A Closer Look at Mandatory Spending

Mandatory Spending at a Glance

- **$2.3 Trillion**
  - Mandatory spending by the federal government in 2015

- **$1.0 Trillion**
  - Spending in 2015 on the major health care programs (without subtracting offsetting receipts), the largest component of mandatory spending

- **12.9%**
  - Mandatory spending as a percentage of gross domestic product in 2015

- **10.0%**
  - Average mandatory spending as a percentage of gross domestic product between 1995 and 2014

Mandatory Spending in 1995 and 2015

Percentage of Gross Domestic Product

- **Other**
  - Change, in Percentage Points
  - 1995 2015
  - Social Security 0.6 0.3
  - Other 0.3 0.3
  - Disability Insurance 0.3 0.3
  - Medicare 1.2 0.8
  - Medicaid 0.8 0.3

Mandatory Spending in 2015

Billions of Dollars

- **Major Health Care Programs** $1.050 Billion
  - Medicare $634
  - Medicaid $738
  - Other $882

- **Social Security** $302 Billion
  - Old-Age and Survivors Insurance $85
  - Disability Insurance $58
  - Supplemental Security Income $53
  - Unemployment Compensation $103

- **Federal Civilian and Military Retirement** $168 Billion
  - Federal Civilian Retirement $103
  - Military Retirement $57

- **Veterans’ Benefits** $92 Billion
  - Disability Benefits $37
  - Other $56

- **Other Programs** $83 Billion
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program $76
  - Earned Income, Child, and Other Tax Credits $11

- **Offsetting Receipts** $258 Billion
  - Funds collected by government agencies from other government accounts or from the public that are credited as an offset to gross spending. Offsetting receipts include Medicare premiums, intragovernmental payments for federal employees’ retirement, and receipts related to natural resources (such as those from oil and gas exploration and development).