

THE  
**PEW**  
CHARITABLE TRUSTS

# What is root cause analysis & why is it worth it?

**Carol A. Conroy**  
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# Why is RCA a priority for Pew?

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**Foundation of a prevention-based  
food safety system**

# Why is RCA a priority for Pew?

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Not always done; results ineffectively shared

Improvements require collaborative approach

Alignment among FDA, CDC, FSIS, state & local; industry

## The goal of RCA: Prevent contamination event recurrence

Root causes	RCA focus	RCA approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Causal influences<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Caused event, or</li><li>• Increased impact</li></ul></li><li>• Controllable<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manageable</li><li>• Within control</li></ul></li><li>• Usually 1+ RC</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn from past</li><li>• <i>Why</i> system failed<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Events</li><li>• Interactions</li><li>• Root causes</li></ul></li><li>• Prevent repeat</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Systems-based</li><li>• Systematic</li><li>• Comprehensive<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Physical factors</li><li>• Human factors</li><li>• Organization</li></ul></li></ul>

# Pew's RCA initiative

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## Research

- Other models
  - e.g., transportation, nuclear energy, consumer products, chemical safety, recreational diving
- RCA recommendations guide

## Convenings

- RCA value; obstacles; definitions
- Communicating RCA findings
- RCA recommendations and practices

## Outreach

- Conference presentations (InFORM, IAFP)
- Publication in *Food Protection Trends*
- RCA guide for food operations

# RCA guide for food operations

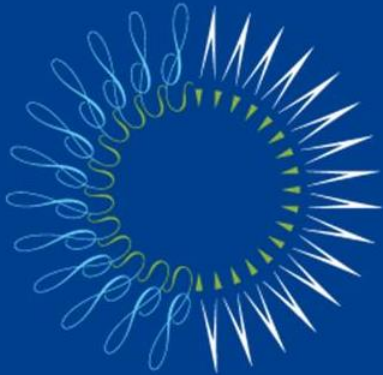
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What is RCA?

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graph TD; A[What is RCA?] --> B[How do you conduct RCA?]; B --> C[How do you make use of and communicate findings?];
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How do you conduct RCA?

How do you make use of and communicate findings?



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**Thank you!**

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