

Peter D. Hart Research Associates

# Unemployed In America

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## A Look At Unemployed African Americans

Survey among 413 unemployed adults

Conducted April 17 – 28, 2003

Commissioned by

**NELP**

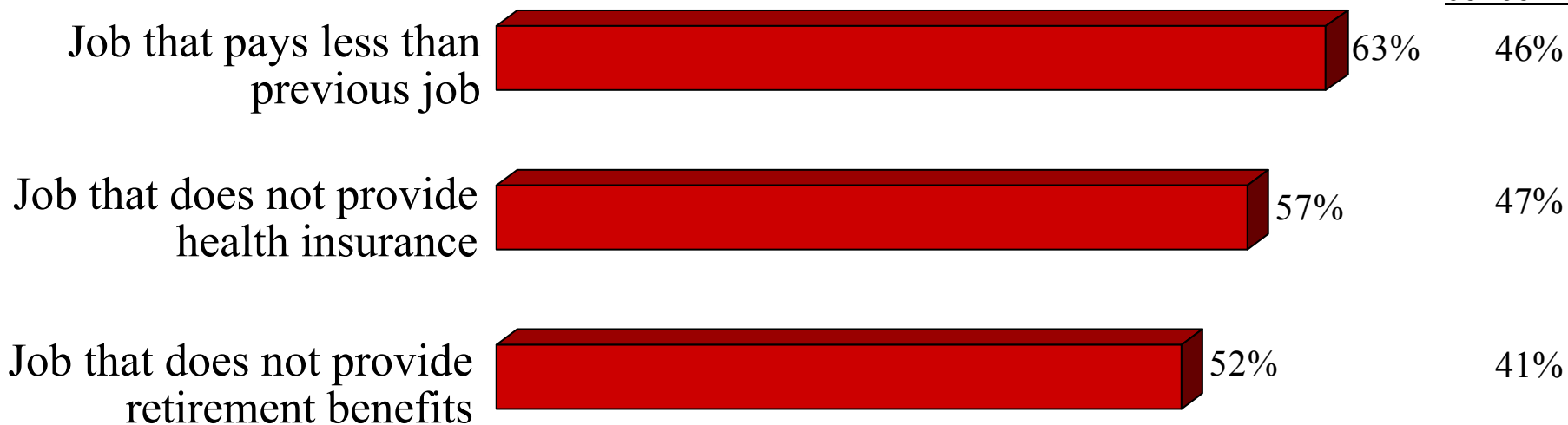
National Employment Law Project

# African Americans' Concern About Having To Accept Various Jobs

- ◆ 63% of unemployed African Americans are very concerned they may have to take a job that pays less than their previous job, compared with 46% of unemployed whites who fear this.
- ◆ 70% of unemployed African Americans are very or fairly concerned they may have to take a job that does not provide health insurance, compared with 56% of unemployed whites who say the same.

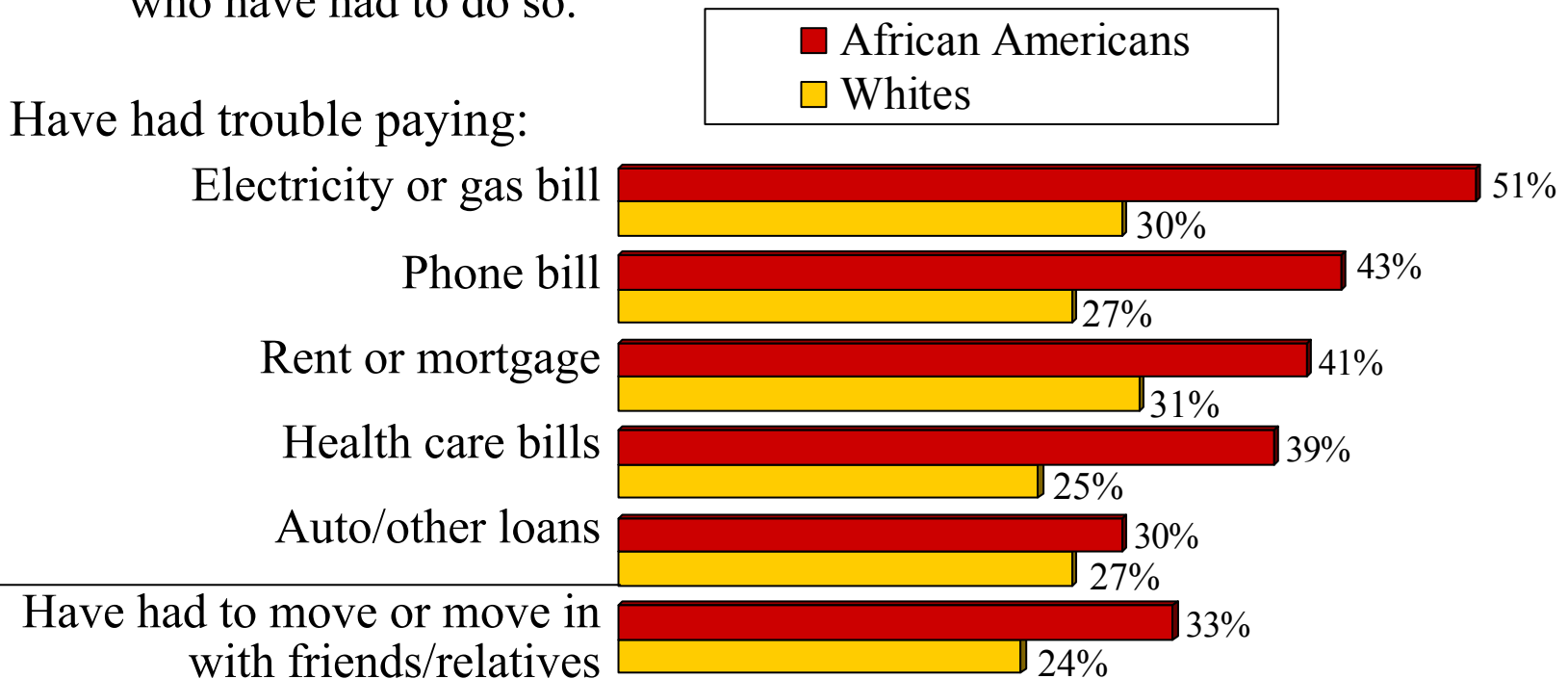
■ African Americans very concerned about having to accept this

Whites  
very  
concerned



# The Impact Of Unemployment

- ◆ 80% of unemployed African Americans report having had trouble paying bills, compared with 60% of whites who say the same. The biggest disparities emerge in gas/electric bills (*51% of African Americans, 30% of whites report having had trouble paying this*) and phone bills (*43% of African Americans, 27% of whites*).
- ◆ And 33% of unemployed African Americans have had to move or move in with friends or relatives, compared with 24% of unemployed whites who have had to do so.



# The Impact Of Unemployment

- ◆ Unemployed African Americans and whites are equally likely to report increased stress on their families, but for African Americans the stress is more likely to translate into material difficulties:
  - ◆ 61% of African Americans have cut back on spending for their children (*compared with 41% of whites*)
  - ◆ 29% of African Americans have interrupted their own/family member's education (*18% whites*)
  - ◆ 25% of African Americans have stopped paying for child care/elderly care (*6% whites*)

