

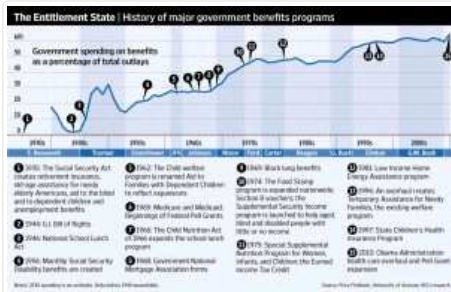
« A look at the Republican running for state treasurer
The battle of the Aamodt water settlement could finally be nearing an end ... or is it? »

The tautological nature of spending and entitlements: How can you break the cycle with numbers like this?



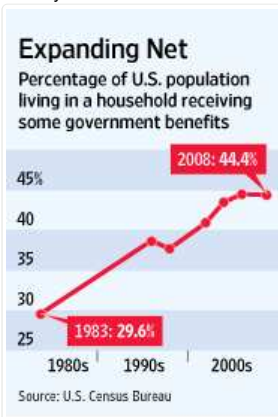
A recent poll showed that 61 percent of Americans had serious worries about the rate of government spending. That's encouraging because the country has racked up a [\\$1.9 trillion debt](#) in recent years.

What's *not* encouraging is the percentage of Americans who receive — and depend — on government largesse. And that number keeps growing. It has not been a recent phenomenon at all — and it's not just limited to Democratic administrations. For some historical perspective, take a look at this chart that the [Wall Street Journal](#) produced the other day (click to enlarge):



Notice the spike during the [Richard Nixon](#) years?

And here's another chart, showing that nearly half of American households receive some sort of government aid. That's the highest percentage in history:



So while it's heartening to see that so many Americans understand that numbers like these are economically ruinous (not to mention the cost in individual liberty as the government expands), it makes you wonder if the political will to actually reverse these numbers can ever really be mustered into action. As [Tad DeHaven](#) of the [Cato Institute](#) points out:

As the price of something drops, the demand increases. For a growing share of Americans, government services are effectively "free," so they are demanding even more and policymakers are giving it to them.

You can read the entire *Wall Street Journal* article [here](#).

[\\$1.9 trillion debt](#), [Cato Institute](#), [George W. Bush](#), [Richard Nixon](#), [Tad DeHaven](#), [Wall Street Journal](#)

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