



Making Social Policy

Making Social Policy



- The Role of the Federal Government in Social Policy
- The Expansion of Social Policy in the Twentieth Century
- Social Policy Challenges for the Future: Health, Education, and Crime

The Role of the Federal Government in Social Policy

- Most Western governments expanded their social programs long before the United States did.
- Rather grudgingly, state governments in the early twentieth century extended relief to low-income groups.
- From its founding, the government took care of its military veterans.

The Role of the Federal Government in Social Policy

The Goals of Social Policy

- The first goal is to protect citizens against social and economic problems by creating a **social safety net**.
- The second goal of federal social policy is to raise the quality of life for all.

The Role of the Federal Government in Social Policy

Types of Protection

- **Public Assistance**

- First aid programs created in the late 1800s to help poor single mothers & their children
- Means-tested entitlement programs

- **Social Insurance**

- Eligibility based on past service
- Eligibility based on prepayments

The Expansion of Social Policy in the Twentieth Century

New Deal

- Help for older citizens
- Help for the poor
- Help for the disabled and unemployed

Great Society

- Food stamps
- Head start
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Supplemental security income
- Housing assistance

TABLE**19-1 Federal Payments to Individuals, 2010****Major Public Assistance Programs, 2010**

Medicaid	\$275 billion
Food stamps (now called SNAP)	72 billion
Earned Income Tax Credit	50 billion
Supplemental Security Income	44 billion
Family support payments to states	22 billion
Child nutrition	17 billion
State Children's Health Insurance Program	9 billion

Social Insurance

Social Security	\$721 billion
Medicare	520 billion
Unemployment insurance	190 billion
Disability insurance	124 billion

■ *Why is social security so expensive, and why is its cost increasing rapidly?*

SOURCE: Summary Tables, *Historical Tables, Budget of the United States, Fiscal Year 2011* (U.S. Government Printing Office, February 2009).

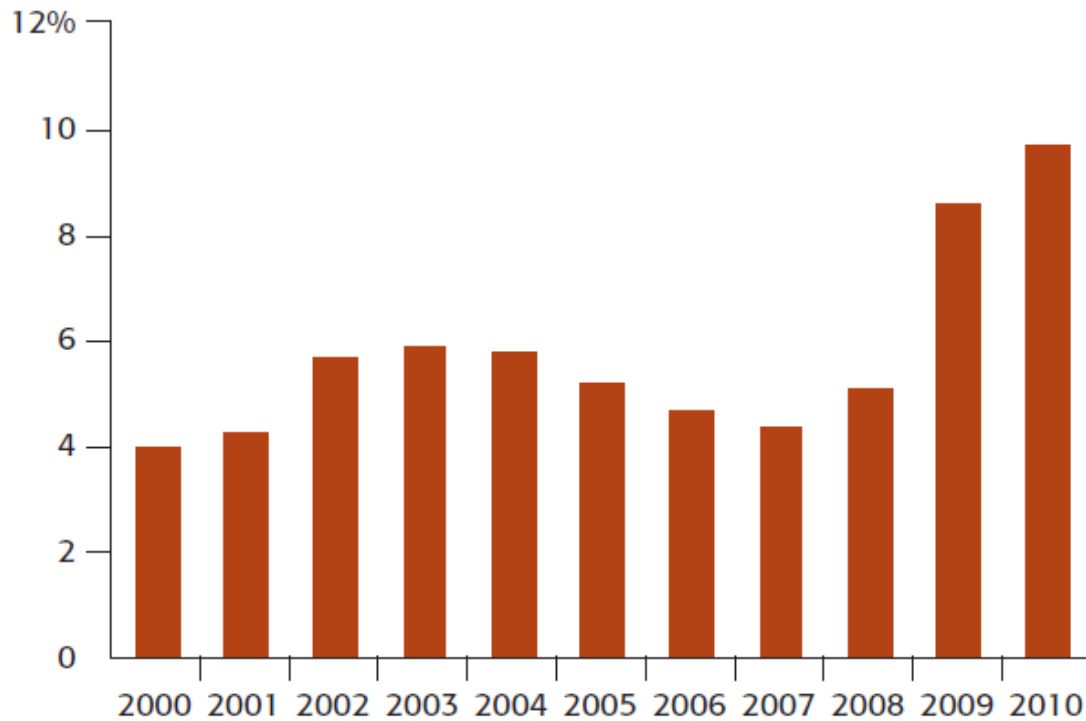


FIGURE 19-1 Unemployment in the United States.

■ How does the unemployment rate today compare to the average rate over the last decade? What percentage unemployment is acceptable?

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Expansion of Social Policy in the Twentieth Century

Reforming Welfare

- Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act in 1996, which replaced the New Deal's AFDC with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Social Policy Challenges for the Future: Health, Education, and Crime

- The Federal Role in Health Care

- The surgeon general oversees researchers at National Institute of Health (NIH)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Health care costs have nearly quadrupled since 1970

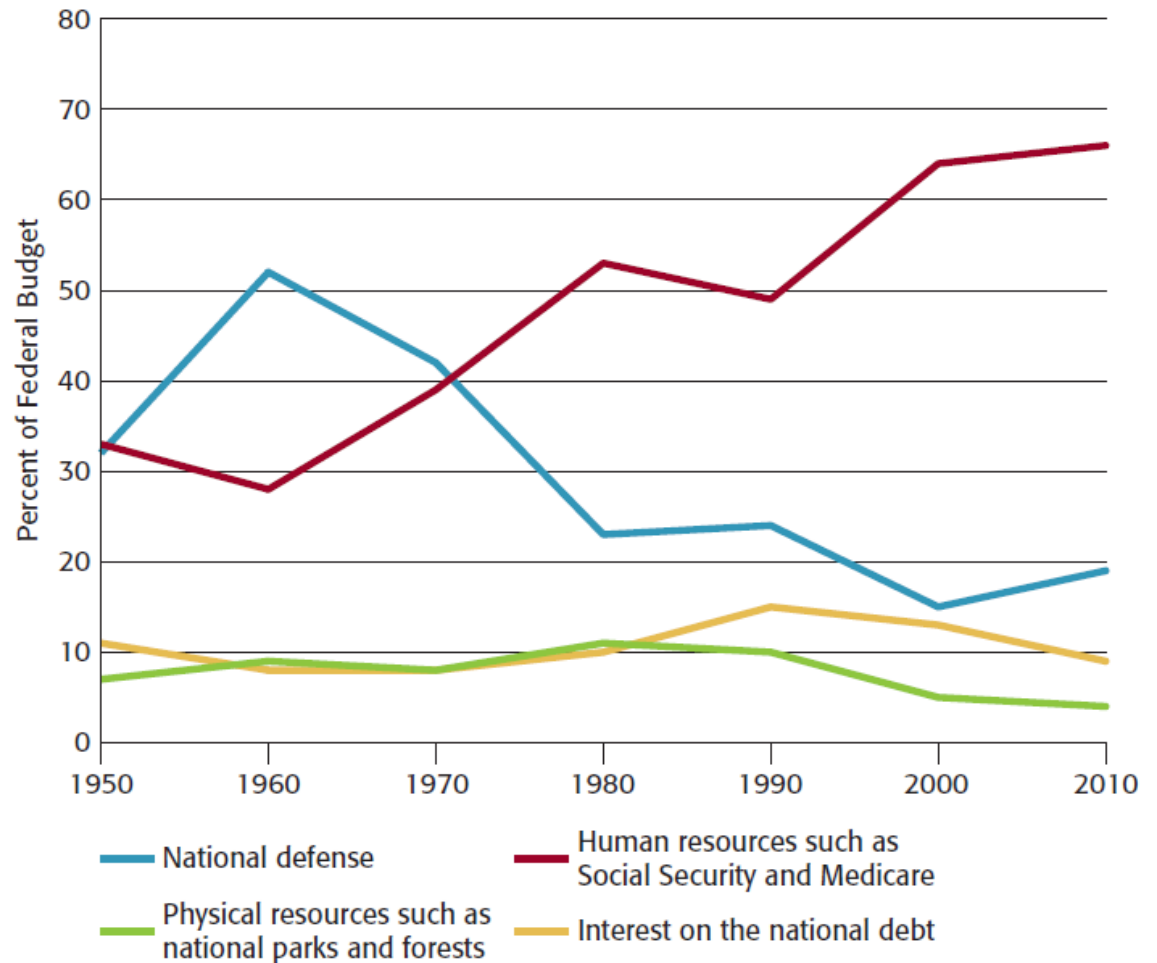
Social Policy Challenges for the Future: Health, Education, and Crime

- The Federal Role in Education
 - Northwest Ordinance of 1785 set aside land in every township for a public school
 - Elementary and Secondary Education Act (1965)
 - No Child Left Behind (2002)
- The Federal Role in Crime Control
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - Drug Enforcement Agency
 - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
 - USA PATRIOT Act of 2001

FIGURE 19-2 Changing Priorities in the Federal Budget.

What parts of the federal government have seen the greatest change over the last 50 years? What explains these changes in spending priorities?

SOURCE: Historical Tables, *Budget of the United States, Fiscal Year 2011* (U.S. Government Printing Office, February 2011).



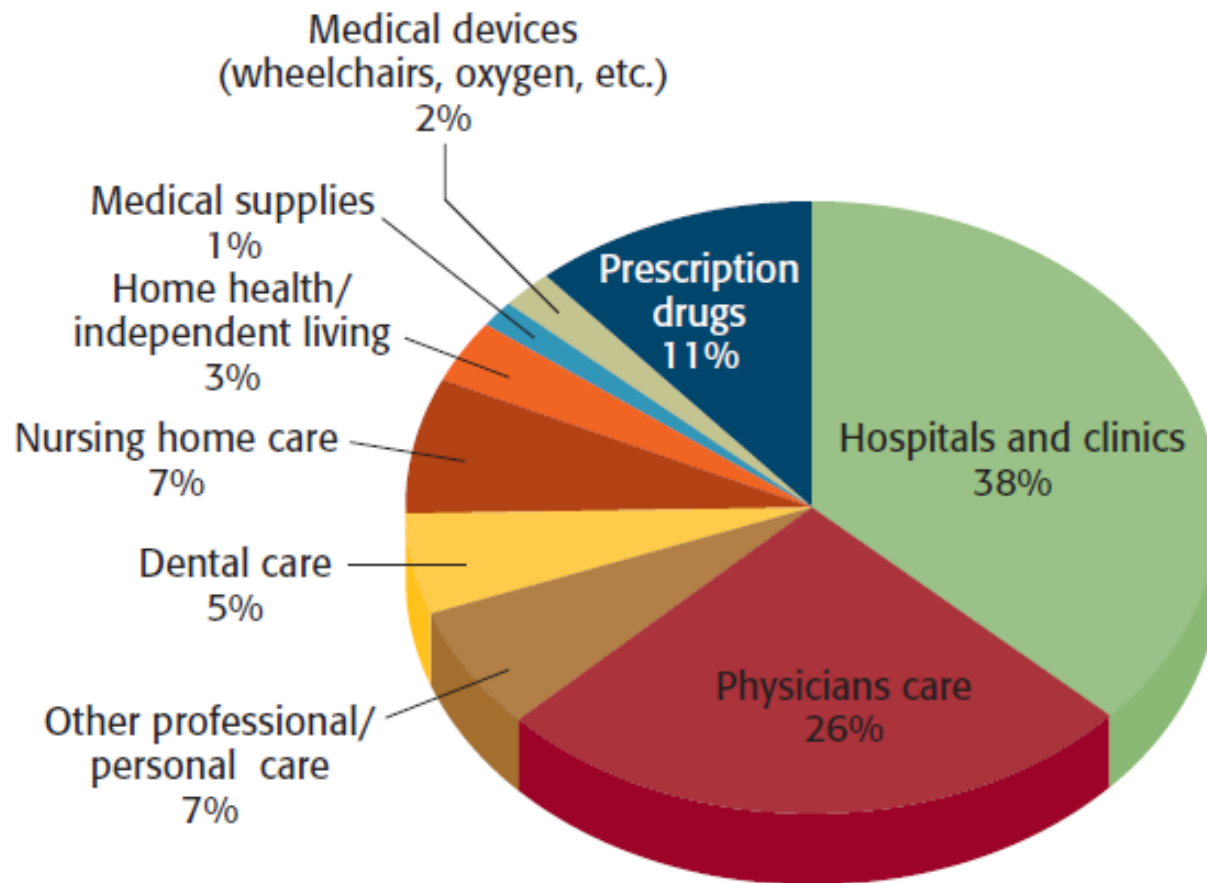


FIGURE 19-3 Where the Health Care Dollar Was Spent, 2008.

■ On what aspect of health care is the most money spent? How might you expect the new health care program to change where Americans go for preventive medical care?

SOURCE: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary, National Statistics Group, <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalHealthExpendData/downloads/highlights.pdf>.

Social Policy Challenges for the Future: Health, Education, and Crime

The Politics of Social Policy

- Social policy is a major focus of American politics.
- Social policy will be part of the federal agenda far into the future.
- Citizens can influence social policy in several ways.