



Pesticide Risk Assessment Process

To register a pesticide for use in the United States, the manufacturer must conduct numerous scientific studies (approximately 150) according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) requirements. The data and intended uses of the pesticide are sent to the agency for review to determine if the pesticide is safe for human health and the environment before it can be registered for the uses requested. Below are the steps the scientists at EPA take to perform robust and effective human health and environmental risk assessments.



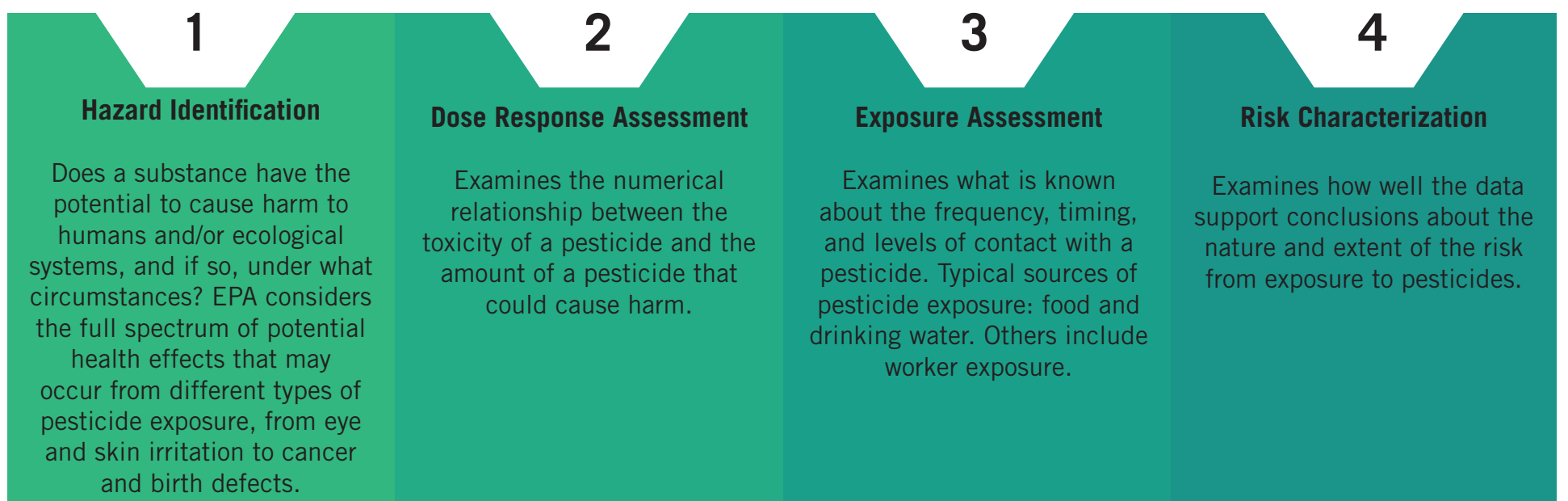
Scientists at EPA perform **risk assessments** by reviewing all the data submitted by a manufacturer to determine the relationship between harmful effects of a pesticide and potential exposure to a pesticide.



Based on the risk assessment, if the pesticide has a high likelihood of unreasonable harm, or lacks reasonable certainty of no harm from consumption of food containing pesticide residues, EPA **manages risk** by taking action, such as: requiring additional testing, requiring that the pesticide be applied only by specially-trained people, or deciding not to allow its use. **Decisions on risk reduction measures are based on a consideration of both pesticide risks and benefits of the pesticide.**

Human Health Risk Assessment Process

The process to estimate the nature and probability of adverse health effects in humans who may be exposed to chemicals in contaminated environmental media (air, land, and water) or through food, now or in the future. EPA relies on these four steps to assess risk.



Ecological Risk Assessment Process

The process to determine what risks are posed by a pesticide and whether alterations to the use or proposed use are necessary to protect the environment.

