Public perceptions of the risks of deliberate contamination of the food supply in the United States

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Article begins on next page
The threat of agricultural terrorism has increasingly become a focus of interest for government agencies, scholars, and the media. The increased media coverage of terrorist attacks and the recent federal congressional focus on the subject have heightened awareness of the possibility of such an event. In the United States, many are concerned about the potential vulnerability of the food supply to terrorist attack.

The purpose of this study was to investigate public perceptions of the risks of deliberate contamination of the food supply. The study was conducted in three phases. The first phase involved a telephone survey of the general public to determine the extent of public awareness about the issue and the degree of public concern. The second phase involved a survey of food industry workers to assess their perceptions of the risks associated with food terrorism and their preparedness to address those risks. The third phase involved a series of interviews with experts in the field to explore the implications of the findings and to develop recommendations for public policy.

In summary, the results of this study suggest that the public is highly concerned about the possibility of deliberate contamination of the food supply, and that there is a need for increased public education and awareness about the issue. In addition, the study highlights the importance of coordinated efforts among government agencies, the food industry, and other stakeholders to address the risks associated with food terrorism. Further research is needed to better understand the public's perceptions of the risks associated with food terrorism and to develop effective strategies for preventing and responding to such events.