thousands)	Environmental Resource Spending (adj 2020, millions)	CO2 emissions (millions of tons)
2000	\$264,360	440.2	175.6
2001	\$301,242	483.6	174.4
2002	\$238,630	378.8	177.3
2003	\$201,320	311.5	178.1
2004	\$197,484	299.7	180.5
2005	\$201,792	297.4	174.6
2006	\$164,151	232.7	172.8
2007	\$202,802	281.7	169.9
2008	\$226,015	301	173.5
2009	\$223,925	298.1	163.3
2010	\$166,920	216.5	170.2
2011	\$162,974	207.9	170.1
2012	\$145,622	180.6	164.2
2013	\$157,085	191.7	171
2014	\$150,912	181.4	165
2015	\$238,204	286.5	165
2016	\$270,810	321.4	153.8
2017	\$230,496	266.7	155.1
2018	\$300,895	341.2	161.2
Source	General Fund Spending by Major Area	BLS.gov Inflation Calculator	Minnesota Reformer

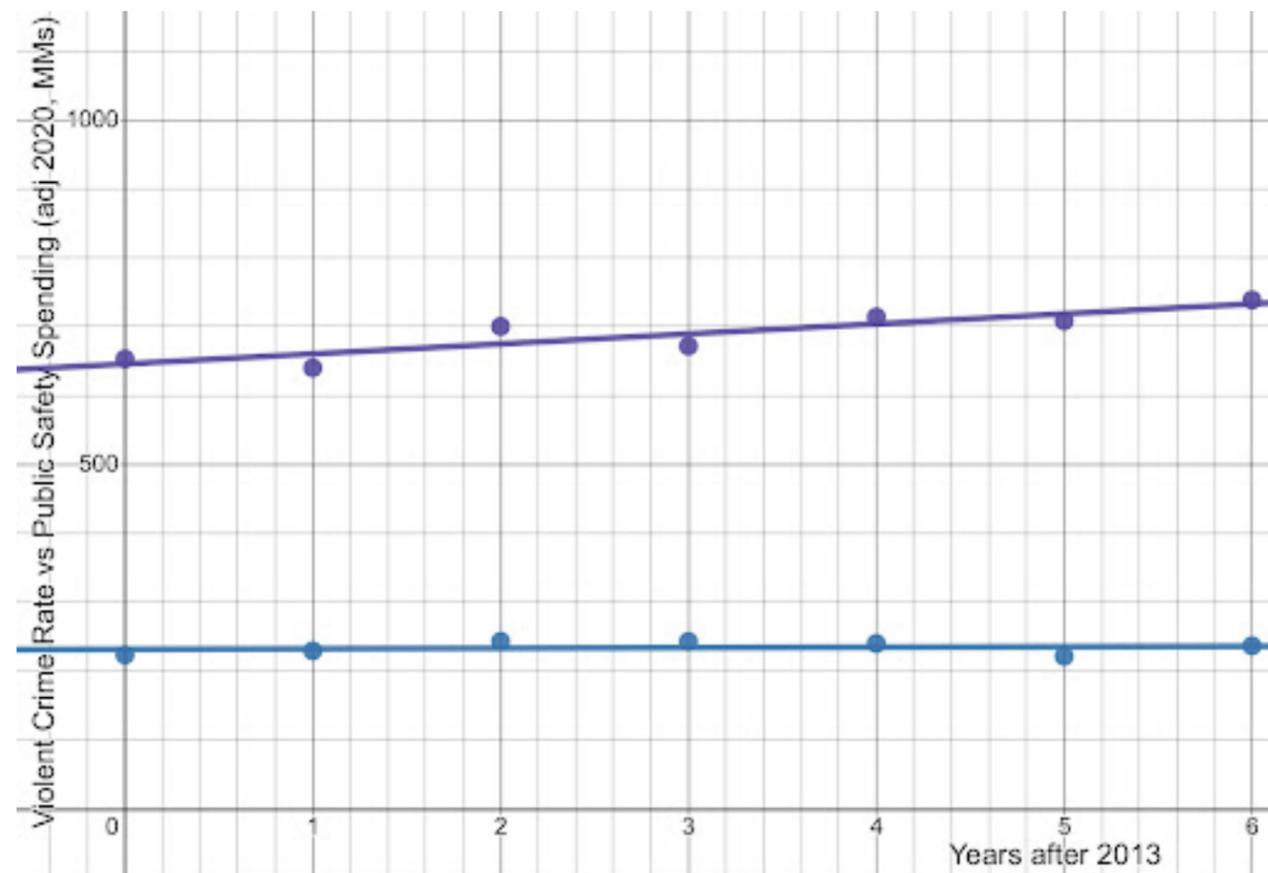
We should stay consistent with the money used for CO2 emissions, because when there isn't consistency the amount of CO2 emissions will go up.

Group 16

# Public Safety and Corrections Spending VS. Violent Crime Rate

Sir Nakhai G. (65B) and Caleb E. (65A)

One April morning, Patricia's personal trainer came into her home to look at a treadmill she had been planning to sell. He gave her a pill that he said was a "weight loss" pill, and a chocolate drink. Patricia Wenskunas questioned the pill and drink asking "What is this?" Also stating that "There's something blue in the drink." Her personal trainer said that she shouldn't worry about it, as it is probably something in the cup. She didn't remember much of the half hour that passed, but she remembers vividly what she felt next. She was undressed and in her son's bed. She wasn't able to say anything, and felt like she was under anesthesia. Before she knew it, her "personal trainer" had wrapped her face in Saran Wrap and was physically abusing her, he smashed her face into the wall, and punched her. He screamed that he would kill her and her 12 year-old son, Nathaniel, but he wasn't in the house. She said that she will give him sex, money, whatever he wanted, as long as he didn't kill her baby. She doesn't know if she jumped, fell, or if he pushed her, but she went over her 12-foot second-floor railing, landing in the kitchen, and was able to escape the house. She ran to her neighbors house to call 9-1-1, and then the police showed up with the paramedics. The guy only got 120 days in jail, (about 4 months,) 5 years of anger management, and 5 years of probation.



We got our data from General Fund Spending by Major Area, BLS.gov Inflation Calculator and Disaster Center. And Our data shows spending more money on public safety and corrections spending will not solve the violent crime happening in Minnesota. As the spending goes up the violent crime doesn't really go down or up it stays steady. Since spending more and more money into public safety and corrections aren't working we should spend more money on the Workforce Development. If we spend more money on workforce development people who might have considered robbing and so on would have more opportunities to make money.

Year	Public Safety and Corrections Spending (actual, thousands)	Public Safety and Corrections Spending (adj 2020)	Violent Crime Rate
2013	582,952	\$653,051.55	223.2
2014	580,405	\$640,091.56	229.1
2015	634,412	\$700,278.12	242.9
2016	616,920	\$671,746.40	242.6
2017	672,085	\$713,964.56	239.7
2018	680,538	\$708,279.31	221.2
2019	720,728	\$738,649.42	236.4
Source	General Fund Spending by Major Area	BLS.gov Inflation Calculator	Disaster Center

We want more advances in economic and racial justice by ending mass incarceration and ensuring living wage jobs for all.