

Peter D. Hart Research Associates

Unemployed In America

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

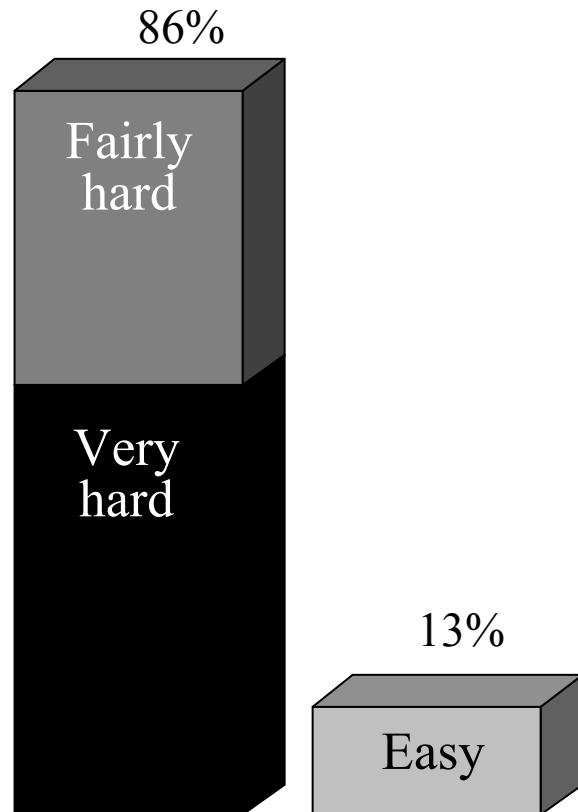
Survey among 413 unemployed adults
Conducted April 17 – 28, 2003

Commissioned by

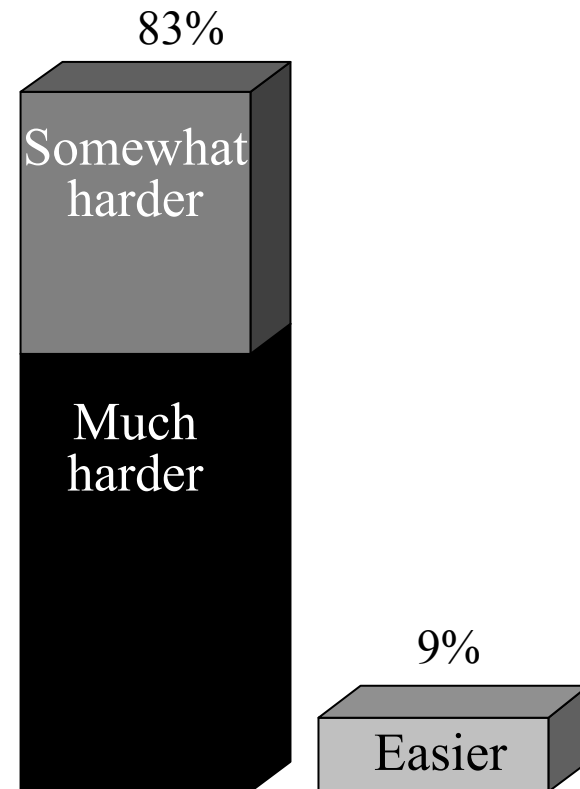


The Job Market Today

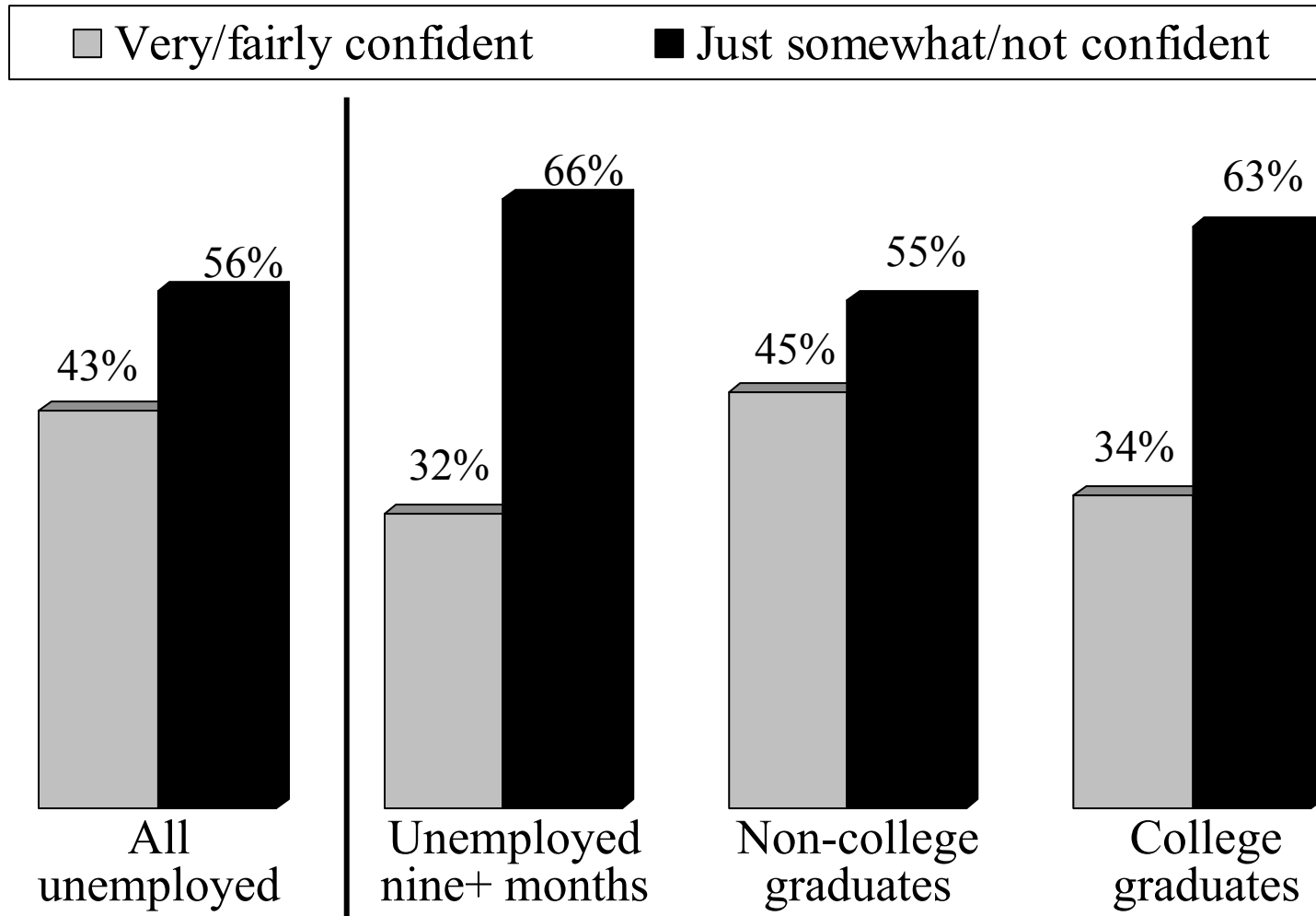
Finding an acceptable job in today's market



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

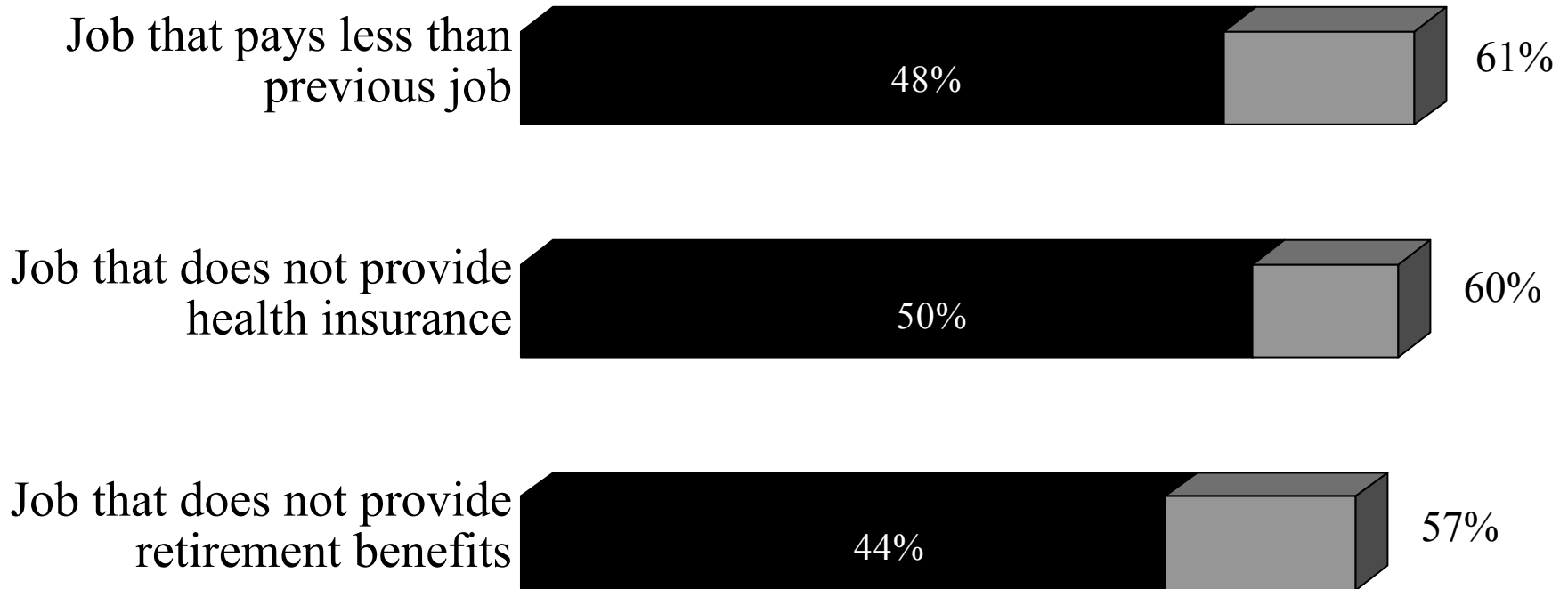


Confidence About Finding A Job In Next Three Months



Concern About Having To Accept Various Jobs

■ Very concerned ■ Fairly concerned



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

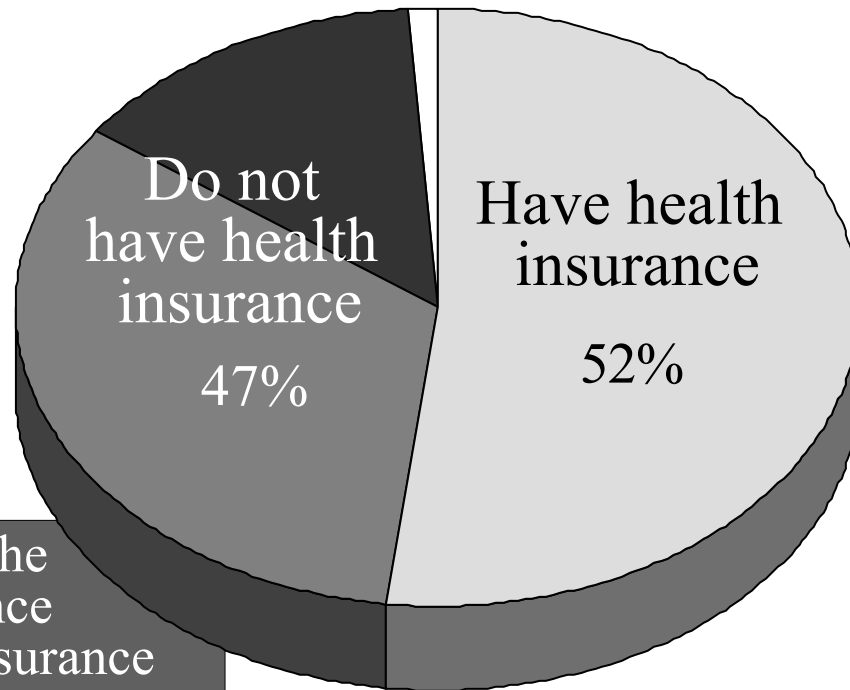


Unemployed adults have applied for an average of 29 jobs.

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

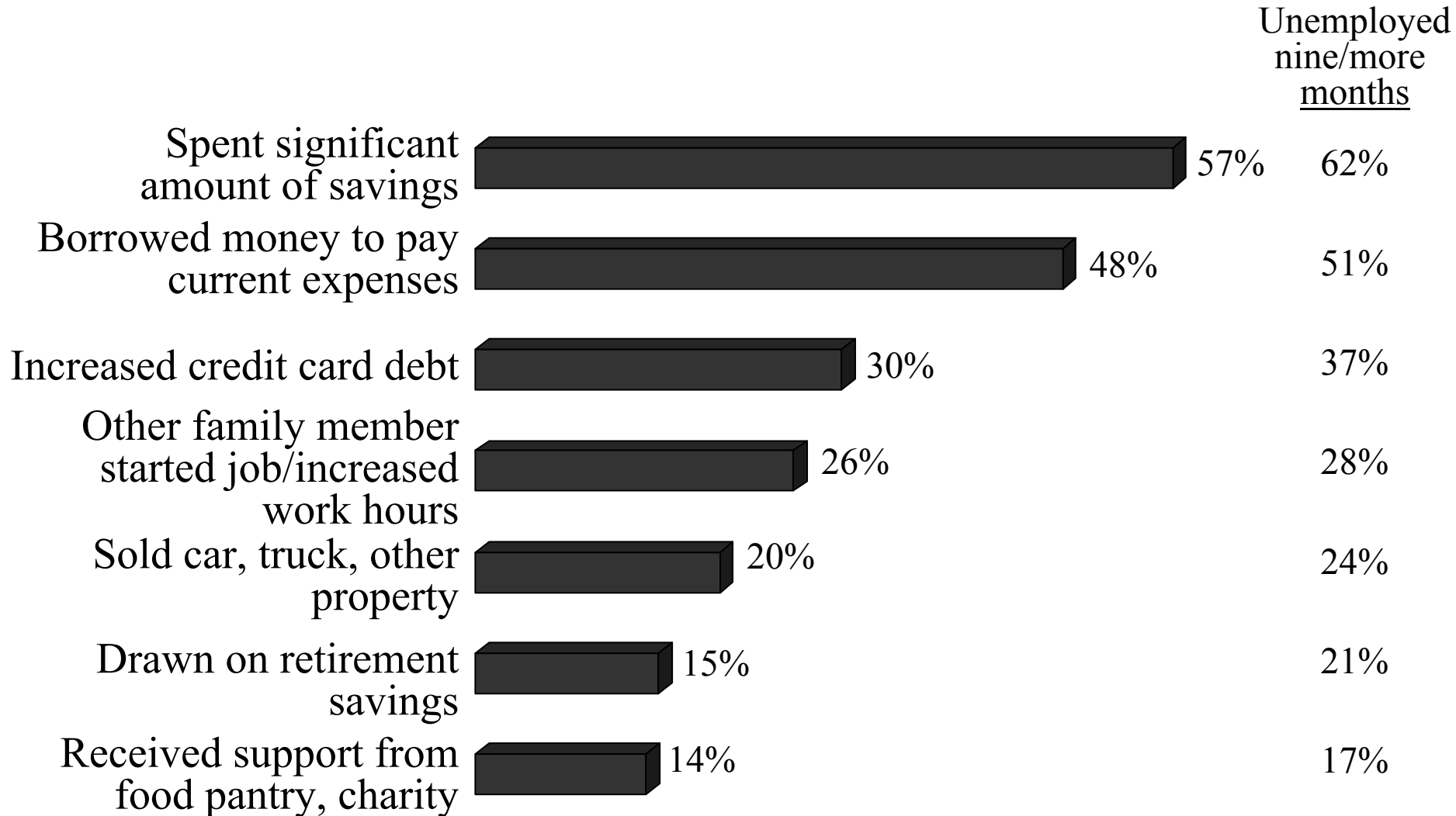


One-third (33%) of the unemployed were once covered by health insurance but lost these benefits as a result of their unemployment.

Unemployment's Impact On The Family

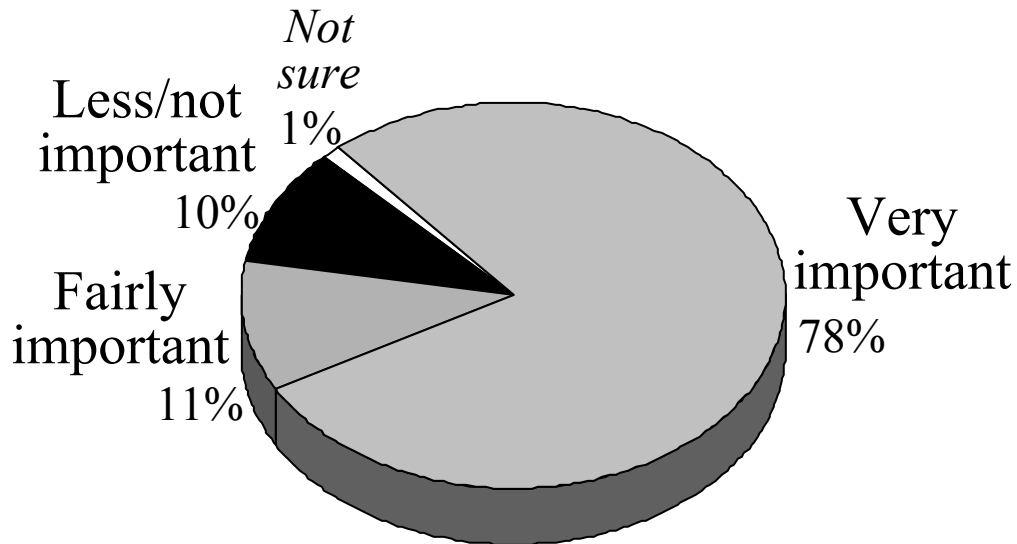
- ◆ More than three in four (77%) unemployed Americans say the level of stress in their family has increased.
- ◆ Two-thirds (65%) of those with children have cut back on spending for their children.
- ◆ 26% say another family member has had to start a job or increase work hours.
- ◆ 23% have had to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



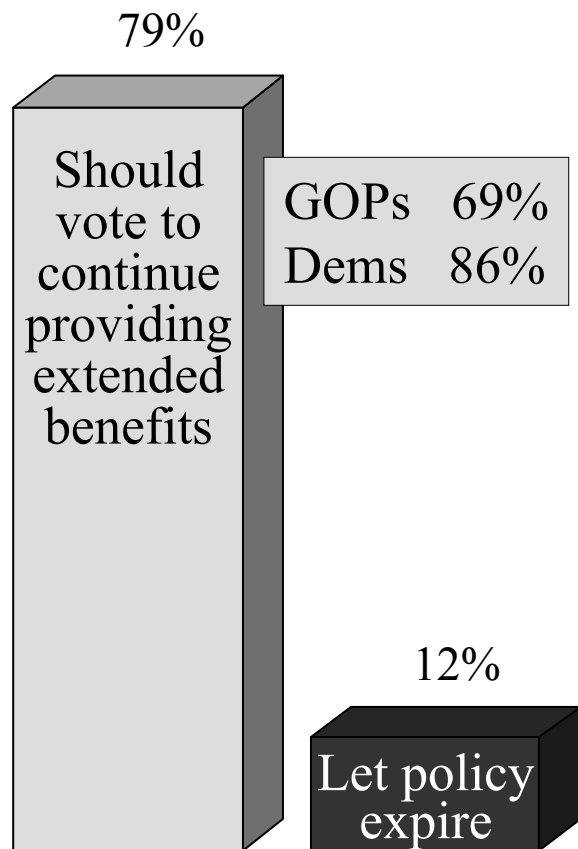
- ◆ 37% of unemployed adults currently receive benefits (23%) or received benefits in the past two years (14%).
- ◆ Just 19% of those under age 30 have received unemployment benefits.

Unemployed Adults Whose Benefits Have Run Out Are An Important Group

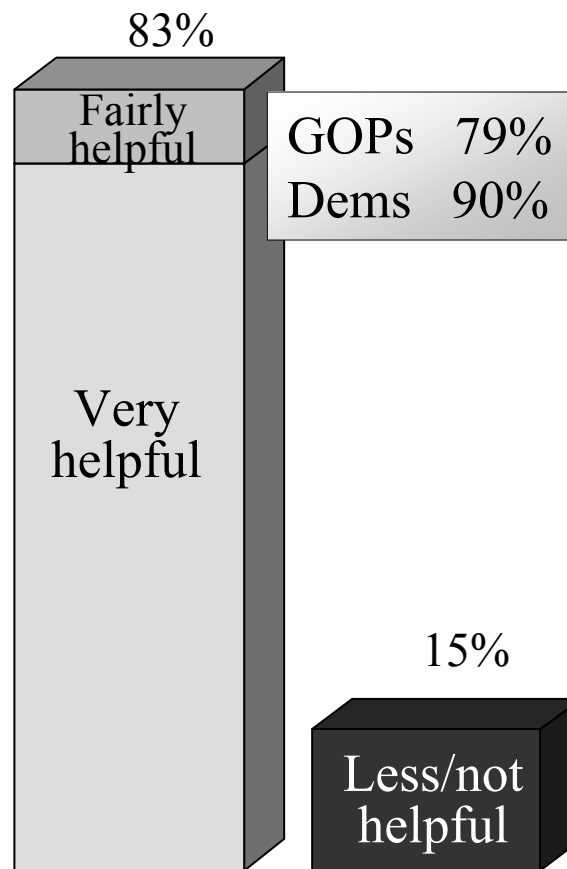
- ◆ 68% say that the ending of their unemployment benefits has had a major impact on their financial situation.
- ◆ 95% agree that if Congress were to increase benefits from 13 weeks to 26 weeks it would be very helpful to unemployed workers and their families.
- ◆ They are more concerned than others 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