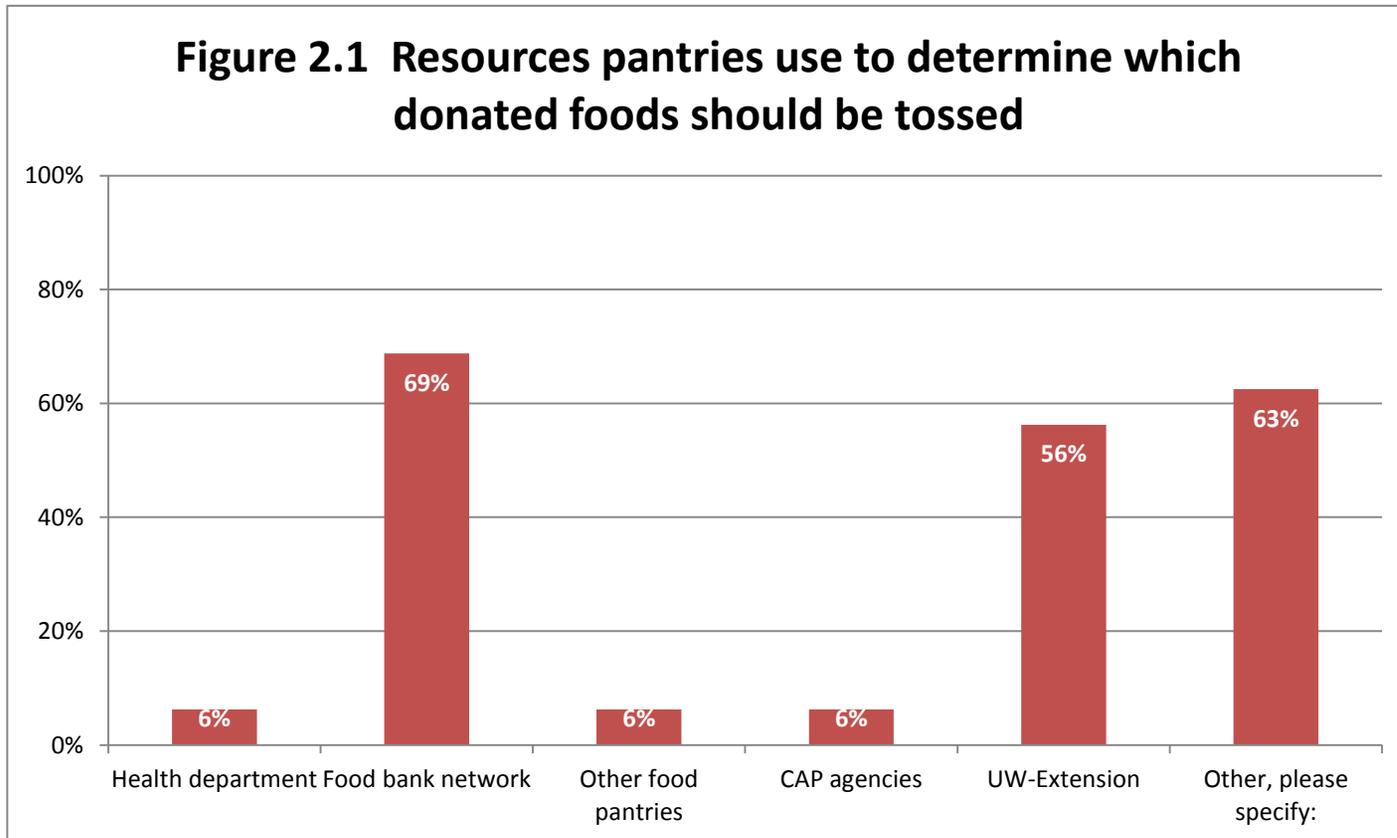


KEEP OR TOSS SURVEY FOR FOODS DONATED TO FOOD PANTRIES SUMMARY OF 2013 SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Question #1: On average, please provide an estimate of what percentage of all food donations are tossed/thrown away?

The AVERAGE percentage of all food donations that are tossed/thrown away:	7.4%
The HIGHEST percentage of donated food any pantry reported having to throw away:	25.0%
The SMALLEST percentage of donated food any pantry reported having to throw away:	1.0%

Survey Question #2: What resources have you used to determine which donated foods need to be tossed?



SURVEY RESULTS: Keep or Toss Survey for Foods Donated to Food Pantries (February 2013)

Figure 3.1 Percentage of Pantries Accepting the Following Foods and Percentage of That Food Category Likely to be Tossed

Survey Question #3: *Which of the following donated products are you able to accept?*

Of all donated products you are able to accept, which items are most likely to be thrown away or considered unusable?

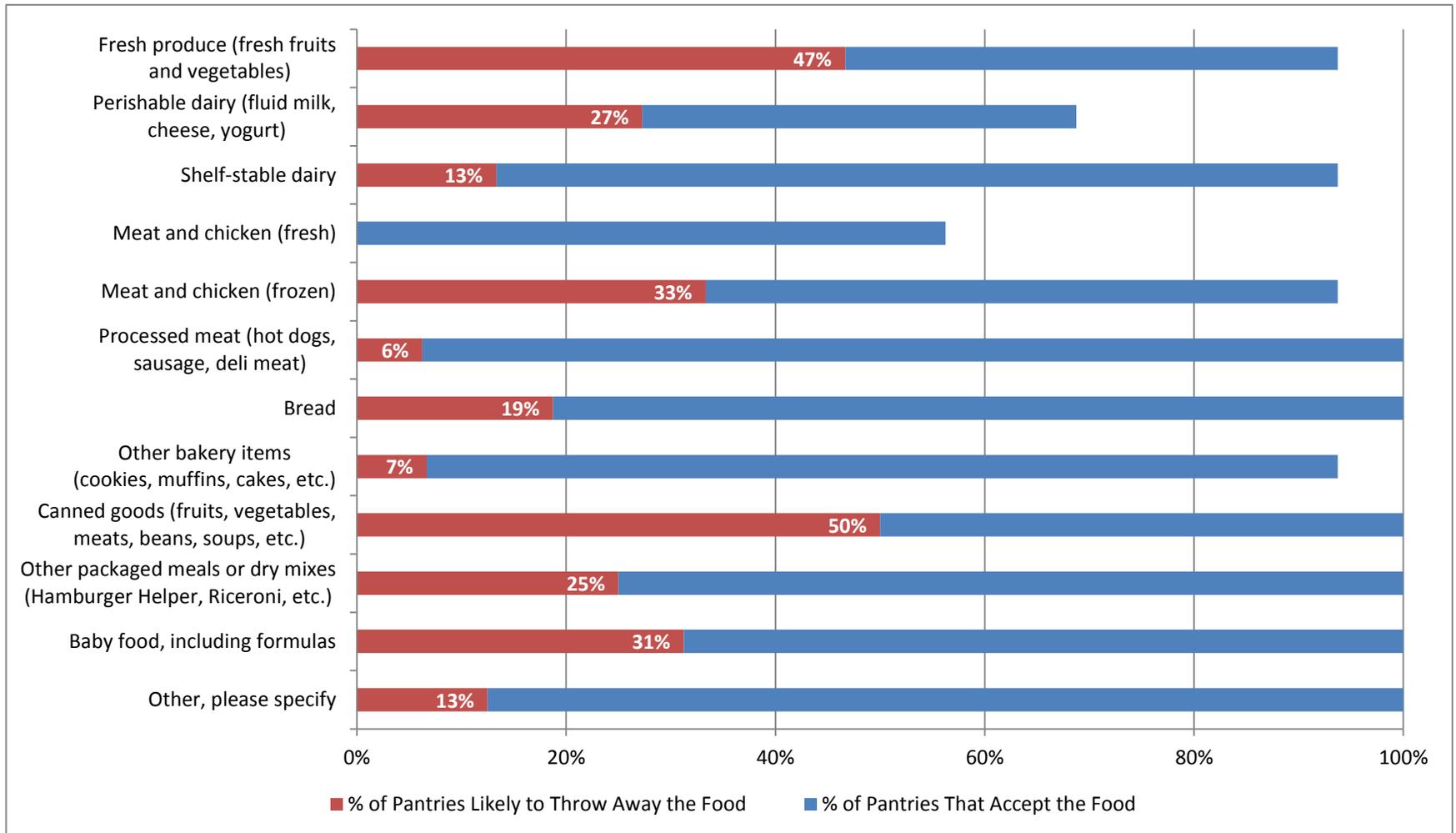
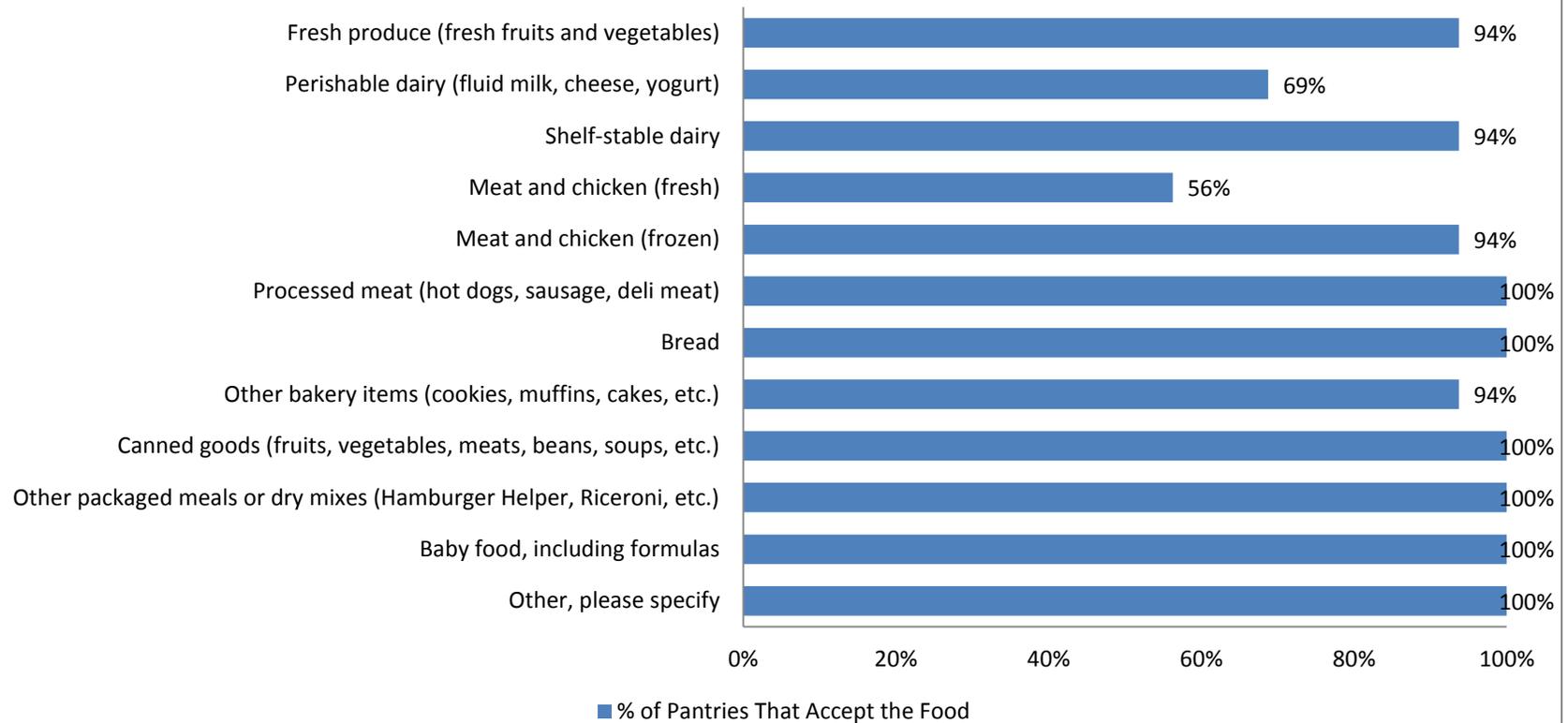
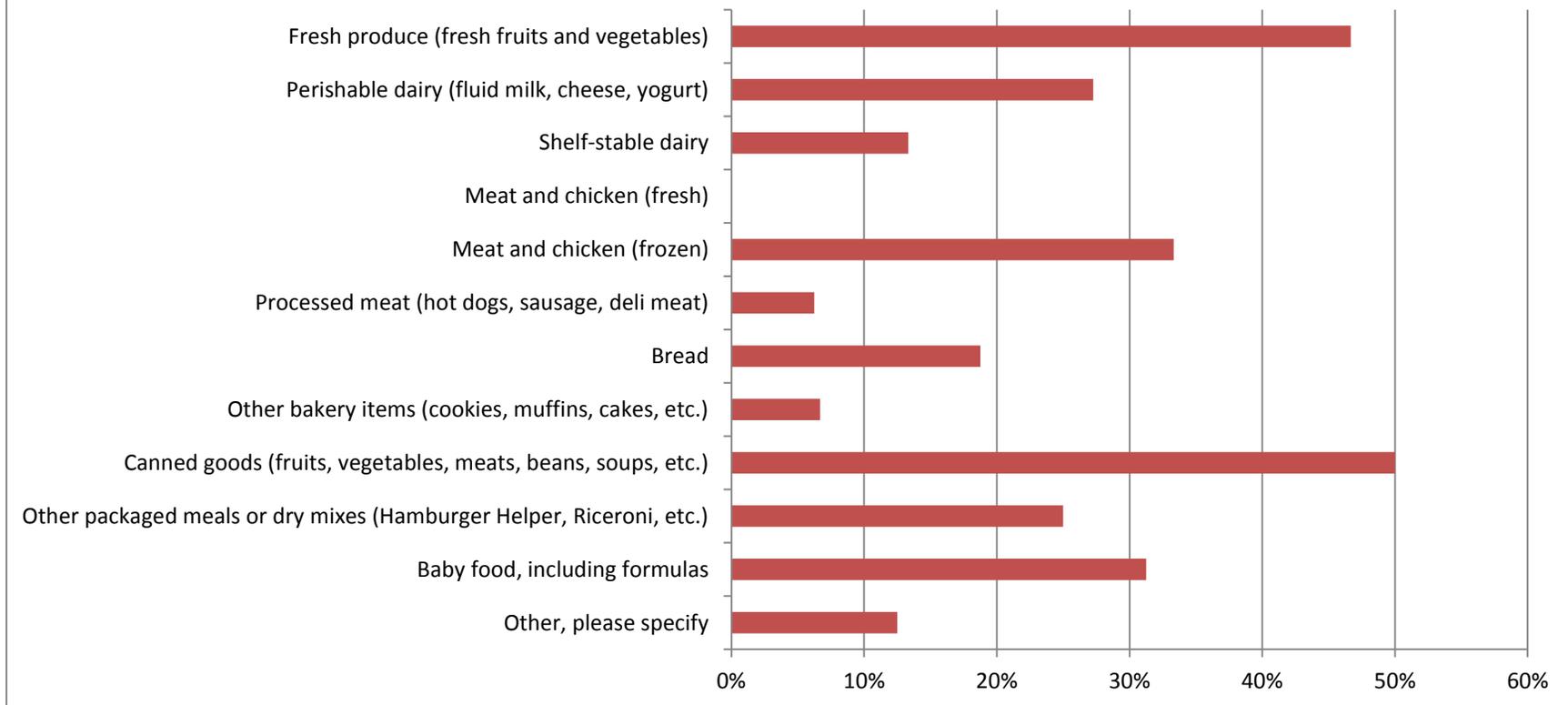


Figure 3.2 Percentage of Pantries That Accept Food of the Following Types



SURVEY RESULTS: Keep or Toss Survey for Foods Donated to Food Pantries (February 2013)

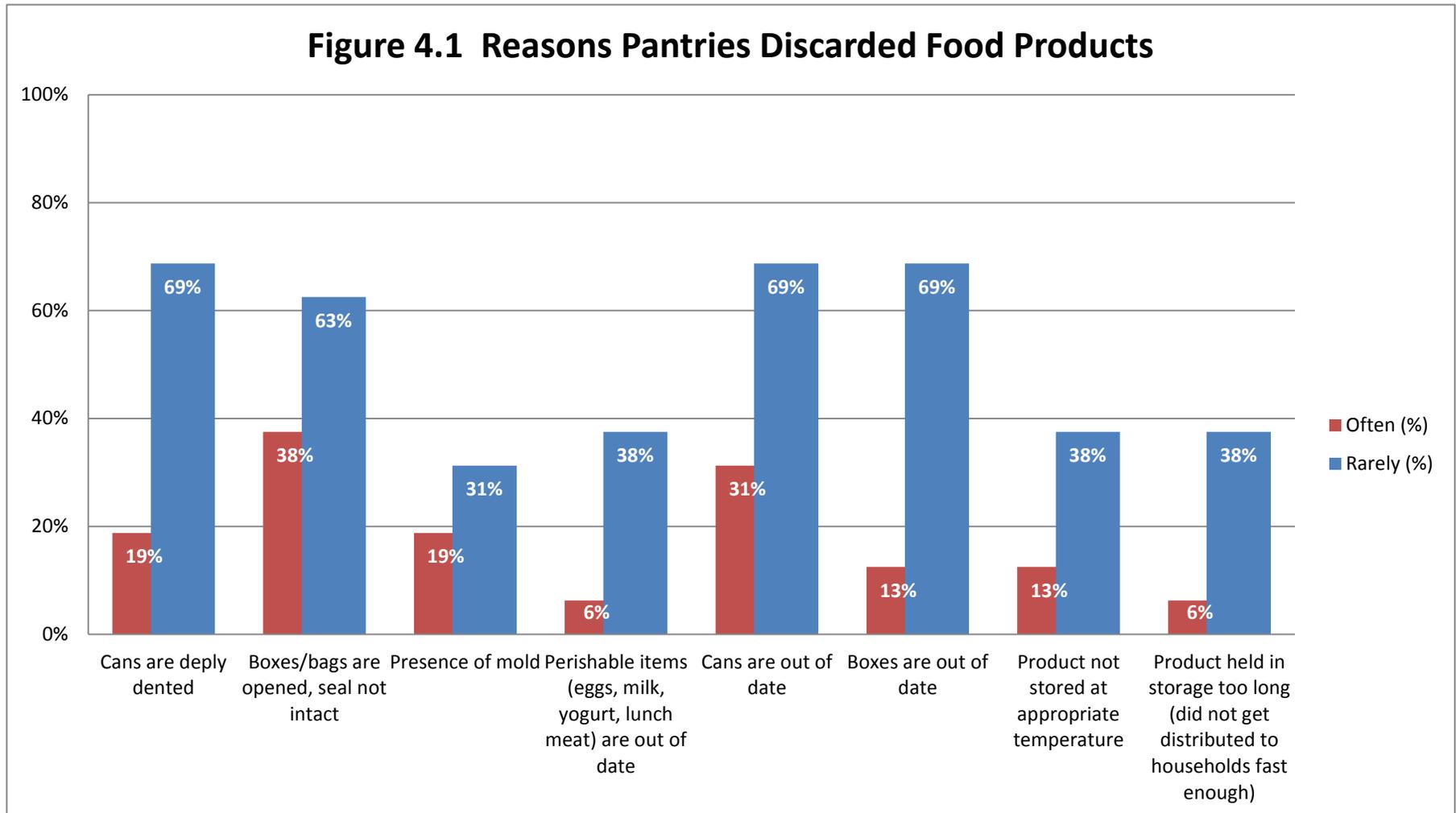
Figure 3.3 Percentage of Pantries Likely to Throw Away Food of the Following Types*



**Only pantries that accept the categories of foods listed above are included.*

SURVEY RESULTS: Keep or Toss Survey for Foods Donated to Food Pantries (February 2013)

Survey Question #4: Based on recent donations, how frequently did you throw away food due to the following conditions?



SURVEY RESULTS: Keep or Toss Survey for Foods Donated to Food Pantries (February 2013)

CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS

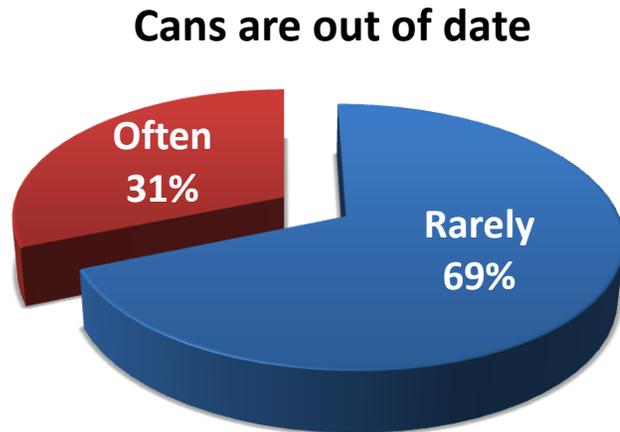
NON-PERISHABLE FOODS:

The donation of expired non-perishable (canned and boxed) foods is one of the top two reasons why pantries discard food products. Most of the expired non-perishable foods donated come from the Postal Drive, community food drives, and large donations made by individual households that occur due to deaths, moving to a new residence or "cleaning out the cupboards."

100% of pantries reported having to discard a portion of their canned food donations due to the food being expired or out-of-date.

Approximately one-third (31%) of food pantries reported that they often have to throw out canned food donations due to the food being expired.

	Often	Rarely	Never
Cans are out of date	31%	69%	0%
Boxes are out of date	13%	69%	19%
Perishable foods (eggs, milk, meat, etc.) are out of date	6%	38%	56%



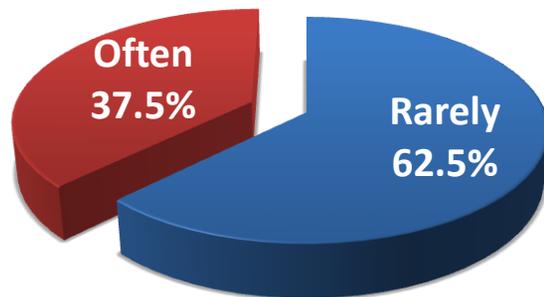
Comments From Food Pantry Coordinators:

- The only time we throw out items is with the Postal Drive.
- The 10-15% (of food tossed) may not sound like much over the whole year, but this is including all the items donated and bought that are brand new. When we get food drives from the "outside," that percentage may be as high as 30%.
- The donation of non-perishable expired foods is one of the most common reasons why The Giving Tree has to discard food. One recent donation had a 2004 expiration date. A lot of people clean their cupboards out and donate old canned foods they haven't used (without checking dates); it's important to check expiration dates on non-perishable foods before donating.
- When people (especially elderly people) stock up on non-perishable foods on sale, they need to check the expiration dates to ensure they are not coming up soon. When someone "cleans out their cupboards" due to moving, sometimes, almost 100% of the donations need to be thrown out due to expiration dates. With Postal Drive donations, about 33% of the canned foods donated are too far past the expiration date to distribute.
- The canned and boxed food that we discard is usually from either a large drive (i.e. Postal Collection), or someone cleaning out a home pantry (i.e. death).

SURVEY RESULTS: Keep or Toss Survey for Foods Donated to Food Pantries (February 2013)

NON-PERISHABLE FOODS – continued from page 6: The donation of opened products (products which did not have the seal intact) was the single most widespread reason (reported by the greatest number of pantry coordinators) why food pantries could not distribute products to clients; 37.5% of pantries reported that the donation of opened foods was a frequent problem, and another 62.5% cited the donation of opened containers and products as being one reason why their pantry has had to throw away food.

Boxes/bags are opened, seal not intact



Comments From Food Pantry Coordinators Regarding the Donation of Opened Foods:

- Open boxes or bags are received in food drives.
- The donation of opened products can be a problem. In the past, the 7th Day Adventist Food Pantry has received peanut butter and other products that have already been opened.

SURVEY RESULTS: Keep or Toss Survey for Foods Donated to Food Pantries (February 2013)

PERISHABLE FOODS:

A majority of the pantries responding accept and receive donations of perishable and fresh foods, including dairy products, meats, fresh fruits and vegetables and breads. Most of these perishable and fresh products are donated to the pantries through arrangements with local grocers, farmers, bakeries and other food producers. Perishable or fresh foods which would otherwise spoil due to pantries' limited storage or distribution capacities are donated to local schools or non-profits, such as homeless shelters, other food pantries, Marion House, etc. Among all types of perishable and fresh foods, pantries were the least likely to accept fresh meat and chicken (only 56% of pantries accept fresh meats) and perishable dairy (only 69% of pantries accept milk, yogurt, etc.).

Of all the perishable and fresh foods donated, pantries reported that fresh fruits and vegetables is the category of food that is the most likely to be tossed. Nearly half of all pantries (47%) identified fresh fruits and vegetables as a food that is likely to be thrown away or considered unusable. Several reasons were cited for this trend. Fresh fruits and vegetables are often tossed due to the quantities donated exceeding pantries' ability to provide the refrigerated storage space needed to preserve those fruits and vegetables for longer periods of time; although most pantries have the capacity to refrigerate or freeze items, priority is given to milk, meats and other perishables that are in higher demand. In addition, some pantries distribute food bi-weekly or monthly and are not able to keep the donated produce fresh long enough due to the time that elapses between donation and distribution. Another reason cited by pantries for having to toss out fresh produce was the quality of the donations received (bruised, overly ripe, etc.). A third reason was simply due to less demand for fresh produce among pantry clients than other products; however, one pantry reported that they have never had to throw out fresh vegetables when they receive seasonal donations from local farmers and garden owners (such as squash, pumpkins, etc.), because the fresh produce is high in demand among their clients.

The following food pantries participated in this survey:

7th Day Adventist Pantry
9th Street Christian Center
De Pere Christian Outreach
First Presbyterian Church
FUMC Good Will Place
Grace Lutheran Church
Manna for Life Ministries
Resurrection Lutheran Church
St. Bernard Catholic Church
St. John Lutheran Church
St. Mark Lutheran
St. Patrick Catholic Church
St. Willebrord Church
The Giving Tree
The Salvation Army
Trinity Lutheran Church

Total Food Pantries Responding: 16