

INTERNET USAGE FOR MEDICAL INFORMATION

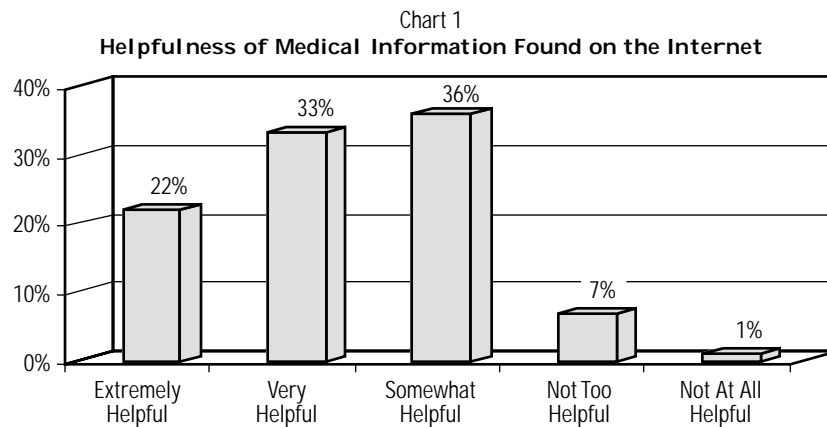
Internet Usage to Obtain Medical Information Varies by Age

Persons under age 55 are more likely than those 55 and older to use the Internet to obtain medical information.

- More than 40 percent of persons ages 21–34 and 37 percent of persons ages 35–54 used the Internet for medical information.
- Nearly 20 percent of persons ages 55–64 and 12 percent of persons ages 65 and older used the Internet for medical information.

Most People Find the Information Helpful

While most people find the medical information obtained from the Internet was helpful, the degree of helpfulness varies.



Americans Use an Array of Sources to Determine the Reliability of the Information

Roughly 50 percent of the population using the Internet for medical information used that information to make a decision. To determine the reliability of the information:

- 28 percent discussed it with a medical professional.
- 23 percent reported that the information came from a reliable source, organization, or Web site.
- 18 percent reported that it matched or was consistent with information that they already had.
- 10 percent reported that the information either made sense or was common sense.
- 6 percent researched it further.
- 10 percent did not know how they determined whether the information was reliable.

Source: 2000 Health Confidence Survey.