Challenges in Labeling All Natural Products

Laura Hershey, MBA, RD Daisy Brand Cottage Cheese

Natural

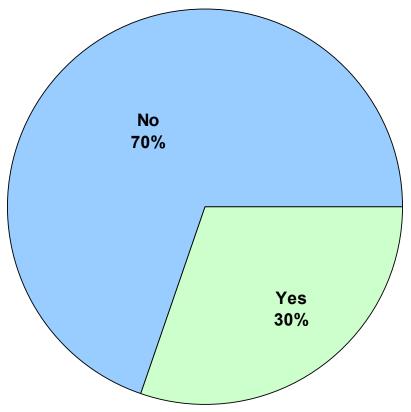
• FDA has not established a formal definition for the term natural, however the agency has not objected to the use of the term on food labels provided it is used in a manner that is truthful and is not misleading and the product does not contain added color, artificial flavors or synthetic substances.



Consumers Response

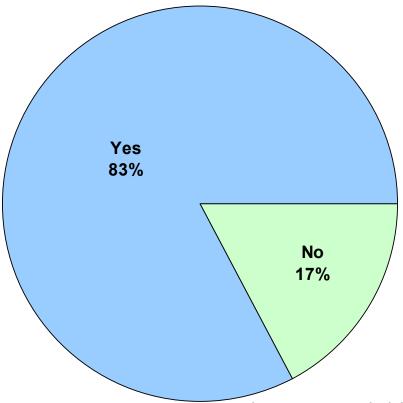
- 2/3 respondents said they believed 'low fat' and 'all natural' claims were never or only sometimes trustworthy
 - Nielsen survey
- 2/3 respondents want the FDA to develop a more precise definition
 - <1% believe the guidance is sufficiently clear
 - FoodNavigatorUSA

Do you believe that the word "natural" is a meaningful designation for consumers when shopping for healthier options?



Seven in 10 RDs believe that 'natural' as a label offers consumers no meaningful value when shopping for healthier food options.

Do you believe that regular consumption of natural foods leads to better health?



Despite a lack of consensus regarding the definition of natural, the RDs overwhelmingly see a causal relationship between regular consumption of natural foods and better health.

Where to go from here?

- Nutrition rating systems
- o IOM
 - Front of the package labeling
 - Point system
- Educating consumers

What do you want to see on the package? What do you want your shoppers to see on the package?