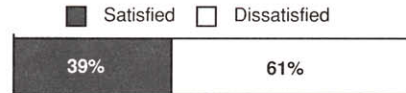


## Welfare: American Dilemma

# Time is Ripe for Reform

## There's Need to Extend Opportunity

**Question:** Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the opportunity for a poor person in this country to get ahead by working hard?



**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for CNN/USA Today, October 22-25, 1994.

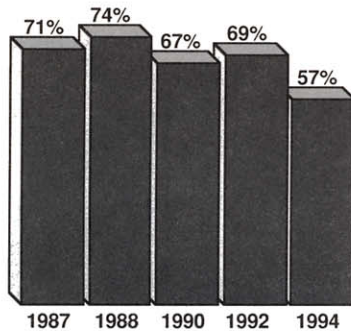
**Question:** For each statement please tell me whether you completely agree with it... mostly agree with it... mostly disagree with it or completely disagree with it. Our society should do what is necessary to make sure that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed?



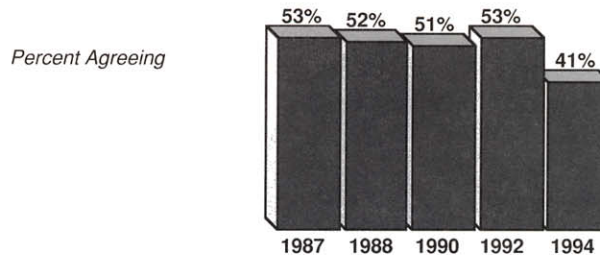
**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Times Mirror, July 13-27, 1994.

## But Government May Not Hold The Answer

**Question:** ...It is the responsibility of the government to take care of people who can't take care of themselves?



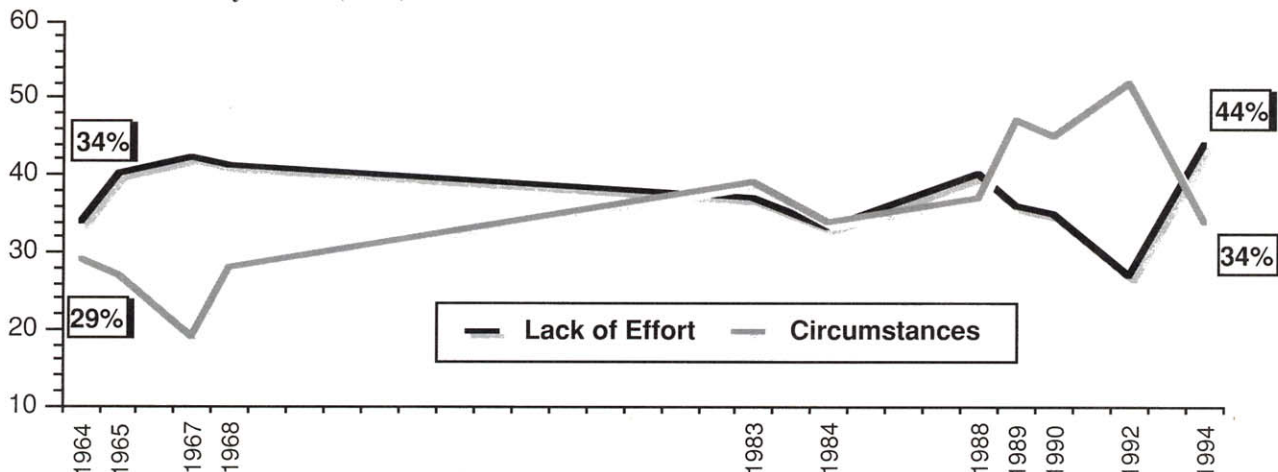
**Question:** ...The government should help more needy people even if it means going deeper in debt?



**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Times Mirror, July 13-27, 1994.

## ... More Stress Now on Individual Responsibility

**Question:** In your opinion, which is generally more often to blame if a person is poor—lack of effort on his own (their) part or circumstances beyond his (their) control?

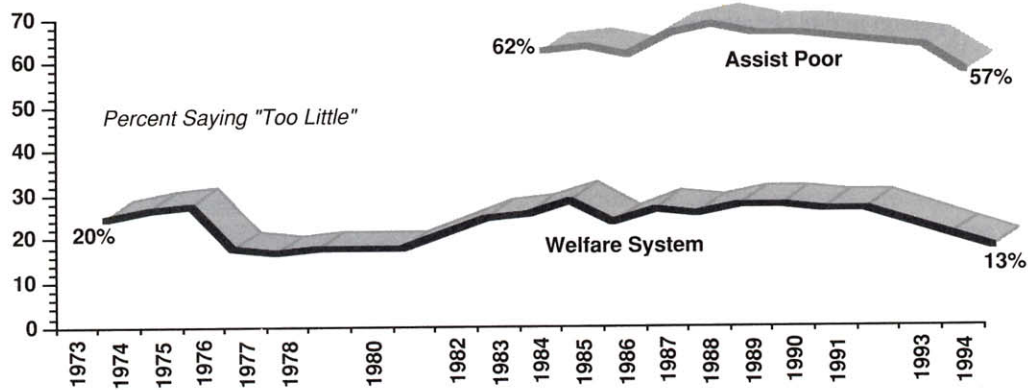


**Source:** Surveys by the Gallup Organization 1964-67, 1984, 1988-90; NORC 1968; CBS News/New York Times 1982 and 1994; Los Angeles Times 1992.

## Welfare: American Dilemma

# Always: YES to Helping the Poor, NO to the Welfare System

**Question:** We are faced with many problems in this country.... Are we spending too much, too little or the right amount on ... welfare/... assistance to the poor?

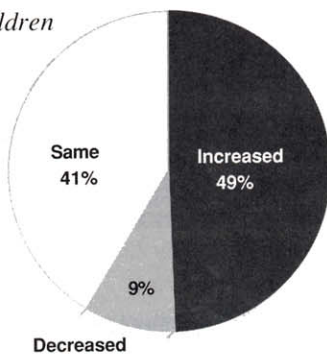


Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center, General Social Surveys.

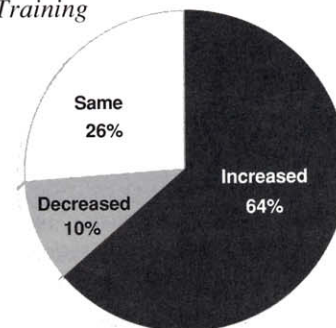
## Increase Spending for Children in Need and for Job Training

**Question:** Do you think that government spending on... programs for poor children/...job training for people on welfare... should be increased, decreased, or kept about the same?

Poor Children



Job Training

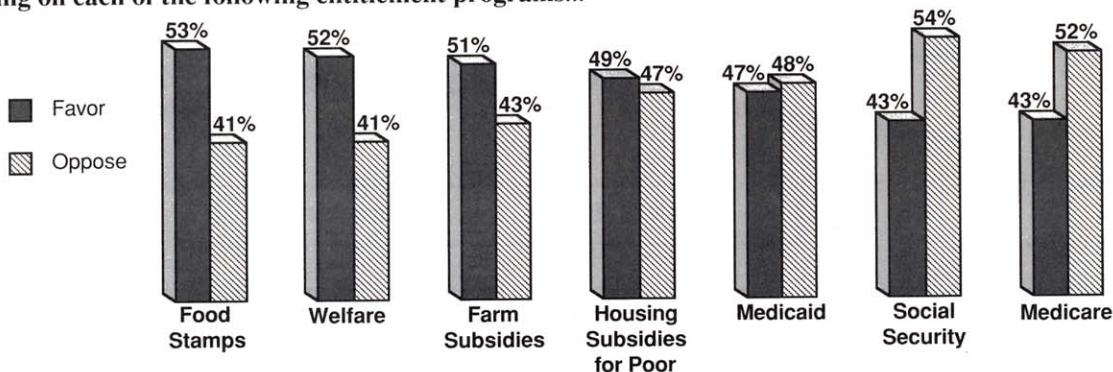


Source: Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, December 6-9, 1994.

Source: Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, January 15-17, 1994.

## But Reduce Spending on Many Entitlements

**Question:** Thinking about government spending, please tell me whether you favor or oppose reducing government spending on each of the following entitlement programs...



Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners for *Time/CNN*, December 7-8, 1994.



## Welfare: American Dilemma

# What's Wrong With Welfare?

*The problem is not in the calling...*

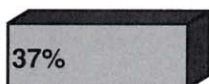
*...but in the coming.*

**Question:** Which situation do you think would be worse: A needy person who is not able to get help from the government, or an irresponsible person who can get help from the government without having to do anything in return?

**Question:** Which of these two situations do you think happens more often in America today—needy people end up going without help, or irresponsible people end up getting help they don't deserve?



**Needy can't get help**



**Irresponsible get help without doing anything**

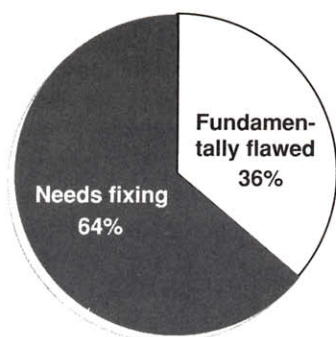


**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the American Association of Retired People, August 12-16 and August 24-29, 1992.

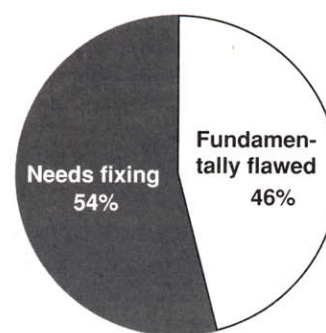
## The Ground May Be Shifting

**Question:** Which of the following statements comes closer to your view... The welfare system is fundamentally flawed and should be replaced with a completely new system or the welfare system may have problems which need to be fixed, but it should not be completely replaced?

*April 1994*



*December 1994*



## With Big Shifts Across Group Lines

*April 1994*

*December 1994*

<i>April 1994</i>			<i>December 1994</i>	
Fundamentally Flawed	Fix Problems		Fundamentally Flawed	Fix Problems
38	60	<b>Race:</b>	46	52
15	85	White	40	58
		Black		
		<b>Income:</b>		
30	70	< \$20K	40	57
42	58	\$75K +	52	45
		<b>Age:</b>		
25	75	< 30	42	53
42	57	30-44	47	51
44	55	45-59	43	55
32	66	60+	48	48
		<b>Party:</b>		
25	73	Democrat	37	60
42	57	Republican	51	46
40	59	Independent	46	51

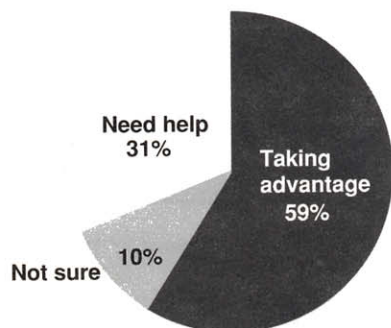
**Note:** The number of Black respondents in each survey is small (55 in April and 89 in December).

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for CNN/USA Today, latest that of December 2-5, 1994.

## Welfare: American Dilemma

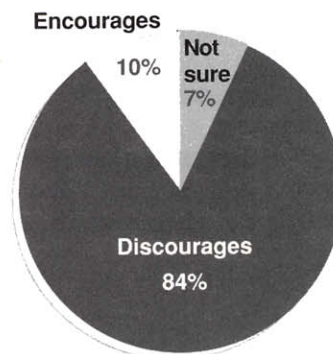
# A Devastating Critique of the System for Teaching the Wrong Values

**Question:** In your view, are most people who receive welfare payments genuinely in need of help or are they taking advantage of the system?



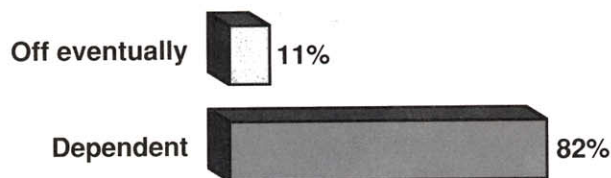
**Source:** Survey by Yankelovich Partners for *Time/CNN*, December 7-8, 1994.

**Question:** Do you think the current welfare system encourages poor people to find work or discourages them?



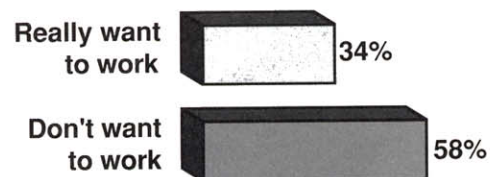
**Source:** Survey by Yankelovich Partners for *Time/CNN*, May 18-19, 1994.

**Question:** Do you think that most people on welfare are using welfare for a short period of time and will get off it eventually, or do you think that most people on welfare are so dependent on welfare that they will never get off it?



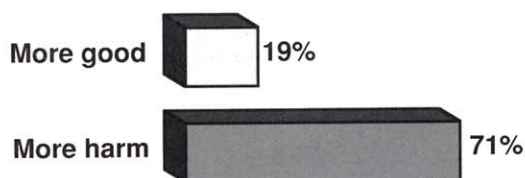
**Source:** Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, January 15-17, 1994.

**Question:** Do you think that most welfare recipients really want to work, or not?



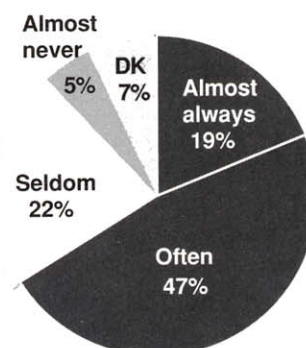
**Source:** Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, December 6-9, 1994.

**Question:** I would like to read you two statements about the welfare system. Please tell me which of these statements about this issue comes closer to your point of view: **The welfare system does more good than harm, because it provides assistance and training for those who are without jobs and live in poverty, or the welfare system does more harm than good, because it encourages the breakup of the family and discourages the work ethic.**



**Source:** Survey by Hart & Teeter Research Companies for NBC News/*Wall Street Journal*, January 15-18, 1994.

**Question:** How often do you think poor young women have babies so they can collect welfare: almost always, or often, or seldom, or do you think poor women almost never have babies so they can collect welfare?



**Source:** Survey by the *Los Angeles Times*, April 16-19, 1994.

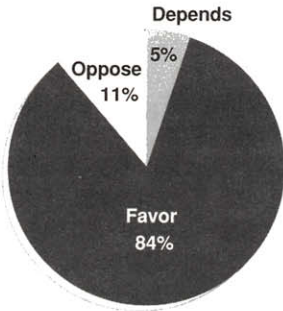


# Welfare: American Dilemma

## End the Long Free Ride, But Don't Hurt the Truly Needy

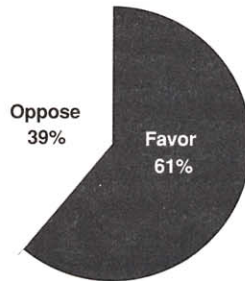
### The Limits We Can Live With...

**Question:** Do you favor or oppose welfare reform that would require recipients to work and would limit benefits to two years?



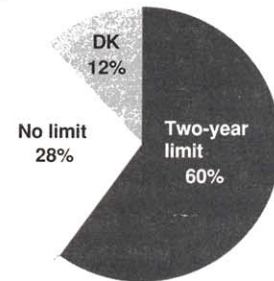
**Source:** Survey by Hart and Teeter Research for NBC News/*Wall Street Journal*, December 10-13, 1994.

**Question:** ...Tell me whether you would favor or oppose each... cut off all benefits to people who had not found a job or become self-sufficient after two years?



**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for CNN/*USA Today*, December 2-5, 1994.

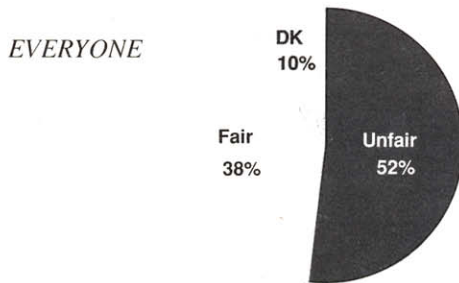
**Question:** Do you think welfare recipients should receive benefits such as food stamps and aid to dependent children for only two years or do you think there should not be a two-year limit?



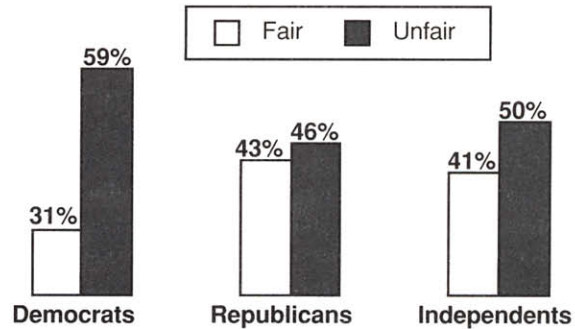
**Source:** Survey by CBS News, November 27-28, 1994.

### But...

**Question:** Do you think it is fair or unfair to cut off government payments to people who have been on welfare for two years, even if those people have no other source of income?

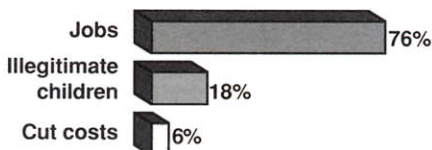


**Source:** Survey by Yankelovich Partners for *Time/CNN*, December 7-8, 1994.



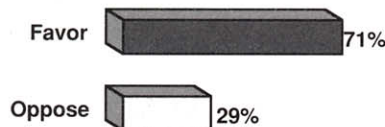
### Where Should We be Trying to Go?

**Question:** What do you think should be the main goal of any welfare system: to cut the cost of welfare in the short-term, or to get welfare recipients into the workforce, or cut down on the number of illegitimate children born in poverty or what?



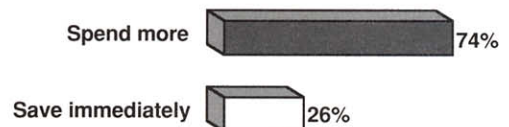
**Source:** Survey by *Los Angeles Times*, April 16-19, 1994.

**Question:** Would you favor or oppose replacing the current welfare system with a completely new system to help poor people get off welfare, if the new system would cost the government more money in the next few years than the current system?



**Source:** Survey by Gallup/*CNN/USA Today*, April 16-19, 1994.

**Question:** Do you believe welfare reform should start saving taxpayers money immediately, or do you believe it is more important to train welfare recipients for jobs, which means the government would have to spend more money in the short term?



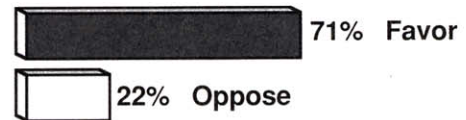
**Source:** Survey by Yankelovich Partners for *Time/CNN*, December 7-8, 1994.

## Welfare: American Dilemma

# What About The Kids? Guidelines for Tough Choices

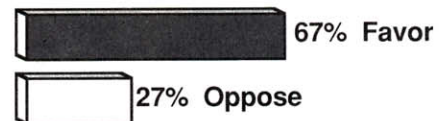
**Question:** Do you favor or oppose limiting how long mothers with young children can receive welfare benefits?

**Source:** Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, December 6-9, 1994.



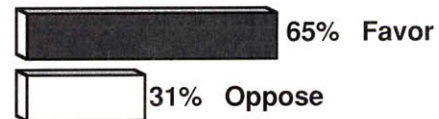
**Question:** ... Another welfare reform proposal is to try to discourage young people from having children out-of-wedlock by denying teenage single parents welfare benefits unless they live with parents or another responsible adult. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

**Source:** Survey by *Los Angeles Times*, April 16-19, 1994.



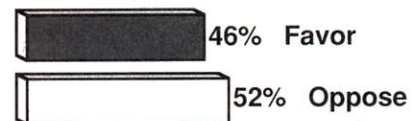
**Question:** Another welfare reform proposal is to deny additional cash benefits to single women who bear more children while they are already on welfare, even if that would create hardship for the woman and her child. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

**Source:** Survey by *Los Angeles Times*, April 16-19, 1994



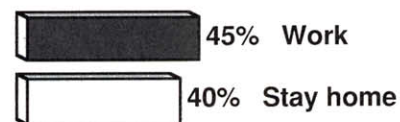
**Question:** ... Please tell me whether you would favor or oppose.... End increases in welfare payments to women who give birth to children while on welfare.

**Source:** Survey by The Gallup Organization for CNN/*USA Today*, December 2-5, 1994.



**Question:** Do you think that women with young children who receive welfare should be required to work or should they stay at home and take care of their young children?

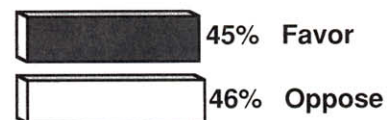
**Source:** Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, January 15-17, 1994.



**Question:** What if this (limiting how long mothers with young children can receive welfare benefits) meant that many children would be living in households with no income: then would you favor or oppose limiting how long mothers with young children can receive welfare benefits?

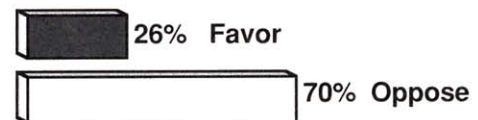
**Note:** Asked of those favoring limits on length of benefits.

**Source:** Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, December 6-9, 1994.



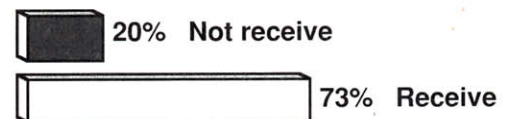
**Question:** Another welfare reform proposal is to deny all welfare benefits to any woman who has a child outside of wedlock, even if that would create hardship for the woman and her child. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

**Source:** Survey by *Los Angeles Times*, April 16-19, 1994.



**Question:** Do you think that unmarried mothers who are under the age of 21 and have no way of supporting their children should or should not be able to receive welfare?

**Source:** Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, December 6-9, 1994.





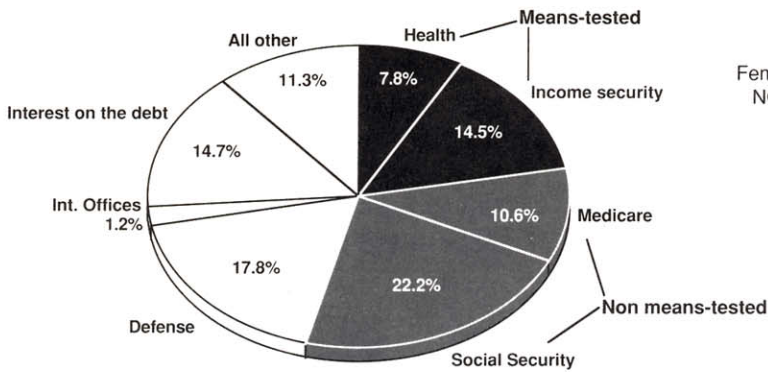
# Welfare: American Dilemma

## Federal Outlays for Means-Tested Programs 1976—1994



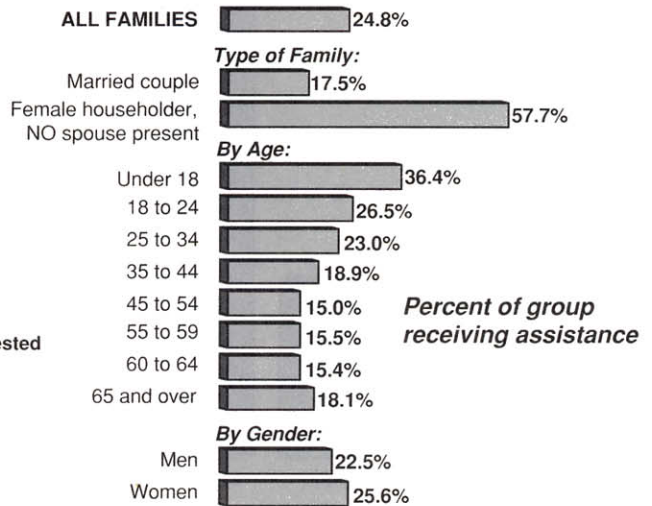
### Welfare Spending as Shares of All Federal Spending

*1995 ESTIMATES*



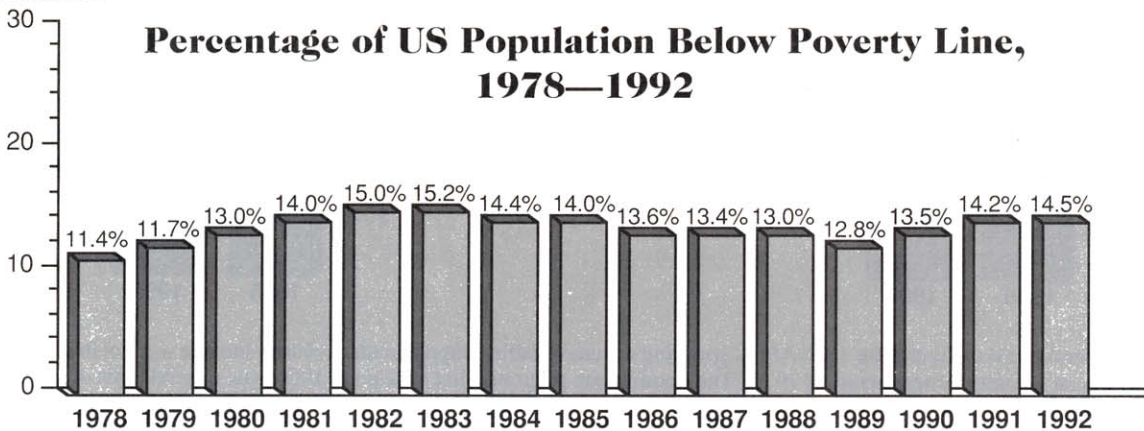
### Who Gets Means-Tested Assistance?

*1995 ESTIMATES*



*In Percents*

### Percentage of US Population Below Poverty Line, 1978—1992



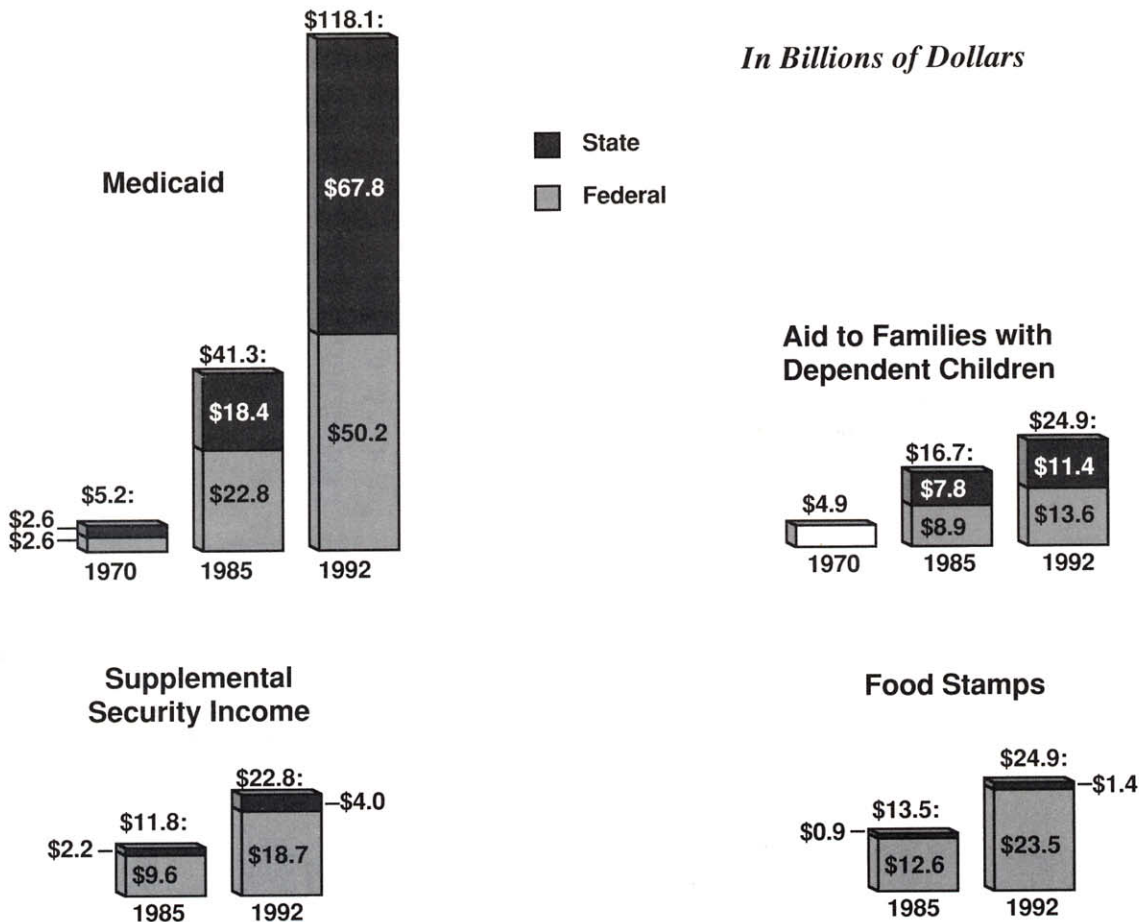
Source: *Economic Indicators*, Council of Economic Advisers, December 1994.

## Welfare: American Dilemma

# Federal Welfare Spending By Program Area, 1980-1992

Cash and In-kind Means-tested Benefits (In Billions of Dollars)					
	1980	1985	1988	1990	1992
Medical care	\$19.2	\$27.7	\$38.5	\$50.2	\$78.5
Cash aid	19.6	25.0	32.2	36.4	48.4
Food benefits	12.9	19.4	20.2	23.9	32.7
Housing benefits	8.4	14.1	14.7	17.5	20.5
Education aid	4.4	9.5	10.0	13.8	15.4
Jobs and training	8.6	3.9	3.7	4.0	5.0
Services	3.2	3.5	4.5	3.8	5.3
Energy assistance	1.7	2.3	1.8	1.6	1.7
Totals:	\$78.1	\$105.4	\$125.6	\$151.5	\$207.6

## Federal and State Spending on Selected Means-Tested Programs, 1970, 1985, 1992



**Note:** Precise federal and state figures for 1970 AFDC spending are unavailable. Supplemental Security Income was not in existence until the passage of the Social Security Amendments of 1972. The Food Stamp program, first enacted in 1964, saw expenditures of just \$577 million in 1970.

**Source:** All data on these pages are combined from Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1972, 1976, 1992, 1994-95, and *Economic Indicators*, Council of Economic Advisers, December 1994.