



take action!

THE AMERICAN PIE EXERCISE



HOW DO YOU THINK AMERICA'S BUDGET PIE IS SLICED FOR 2006?

BELOW ARE TWO PIES. The one on top represents the total federal budget: it includes mandatory and discretionary programs. The one on the bottom illustrates only the discretionary part of the budget (the part Congress votes on every year).

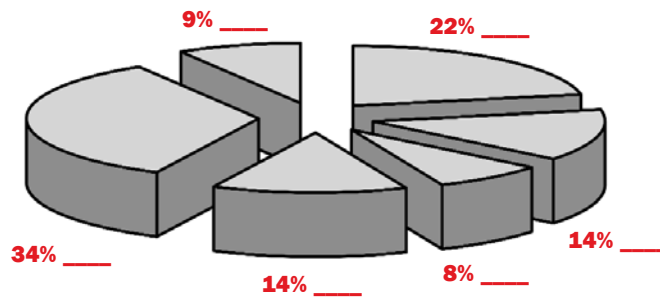
The quiz:

Assign a letter to each slice of pie, to indicate how much goes to each program.

Step 1

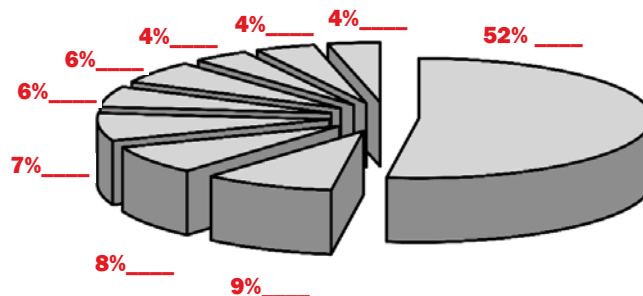
Take the quiz!

TOTAL U.S. BUDGET



- A. Social Security
- B. Medicare
- C. Medicaid
- D. Other Mandatory
- E. Discretionary Programs (Pentagon, Domestic Programs & International Affairs)
- F. Interest on the Debt

DISCRETIONARY U.S. BUDGET



- A. Pentagon and nuclear weapons
- B. Education, Training, Employment & Social Services
- C. Government Administration & Justice
- D. Environment, Science, Agriculture & Energy
- E. Housing & Income Security
- F. Health
- G. Community & Regional Development, Transportation
- H. International Affairs
- I. Veterans' Benefits

GET CONNECTED!

Check out these great online resources.



WAND Education Fund web site:
www.WANDEducationFund.org

Will web site:
www.willwand.org

STAND web site:
www.standwand.org



Women's Action for New Directions
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Step 2

Know the answers!



Women's Action for New Directions Education Fund

WAND Education Fund educates the public and opinion leaders about the need to reduce violence and militarism in society, and redirect excessive military spending to unmet human and environmental needs.

Susan Shaer, Executive Director

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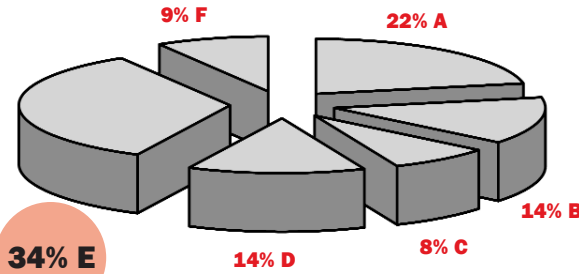
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PENTAGON EATS UP OVER HALF THE BUDGET

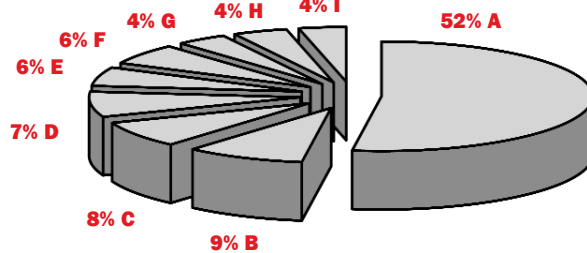
TOTAL U.S. BUDGET: \$2,461,683,000,000



- A. 22%** Social Security (\$540 bill)
- B. 14%** Medicare (\$340.4 bill)
- C. 8%** Medicaid (\$192.7 bill)
- D. 14%** Other Mandatory (\$337.6 bill)
- E. 34%** Discretionary Programs (\$840.3 bill)
 - 18% Pentagon (\$438.8 bill)
 - 15% Domestic Programs (\$367.9 bill)
 - 1% International Affairs (\$33.6 bill)
- F. 9%** Interest on the Debt (\$211 bill)

Total U.S. budget numbers from Table 8.5, FY2006 as issued by OMB, Discretionary programs from table 8.9

DISCRETIONARY U.S. BUDGET: \$840,300,000,000



- A. 52%** Pentagon and nuclear weapons (\$438.8 bill)
- B. 9%** Education, Training, Employment & Social Services (\$77.9 bill)
- C. 8%** Government Administration & Justice (\$64.7 bill)
- D. 7%** Environment, Science, Agriculture & Energy (\$61.6 bill)
- E. 6%** Housing & Income Security (\$47.3 bill)
- F. 6%** Health (\$51 bill)
- G. 4%** Community & Regional Development, Transportation (\$33.9 bill)
- H. 4%** International Affairs (\$33.6 bill)
- I. 4%** Veterans' Benefits (\$31.4 bill)

The Pentagon budget is \$438.8 billion

Just how much is that?

About \$835,000 a minute, or \$13,914 each second.

While Pentagon spending is 18% of the total budget, it is 52% of the money Congress makes decisions about every year — the discretionary programs. And the President's Pentagon budget request — \$438.8 billion — is only the start. The war in Iraq has been financed entirely by supplemental requests, which don't show up in the regular budget.

The last Pentagon request, which was for fiscal year 2005, was \$421 billion, but by the time the supplemental appropriations were adopted by Congress, the Pentagon was given over *half a trillion dollars* for that period. Administration officials continue to refuse to include the costs of continuing activity in Iraq and Afghanistan, despite verbal commitments to an extended stay in the region.

WHAT ROLE DOES CONGRESS PLAY?

Every year, Congress decides how much to spend on discretionary programs. The budget resolution is debated and adopted early in the year, and serves as a spending guide. The U.S. will spend 52% of the discretionary budget on the Pentagon in FY06; this is almost as much as the rest of the world combined. And this does *not* include money for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, for veterans' benefits, or for international affairs.

WHAT'S INSIDE THE SLICES OF PIE? WHAT'S COOKING

Step 3

Examine each slice of pie

Government Administration & Justice

Sample Ingredients:

Congress; White House; Internal Revenue Service; Immigration & Naturalization Service; Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Office of Civil Rights; Legal Services Corporation; Drug Enforcement Agency; Federal Bureau of Investigation; courts & prisons; costs of operating Medicare & Social Security; allowances.

International Affairs

Sample Ingredients:

Export-Import Bank; International Monetary Fund; Peace Corps; U.S. Information Agency; NATO contributions; assistance for Russia, Central & Eastern European countries; State Department programs; development banks; food aid; international peacekeeping; refugee programs; foreign military grants & loans.

Health

Sample Ingredients:

Centers for Disease Control; Food & Drug Administration; National Institutes of Health; Native American health; health care services; substance abuse & mental health programs; health research & clinical training; consumer and occupational health & safety; food safety and inspection.

Community & Regional Development and Transportation

Sample Ingredients:

Federal Aviation Administration; Tennessee Valley Authority; Coast Guard; Appalachian Regional Commission; Native American programs; community loans & block grants; disaster relief & insurance; highways; mass transit; airports; marine safety & ocean shipping.

Environment, Science, Agriculture & Energy

Sample Ingredients: Corps of Engineers; National Parks; Forest Service; Hazardous Waste Superfund; National Science Foundation; National Air & Space Administration; Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Federal Energy Regulation Commission; nuclear waste program; agricultural research & farm income stabilization.

Veterans' Benefits

Sample Ingredients: Compensation, pensions, insurance; hospital and medical care; housing, education, training, and rehabilitation.

Education, Training, Employment & Social Services

Sample Ingredients: Library of Congress; Public Broadcasting Corporation; Smithsonian Institution; Native American, bilingual & immigrant education programs; elementary, secondary, vocational & adult education; special education; student financial aid; school improvements; training & employment services; children, families & aging services.

Pentagon

Sample Ingredients:

- (Percentages based on FY06 budget)
- **Pentagon Operation & Maintenance:** 34% (\$147.8b) readiness training, logistics, facilities management
 - **Military Personnel:** 25% (\$108.9b) pay & benefits
 - **Procurement:** 18% (\$78b) purchase of goods, services & weapons
 - **Research, Development, Test & Evaluation:** 16% (\$69.3b) new weapons and systems
 - **Atomic Energy & Defense-related Activities:** 4% (\$16.3) nuclear weapons stockpile stewardship & maintenance
 - **Military Construction:** 2% (\$7.8b) bases, buildings, golf courses, gyms, child care centers, etc. domestically & abroad;
 - **Family Housing:** 1% (\$4.2b) construction & maintenance of 300,000+ housing units – most considered substandard.

Housing and Income Security

Sample Ingredients: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; Pension & Welfare Benefits Administration; National Credit Union Administration; Postal Service payments; FHA Loan Program; Section 8 Affordable Housing; homeless shelters; low-income heating assistance; child-care grants; food stamps; refugee assistance; small & minority business assistance; unemployment compensation; costs of operating federal employee retirement plans.



A SEAT AT THE TABLE OF POWER

Step 4

Take
action!



“Our values should be reflected in our budget. We can have a strong defense and provide smart security with jobs, education, health care and a clean environment — without reckless cutting of basic needs and unjustifiable spending on unnecessary weapons systems. It’s up to us to let our leaders know what we care about.”

—Susan Shaer,
WAND executive director

WOMEN NEED TO TAKE ACTION

YEAR AFTER YEAR, BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ARE WASTED AND MISMANAGED IN THE PENTAGON BUDGET, while programs to meet basic human needs are cut or under-funded — including programs to provide social services for the veterans who have served the country. WAND’s top priority is to educate the public on current federal spending priorities and help citizens work with elected officials to create a more equitable budget pie — one that shifts funds from Pentagon waste to programs for women, children and the environment.

What you can do to work for a better budget!

ACTIONS TO TAKE TODAY

Join WAND - Become an individual member, start a WAND chapter and encourage groups in your area to work with WAND as partners. Contact WAND’s field office for more information (see box inside).

Learn More - Many web sites offer useful information about the budget. One of the most effective ways to understand how federal budget choices are affecting you and your community is by searching the web site of the National Priorities Project: www.nationalpriorities.org. Another good source for budget information is the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: www.cbpp.org.

Educate Others - Copy and distribute this flyer to everyone you know and post it in public places.

Spread the Word - Write letters to the editor of your local newspapers. Call in to talk radio programs. Talk about the need for new federal spending priorities with everyone you know.

Speak Up & Speak Out - Every time funds are cut from important programs, contact your members of Congress and the media and let them know those funds would not have to be cut if Congress would stop funding wasteful Pentagon programs. For more on how to do this, visit the WAND Take Action! Center: www.wandactioncenter.org; or call the WAND field office: 404-524-5999.

Raise the Issue and Vote - Ask federal candidates questions about spending priorities. Ask if they will work to cut Pentagon waste and mismanagement, and shift sufficient funds from the Pentagon budget to meet human and environmental needs. Then, make sure you and others in your community vote!

Hold Politicians Accountable - Watch how your elected officials vote on budget issues. Let them know what you think about their budget priorities.

