2024 Consumer Health Check

External Products Team | September 2024



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<u>O1</u>Background: Summary, Objectives,& Methodology



Executive Summary

- What this is: Our second annual sitewide test of major patterns and pages, in Spanish and English, on desktop and mobile.
- **Approach**: Build on top-task work, focus on long-term elements.
- Results:
 - Patterns with no usability issues: Submit a Complaint, Expandables (English), Site Search (English), Mega Menu (English), Filterable List (English), Breadcrumbs, Navigate this Section (English), and Find a Housing Counselor (English).
 - Patterns with usability issues: Site Search (Spanish), Menu (Spanish),
 Content-Heavy Tables, Navigate this Section (Spanish), and "Explore" Links.
- Spanish: More task failures than English, as with last year.



How we got here

- This project evolved from Top Task Testing (2017-2022)
- **Original goal:** Validate usability, information architecture, interaction and graphic design decisions made as part of the redesign effort [launched in 2016]. In particular, we will be focused in the following areas: 1. Functionality 2. Accessibility 3. Comprehension.
- Original tests: Unmoderated tests covering patterns, high traffic pages, and new content
- **Testing issues:** Limited mobile and non-English testing, muddy scope
- Rebranded in 2023 as Health Check Testing (2023 report)



Overview

Strategy:

- Test how basic functionality that is used most frequently on the site (patterns and top pages) is working
- Focus on top user needs, not just business needs

Goals:

Annually test mobile, desktop, English and Spanish

Partners:

 Align with Design Thinking and User Research team and Design & Content Platforms for pattern ideas



Methodology

- Unmoderated tests recruited and completed on UserZoom
 - English:
 - 9 desktop, 9 mobile (~20 minutes each)
 - 10 tasks, same for desktop and mobile (research plan)
 - Spanish:
 - 9 desktop, 8 mobile (~20 minutes each)
 - 7 tasks, same for desktop and mobile (research plan)
 - Vendor provided translations of tasks and used an unmoderated UserZoom study to provide a live, simultaneous interpretation of participant recordings (translation setup in UserZoom)
- Metrics: Task success, time-on-task (raw Excel data and charts)



Recruitment Criteria

English:

No recruitment criteria

Spanish:

- Speaks mostly Spanish at home
- Often uses Spanish-language websites
- Can read and write in Spanish without the use of a translator



<u>O2</u>Tasks, Findings, &Recommendations



English

Submit a complaint

Task 1: Where would you go to report your [bank] issue to this organization?

Findings: Similar to last year, no issues on desktop or mobile.

Observations: Most participants clicked "Start a complaint" in the homepage hero. Most participants explored the mega menu first (Enforcement, Compliance, Consumer Education) or scrolled the entire homepage before clicking a link.

Success criteria: Clicks a Submit a Complaint link on the homepage.

Desktop

Pass: 9/9 | Pass with difficulty: 1/9 | Fail: None

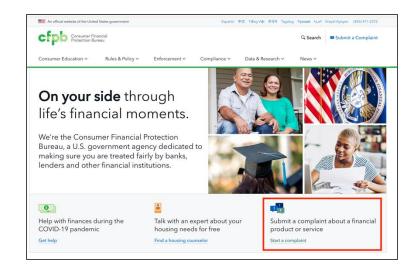
Time-on-task: 2:07

Mobile

Pass: 9/9 | Fail: None

Time-on-task: 1:06

Recommendations: None.



6					
	h financ	es during th	ne COVID-	19 pande	emic
Get help					
ě					
Talk with	an expe	ert about yo	our housing	g needs t	for free
ind a ho	using cou	ınselor			
		aint about a	ı financial p	oroduct c	or service
Start a co	mplaint				
		-			

Spanish

Submit a complaint

Task 1: Where would you go to report your [bank] issue to this organization?

Findings: Similar to last year, no issues on desktop or mobile.

Observations: Similar to last year, most desktop participants immediately clicked the Submit a Complaint link in the top menu and most mobile participants immediately started scrolling and then clicked the Submit a Complaint link in the body of the homepage. Those that failed mentioned they would click it without action.



Sidenote: The links opened the "Learn how to submit a complaint" page, which itself was confusing. Similar to last year, it wasn't clear how to submit a complaint or if it would be in English or Spanish.

Success criteria: Clicks a Submit a Complaint link on the homepage.

Desktop

Pass: 6/9 | N/A: 1/9 | Fail: 2/9

Time-on-task: 2:13

Mobile

Pass: 8/8 | Fail: None

Time-on-task: 3:11

Recommendations: None, but consider testing the "Learn how to submit a complaint" page.



English only

Expandables

Task 2: Without leaving this page, determine if this organization accepts reports about checking account issues.

Findings: No issues on desktop or mobile.

Observations: This is the first health check on expandables without the "show/hide" text label, which was removed last year. One user searched the page itself instead of using the expandable and was unsuccessful.

Success criteria: Opens a relevant expandable on the Submit a Complaint page.

Desktop

Pass: 8/9 | Fail: 1/9
Time-on-task: 00:56

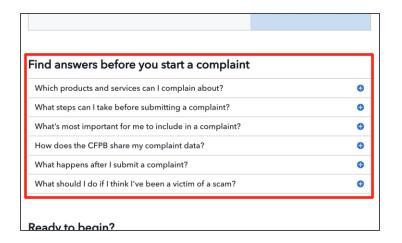
Mobile

Pass: 9/9 | Fail: None

Time-on-task: 00:35

Recommendations: None







English

Site search

Task 3: Imagine someone recently stole your identity. Use the search field on this page to find advice on how to handle identity theft.

Findings: Nearly all participants used site search.

Observations: The one participant that did not use search still arrived at a relevant page by clicking "see all money topics."

Success criteria: Uses the site search field on the homepage.

Desktop

Pass: 8/9 | Fail: 1/9

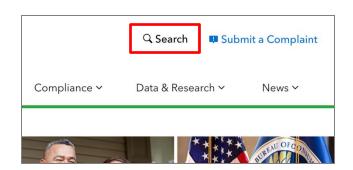
Time-on-task: 1:29

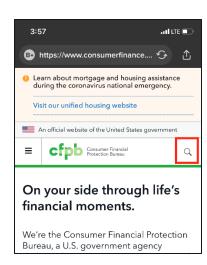
Mobile

Pass: 9/9 | Pass with difficulty: 1/9 | Fail: None

Time-on-task: 00:57

Recommendations: None





Spanish

Site search

Task 2: Imagine someone recently stole your identity. Use the search field on this page to find advice on how to handle identity theft.

Findings: Some participants didn't use site search and instead used the menu to find the information.

Observations: Similar to last year, most participants immediately clicked the search field/icon without scrolling the homepage and participants who struggled with this task clicked or considered clicking one of menu links. Those who failed didn't use or make any comments about site search.

Success criteria: Uses the site search field on the homepage.

Desktop

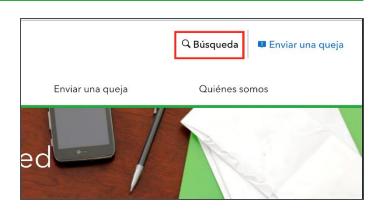
Pass: 6/9 | Fail: 3/9Time-on-task: 1:55

Mobile

Pass: 7/8 | Fail: 1/8

Time-on-task: 1:17

Recommendations: Consider running a moderated test to better understand why people don't use site search.





English

Mega menu

Task 4: Where would you go to find the latest announcements from this organization?

Findings: No issues on desktop or mobile.

Observations: Many mobile participants scrolled the homepage first looking for news content before going to the mega menu. One participant scrolled to the bottom of the page and clicked "Events" instead of opening the News section.

Success criteria: Opens the News section in the mega menu.

Desktop

Pass: 9/9 | Fail: None

Time-on-task: 1:25

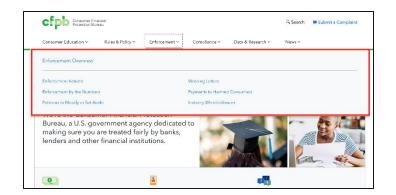
Mobile

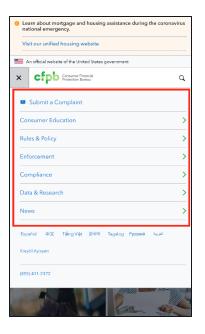
Pass: 8/9 | Fail: 1/9

Time-on-task: 00:55

Recommendations: None.







Spanish

Menu

Task 3: Where would you go to find the latest announcements from this organization?

Findings: Most participants easily found the menu at the top but some used search and struggled to find recent posts.

Observations: All passing participants went straight to the top menu and clicked About Us and scrolled to see the latest blog posts.

Success criteria: Clicks "About Us" in the top menu or the footer, sees latest blog posts.

Desktop

Pass: 6/9 | Fail: 3/9

Time-on-task: 1:42

Mobile

Pass: 6/8 | N/A: 1/8 | Fail: 1/8

Time-on-task: 1:21

Recommendations: Make a News

tab similar to the English version.









English only

Filterable list

Task 5: Find and open a Spanish-language blog post about older Americans and identity theft posted in January 2024.

Findings: The filter was easily discoverable, an improvement from last year. Using the Keywords field can prevent relevant results from appearing.

Observations: Most participants used the filter without issue.

Success criteria: Uses the filter to find a relevant blog post.

Desktop

Pass: 9/9 | Pass with difficulty: 1/9 | Fail: None

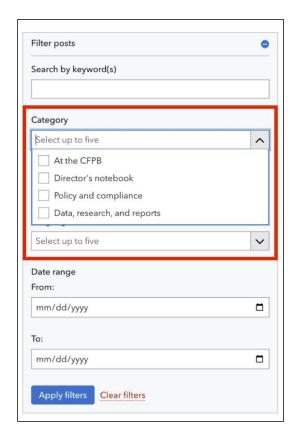
Time-on-task: 3:00

Mobile

Pass: 9/9 | Fail: None

Time-on-task: 1:41

Recommendations: None



English

Content-heavy tables

Task 6: Determine the median student loan balance for borrowers with Fresh Start loans.

Findings: Most participants easily navigated the table.

Observations: Some participants read through the article first to find the information before noticing the table.

Success criteria: Used the table to find the median student loan balance for borrowers with Fresh Start loans.

Desktop

Pass: 8/9 | Fail: 1/9

Time-on-task: 1:44

Mobile

Pass: 8/9 | Fail: 1/9

Time-on-task: 1:35

Recommendations: None

Table: Characteristics of student loan borrowers with payment difficulties, September 2022

Characteristic	All student loan borrowers	Borrowers with Fresh Start Ioans	Borrowers with defaulted non- Fresh Start loans	Borrowers with pre- pandemic delinquencies
Median age	35	36	34	37
Median credit score	691	530	589	610
Median total credit limit (\$)	10,500	400	2,700	2,500
Median percent available credit (%)	65	25	34	32
Median student loan balances (\$)	20,372	15,055	26,532	21,125

Spanish

Content-heavy tables

Task 4: Determine how much you would receive in the following scenario: Married filing jointly; One 4-year-old child; Earning \$70,000 total.

Findings: Putting a large amount of text data in tabular format may increase cognitive load.

Observations: Similar to last year, participants were able to find the content easily, but sometimes became overwhelmed by the amount of content and did not state the amount they would receive.

Success criteria: Used the table to calculate an amount of financial relief.

Desktop

Pass: 5/9 | Fail: 4/9
Time-on-task: 2:51

Mobile

Pass: 7/8 | Fail: 1/8
Time-on-task: 3:24

Recommendations:

Consider additional testing to address potential issues with scannability and comprehension.

Soltero, o casado, pero declarando separadamente

Usted es elegible para recibir el monto completo si sus ingresos ajustados antes de impuestos son menos que \$75,000, y uno reducido, si son más que esta cifra. El límite de ingresos ajustados antes de impuestos para recibir un pago reducido es de \$99,000 si no tiene hijos, y se incrementa en \$10,000, con cada hijo calificado, menor de 17.

Cabeza de familia

Usted es elegible para recibir el monto completo si sus ingresos ajustados antes de impuestos son menos que \$112,500, y uno reducido, si son más que esta cifra. El límite de ingresos ajustados antes de impuestos para recibir un pago reducido es de \$136,500 si no tiene hijos, y se incrementa en \$10,000, con cada hijo calificado, menor de 17.

Si sus ingresos ajustados antes de impuestos son menores que \$75,000, recibirá el monto completo de \$1,200. También recibirá \$500 por cada hijo calificado, menor de 17, que usted incluya en su declaración de impuestos.

de impuestos son menores que \$112,500, recibirá el monto completo de \$1,200. También recibirá \$500 por cada hijo calificado, menor de 17, que usted incluya en su declaración de impuestos.

Si sus **ingresos ajustados antes**

Si sus **ingresos ajustados antes de impuestos son mayores que \$75,000**, recibirá un monto que será reducido \$5, por cada \$100, que sus ingresos estén

Si sus **ingresos ajustados antes de impuestos son mayores que \$112,500**, recibirá un monto que será reducido \$5, por cada \$100, que sus ingresos estén

English

Breadcrumbs

Task 7: Having just landed on this page, can you describe where this page is located within the website structure?

Findings: No issues on desktop or mobile.

Observations: Most participants noticed the breadcrumbs without issue. However, two participants tried to use the mega menu instead to find the page.

Success criteria: Notices the breadcrumbs.

Desktop

Pass: 7/9 | Fail: 2/9

Time-on-task: 2:19

Mobile

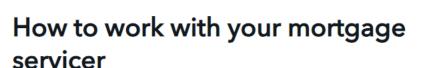
Pass: 9/9 | Fail: None

Time-on-task: 00:35

Recommendations: None.



Navigate this section



English | Español

Call your mortgage servicer as soon as you know you can't make your monthly payment. Or, if they have tried to reach you, make sure to accept calls from your mortgage servicer. The phone number is on your monthly bill.



Spanish

Breadcrumbs

Task 5: Having just landed on this page, can you describe where this page is located within the website structure?

Findings: Breadcrumbs are easily findable for most users.

Observations: Some participants tried to find the page from the homepage instead of noticing breadcrumbs. Breadcrumb text is longer in Spanish.

Success criteria: Notices the breadcrumbs.

Desktop

Pass: 6/9 | Fail: 3/9

Time-on-task: 1:11

Mobile

Pass: 7/8 | Fail: 1/8

Time-on-task: 1:02

Recommendations:

None





English

Navigate This Section

Findings: All participants easily found the correct information and clicked on "protections for reverse mortgage borrowers."

Observations: This element was changed on mobile since last year's health check (it used to read "in this section" in black and use a "+" icon instead of the carrot).

Success criteria: Finds relevant links in the sidebar (desktop) or In This Section (mobile).

Desktop

Pass: 9/9 | Fail: None

Time-on-task: 1:02

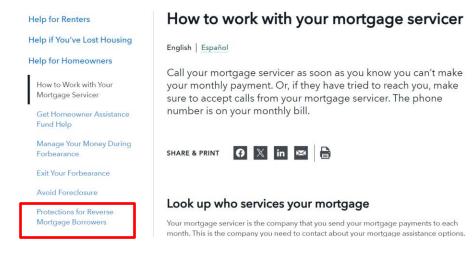
Mobile

Pass: 9/9 | Fail: None

Time-on-task: 00:49

Recommendations: None

Task 8: How would you get to information on this topic that's specifically for people with reverse mortgages?





How to work with your mortgage servicer

English | Español

Call your mortgage servicer as soon as you know you can't make your monthly payment. Or, if they have tried to reach you, make sure to accept calls from your mortgage servicer. The phone number is on your monthly bill.













Spanish

Navigate This Section

Task 6: How would you get to information on this topic that's specifically for people with reverse mortgages?

Findings: The mobile "In This Section" element is not effective as a secondary navigation.

Observations: Similar to last year, participants frequently missed the section entirely, either on the left-hand sidebar (desktop) or above (mobile). The sidebar does benefit by providing on-screen text, which the mobile version lacks. Many participants used the search function instead.

Success criteria: Finds relevant links in the sidebar (desktop) or In This Section (mobile).

Desktop

Pass: 1/9 | Fail: 8/9

Time-on-task: 1:44

Mobile

Pass: 1/8 | Fail: 7/8
Time-on-task: 1:03

Recommendations: Consider a more noticeable design for Navigate This Section.

Cómo trabajar con su administrador hipotecario

Ayuda del Fondo de Asistencia a los Propietarios de Viviendas

Administre su dinero durante un aplazamiento de pagos por un tiempo determinado

Salga con cuidado de su aplazamiento de pagos por un tiempo determinado

Evite la ejecución hipotecaria

Protecciones para prestatarios de hipotecas inversas

administrador hipotecario. E factura mensual.

COMPARTIR E IMPRIMIR





Averigüe quién es el ad

El administrador de su hipoteca es la er cada mes. Es la empresa con la que del opciones de ayuda sobre hipotecas.

Si no sabe o no recuerda quién se enca varias formas de averiguarlo, entre ellas cuenta hipotecario.



English

"Explore" links

Task 9: Imagine you heard the phrase 'certificate of deposit' while talking with a friend, but you don't know what it means. Using this page, how would you find out more?

Findings: The "Explore Key Terms" link had low discoverability, much like last year.

Observations: The participants who failed used site search instead of got to it from "Basics." One participant noted it would be clearer if it said "Explore *more* or *other* key terms."

Success criteria: Clicks the Explore Key Terms link.

Desktop

- Pass: 3/9 | Pass with difficulty: 1/9 | Fail: 6/9
- Time-on-task: 1:39

Mobile

- Pass: 6/9 | Fail: 3/9 (used site search instead)
- Time-on-task: 1:02

Recommendations: Improve discoverability of the Explore Key Terms link.

Basics	Key terms					
Checklist for opening a new bank or credit	Automated Clearing House (ACH)					
union account 🛚	Automatic debit payment					
You may decide that a checking or savings	Deposit hold					
account is right for you. Use this checklist to help you gather the information you'll need to open an	Fiduciary					
account and understand your choices. Read more	Individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN					
<u> </u>	Joint account					
	Non-sufficient funds (NSF) fee					
Learn when your funds from a deposited check will be available	Overdraft					
	Personal line of credit					
Each bank or credit union has its own rules as to when it will let you access money after you deposit	Power of attorney					
a check, but federal law establishes the maximum	Representative payee					
length of time a bank or credit union can make you wait. Read more	Explore key terms					

Joint account	
Non-sufficient funds (I	•
Overdraft	
Personal line of credit	
Power of attorney	
Representative payee	

Spanish

"Explore" links

Task 8: Imagine you heard the phrase 'certificate of deposit' while talking with a friend, but you don't know what it means. Using this page, how would you find out more?

Findings: Similar to last year, this section is not findable or effective, and lacks information scent.

Observations: Most participants are searching for key words, not a "see more" type of section. Many participants used the search function instead and did not notice the Explore Key Terms link.

Success criteria: Clicks the Explore Key Terms link.

Desktop

Pass: 3/9 | Fail: 6/9Time-on-task: 1:47

Mobile

Pass: 3/8 | Fail: 5/8

Time-on-task: 1:48

Recommendations: Improve discoverability of the Explore Key Terms link.

Lo básico

Lista de pasos para abrir una nueva cuenta en un banco o cooperativa de crédito 🖟

Usted podría pensar que una cuenta corriente o de ahorros es lo que necesita. Esta lista le ayudará a reunir la información que va a necesitar para abrir una cuenta y para entender mejor cuáles opciones tiene. Lea más

Sepa cuándo estarán disponibles los fondos de un cheque que haya depositado

Cada banco o cooperativa de crédito tiene sus propias reglas, acerca de cuándo podrá usted acceder al dinero después de depositar un cheque, sin embargo, las

Palabras claves

Cámara de compensación automática

Cuenta conjunta

Fiduciario

Línea de crédito personal

Número individual de identificación del contribuyente

Pago con débito automático

Penalidad por fondos insuficientes

Poder legal

Representante del beneficiario

Retención de depósito

Sobregiro

Explorar palabras claves

Penalidad por fondos ins	uficientes
Poder legal	
Representante del benefi	ciario
Retención de depósito	
Sobregiro	
Explorar palabras claves	

English only

Find a housing counselor

Task 10: Imagine you're having trouble with your housing situation. Using this page, find someone who could help.

Findings: All participants easily knew to enter their zip code to find counselors near them.

Success criteria: Enters zip code and acknowledges the map/table results.

Desktop

Pass: 9/9 | Fail: None

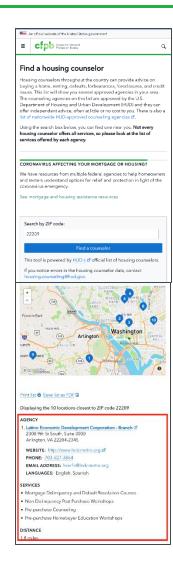
Time-on-task: 00:44

Mobile

Pass: 9/9 | Fail: None

Time-on-task: 00:35

Recommendations: None



Map and search results require much scrolling on mobile

Summary of Recommendations

Patterns with no usability issues: Submit a Complaint, Expandables (English), Site Search (English), Mega Menu (English), Filterable List (English), Breadcrumbs, Navigate this Section (English), and Find a Housing Counselor (English).

Patterns with usability issues:

- **Site Search** Run a moderated test to understand why people don't use site search in Spanish.
- **Menu** Consider a Spanish News tab similar to the English version.
- Content-Heavy Tables Improve scannability and comprehension.
- Navigate this Section Improve Spanish discoverability.
- "Explore" Links Improve discoverability.

Other areas to explore:

- Consider testing clarity of the Spanish "Learn how to submit a complaint" page.
- Consider testing the Contact Us page for scannability.

<u>03</u>Metrics

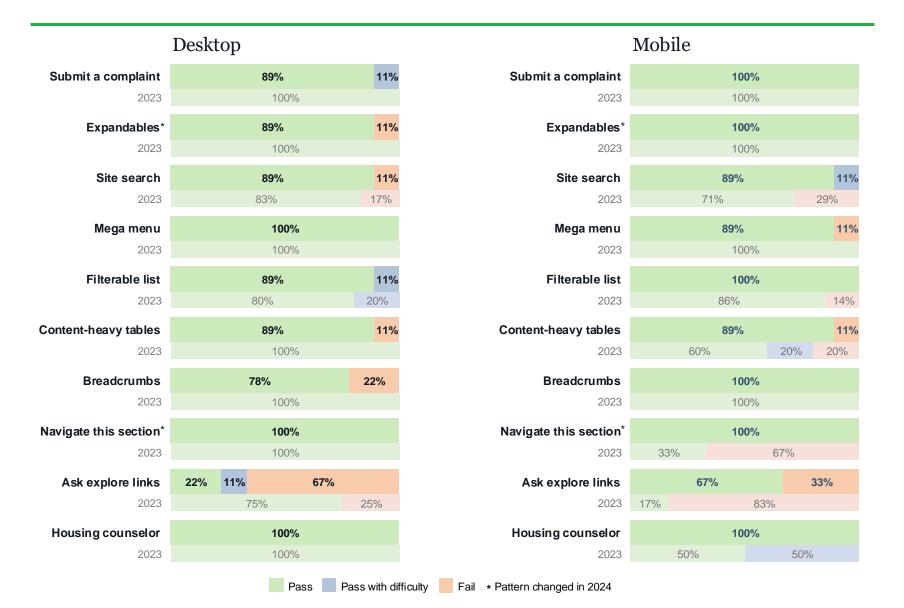


English Task Success

	Desktop									Mobile								
	5	8	9	10	11	15	16	18	19	5	6	10	11	12	13	14	18	19
1. Submit a complaint	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass with difficulty	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2. Expanda bles	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
3. Site search	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass with difficulty	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
4. Mega menu	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
5. Filterable list	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass with difficulty	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
6. Content- heavy tables	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
7. Breadcrumbs	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
8. Navigate this section	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
9. Ask CFPB – explore + links	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass with difficulty	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
10. Find a housing counselor	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass



English Task Success vs. 2023

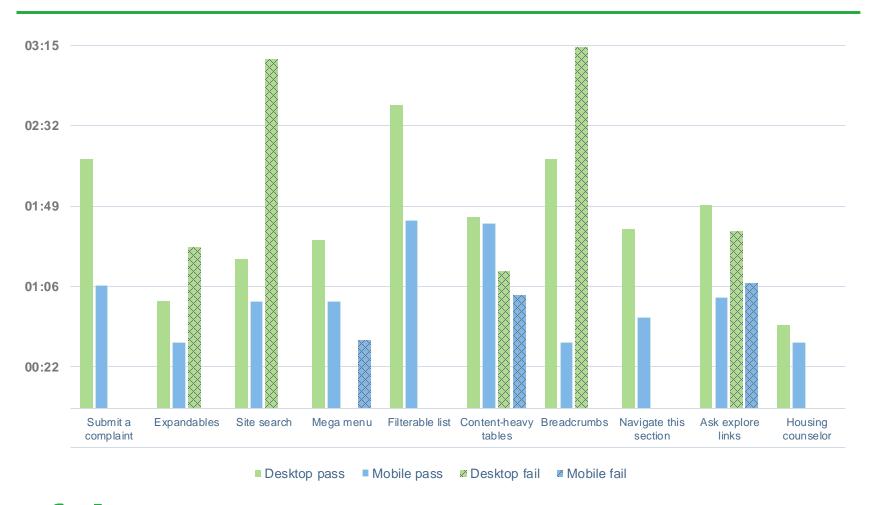


English Average Time-on-Task

Task	Desktop	Mobile
Submit a complaint	2:07	1:06
Expandables	0:56	0:35
Site search	1:29	0:57
Mega menu	1:25	0:55
Filterable list	3:00	1:41
Content-heavy tables	1:44	1:35
Breadcrumbs	2:19	0:35
Navigate this section	1:02	0:49
"Explore" links	1:39	1:02
Find a housing counselor	0:44	0:35



English Average Time-on-Task Breakdown



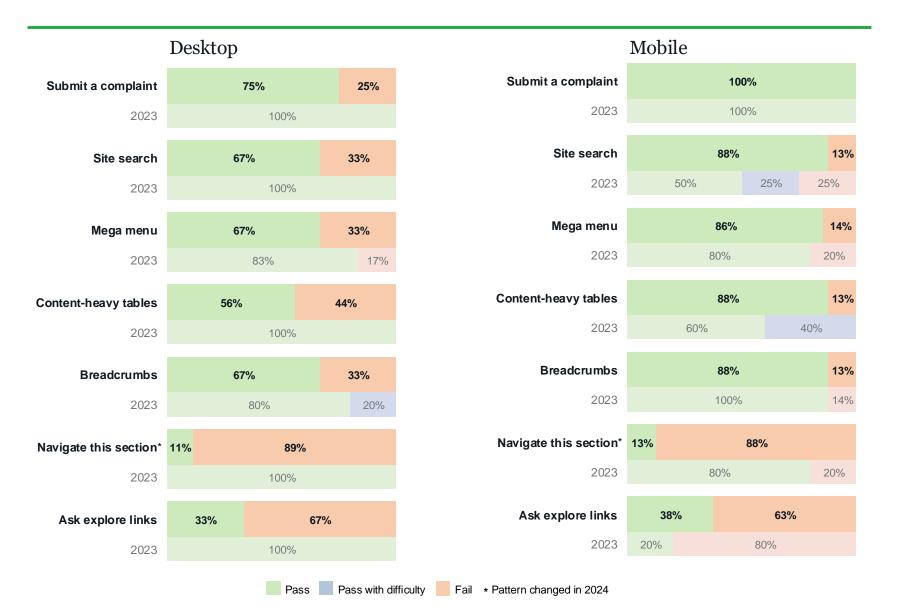


Spanish Task Success

Desktop									Mobile								
	73	149	175	187	235	239	278	284	290	22	69	75	131	152	298	370	427
1. Submita complaint	Pass	N/A	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2. Site search	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
3. Mega menu	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	N/A	Pass	Fail
4. Content-heavy tables	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail						
5. Breadcrumbs	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
6. Navigate this section	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail							
7. Ask CFPB – explore + links	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass



Spanish Task Success vs. 2023

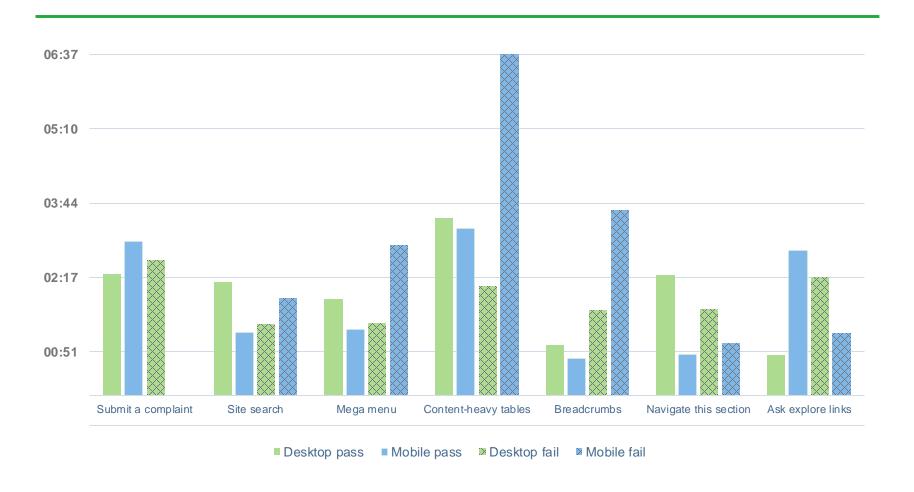


Spanish Average Time-on-Task

Task	Desktop	Mobile
Submit a complaint	2:13	3:11
Site search	1:55	1:17
Menu	1:42	1:21
Content-heavy tables	2:51	3:24
Breadcrumbs	1:11	1:02
Navigate this section	1:44	1:03
"Explore" links	1:47	1:48



Spanish Average Time-on-Task Breakdown





04 Lessons Learned & Next Steps



Lessons Learned

Task Refinement

- To ensure participants complete certain tasks, instead of just saying what they'd do, have them find specific pieces of information (e.g., Site Search, Find a Housing Counselor tasks).
- Rework the "Submit a complaint" task so that Spanish participants do not see the English version of the page.
- Adding context to the "Navigate this Section" task for Spanish participants to provide clarity on the topic of reverse mortgages.
- Consider changing "website structure" in breadcrumb task.
- Ensure Spanish and English tasks are the same.



Lessons Learned

- Tool Changes
 - Explore options for randomizing task order.
- Process Improvement
 - Update pages based on findings before conducting another round of testing.
 - Use a native Spanish speaker to review translations and test study.
 - Engage D&D teams before each round to get pattern ideas.



Next steps

- Set date for next year's test
 - Decide on next date so it can be added to XP backlog (don't need to go through intake)



Thank you!

