

Peter D. Hart Research Associates

# Unemployed In America

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The Job Market, the Realities of  
Unemployment, and the Impact of  
Unemployment Benefits

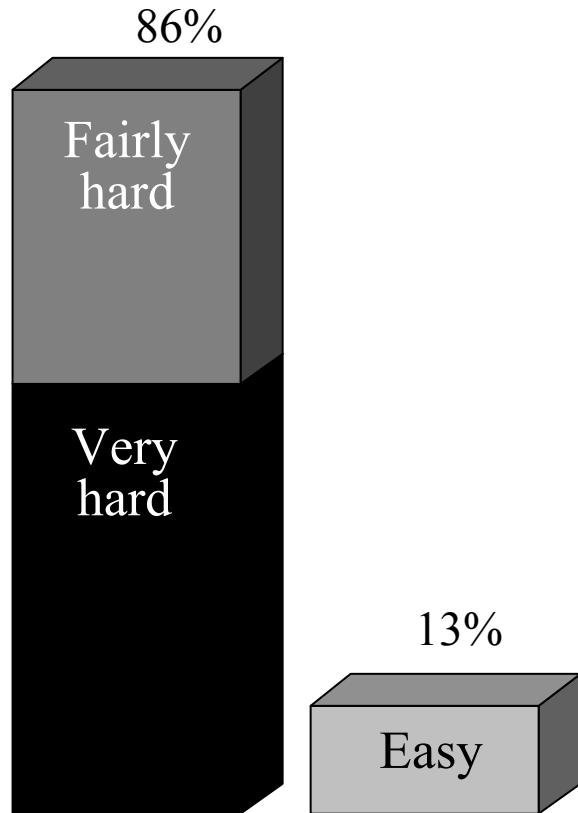
Survey among 413 unemployed adults  
Conducted April 17 – 28, 2003

Commissioned by

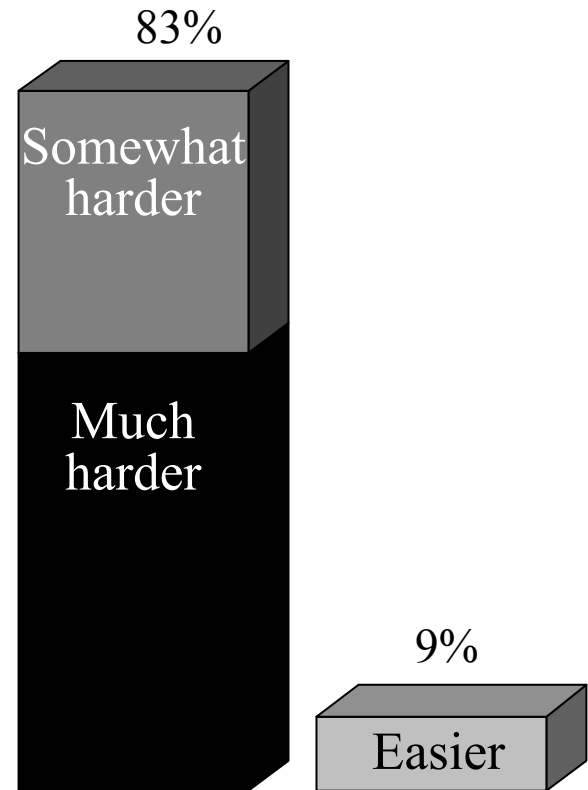


# The Job Market Today

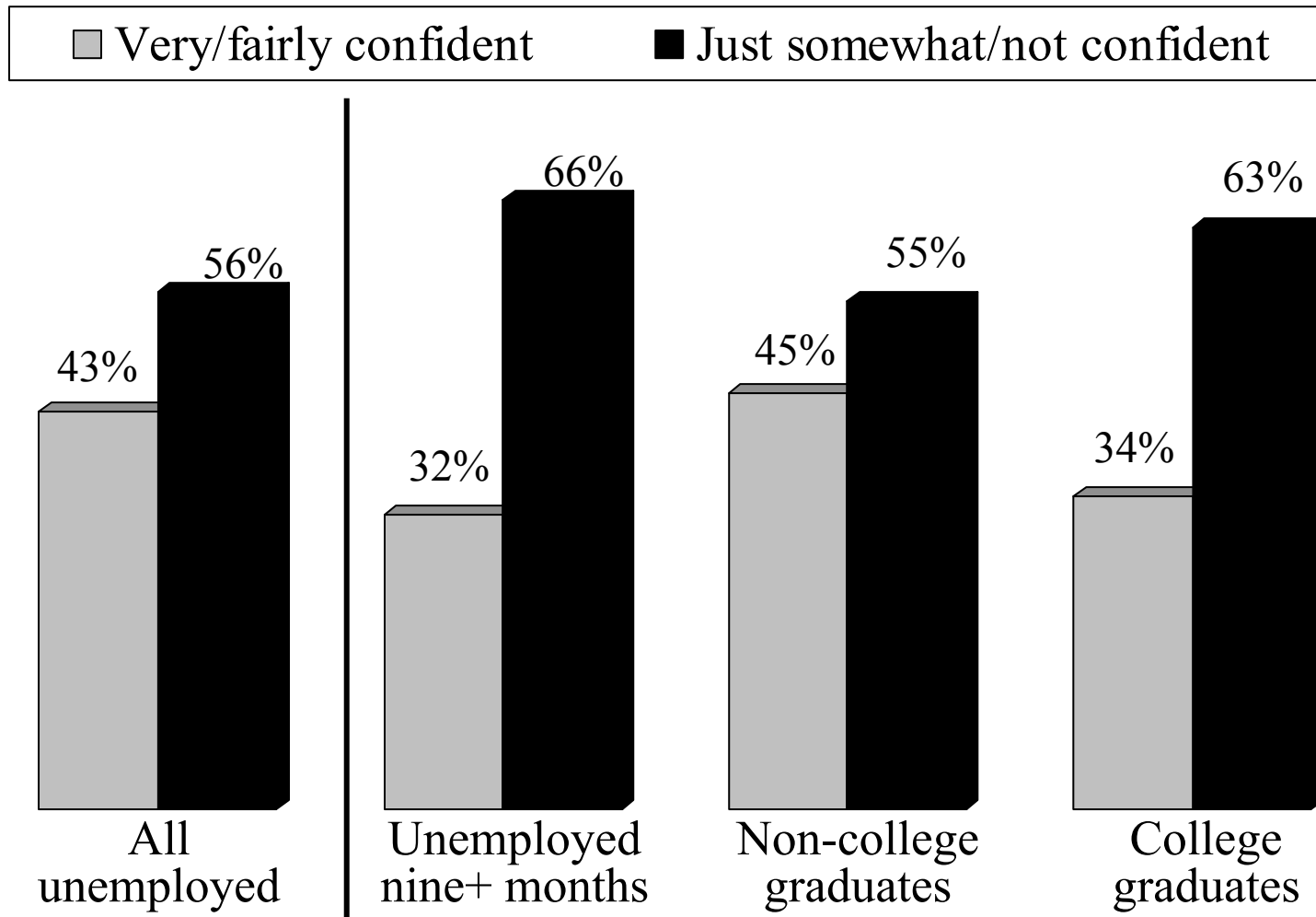
Finding an acceptable job in today's market



Finding an acceptable job today versus when you have looked for a job in the past

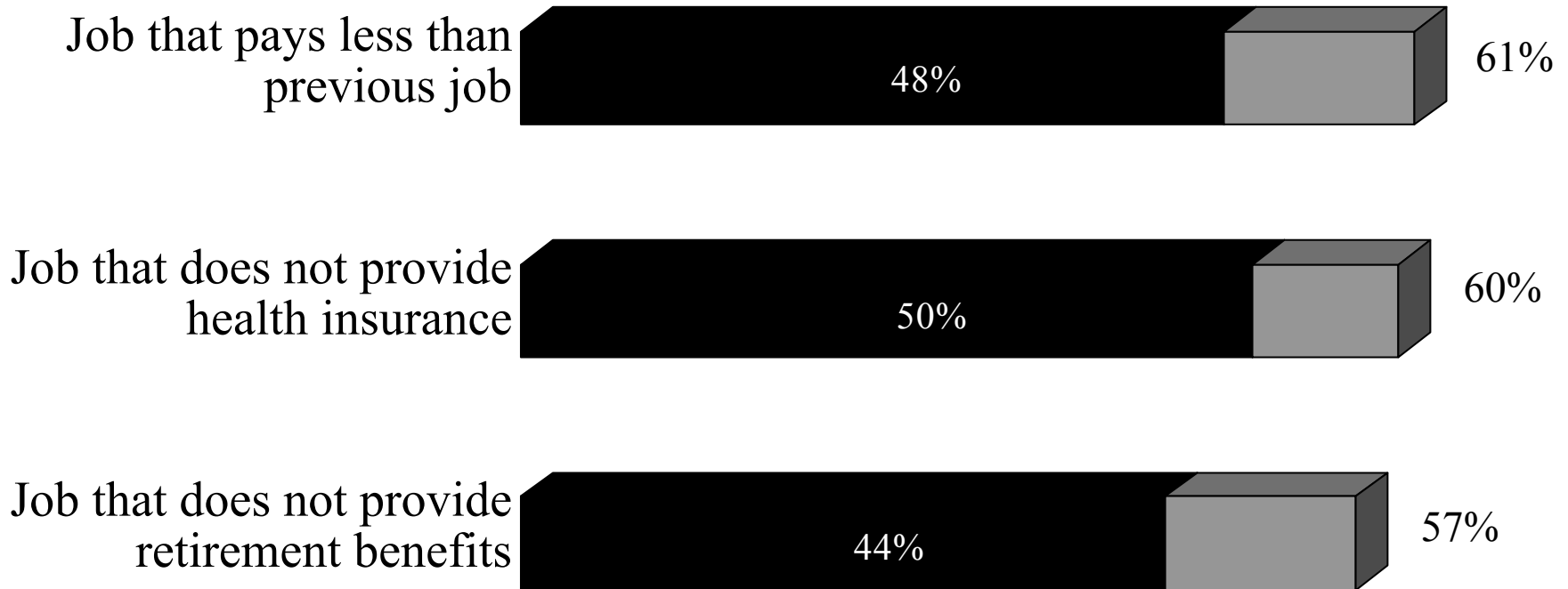


# Confidence About Finding A Job In Next Three Months

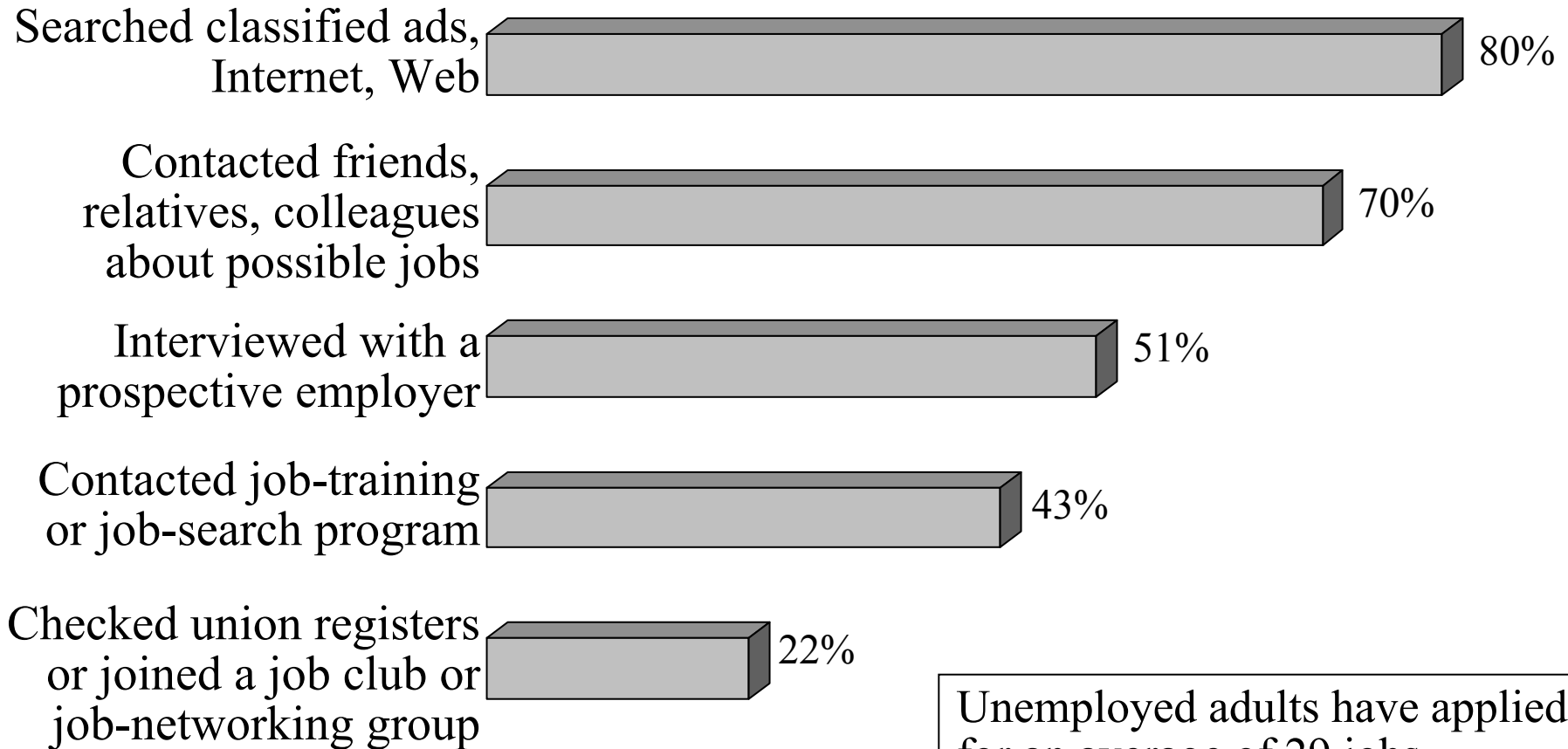


# Concern About Having To Accept Various Jobs

■ Very concerned    ■ Fairly concerned



# What Have You Done In The Past Three Months To Find Work?

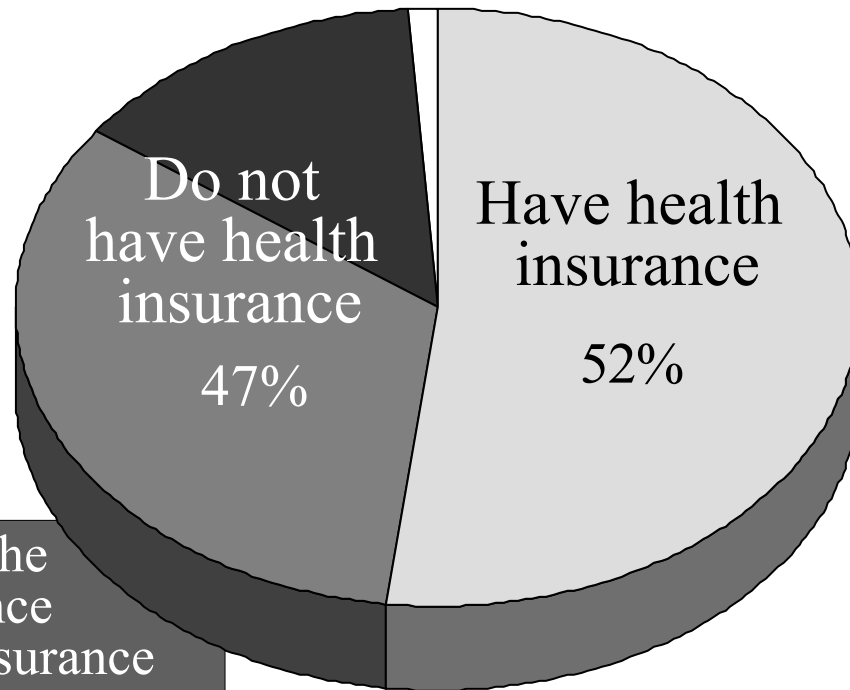


Unemployed adults have applied for an average of 29 jobs.

# Financial Hardships Of Unemployment

- ◆ More than half of unemployed adults have had to postpone medical treatment (57%) or cut back on spending for food (56%).
- ◆ One in four (26%) has had to move to other housing or move in with friends or relatives.
- ◆ 38% have lost telephone service (22%) or are worried they will lose their phone (16%).
- ◆ More than one-third (36%) have had trouble paying gas or electric bills.

# Health Insurance



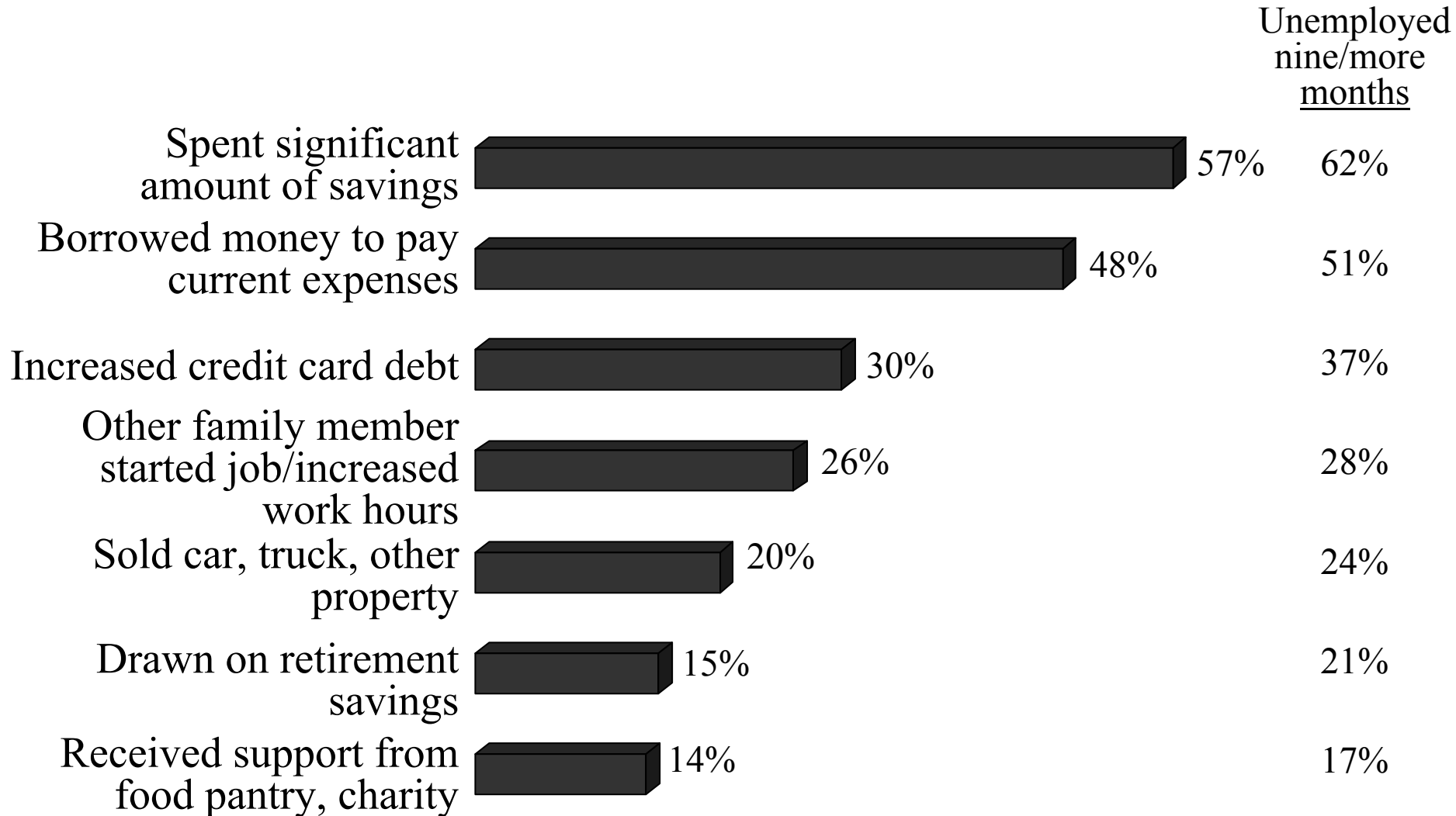
One-third (33%) of the unemployed were once covered by health insurance but lost these benefits as a result of their unemployment.

# Unemployment's Impact On The Family

- ◆ More than three in four (77%) unemployed Americans say the level of stress in their family has increased.
- ◆ Two-thirds (65%) of those with children have cut back on spending for their children.
- ◆ 26% say another family member has had to start a job or increase work hours.
- ◆ 23% have had to interrupt their education or that of a family member.

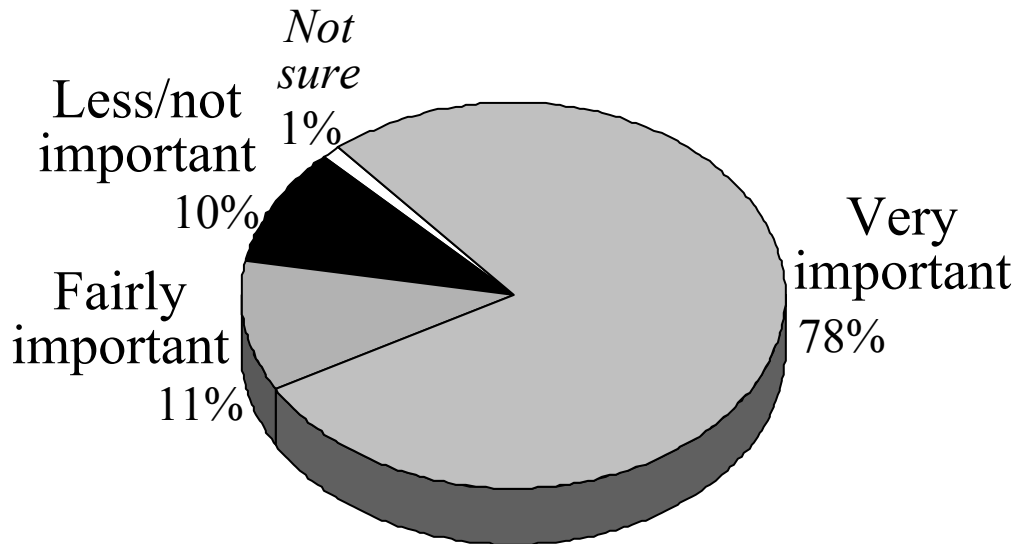


# How The Unemployed Get By



# Unemployment Benefits Critical

How important have unemployment benefits been in helping you/your family meet basic needs?



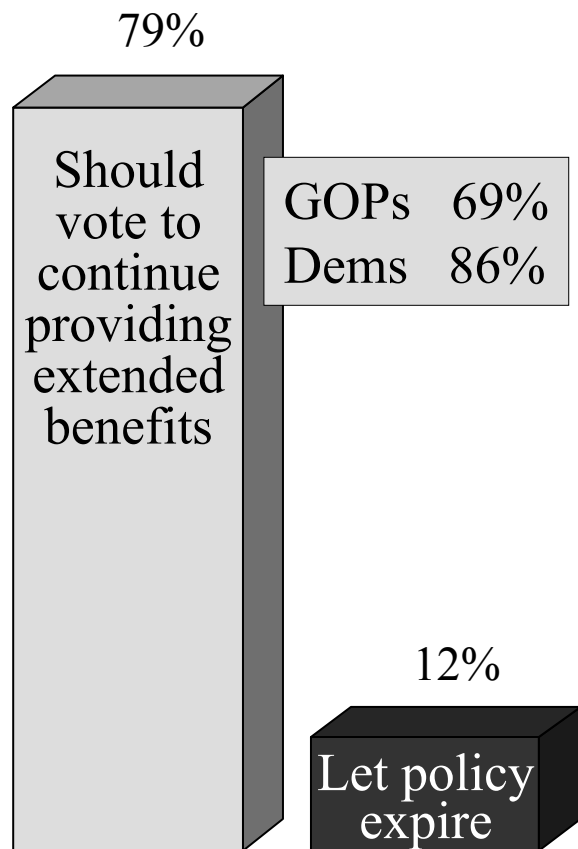
- ◆ 37% of unemployed adults currently receive benefits (23%) or received benefits in the past two years (14%).
- ◆ Just 19% of those under age 30 have received unemployment benefits.

# Unemployed Adults Whose Benefits Have Run Out Are An Important Group

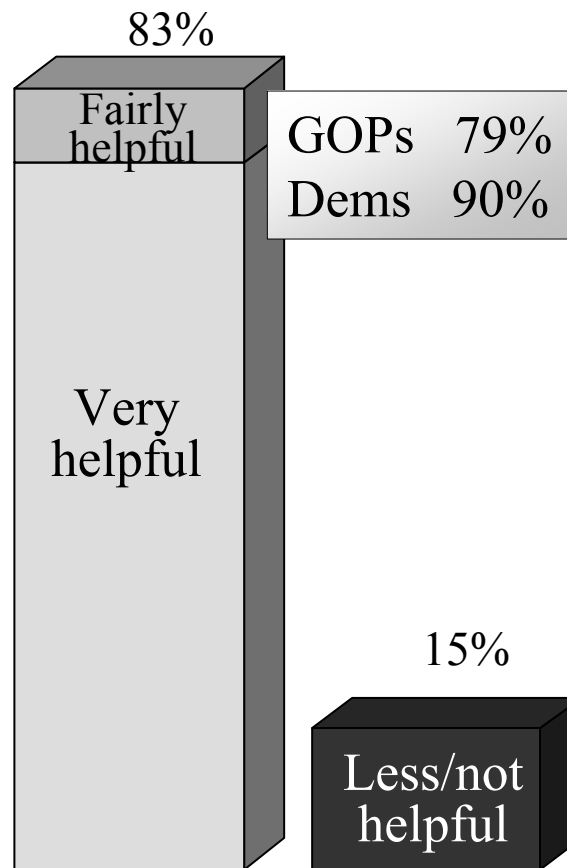
- ◆ 68% say that the ending of their unemployment benefits has had a major impact on their financial situation.
- ◆ 95% agree that if Congress were to increase benefits from 13 weeks to 26 weeks it would be very helpful to unemployed workers and their families.
- ◆ They are more concerned than others that they will have to accept a job that pays less than their last job (74%) or does not provide health benefits (64%).

# Extending Unemployment Benefits

Should Congress extend the policy of providing 13 weeks of federal benefits?



How helpful to the unemployed/their families would it be to increase benefits from 13 weeks to 26 weeks?



# Unemployment's Impact On The Family

## *In Their Own Words*

“It’s changed our lifestyle completely. We were feeling very good about retirement, and now a lot of the resources we were counting on are gone.” Woman, Ohio

“I’m the sole provider: there’s no money for rent, bills, or food. I have to rely on the government for help.” Man, Texas

“My car has been repossessed, the bank is threatening foreclosure on my house, and I am having a hard time being able to feed my child.” Woman, Georgia

“It has caused my blood pressure to go sky high, and there are some mornings when I can’t even get out of bed.” Man, Texas