

Creating Consumer Content

Reflections on HINTS Data

Elissa Schuler-Adair, PhD Manager, Health Care Research





Creating Consumer Content

By the end of this presentation:

You'll know a bit about CRHealth...

who we are

what we do (and how we do it)

what we plan to do in future

our hopes for HINTS





About Consumers Union

- Consumers Union, non-profit publisher of Consumer Reports, has a 70+ year history of providing consumers the expert, unbiased information they need to make informed decisions.
- 650 employees including physicians, scientists, engineers, statisticians, social scientists, market analysts plus. 126 of these are reporters, editors, etc.
- We house more than 50 state-of-the-art testing labs and own a 327-acre auto test facility.
- National Office: Yonkers, NY with auto testing in CT
- Offices in D.C., Austin, San Francisco



Product Testing

- CU engineers and technical staff develop scientific evaluations that mirror the customer experience to test products (electronics, appliances, cars)
- CU employs mystery shoppers who anonymously buy products we test
- CU uses trained sensory panels to test foods and products such as audio where subjective judgments are also critical



About Our Reach

- Over 7% of all US adults read/view CR/CRO regularly (i.e. at least one out of every four issues) (source: Simmons & NetRatings)
- CR/CRO reach approximately 17% of the US adult population every six months
- CR: almost 4.5 million subscribers
- CR on Health Newsletter: over 600,000
- CR on Health.org: estimated at 70,000

Media: Magazines, Newsletters, Special Publications, Internet, TV

Source: Simmons & Nielsen/NetRatings



How CU Adds Value to Content

Experience presenting and developing ratings that are useful and understandable to consumers

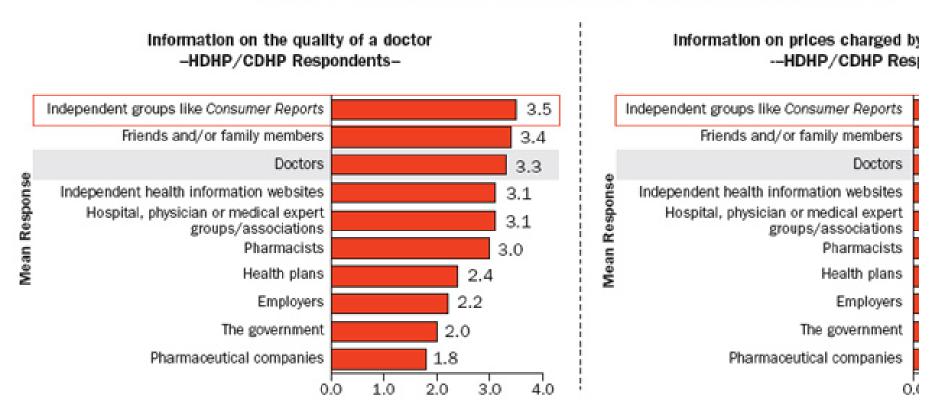
Informed, invested consumers who are early adopters of health care quality information

Consumer Reports brand lends credibility – we are independent and trusted





Degree of Consumer Trust in Health Information Sources (on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 means "do not trust at all" and 5 means "trust completely")



Source: Booz Allen Hamilton Consumer Survey 2006

Recent Booz Allen Study reported:

Consumers trust independent groups like *Consumer Reports* above other health information sites.



CR Health Ratings Center

The Health Ratings Center was created to provide unbiased analyses and ratings to help consumers make informed health-care decisions.

We hold high standards for those we work with, how we deal with conflicts of interest, how we use data objectively, and we hold ourselves accountable for decisions we make.

Our experts are entirely independent of industry, so we can uniquely analyze information while focusing solely on the consumer - continuing the long and valuable tradition that Consumer Reports stands for.

The Center provides comparisons of health services, drugs, consumer health care experiences, medical devices and other home medical supplies.



Health Care Surveys

- How the "real-world works"
- How people chose and change treatments
- Not clinical trials
- Longer time-frame
- Large samples
- Also panel studies (conditions and professionals) and nationally representative samples
- No corporate sponsorship



Annual Questionnaire

- One of the largest US surveys outside the Census (1.1M responses in 2008)
- Huge sample size

Rate 80+ health plans
Alternate medicine: 34,000
respondents

Limitation: not nationally representative





What are topics of interest?

- Top conditions researched in the past 30 days:
 - High blood pressure
 - Back pain
 - Depression
- Top health topics researched in the past 30 days:
 - Prescription drugs
 - Medical treatments or procedures
 - Exercise/fitness

Source: CRNRC Health Segmentation Study October 2008
Top conditions/topics looked for or read about online – 4082 adults 18 and older

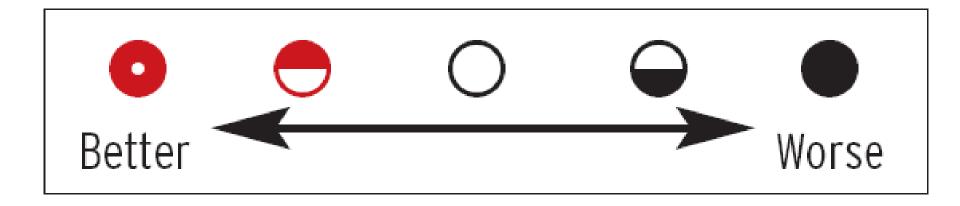


Popular health articles among subscribers

- Toothpaste: Whitening claims
- Cereals: Cheaper brands match big names
- 10 tips for a healthy heart
- How to lower your health risk at any age
- Start the year right: Multivitamins
- Get better care from your doctor
- Staph infections: Protect yourself
- What to watch with popular medicines
- Seeing red: Spoiled meat may look fresh



Ratings and Blobs

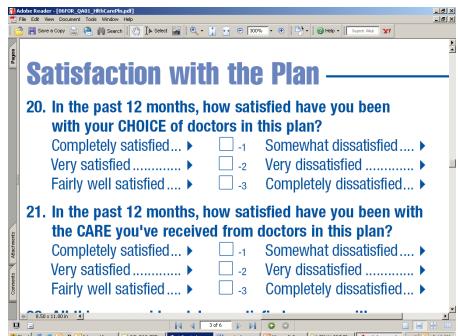




Example of a Ratings Question

All things considered, how satisfied are you with your current [health care] plan?

- Completely satisfied
- Very satisfied
- Fairly well satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Completely dissatisfied



Generally combine completely and very as "highly"



Ratinghealth plans



In order of reader score.

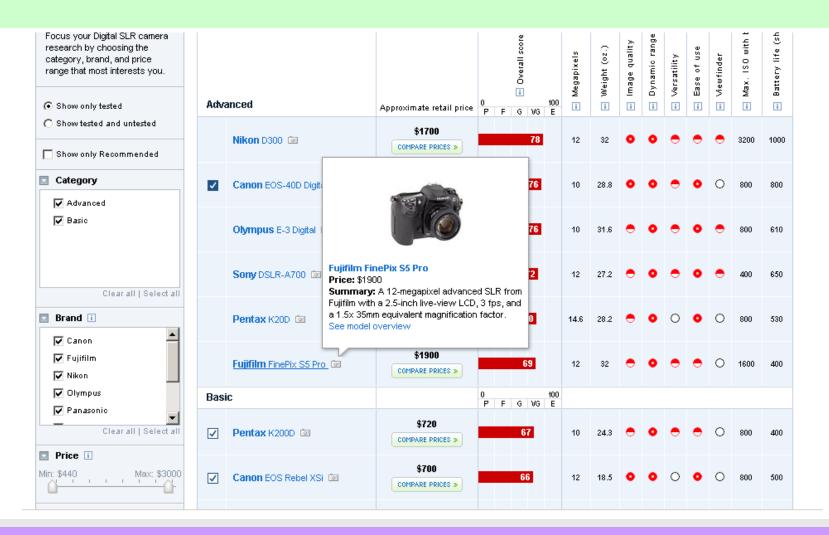
Plan name	Reader score	Survey results								
	0 100	Choice of doctors	Care from doctors	Access to doctors	Primary-care doctors	Billing	% with problems getting access to care	% who want to switch plans		

HMOs

	_							
Tufts Health Plan (MA, NH, RI)	85	lacksquare	lacksquare	0	0	lacksquare	4	14
Kaiser Permanente Northwest (OR, WA)	84	0	0	\bigcirc	lacksquare	0	9	11
Independent Health (Western NY)	84	•	0	0	0	0	5	15
Kaiser Permanente Northern California	83	0	0	0	0	0	8	10
Capital District Physicians' Health Plan (NY, VT)	83	•	0	0	lacksquare	0	4	14

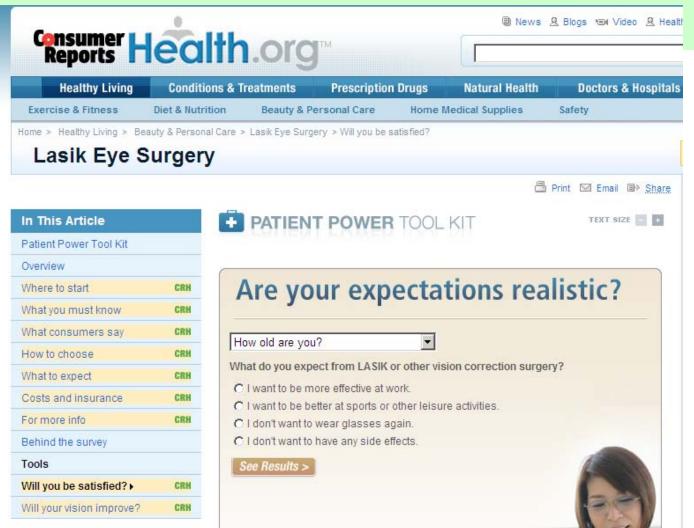


Tailored Content for End Users





Tailored Content for End Users





Where We Are Headed

Composite ratings of specific attributes:

- Prevention
- Comparative Effectiveness BBD
- Intensity/Utilization Dartmouth
- Composite Safety/Medical Errors
- Patient Experience (from surveys)
- Provider Experience (from surveys)
- Clinical Outcomes
- Disparities



HINTS for Consumers

- Provider partnerships (actions for consumers)
- Diagnostic testing process (preparing consumers)
- Distinguishing the useful from the use-less (comparative effectiveness, media literacy)
- Risk perception and Risk worry (Fear 2 that promotes effective action)
- Measuring movement toward evidence-based consumer decision making
- Exploring presentation formats (scorecards, cognitive testing)



schuel@consumer.org

