

Top 10 Canadian Consumer Health Websites

Updated 2010

Top 10 Canadian Consumer Health Websites

AboutKidsHealth	aboutkidshealth.ca
Caring for Kids	caringforkids.cps.ca
Canadian Cancer Society	cancer.ca
Canadian Safety Council	safety-council.org
Dietitians of Canada	dietitians.ca
Heart and Stroke Foundation	heartandstroke.ca
Heretohelp	heretohelp.ca
Sexualityandu.ca	sexualityandu.ca
PasseportSanté	pasportsante.net
Women's Health Matters	womenshealthmatters.ca



Honourable Mentions

Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange	catie.ca
Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety	ccohs.ca
Canadian Women's Health Network	cwhn.ca
Canadian Virtual Hospice	virtualhospice.ca
HealthLinkBC	healthlinkbc.ca
Public Health Agency of Canada	phac-aspc.gc.ca

Background and Rationale:

- 2004: Canadian Internet Project survey found 54.4% of respondents searched for health information on the Internet; most respondents used general search engines such as Google or Yahoo¹
- 2006: Consumer Health Information Providers Interest Group (CHIPIG) subcommittee surveyed health information providers for quality Canadian consumer health website recommendations; Top 10 Canadian Consumer Health Websites list developed and presented during round-table discussion at CHLA Conference in Vancouver
- 2007: Canadian Internet Project survey repeated; number of respondents searching for health information on the Internet increased to 70%; most respondents still using general search engines¹¹
- 2010: Three of original Top 10 websites no longer exist, including Canadian Health Network; CHIPIG decided to repeat Top 10 survey and update list

Our 2010 Survey:

- CHIPIG subcommittee developed and administered online survey using Survey Monkey
- Survey asked health information providers for favourite Canadian consumer health websites and reasons for recommendation; maximum 10 recommendations per responder
- Survey link circulated through librarian listservs such as CANMEDLIB, THLA, CASLIS, SLA, and NLLA-L and available from March 10-31, 2010
- Criteria for submitted websites:
 - * Canadian
 - * Consumer focus
 - * Credibility, currency, disclaimers, disclosures, interactivity, purpose, sponsorship/authorship, and web 2.0 features
- Issues for consideration include:
 - * Have the expectations and quality of consumer health websites changed?
 - * The Canadian Health Network received 21 recommendations in the 2004 survey; will the 2010 survey find a website that stood out in the same way?

Survey Results:

- 52 responders
 - * 67% from hospital/health centre library or public library
- Of 123 total website recommendations, there were 53 unique Canadian websites
- Survey results did not indicate clear favourites; top 3 recommendations tied at 10 votes each

Choosing the Top 10:

- CHIPIG subcommittee reviewed recommendations and divided them into subject groups (e.g. general, disease-specific, health promotion, women, children, etc.)
- Compared websites in each subject area to choose the websites they believed stood out
- Top 10 choices required a balancing of criteria with particular focus on best site(s) within specific subject, quality and suitability of information for consumers, coverage and scope, website design and usability, interactivity and appeal to consumers
- Favoured sites that were simple to use and attempted to engage consumers and not just present information

CHIPIG Top Ten Website Subcommittee:

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