



Risk -y Facts

As of June 25, 2001
Compiled by HandsOn! Inc.

- Percentage change since the 1970s in the number of salmon in the Atlantic Ocean: - 90%
- Number of Parisians who break bones or are hospitalized each year after slipping on dog poop: 650
- Chance that a U.S. nuclear power plant's indoor waste-storage facility is full: 1 in 5
- Factor by which average air pollution levels inside a moving car on a Los Angeles highway exceed those outside the car: 10
- Average percentage change in East Coast air pollution between Mondays and Thursdays: +24%
- Percentage change in calories created by "supersizing" a cheeseburger, fries, and Coke at McDonald's: + 197%
- Percentage of Americans currently considered to be obese: 20%
- Percentage of all Americans under age 19 considered to be overweight or obese: 25%
- Number of confirmed deaths caused by doctored Halloween candy given to children by strangers: 0
- Number of confirmed deaths caused by doctored Halloween candy given to children by their relatives: 1
- Percentage of turkeys tested by the Agriculture Department in 1996 and 1997 that were infected by *campylobacteria*: 90%
- Rank of *campylobacteria* among the most common bacterial causes of diarrheal illness in the U.S.: 1
- Percentage change since 1996 in the number of American adults using the Internet to obtain health-care information: +218%

- Number of U.S. children treated for sledding injuries in 1998: 46,067
- Ratio of the number of Americans killed in traffic accidents in 1998 to the number killed by medical errors: 1 to 1
- Hours during which Rio de Janeiro drivers may legally run red lights in order to avoid being carjacked: 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.
- Minimum number of new bacteria species discovered in 1999 to exist in the human mouth: 37
- Percentage change in the number of U.S. beach closures or pollution advisories between 1997 and 1998: +74%
- Chance that a contestant who has appeared on ABC's *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* has won a million dollars: 1 in 67
- Estimated number of years it will take to remove the 600,000 active landmines in Bosnia-Herzegovina: 30
- Cost to produce Safeguard, the only U.S. ground-based long-range missile shield ever deployed: \$23,500,000,000
- Number of days in the 1970s that the system was operational before it was abandoned as inadequate: 135 (or \$174,074,074.07 per day)
- Percentage of newborns in India who would qualify for intensive care if they were born in California: 30%
- Chance that a 15-year-old African boy will die of AIDS: 1 in 2
- Estimated number of U.S. coastal homes whose plots will be obliterated by erosion by the year 2060: 1 in 4
- Percentage of Americans killed by faulty auto parts in the 1990s who were killed by Firestone tires: 0.1%
- Average annual number of traffic accidents in Iowa caused by low visibility due to corn stalks: 65
- Number of people killed by captive elephants in the United States since 1983: 17
- Number of Russians electrocuted in 1999 while trying to steal power lines and cable: 544
- Percentage change in per capita U.S. sugar consumption since 1982: + 28%



- Percentage change since 1990 in the number of adult Americans with diabetes: + 33%
- Chance that a U.S. teenage boy has clogged coronary arteries: 1 in 31
- Number of planes crashed by the Wright brothers before their first successful flight on December 17, 1903: 1
- Ratio of the number of glaciers in Montana's Glacier National Park in 1950 to the number in 2000: 4 to 1
- Number of known asteroids whose size and orbital trajectories render them "potentially hazardous" to Earth: 258
- Number of U.S. sheep and elk that tested positive for a variant of mad cow disease in 1999: 60
- Factor by which pregnancy makes a woman more attractive to malaria-carrying mosquitoes: 2
- Chance that an American who visited an emergency room for a shuffleboard injury in 1999 was a senior citizen: 1 in 2
- Percentage change in the maximum size of the ozone hole between 1999 and 2000: + 17%
- Year in which the maker of genetically engineered StarLink corn promised the EPA it would be fed only to animals: 1998
- Estimated percentage of the U.S. corn supply now contaminated with it: 20%
- Maximum number of people who may legally congregate outdoors in Burma without government authorization: 5
- Annual number of U.S. elementary school students who play *The Stock Market Game*, a 10-week trading simulation: 200,000
- Amount of play money the children are given to invest: \$100,000
- Average number of cows destroyed each day in Britain in 2000, in an effort to eliminate mad cow disease: 2,274
- Number of years America's public libraries could be funded with the amount Americans spend in one year on legalized gambling: 75



- Percentage of Washington children who completed an 8-year anti-smoking program in the 1990s who now smoke regularly: 25.4%
- Percentage of children in the program's non-participating control group who now smoke: 25.7%
- Chance that a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, has been in a car that has hit a moose: 1 in 10
- Ratio of the number of obese people to the number of underfed people in the world: 1 to 1
- Percentage of U.S. nuclear power plants operating in 1996 that have since broken federal safety regulations: 92%
- Chance that an American's *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infection is resistant to penicillin: 1 in 4
- Number of tries it took a blind North Dakota man to pass a shooting test in fall 2000 before receiving a gun permit: 2
- Average percentage by which a Wall Street analyst's high-tech-earnings forecast in early 1999 was incorrect: 44%
- Average percentage by which an amateur stock website's forecast was incorrect: 21%
- Chance that a page in the middle-school textbook *Science Insights* contains a serious factual error: 1 in 10
- Number of politically motivated murders in Barrancabermeja, Columbia, in 2000, per 100,000 residents: 270
- Number of murders, for any reason, in New York City in the same year, per 100,000 residents: 9
- Minimum number of accidental releases of chemicals or oil leading to deaths or injuries at U.S. work sites in 2000: 230
- Ratio of the amount of insecticides used in the United States in 1945 to the amount used in 2000: 1 to 10
- Estimated percentage change of U.S. pre-harvest crops lost to insects between 1945 and 2000: + 6%
- Average number of food-poisoning incidents in the United States each day: 208,000
- Number of deaths per 100 million passenger miles traveled on airplanes: 0.8



- Number of deaths per 100 million vehicle miles driven: 1.71
- Percentage of bicycle accident fatalities caused by head injuries: 75%
- Percentage of all traffic fatalities which involved an intoxicated or alcohol-impaired driver or nonmotorist: 40%
- Chance, over the course of an average life span, of dying from flesh-eating bacteria: 1 in 1 million
- Chance, over the course of an average life span, of dying from pesticide poisoning: 1 in 200,000
- Chance, over the course of an average life span, of dying from cancer from eating a peanut butter sandwich each day: 1 in 5,000
- Chance, over the course of an average life span, of dying from a home accident: 1 in 130
- Chance, over the course of an average life span, of dying from disease caused by smoking one cigarette a day: 1 in 100
- Chance, over the course of an average life span, of dying from disease caused by heavy alcohol consumption: 1 in 100
- Chance, over the course of an average life span, of dying from disease caused by smoking a pack of cigarettes a day: 1 in 6
- Number of days lost from an average life expectancy due to being 20% overweight: 900
- Number of days lost from an average life expectancy due to radiation emitted by nuclear power plants: 0.02
- Chance that an older white woman in the United States will be a victim of violent crime: 1 in 370
- Chance that a black teenage male in the United States will be a victim of violent crime: 1 in 6
- Chance of acquiring an illness in a hospital that you didn't have when you got there: 1 in 20
- Estimated number of deaths that occur each year from hospital-acquired infections: 100,000

