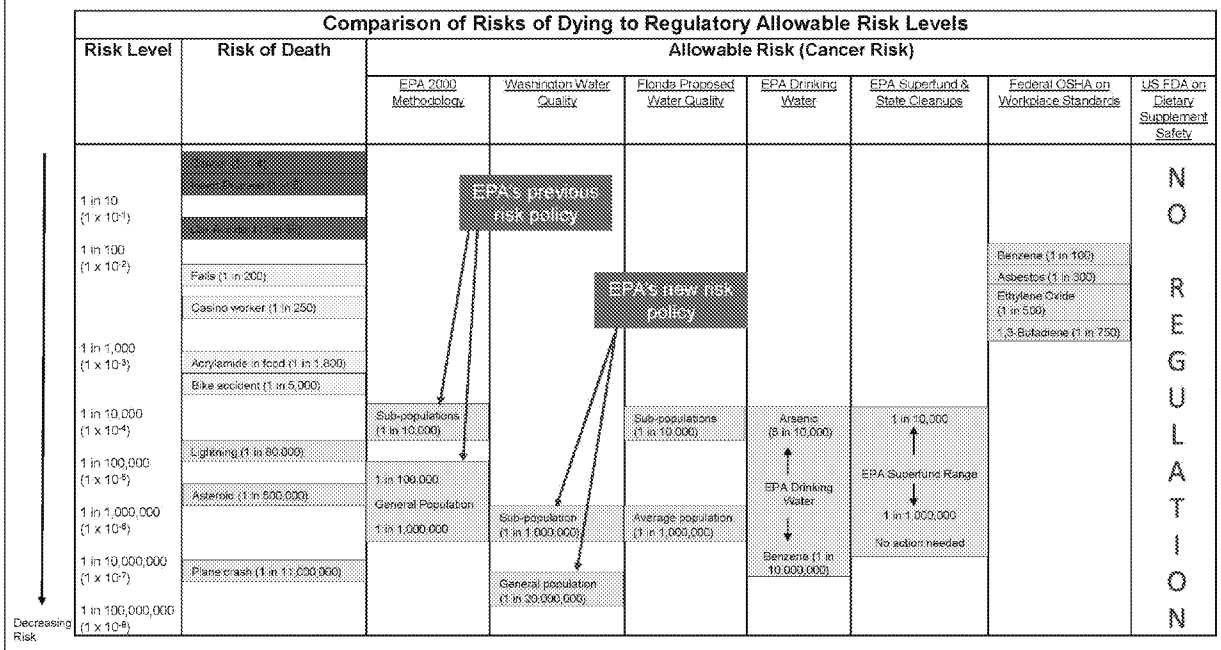
Risk Comparison



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Compounded Conservatism

Everyone has all of the following characteristics:

Parameter	National Default Value	Proposal for Washington	Proposal for Maine (Indian Lands)
Weighs…	80kg (176 lbs)	Same	Same
Every Day for 70 Years Drinks Water From the Same Location That is…	•2.4 L/day (2.5 quarts): •Unfiltered and Untreated *and* •From Surface Water (lakes, streams, etc.) *and* •Contaminated at the HHWQC Level	Same	Same
AND Every Day for 70 Years Consumes Fish From the Same Location That Is …	•22 g/day (.8 oz): •From Local Waters, Grocery Stores, Aquaculture, Foreign Countries (excluding marine) *and* •From Waters Contaminated at the HHWQC Level *and* •Fish are Contaminated with Pollutants from the Water to the Maximum Extent Possible	Same Except 175 (.39 lbs)	Same Except 286 (.63 lbs) (a rate unsuppressed by availability or safety concerns)

Policy Issues

Impact of EPA Choosing 10^{-6} v. 10^{-5} v. 10^{-4} Excess Lifetime Cancer Risk Level

"10^{-6} means the "risk of developing cancer…would be one in a million *on top of the background risk* of developing cancer from all other exposures." (emphasis added)*

If Everyone has ALL of the Equation Characteristics:

Background Risk of Developing Cancer	Theoretical Risk with 10^{-4}	Theoretical Risk with 10^{-5}	Theoretical Risk with 10^{-6}
4 in 10, or .40000	.4001	.40001	.400001

* EPA Proposed Criteria for Maine, 81 *Fed. Reg.* 23243 (4/20/16)

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