Hazard vs. 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.
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 based on exposure

- 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 without exposure, there is no risk

Example: *Salmonella* in egg is a hazard

- If eaten raw, *Salmonella* bacteria may be present
  - the likelihood of exposure is higher
  - the risk of illness is high
- Correct food handling for instance cooking thoroughly kills *Salmonella* bacteria
  - the likelihood of exposure is lower
  - the risk of illness is low