Note: Highest value shown is $1000 billion ($1 trillion)

Two of the five largest budget categories in recent years are social insurance: Social Security (1st largest) and Medicare (recently 4th largest; one is public assistance: Medicaid (5th largest)

Social insurance includes Social Security, Medicare, and Unemployment. Public assistance includes Medicaid, AFDC-TANF, food and nutrition, and low-income housing.

Source of current-dollar data: Budget 2004 Historical Tables, Table 11.3
Inflation-adjusted Yearly Change in National Government Social Insurance and Public Assistance Outlays (Percent) and as Percent of Total Outlays, 1940 to estimated 2004, in percent

Social insurance includes Social Security, Medicare, and Unemployment. Public assistance includes Medicaid, AFDC-TANF, food and nutrition, and low-income housing.

Source of current-dollar data: Budget 2004 Historical Tables, Table 11.3
In addition to policy changes, the economy strongly affects outlays for both of these programs, with both rising during recessions.

Source of current-dollar data: *Budget 2004 Historical Tables*, Table 11.3
Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), an entitlement program, was changed to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, not an entitlement program, by 1996 legislation (AFDC-TANF is the federal program most often labeled "welfare")

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Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), an entitlement program, was changed to TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), not an entitlement program, by 1996 legislation (AFDC-TANF is the federal program most often labeled "welfare")

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