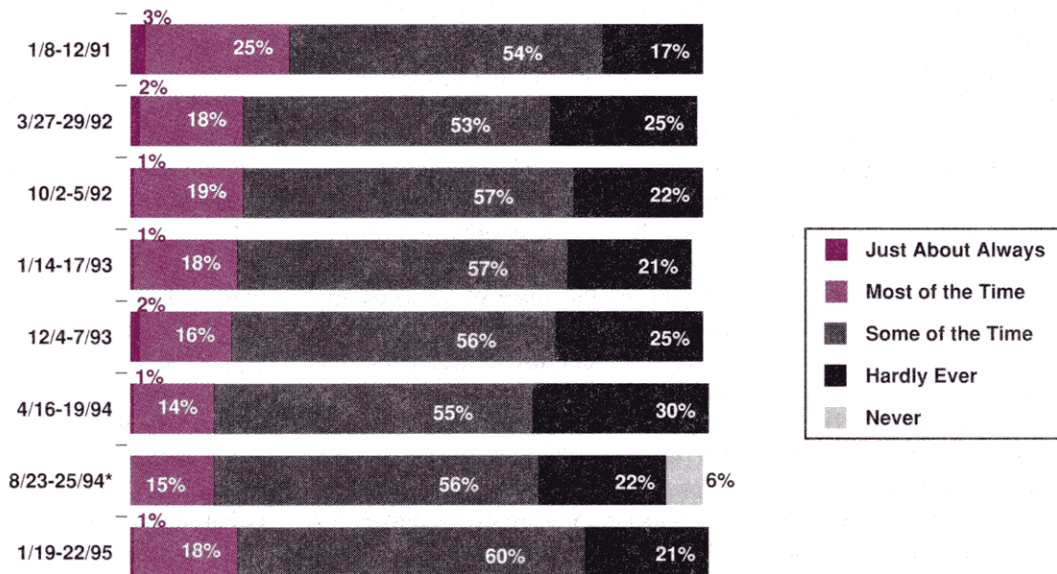


## Confidence in the National Government Has Not Rebounded in the Nineties

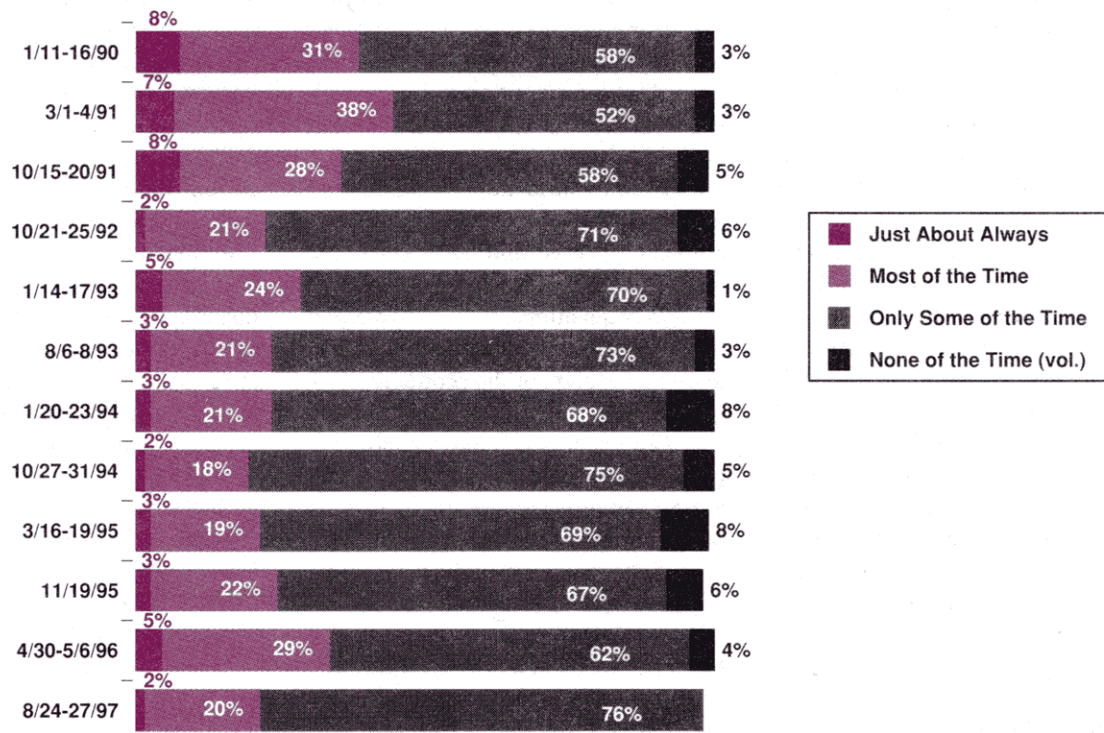
**Question:** How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right—Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time, or hardly ever can you trust the government in Washington to do what is right?



\*Question wording differed slightly here: "Generally speaking, how often do you think you can trust the government to do what's right? Can you trust government...most of the time, only some of the time, hardly ever, or never?"

**Source:** Surveys by the *Los Angeles Times*, except for that of March 1994 by Princeton Survey Research Associates for *Newsweek*.

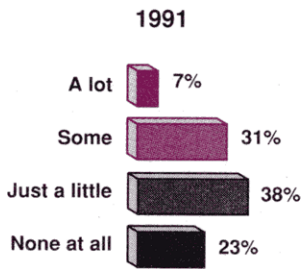
**Question:** How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?



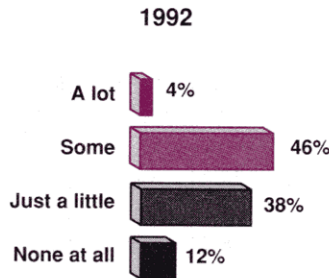
**Source:** Surveys by ABC News/*Washington Post*, except for that of October 1992 by the *Washington Post* alone and the two most recent askings, by ABC News alone.

# Low Grades for the Feds as Problem Solvers

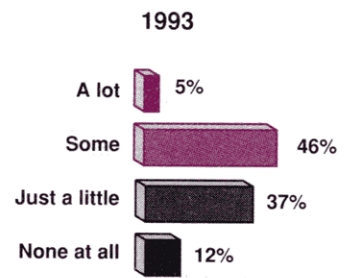
**Question:** When the government in Washington decides to solve a problem, how much confidence do you have that the problem actually will be solved?



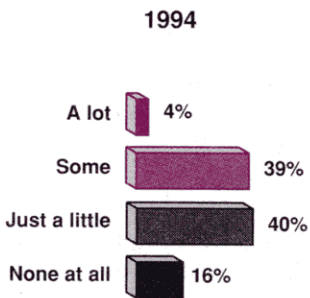
Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, October 25-29, 1991.



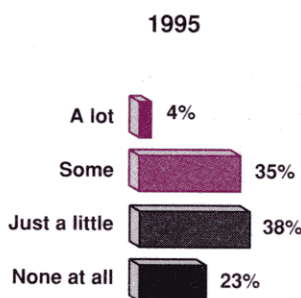
Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, April 8-9, 1992.



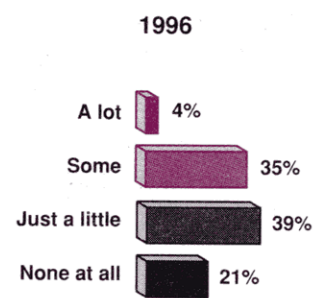
Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, February 25-28, 1993.



Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, January 20-23, 1994.

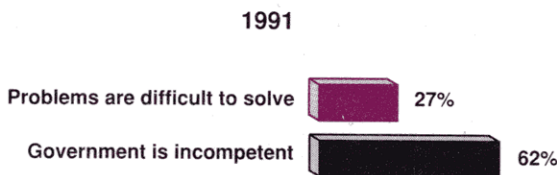


Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Kaiser/Harvard/Washington Post, November 28-December 4, 1995.

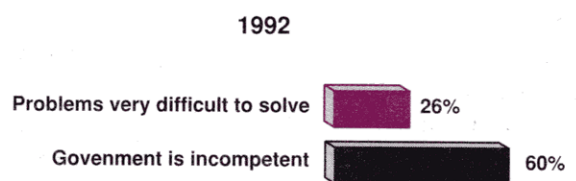


Source: Survey by the Center for Survey Research, University of Virginia, January 27-April 14, 1996.

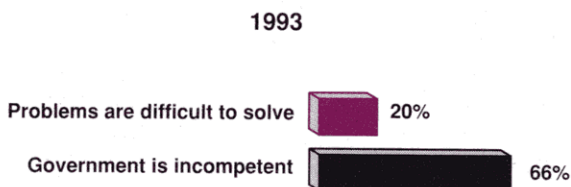
**Question:** Is it [that you have little/no confidence the problem will be solved by the government in Washington] because those problems often are very difficult to solve, or is it because the government often is incompetent?



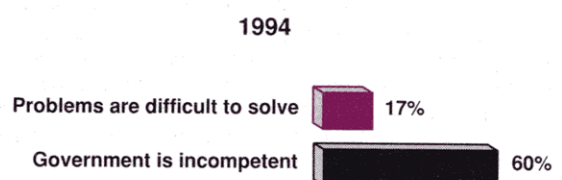
Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, October 25-29, 1991.



Source: Survey by ABC News, April 8-9, 1992.



Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, February 25-28, 1993.



Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, May 12-15, 1994.



## Americans Remain Less Inclined to Look to Government Than Citizens of Other Industrial Democracies

	US	CA	FR	GER	IRE	ISR	JP	NZ	NOR	SP	SWE
<b>What About Gov'ts Power?</b>											
Too Much	66%	46%	44%	34%	38%	37%	21%	54%	43%	56%	27%
About Right	30%	44%	41%	41%	49%	35%	13%	41%	52%	25%	52%
Too Little	4%	6%	16%	11%	10%	20%	47%	6%	5%	7%	21%
<b>What About Cuts in Gov't Spending?</b>											
Favor	83%	81%	93%	82%	74%	89%	72%	69%	66%	77%	58%
"Mixed Feelings"	11%	12%	5%	11%	13%	8%	14%	14%	19%	8%	22%
Against	6%	8%	3%	5%	13%	3%	6%	14%	15%	6%	21%
<b>Should Gov't Should Redistribute Wealth?</b>											
Yes	33%	42%	71%	53%	64%	70%	44%	37%	57%	74%	59%
"Mixed Feelings"	24%	15%	13%	17%	14%	18%	23%	18%	19%	10%	20%
No	43%	41%	16%	21%	20%	12%	26%	42%	25%	12%	21%
<b>Should Gov't Provide Jobs for All?</b>											
Yes	39%	35%	73%	76%	69%	74%	49%	54%	81%	88%	65%
No	61%	63%	27%	19%	30%	24%	29%	44%	20%	9%	35%
<b>Should Gov't Provide Decent Standard of Living For Those Unemployed?</b>											
Yes	48%	65%	82%	78%	90%	62%	58%	61%	93%	90%	91%
No	52%	31%	18%	14%	8%	37%	22%	35%	7%	6%	9%
<b>Should Gov't or Private-Sector Manage Electric Power?</b>											
Private	80%	48%	57%	40%	48%	50%	68%	48%	46%	30%	36%
Gov't	20%	44%	43%	46%	47%	43%	15%	46%	54%	47%	64%
<b>Should Gov't or Private-Sector Manage Hospitals?</b>											
Private	74%	23%	29%	26%	25%	28%	49%	18%	8%	18%	6%
Gov't	26%	71%	71%	63%	70%	66%	35%	78%	92%	67%	94%
<b>Should Gov't or Private-Sector Manage Banks?</b>											
Private	78%	64%	74%	53%	53%	55%	61%	75%	69%	42%	62%
Gov't	22%	26%	26%	31%	38%	38%	20%	17%	31%	33%	38%

**Questions (ordered as above):** What about the government, does it have too much power or too little power?; Here are some things the government might do for the economy...which actions are you in favor of and which are you against...Cuts in government spending?; What is your opinion of the following statement: It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes.; On the whole, do you think it should or should not be the government's responsibility to...Provide a job for everyone who wants one?...Provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed?;Do you think each of the following should mainly be run by private organizations or companies, or by government...Electricity?...Hospitals?...Banks?

### Country Code

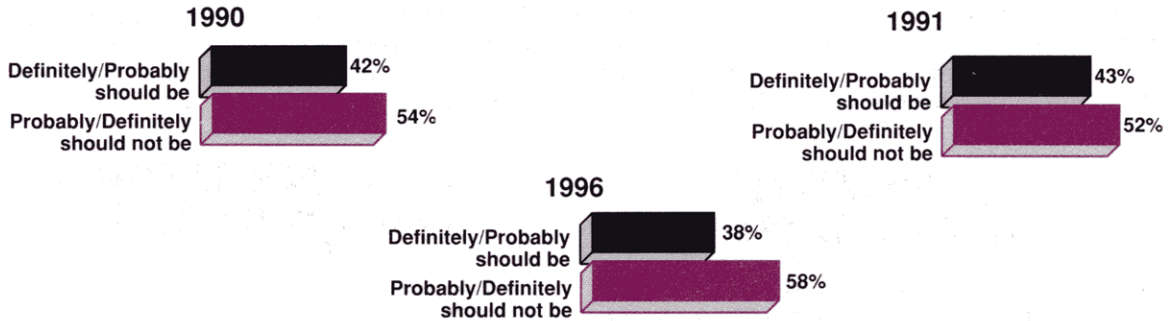
CA = Canada  
 FR = France  
 GER = Germany  
 IRE = Ireland  
 ISR = Israel  
 JP = Japan  
 NOR = Norway  
 NZ = New Zealand  
 SP = Spain  
 SWE = Sweden

Source: 1996 International Social Survey Project (ISSP).

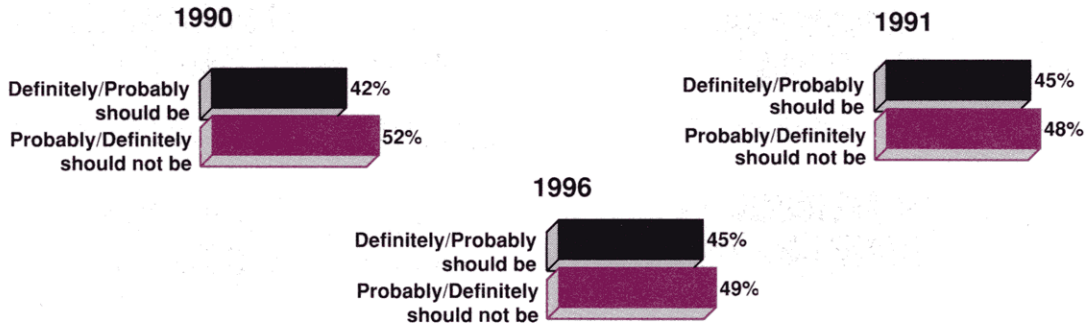
# Lots of Colliding Values

Questions: On the whole, do you think it should or should not be the government's responsibility to...?

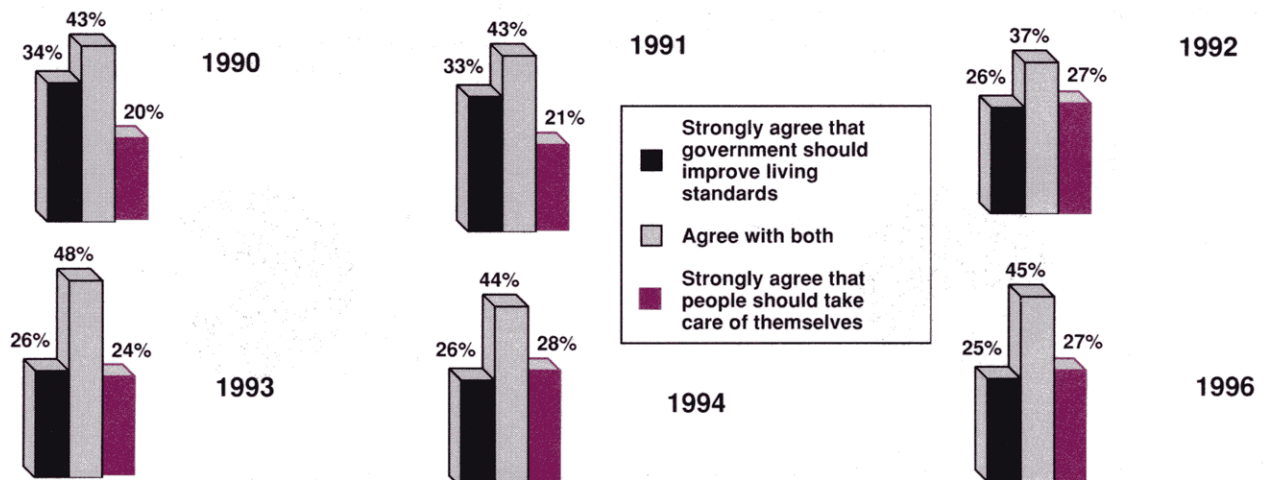
## ...Provide a job for everyone who wants one?



## ...Reduce income differences between the rich and poor?



**Question:** Some people think that the government in Washington should do everything possible to improve the standard of living of all poor Americans, they are at point 1 on this card. Other people think it is not the government's responsibility, and that each person should take care of himself, they are at point 5. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you made up your mind on this? [1 and 2 = Strongly agree that government should improve living standards, 3 = Agree with both, and 4 and 5 = Strongly agree that people should take care of themselves.]



Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center-General Social Survey.



## The Poor Have Real Problems That Government Must Address

**Question:** People today have many different views about politics, government and social problems. I'm going to read some pairs of statements that give different views on some of these subjects. Of course, these subjects are complicated, and no statement will capture exactly how you feel. For each pair, please tell me which statement comes closer to the way you feel... Poor people have it easy today because they can get government benefits without having to do anything in return. Or,...Poor people have hard lives because government benefits don't go far enough for them to live decently.



**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the American Association of Retired Persons, August 12-September 8, 1992.



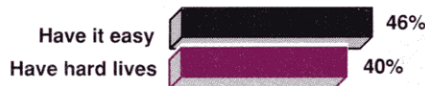
**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Times Mirror, July 12-25, 1994.



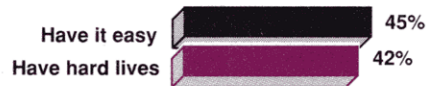
**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Times Mirror, April 6-9, 1995.



**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Times Mirror, October 25-30, 1995.

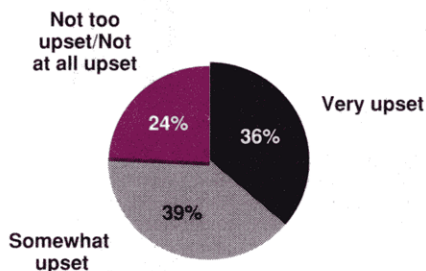


**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Pew Research Center, October 14-20, 1996.



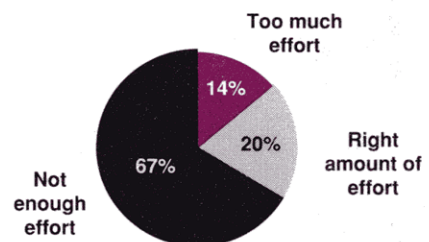
**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Pew Research Center, June 18-22, 1997.

**Question:** ...How upset would you be if...new limits on welfare cut off benefits to poor families even when no work is available...very upset, somewhat upset, not too upset or not at all upset?



**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Newsweek, December 27-28, 1994.

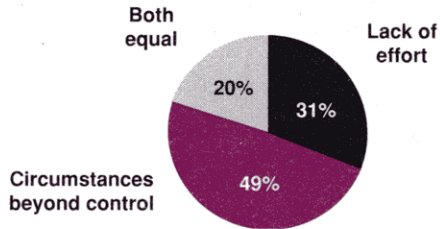
**Question:** ...How much effort do you think the federal government makes to serve the needs of...poor people? Do you think the government makes too much effort, not enough effort, or about the right amount of effort to serve this group's needs?



**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Knight Ridder, September 3-15, 1996.

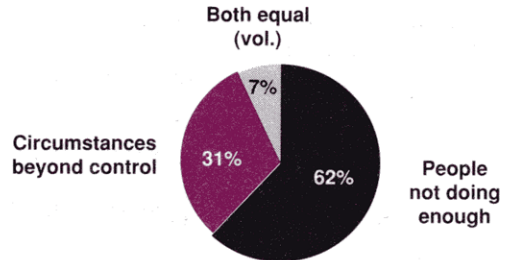
## But Individuals Need to Accept More Responsibility for Their Status

**Question:** In your opinion, what is more to blame when people are poor—lack of effort on their own part or circumstances beyond their control?



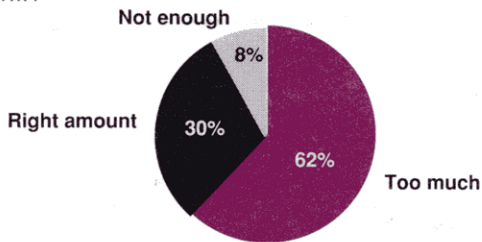
**Source:** Survey by the *New York Times*, December 12-14, 1990.

**Question:** In your opinion, which is the bigger cause of poverty today—people not doing enough to help themselves out of poverty, or circumstances beyond people's control that cause them to be poor?



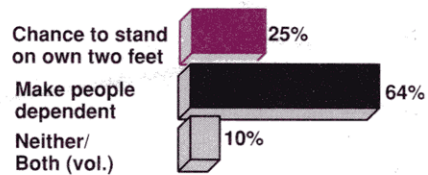
**Source:** Survey by Hart and Teeter Research Companies for NBC News/*Wall Street Journal*, April 21-25, 1995.

**Question:** ...[P]lease tell me whether you think [the federal government in Washington] has too much power in the United States today, about the right amount of power, or not enough power...?



**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, August 11-14, 1995.

**Question:** Which statement do you agree with most: "Welfare benefits give poor people a chance to stand on their own two feet and get started again," or "Welfare benefits make poor people dependent and encourage them to stay poor?"



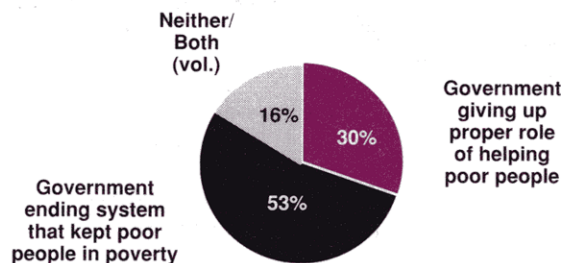
**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, August 10-13, 1989.

**Question:** Over the last twenty-five years, do you think government policies have generally strengthened or generally weakened Americans' moral values?



**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, May 9-12, 1996.

**Question:** Thinking about the new cutbacks and limits in federal and state welfare programs, do you see these cuts and limits mostly as...government giving up its proper role of helping poor people, or government ending a system that has kept poor people in poverty?



**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for *Newsweek*/NBC News, April 14-15, 1997.