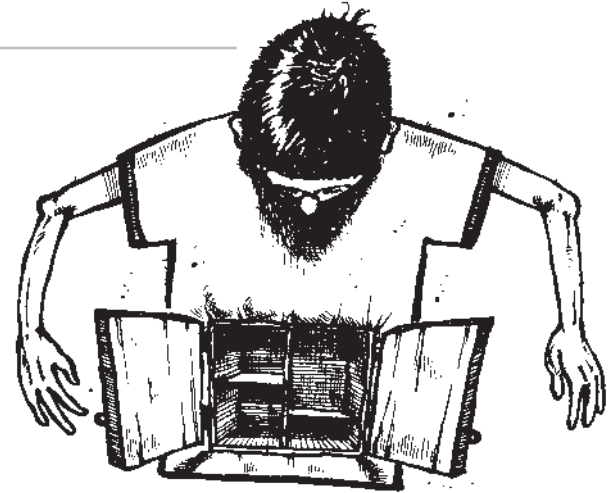


6.11 Bare Cupboards

THE DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture defines “food insecurity” as lack of consistent access to enough food to ensure active, healthy living. It estimates that about 11% of all households—and about 18% of all children—experienced food insecurity in 2003.

The number of families in major cities seeking assistance at food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters is going up. In one of the few efforts to monitor such trends, the U.S. Conference of Mayors surveyed 27 cities in December 2004. They found that requests for food assistance by families with children had increased by 13% over the previous year. They also found that, on average, 20% of all requests for emergency food assistance went unmet.

Proportions
of different
household
types
experiencing
food insecurity
in 2003



R. JAY MAGILL

