

# The Medicare Challenge

*What it Means for the Country,  
What it Means for Our Future*



# What We're Facing

## The Problem

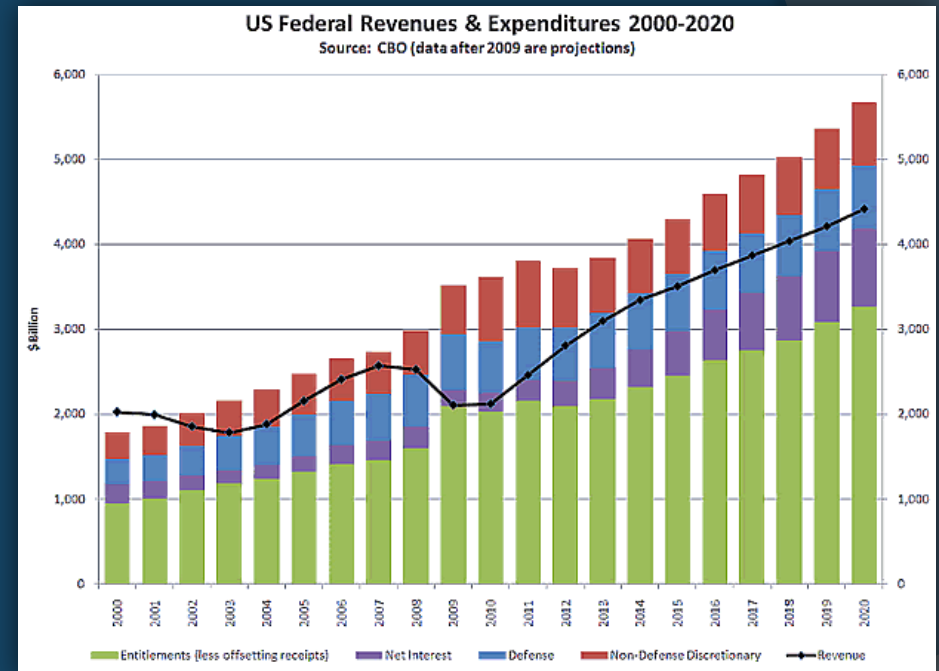
- ⦿ National debt rapidly increasing
  - Burden for future generations
- ⦿ Aging U.S. population requires more healthcare
- ⦿ Current entitlement structure cannot survive without significant tax increases, benefit cuts
- ⦿ Significant out-of-pocket costs for Medicare beneficiaries

## The Challenge

- ⦿ Maintain affordable access to quality healthcare for current, future Medicare beneficiaries
- ⦿ Ensure environment for economic growth and jobs today; opportunities for children, grandchildren tomorrow

# The Numbers Don't Add Up

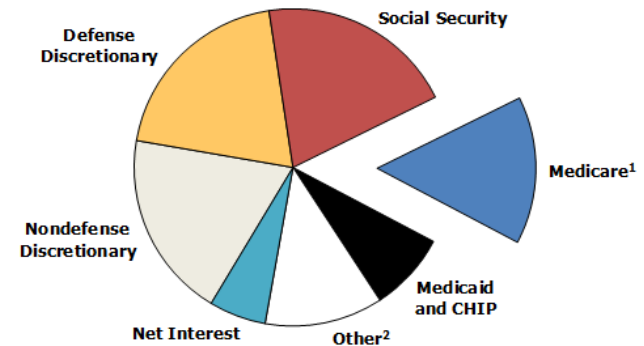
- ◎ Federal deficit in 2002: \$157.8 Billion
- ◎ Federal deficit in 2011: \$1.299 Trillion
  - Over 800% increase in 9 years
- ◎ Federal spending far exceeds revenues
  - Spending: 24% of GDP
  - Revenues: 15% of GDP



# Inaction has Worsened the Problem

- ◎ Federal debt has increased from 33% of GDP to 62% of GDP in a decade
  - Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
  - New federal spending programs
  - Recession
- ◎ Growth of entitlement programs – under current law – makes debt reduction difficult

Medicare Spending as a Percent of Total Federal Spending, Fiscal Year 2010

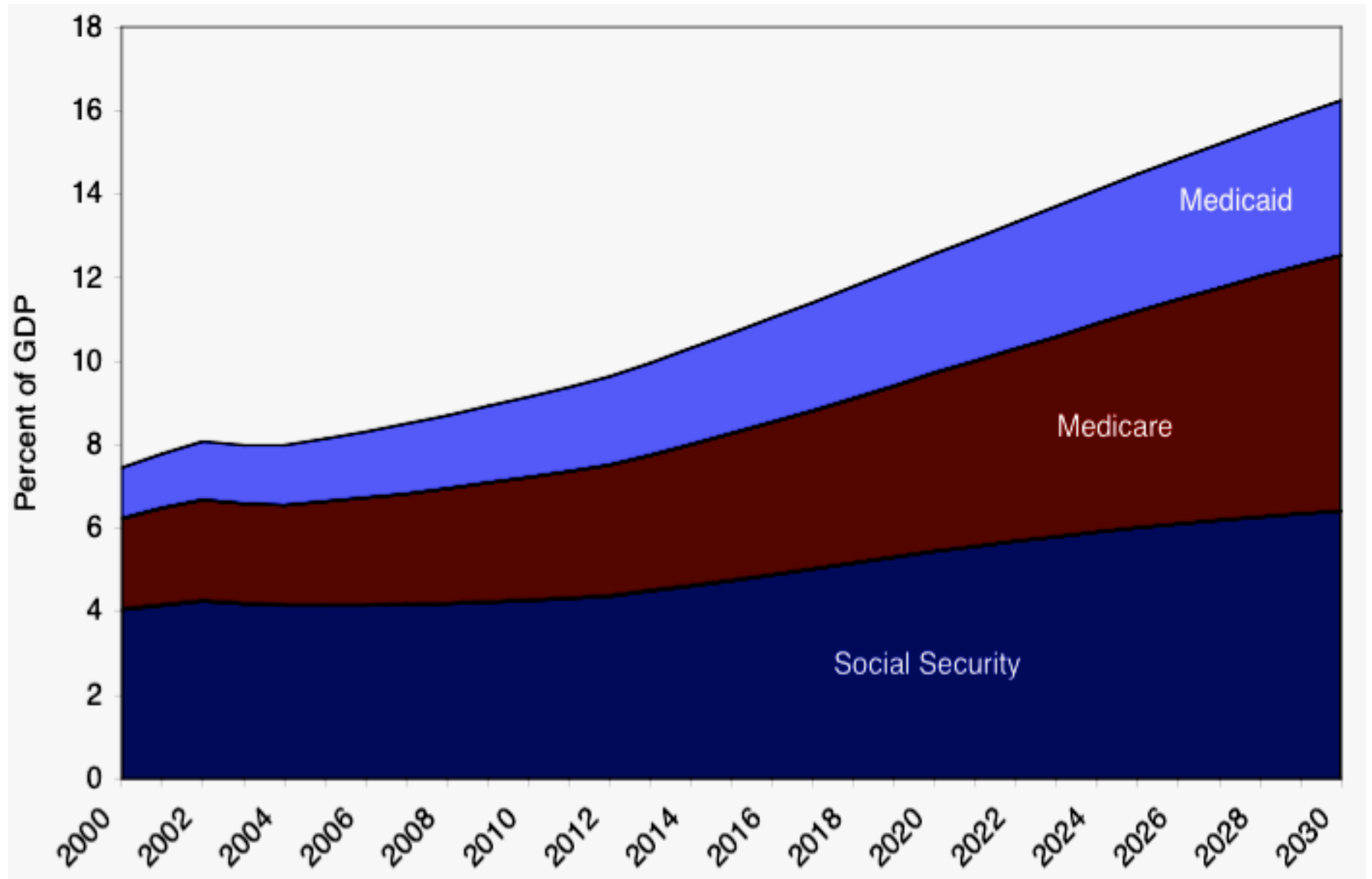


Total Federal Spending, FY2010 = \$3.5 Trillion



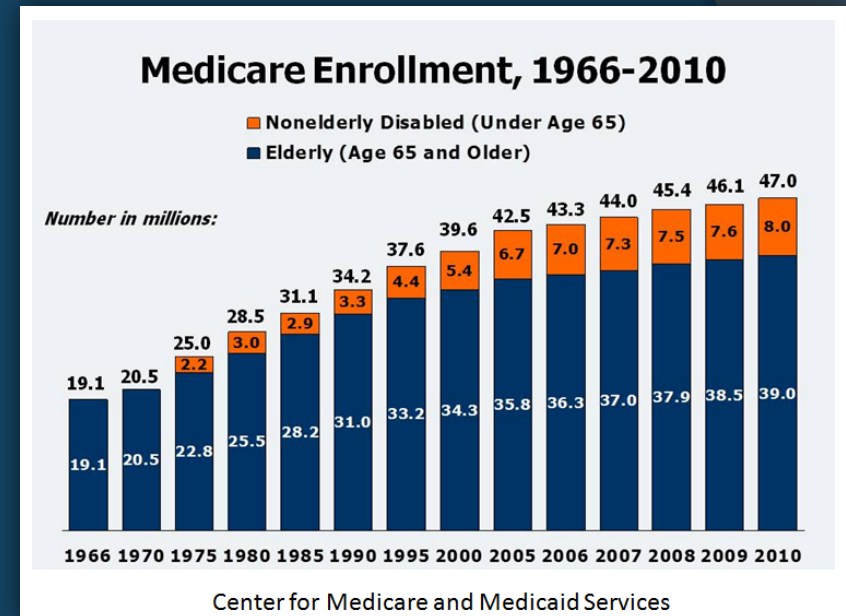


# Federal Spending on Entitlements

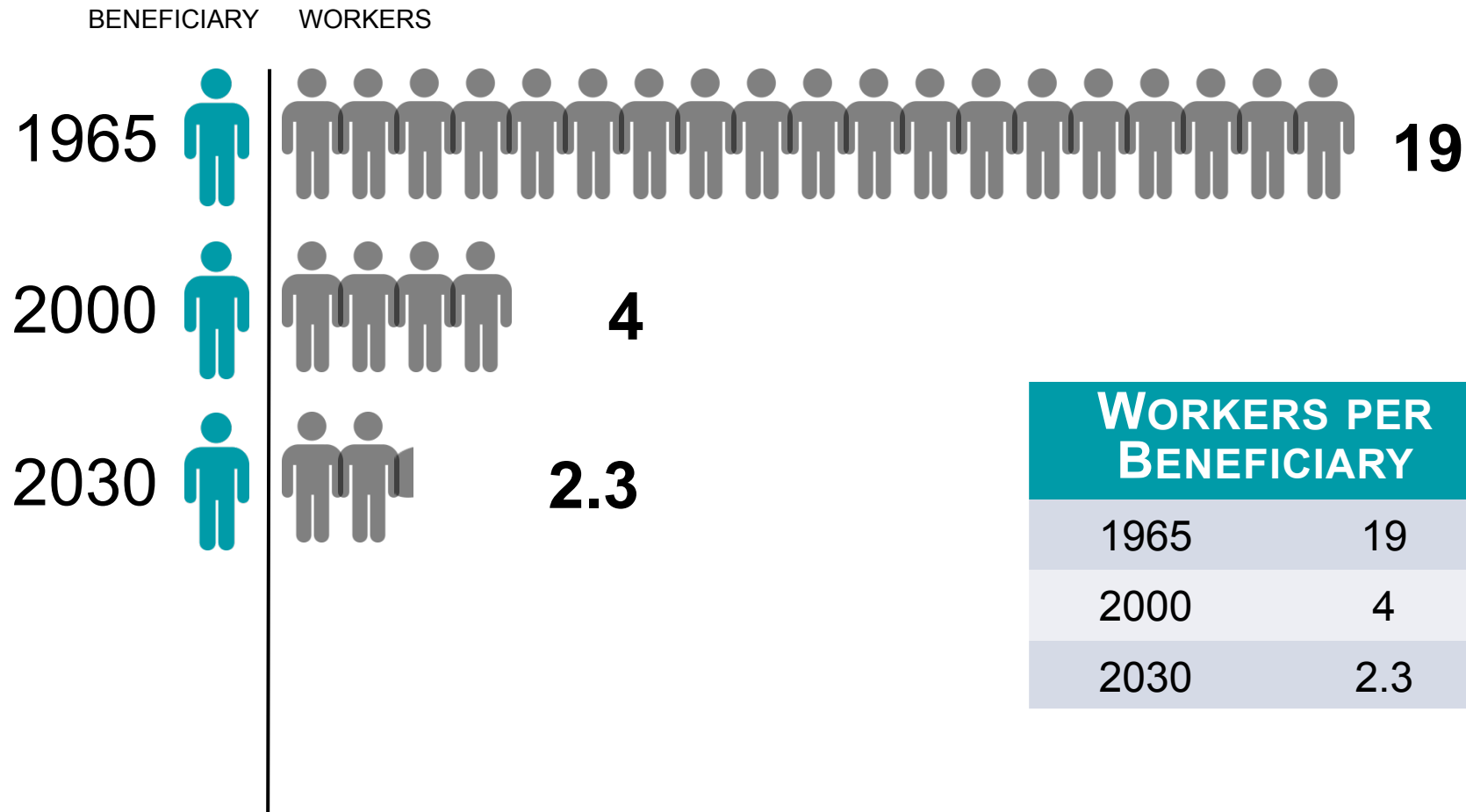


# Reasons for Growth in Entitlement Spending

- ◎ Aging “Baby Boomers” dramatically increasing Medicare enrollment
  - 7,500 new beneficiaries per day starting in 2011
  - 47 million beneficiaries in 2010, 80 million by 2030
- ◎ Payment structure encourages high utilization of health services
  - Average beneficiary receives \$3 in services for every \$1 paid in payroll taxes



# ACTIVE WORKERS PER MEDICARE BENEFICIARY



Source: Source: 2010 Annual Report of the Boards of Trustees of the  
Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical  
Insurance Trust Funds



# Path is Not Sustainable

- ◎ Three options if current Medicare cost increases continue:
  - Crushing national debt
  - Significant tax increases on employers, individuals
  - Slashing program access and benefits
- ◎ Medicare Trust Fund runs out of money in 2024



## Trustees: Key Medicare Program Will Exhaust in 2024

Estimate blames sluggish economy



HHS Secretary Sebelius

WASHINGTON, DC  
Friday, May 13, 2011

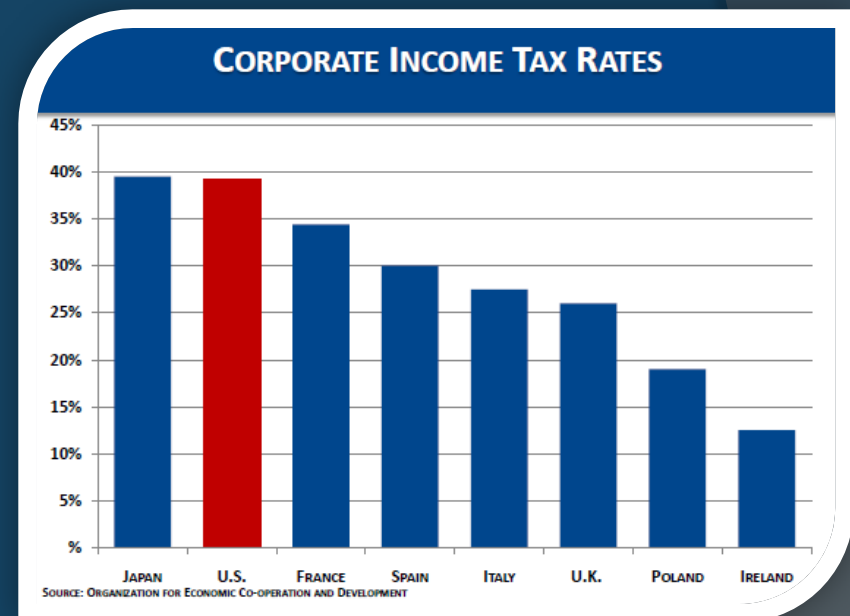
The Medicare and Social Security Trustees report says Social Security and Medicare will run out of money sooner than anticipated. The annual report, which provides an update on the solvency and cost of the two entitlement programs, blames the sluggish economy for the changes.

The Hospital Insurance fund, which pays for hospital stays of Medicare recipients, will run out in 2024, five years earlier than last year's report estimate. The Social Security Trust Fund will be exhausted in 2036. When the trust fund runs dry, Social Security benefits do not stop but decrease by 22%.

The entitlement programs, which cover one-third of the U.S.

# Effect of Rising Deficits on the U.S. Economy

- Funding entitlement programs will require higher taxes
  - U.S. already has one of highest corporate tax rates in world
  - Decline in economic growth, loss of jobs inevitable
- Health sector adding jobs today, a silver lining in current economy
  - Payment cuts, taxes, fees will slow job creation
- Fewer resources for education, infrastructure and others



# There Are Solutions

- ◎ Structural reform of Medicare is essential in order to:
  - Control federal deficit
  - Make Medicare stable
  - Protect access to innovative, quality healthcare
- ◎ Democrats, Republicans need to work together to develop long-term solutions



# It's Time to Act

“Washington needs to enact a fiscal plan NOW – not next year, not after the next election, but now...the longer we put these choices off, the more difficult and potentially harmful they become.”

-- *Erskine Bowles and Senator Alan Simpson, co-chairs,  
National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform*