



People tend to estimate general risks to be larger than personal ones

It is important to distinguish between personal and general risk perception since it seems that people tend to estimate general risks to be larger than personal ones (Oltedal et al., 2004). According to the research results of McKenna (1993), the vast majority of people rate the probability to experience negative events to be less compared to the average person (unrealistic optimism); on the opposite side there is unrealistic pessimism which is more likely to appear in people that already experienced accidents or other kinds of negative events (but see Oltedal et al., 2004, p. 13; see also Dolinski, Gromski, & Zawizsa, 1987).

Note: See source document for full reference.

Applicable to:

Stakeholders: [Worldviews](#), [Individual/collective memory](#)

Disaster Phases: [Prevention](#)

Types of Actors Concerned: [Non-active citizens](#)

Hazards: [Natural hazards](#), [Man-made non-intentional hazards or emergency situations](#), [Man-made intentional hazards](#)

Recommendations:

- [Develop risk assessments methodologies, which consider cultural factors, the manner in which people cognitively process information and which employ a gender perspective](#)

Source

[Deliverable D4.2 "Report on 'risk cultures' in the context of disasters" \(page 22\)](#)

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