

2007 Expert Elicitation on Risk of Illness from Processed Meat and Poultry Products

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Expert Elicitation

“Expert judgment is frequently needed to organize qualitative information or mixtures of qualitative and quantitative information into a framework for making decisions.”

Eliciting and Analyzing Expert Judgment: A Practical Guide, Meyer and Booker (2001)

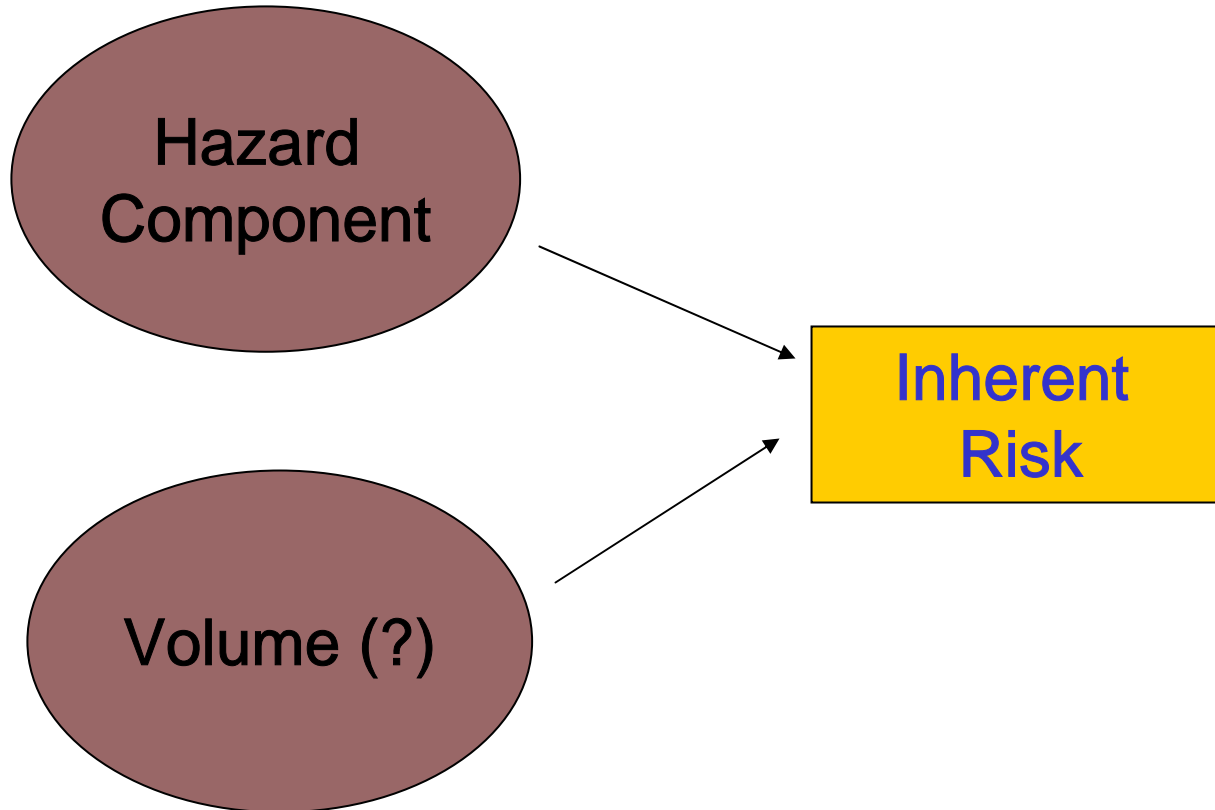
What the Expert Elicitation Provides for RBI: The Hazard Component

The expert elicitation provides a relative value for the risk of illness per serving of each category of processed meat and poultry product, i.e. the *Hazard Component* of Risk-Based Inspection (RBI).

Inherent Risk

The *Hazard Component*, and possibly a factor representing production volume, provide an individual measure of *Inherent Risk* for all of the processed products produced at each official establishment

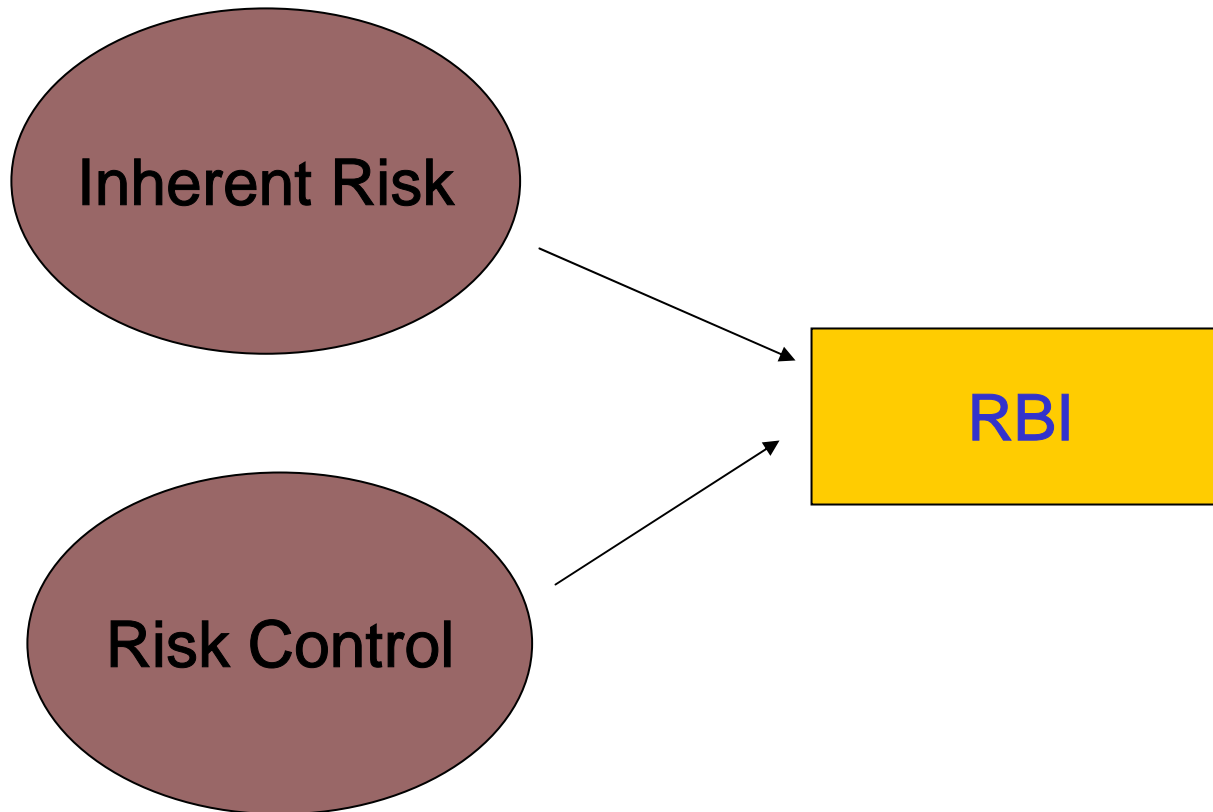
Inherent Risk



Inherent Risk and Risk Control

An RBI “score” for each official establishment is determined using the *Inherent Risk* value and a measure of *Risk Control*, i.e. a relative value representing how well an establishment controls food safety risks.

Inherent Risk and Risk Control



Development of Expert Elicitation Instruments and Methods

- In developing RBI, FSIS has conducted three expert elicitations -- in 2001, 2005 and 2007.
- Experience from each elicitation has led to improvements in the elicitation design and methods.
- There is significant agreement between the 2007 and 2005 elicitation results.

Peer Review

- **FSIS also had the 2007 expert elicitation instruments and instructions peer-reviewed under the OMB Information Quality Act Guidelines.**
- **The reviewers' comments and the Agency's responses, including changes to the instruments, will be available publicly soon.**

Stakeholder Comment

The 2007 Expert Elicitation also incorporated changes suggested by stakeholders at the October 2006 Risk-Based Inspection Public Workshop and at subsequent public meetings, as well as changes suggested by the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection.

Changes to the 2007 Instrument

- Specifically recruited experts in three categories: public health, academia and industry
- Included a risk ranking for vulnerable consumers
- Established an upper bound for rankings
- Included an instrument that elicits attribution estimates
- Collected “confidence ratings” for each expert estimate
- Added thermally-processed, commercially sterile (typically canned) products

Future Use of the Expert Elicitation

- The elicitation results regarding healthy adults can be used in the RBI algorithm immediately
- The Agency is studying the elicitation results regarding vulnerable consumers and attribution and welcomes comment on their use in RBI