

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
AND POLITICS TODAY 2015-2016 EDITION



Chapter Fifteen

Domestic Policy

Learning Outcomes

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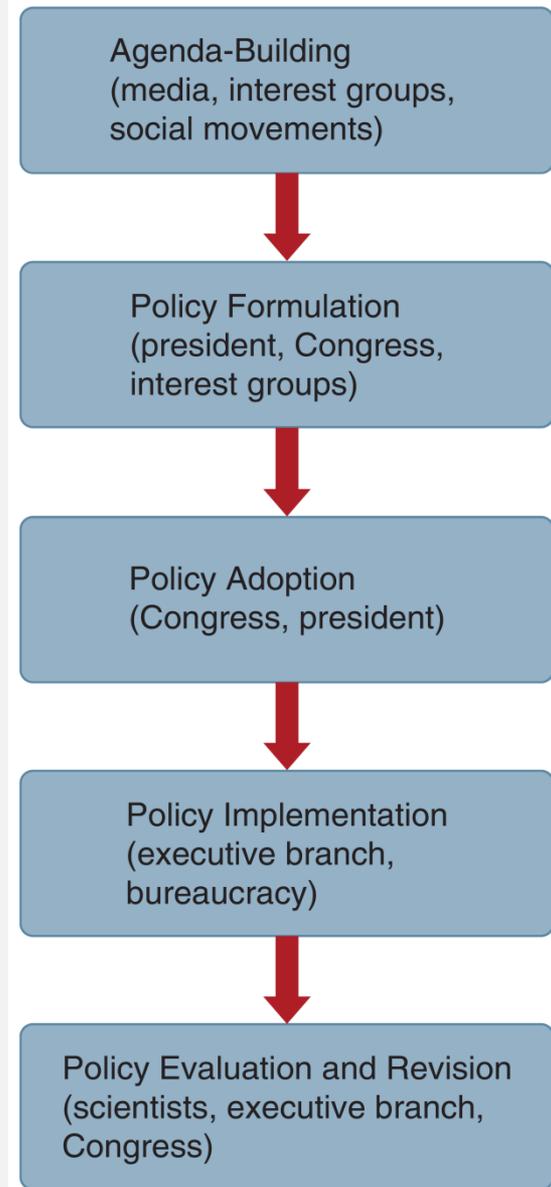
- 15.1 Define “public policy” and describe the policymaking process as it applies to American national government institutions.
- 15.2 Explain the principles underlying the American health-care system and the issues facing that system.
- 15.3 Describe the environmental policies of the United States and the role of the Environmental Protection Agency in implementing these policies.
- 15.4 Analyze American energy policy, and discuss how it encourages energy independence.
- 15.5 Describe the national policies for ending poverty in the United States and alleviating the issues caused by economic downturns.
- 15.6 Discuss the issues raised by immigration into the United States and the proposed reforms to the immigration system.

The Policymaking Process

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- Agenda Building
- Policy Formulation
- Policy Adoption
- Policy Implementation
- Policy Evaluation

The Policy Process



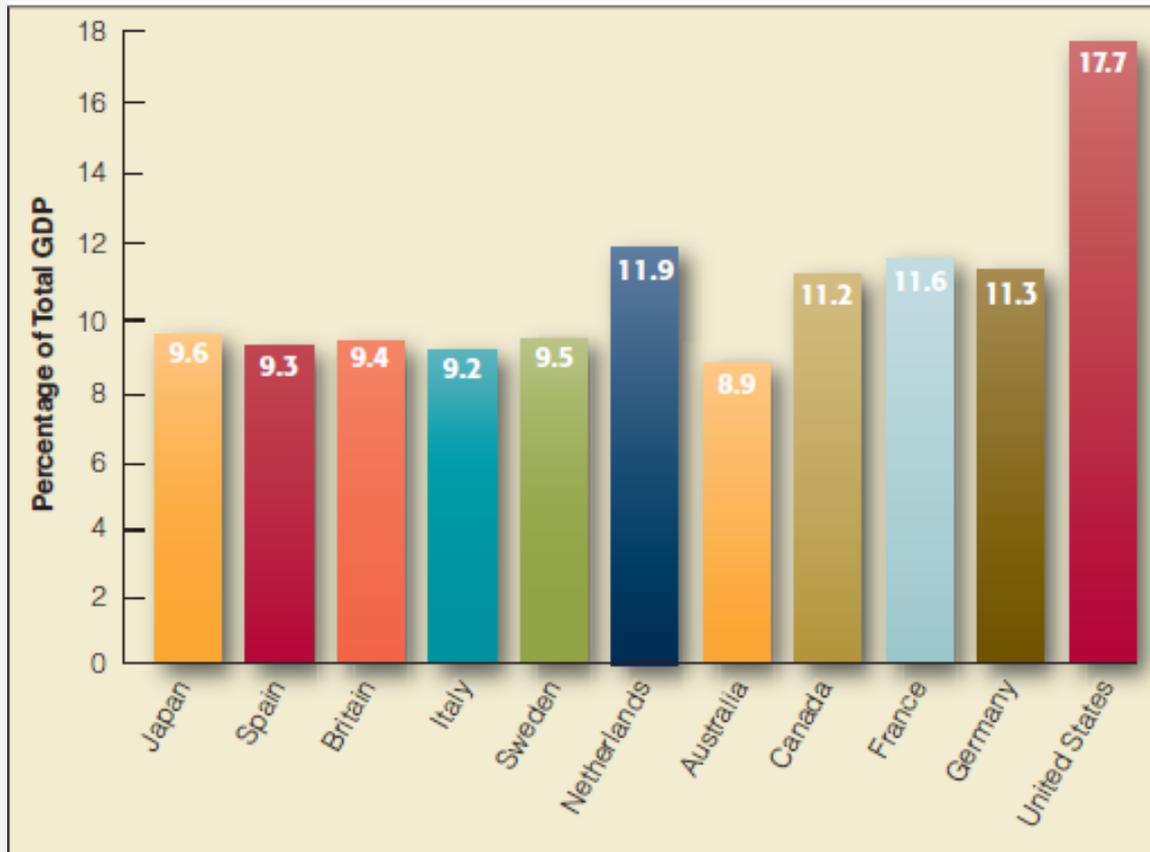
Health Care

5

- The Rising Cost of Health Care
 - Advanced Technology
 - The Government's Role in Financing Health Care
 - About 45% of total health-care spending
 - Medicare and Medicaid

Costs of Health Care in Economically Advanced Nations

6



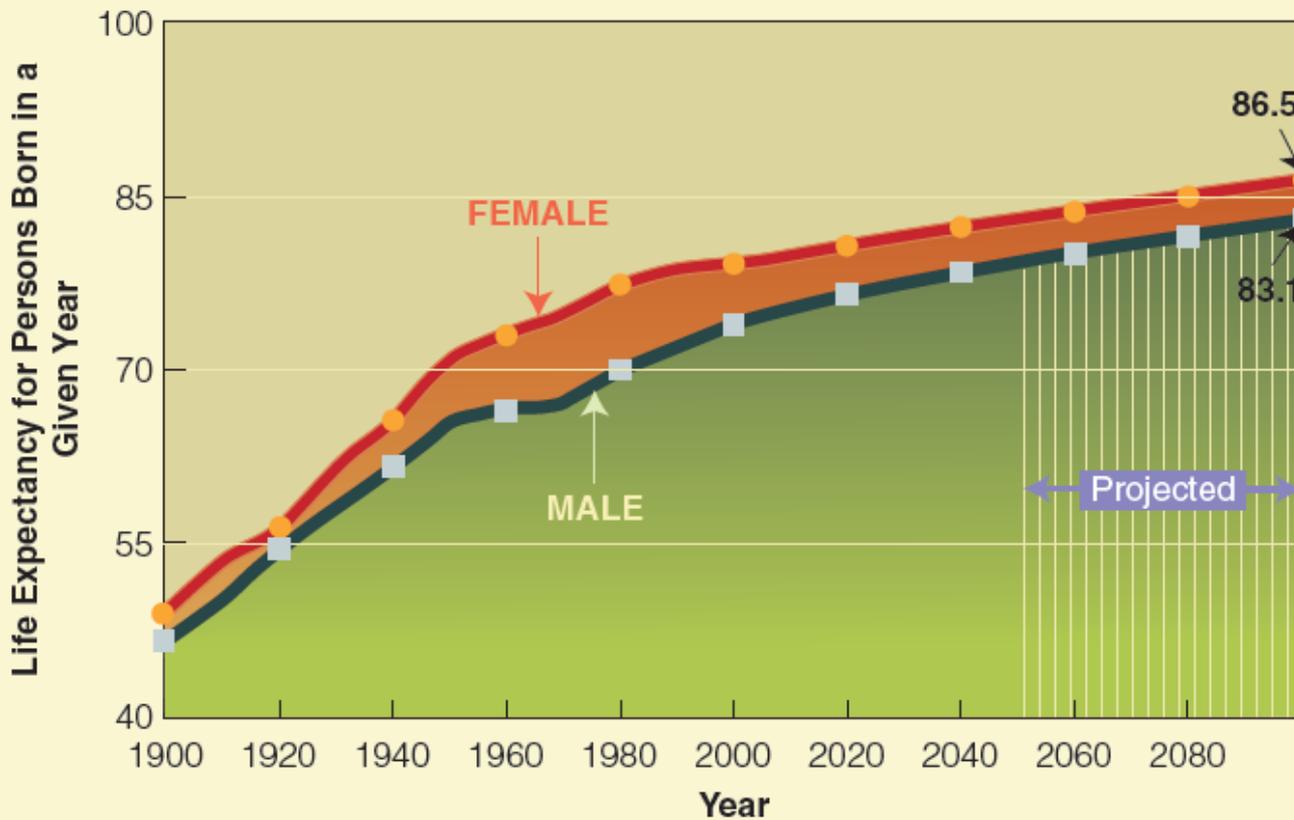
Cost is given as a percentage of total gross domestic product (GDP).

Health Care

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- Medicare
 - For ages 65 and older
- Medicaid
 - Why Has Medicaid Spending Exploded?
 - Medicaid and the States

Life Expectancy in the United States



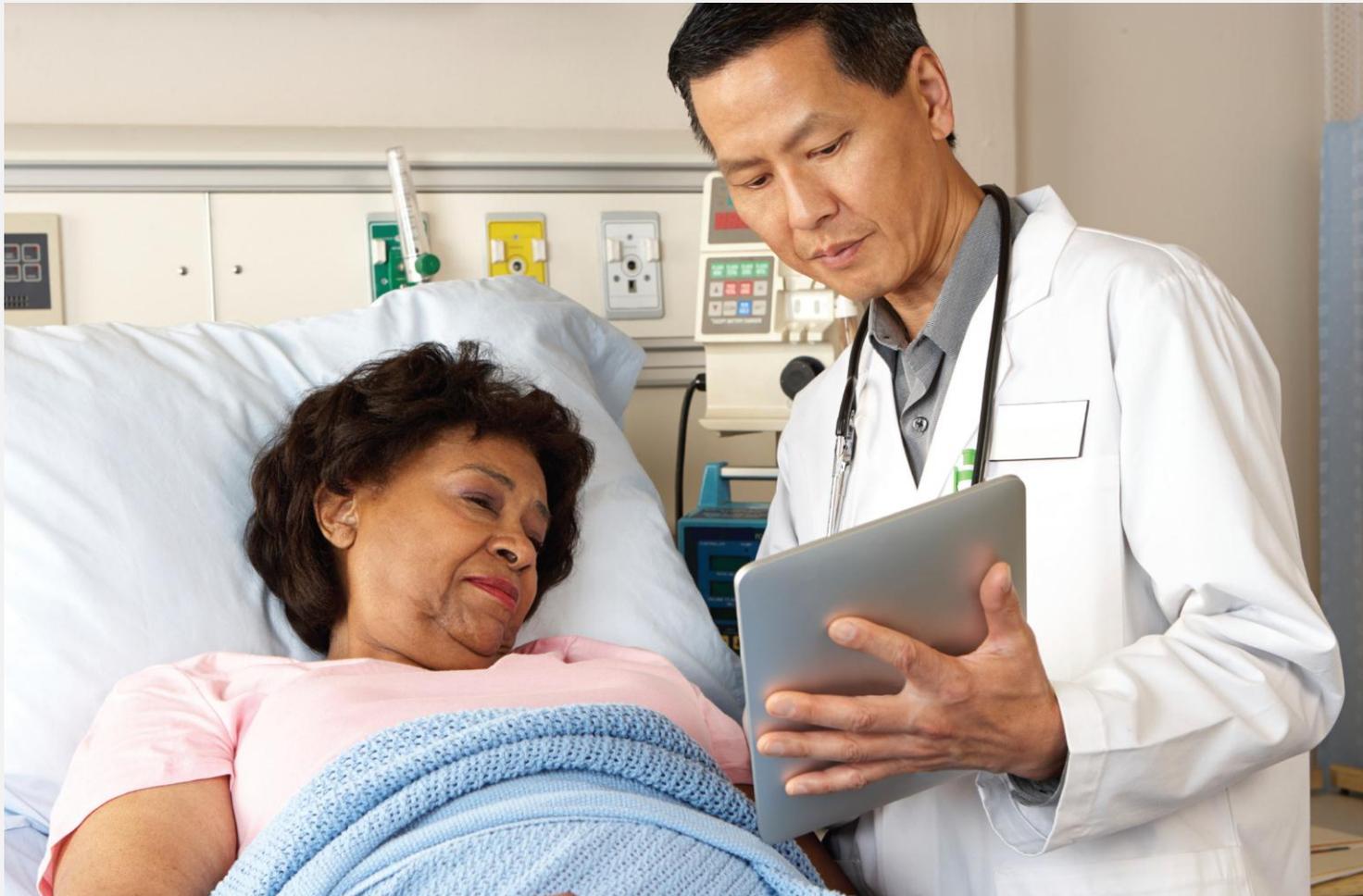
Health Care

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- The Uninsured
 - 49 million Americans
- The 2010 Health Care Reform Legislation
 - Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
 - **Not** national health insurance

Health Care

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iStockphoto.com/Monkeybusinessimages

Environmental Policy

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- The Environmental Movement
 - Conservation
 - Preservation
- Cleaning Up the Air and Water
 - The National Environmental Policy Act
 - Environmental Impact Statement
 - Curbing Air Pollution
 - Water Pollution

Environmental Policy

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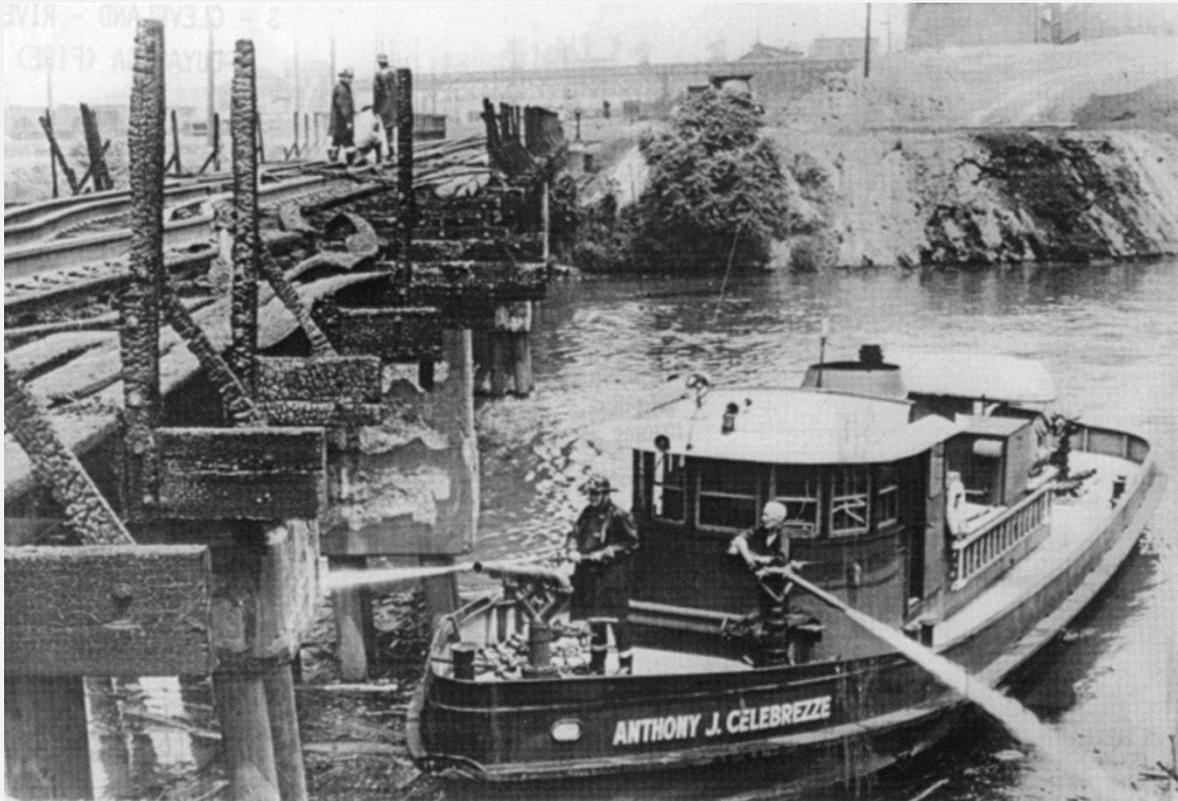


Photo courtesy of the Environmental Protection Agency

The Cuyahoga River in 1969—firefighters extinguish a fire that started on the river and spread to a wooden trestle bridge.

Environmental Policy

13

- The Endangered Species Act
- Sustainability
- Global Climate Change
 - The Kyoto Protocol
 - The Global Warming Debate

Energy Policy

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- Energy and the Environment
 - Energy policy
- Nuclear Power—An Unpopular Solution
- Alternative Approaches to the Energy Crisis

Energy Policy

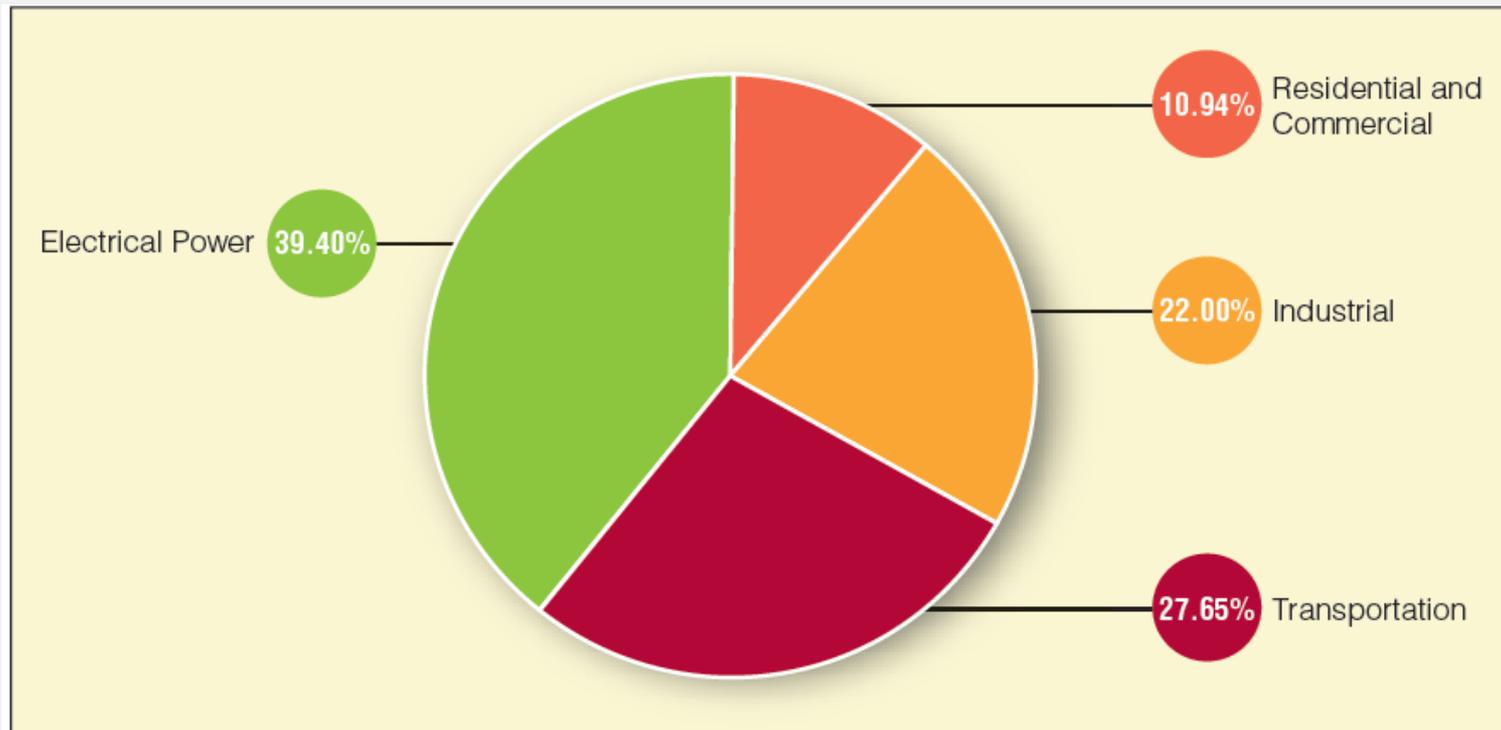
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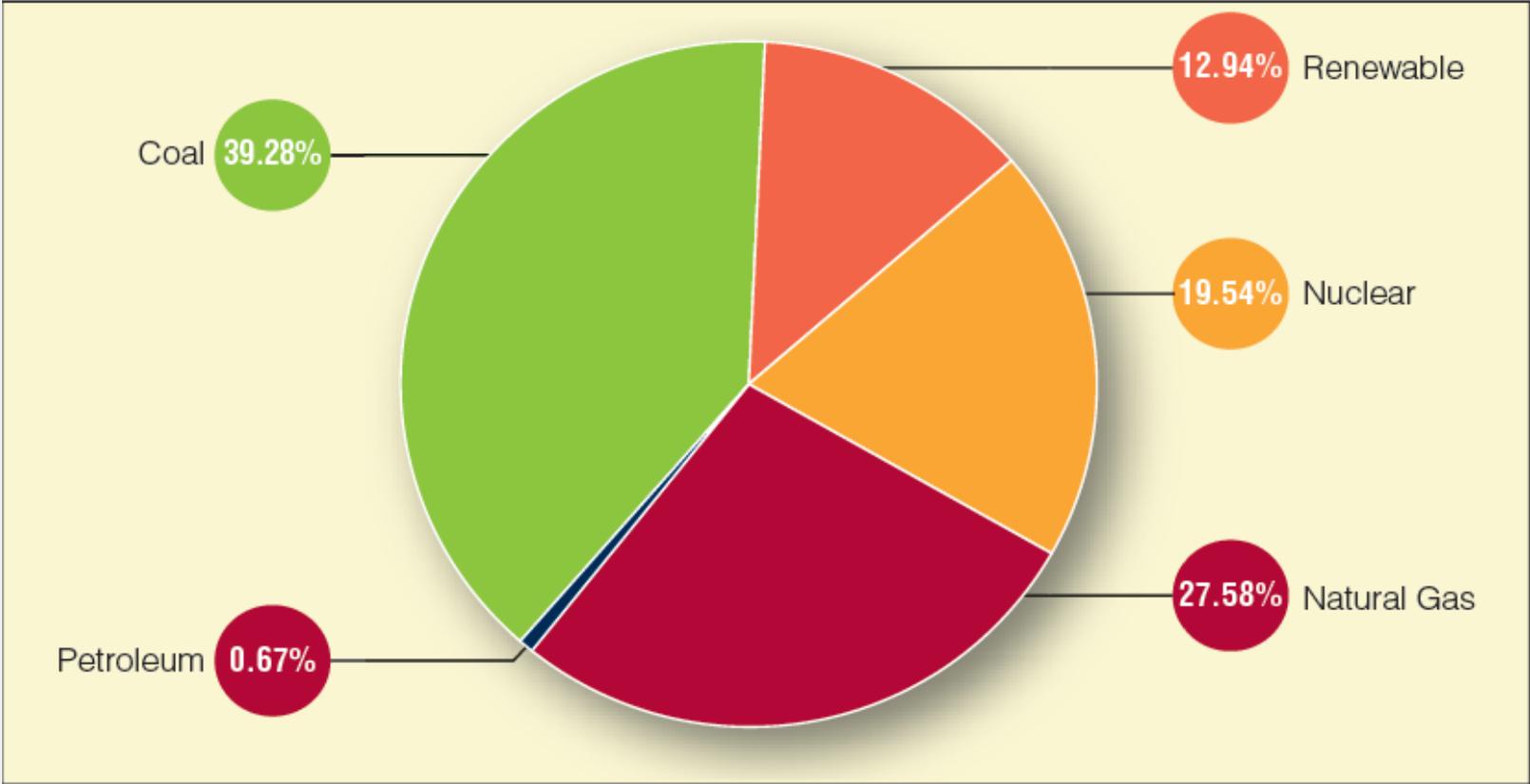
AP Images/Steve Helber

In 2013, a chemical plant in West Virginia along the Kanawha River spilled millions of gallons of waste into the river, forcing hundreds of thousands of residents to find other sources of water for their families.

U.S. Energy Consumption by Economic Sector, 2013



Sources of Electricity Generation, 2013



Energy Policy

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© Philip Scalia/Alamy

In the last three years, production of natural gas has increased dramatically due to the use of “fracking” to release gas from layers of shale deep beneath the earth’s surface. This hydro-fracking well is being drilled in Pennsylvania.

Energy Policy

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Johnny Habel/Shutterstock.com

Many environmentalists and commentators suggest that a much greater use of wind power could reduce the nation's dependence on fossil fuels. This California windmill farm produces energy for Palm Springs. However, windmill farms cannot be successful everywhere in the United States.

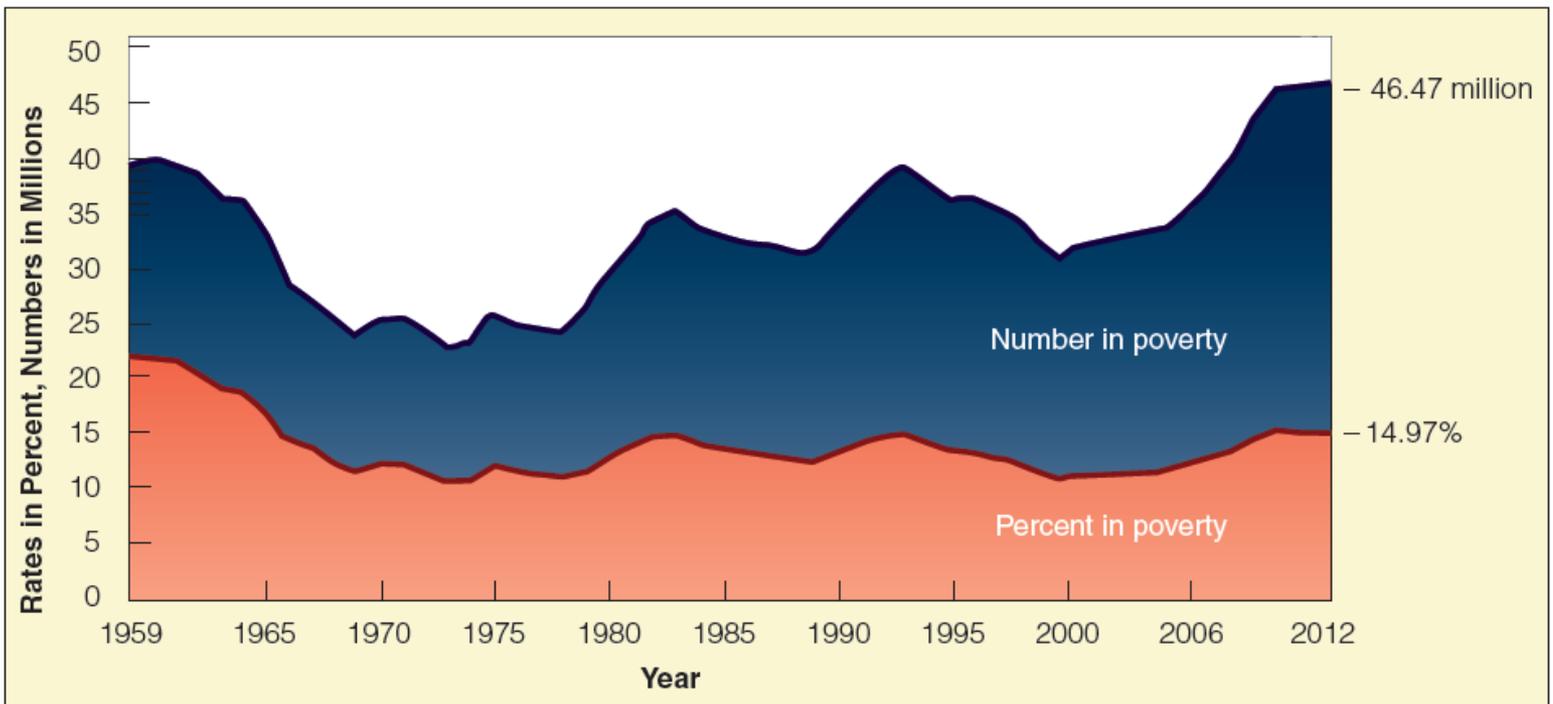
Poverty and Welfare

20

- The Low-Income Population
 - About 46.5 million Americans
 - In 2013, was \$23,550 for family of four

The Official Number of Poor in the United States

21



Note: The data points represent the midpoints of the respective years.

Poverty and Welfare

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- The Antipoverty Budget
- Basic Welfare
 - TANF
- Welfare Controversies

Poverty and Welfare

- Other Forms of Government Assistance
 - Supplemental Security Income
 - Food Stamps
 - Earned Income Tax Credit
- Homelessness—Still a Problem
 - Up to 750,000 people each day

Immigration

- The Continued Influx of Immigrants
 - Minority Groups' Importance on the Rise
 - Collectively, will be majority by 2060
 - The Advantages of High Rates of Immigration
 - Offsets low birthrate and aging population

Immigration

- Attempts at Immigration Reform
 - Physical and virtual fences
 - Tighter regulations
 - Border state restrictions
 - DREAM Act

Immigration



© Jim West/Alamy

A college student demonstrates his support for the DREAM Act, legislation which would provide a way for young people who were brought to the United States by their parents and who are undocumented residents to apply for legal residency after satisfying work, military service, or education requirements.

The Range of Federal Public Policies

27

- Covers entire spectrum of life



The Star-Ledger / Patti Sapone / The Image Works

Obama Fights To Care For Unaccompanied Minors

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Video Discussion Questions

1. In a nation of immigrants, why is this such a contentious issue? Is former Governor Perry's solution realistic?
2. Federal immigration policy is now at which stage of the policymaking process?
3. Is immigration reform a political priority? Why or why not?