CHAPTER 5: PESTICIDE EXPOSURE AND RISK

- Risk = potential to cause harm
- Toxicity = measure of ability to cause harm
- Exposure = when you get pesticide in or on body

RISK = TOXICITY x EXPOSURE

Can’t change the toxicity of a pesticide but you can limit risk.

Dose vs. concentration
Routes of Entry

- **Dermal** – through skin (most common route)
  - forehead, eardrums, scalp and groin absorb more rapidly than rest of body
  - oil-based formulations are absorbed more readily
- **Eyes** – extremely absorbent
- **Inhalation** – breathe in particles (second-most common route)
  - dry formulations, fumigants greatest risk
- **Oral** – ingestion
  - major absorption site = small intestine
  - splashing or drifting; hands not washed before eating/smoking