

Difference Between Hazard and Risk (Infographic)

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This infographic will help you understand the difference between hazard and risk, two terms that are often incorrectly used as synonyms. A hazard is something that has the potential to cause harm while risk is the likelihood of harm taking place, based on exposure to that hazard.

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HAZARD VS. RISK



HAZARD

is the potential to cause harm



when crossing a road, cars are a hazard

RISK

is the likelihood of harm taking place



when crossing a highway, the risk of an accident is high

when crossing a country road, the risk of an accident is low

HAZARD

in foods can be...



physical
for instance
pieces of bones
in fish products



biological
for instance
harmful bacteria,
viruses or parasites



chemical
for instance mercury
in fish or acrylamide
in starchy food

RISK

is determined by
the exposure...



how much

how long

how often

...to a hazard

Example: Salmonella in egg is a hazard



if eaten raw



the chance of exposure is high

the risk of food poisoning is high

correct food handling
for instance cooking
thoroughly kills Salmonella
bacteria



the chance of exposure is low

the risk of food poisoning is low