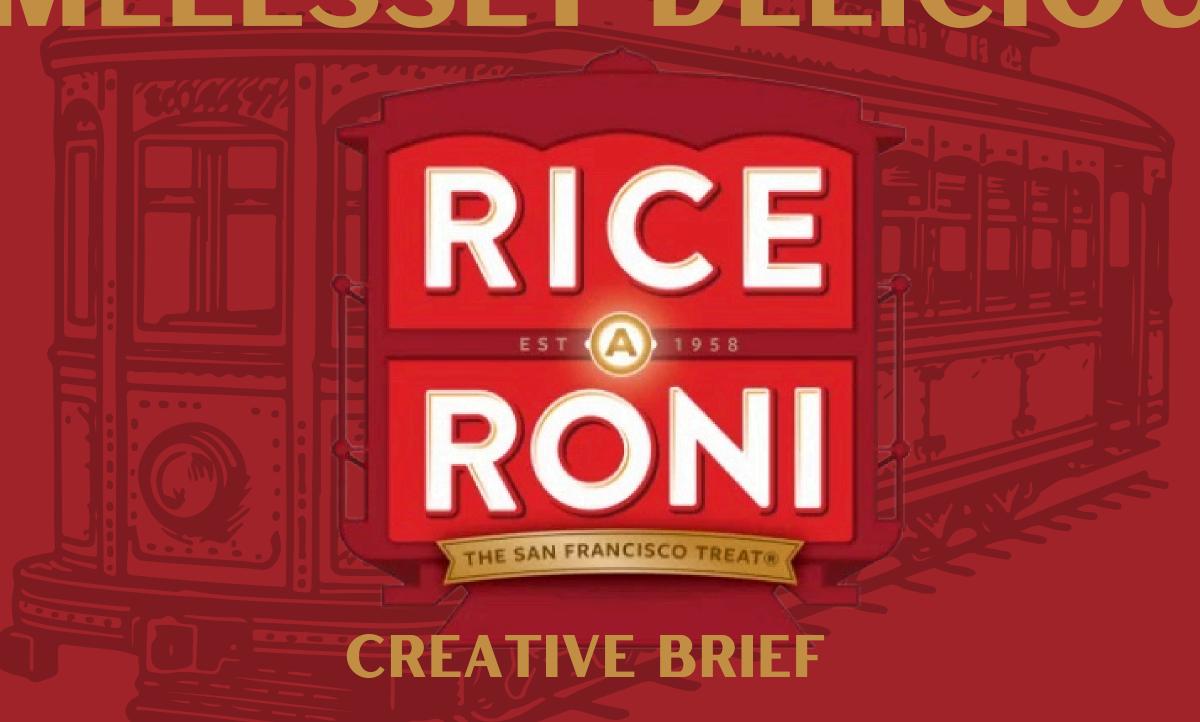
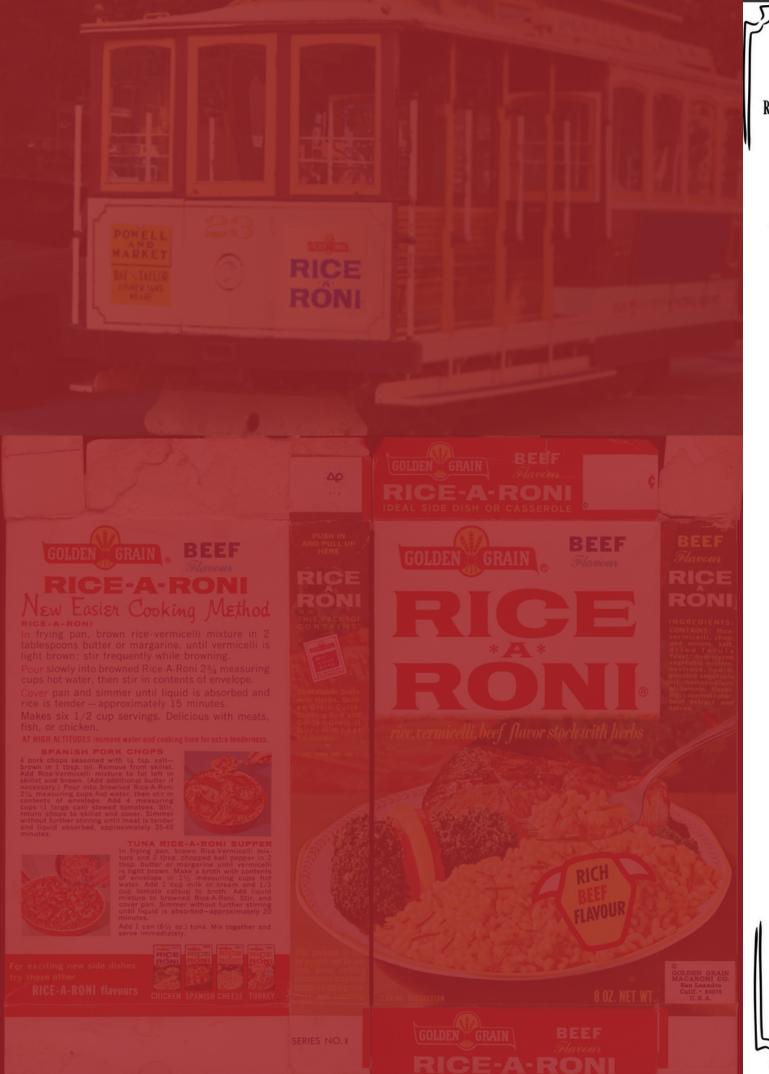
CONVENIENTLY WHOLESOME, TIMELESSLY DELICIOUS





Our Story

RICE-A-RONI WAS BORN FROM HERITAGE, COLLABORATION, INNOVATION, AND THE BLENDING OF CULTURES.

AN INNOVATORS JOURNEY

Domenico DeDomenico Migrates to America A 19-year-old Domenico leaves Italy for America, bringing his love of pasta and traditional Italian dishes.

BEGINNING THE AMERICAN DREAM

1895-1905

California Store Expansion Domenico Settles in California and opens a produce store, expanding over the next decade to three additional stores.

FAMILY AND BUSINESS FOUNDATIONS

Domenico marries Maria Ferrigno. They have three children, Tom, Vince, and Anthony. In 1912, they establish Gragnano Products Inc., supplying pasta across San Francisco.

RICE-A-RONI ORIGINS

Tom's wife, Lois, learns Armenian rice pilaf from Pailadzo Captanian. Vince suggests adapting it as a boxed product. After

several years of recipe development, "Rice-A-Roni" is introduced in 1958, marketed as "The San Francisco Treat."

ACQUISITION BY QUAKER

OATS

Golden Grain Company is acquired by Quaker Oats, allowing for expanded distribution and product development.

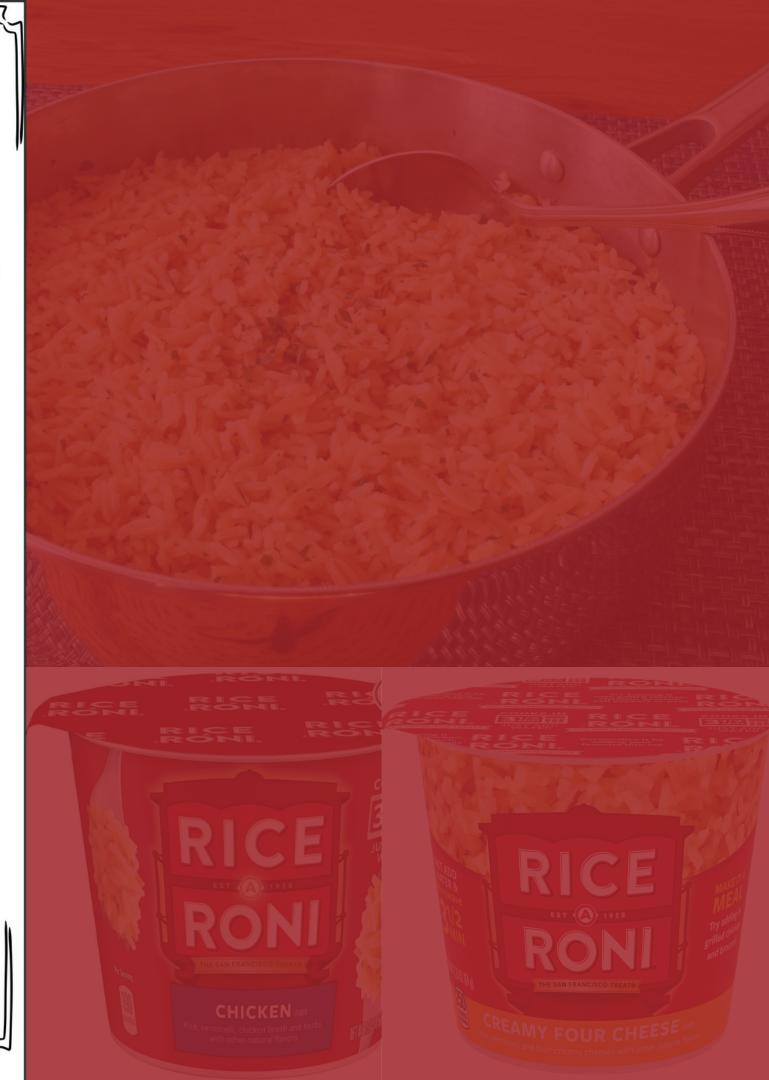
COMPANY

Macaroni Company," focusing on traditional pasta and establishing their family

rice flavors in 1962 and Noodle Roni (later Pasta Roni) in 1964. Throughout the

MODERN EXPANSION

Microwave Cups and Pasta Roni options are brought to the market. Single-serve Rice-A-Roni microwavable cups launch in 2012, followed by Pasta Roni microwave cups in 2014.



GOLDEN GRAIN MACARONI

Company rebrands as "Golden Grain

EXPANSION OF PRODUCT

1960s-1990s

Rice-A-Roni introduces Beef and Spanish decades, the brand innovates with different flavors, responding to diverse tastes and dietary needs.

Rice-A-Roni releases "Mac-A-Roni," a new addition aimed at diversifying their product line with a fresh take on classic macaroni.

TODAY

SITUATIONAL BACKGROUND: BRAND POSITIONING AND MARKET INSIGHTS

Target Audience

Families, focusing on convenience and affordability.

Since 1958, campaigns have emphasized family meals and gathering around the dinner table.

Recent campaigns
(e.g., "Flavor Says it
All" in 2021) highlight
new quick-prep
products to allow
more family time and
less cooking time.

Modern Family Evolution

Today's families are more diverse, international, and inclusive, prompting the brand to adapt its messaging.

Studies show family meals foster togetherness, communication, and positive traditions.

Benefits of Family Meals

Family mealtimes
correlate with mental
health benefits such as
reduced anxiety,
depression, and
substance abuse while
promoting resilience
and self-esteem.

-FMI Foundation, n.d.

Initiatives like the Family
Dinner Project support
family dining by
addressing common
challenges such as meal
planning and time
constraints.

Consumer Preferences

Families choose packaged meals for taste, ease of preparation, and affordability.

Parents, particularly mothers, feel the strain of balancing cooking with other responsibilities, making convenience a top priority.

Individual consumers also value affordability and convenience due to time constraints.

Market Response

Rice-A-Roni addresses these needs with budgetfriendly, easy-to-prepare products, along with meal suggestions on packaging and online resources.

The brand's emphasis on convenience aligns with economic pressures, helping consumers manage cooking challenges and budgeting effectively.

SWOT

Strengths

Established Brand: Rice-A-Roni has been a household name since 1958, with a strong reputation in grocery stores.

Family-Centric Marketing: Consistently positions itself as a family-oriented brand, with campaigns that resonate around family mealtimes.

Convenience and Affordability: Appeals to timeconstrained families and individuals seeking easy-to-make, budget-friendly meals.

Opportunities

Adapt to Diverse Family Dynamics: Modern families are more inclusive and international; adapting marketing language and products can appeal to a wider demographic.

Promote Health and Well-being Benefits: Emphasize benefits of family mealtime (mental health, resilience, self-esteem) to align with wellness-focused consumer trends.

Target new audiences: Focus on the new generation of consumers and market to them using new methods such as influencers and social media campaigns.

Lean into balanced meals: Showcase how Rice-A-Roni can be the convenient and flavorful side to a balanced meal.

Weaknesses

Traditional Image: Long-standing family-focused branding may appear outdated to diverse, modern family structures if not adapted effectively.

Limited Product Range: Known primarily for side dishes, which may limit appeal to consumers seeking complete meal solutions.

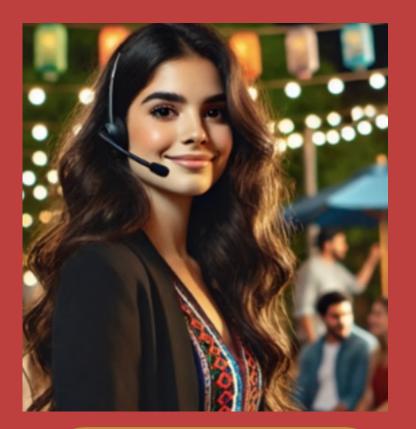
Dependence on Processed Foods: The packaged, processed nature of the products may deter health-conscious consumers who prioritize fresh, whole foods.

Threats

Changing Consumer Preferences: Growing trends toward healthier, minimally processed foods could impact demand for processed products like Rice-A-Roni.

Increased Competition: The Rising popularity of meal delivery services and ready-made meal kits presents direct competition, particularly among consumers seeking convenience.

Economic Pressures: Fluctuations in the economy and rising grocery prices may challenge affordability for consumers, even at a budget-friendly price point.



Age: 21.

Gender: Female.

Location: Chicago.

Income Level: Middle

Class.

Education Level:

Bachelor Degree.

Marital Status: Single.

Occupation: Entry-Level

Events Assistant.

Pain Points

Challenges:

Long work hours.

Frustrations:

Lack of work opportunities.

Needs:

Stability to settle down.

MEET EMILY

Psychographics

Personality Traits: she likes to stay busy, is loyal, and prefers somewhat flexible routines.Values: Tradition, Family, Community, Work-Life Balance, Trust, and Flexibility.

Interests/Hobbies: Thrifting and sustainable shopping, DIY and Crafting, Content Creation, Keeping up with trends, and social media.

Lifestyle: Emily is always on the go. Likes to balance demanding work with seeing friends and family, living with a roommate, and has a close group of friends who get together frequently.

She prefers to eat at home as the cost of going out can add up. She wants

Behaviors

Shopping Preferences: Brands that reflect her personal values.

Buying Motivation: Her purchasing decisions are influenced by individualization, price, convenience, and values. She is also receptive to products and services promoted on Social Media.

Technology Usage: She owns a Smartphone, enjoys streaming media, especially YouTube or Spotify, and frequently uses Social Media - specifically TikTok.

Gaming: Emily owns a PlayStation and enjoys playing mentally challenging games.

Preferred Brands: Youtube, Netflix, Amazon, Target, M&M, Nike, Ulta, Shein.

Spending Habits: Essentials at the grocery store, the majority of the budget is spent on household bills and expenses. DIY and thrifting ar

Goals

Short-Term Goals:

Find a stable job.

Long-Term Goals:

Take care of her future family.

Digital Engagement

Preferred Platforms:

TikTok & Youtube.

Content Engagement:

Views, and shares.

Frequency of Online Activity: Daily, approx. three hours daily.

Key Influencers

Influence Channels:

TikTok.

Opinion Leaders:

Beyonce & Rihanna.

Preferred Communication Style

Tone:

Human level.

Medium:

Social Media.

Customer Journey

1. Awareness:

Social media advertisement.

2. Consideration:

Needs multiple advertisements to consider.

3. Purchase Decision:

After a week or two of think of the product.

OBJECTIVE

TO GAIN INSIGHT INTO HOW UPBRINGING INFLUENCES CONSUMERS MOTIVATIONS AND PREFERENCES WHEN PURCHASING GROCERY STORE ITEMS, WITH A LENS FOCUSING ON PACKAGED MEALS LIKE RICE-A-RONI.







GEN-Z

MILLENNIALS

DESIRED CHANGE

CURRENT THOUGHTS

"Packaged, boxed meals are unhealthy"

"I don't have time to cook, i'm so busy"

"I need affordable and healthy meal options"

"I love the meals from my childhood"

"I can incorporate Rice-A-Roni in a balanced meal" "Rice-A-Roni is convenienct, delicious, and affordable!"

"Rice-A-Roni was so was a big part of my childhood, so it is a must in my life today"

DESIRED THOUGHTS

RESEARCH METHODS



FOUR INTERVIEWS



TWO FOCUS
GROUPS

Findings: Interviews

Childhood Experience

"If I was never introduced to it as a kid and wasn't like, made like, I if I didn't think it was, like, okay as a kid, I probably wouldn't stay away from it."

Convenience

"They're just so easy to make, and it's so accessible... It doesn't take a lot of like, brains to make... And again, coming down a price"

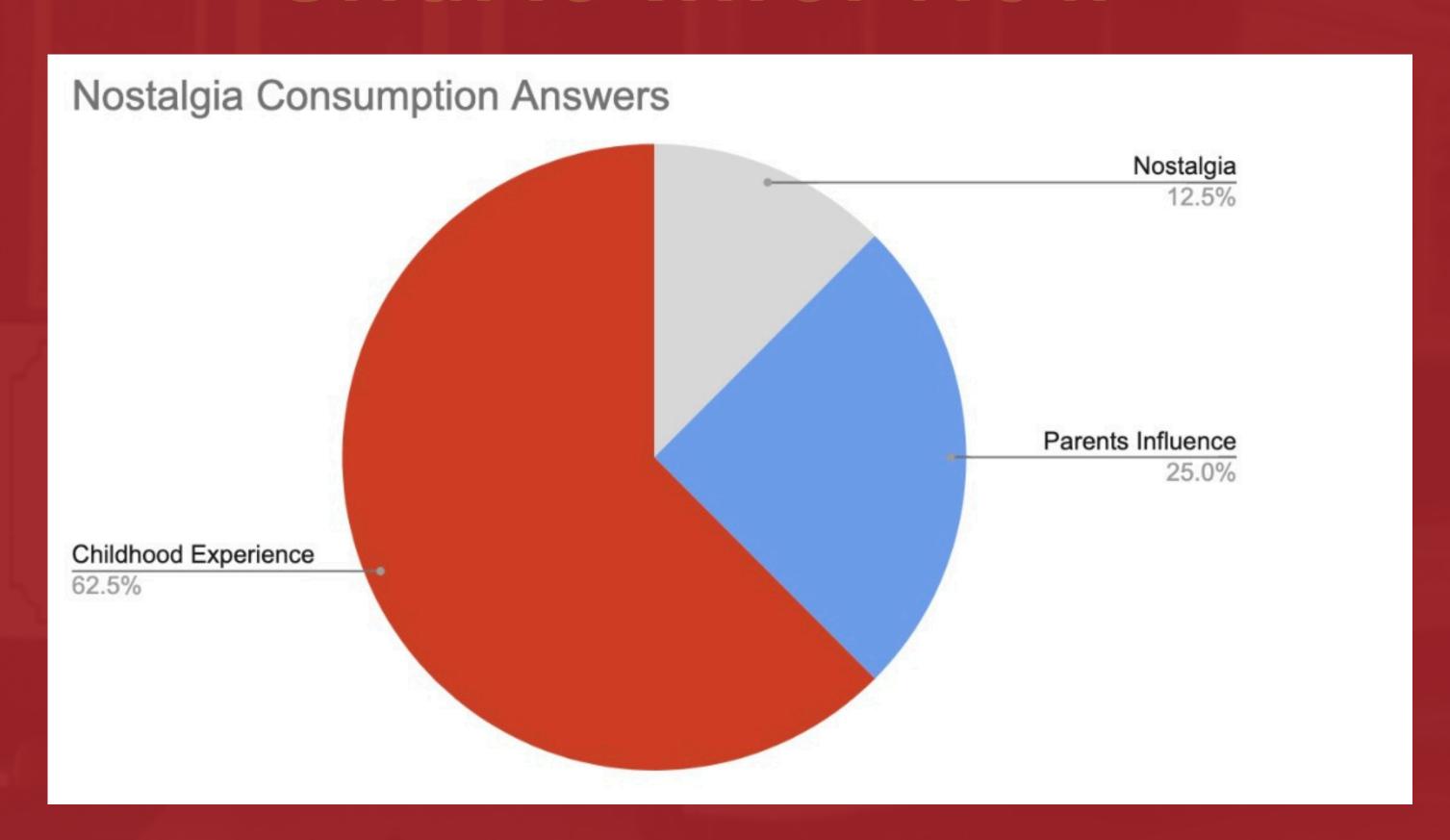
Nutritional Concerns

"I wish, like, the macros were better, because a lot of, like, not good stuff goes into that, and there's a lot of sodium."

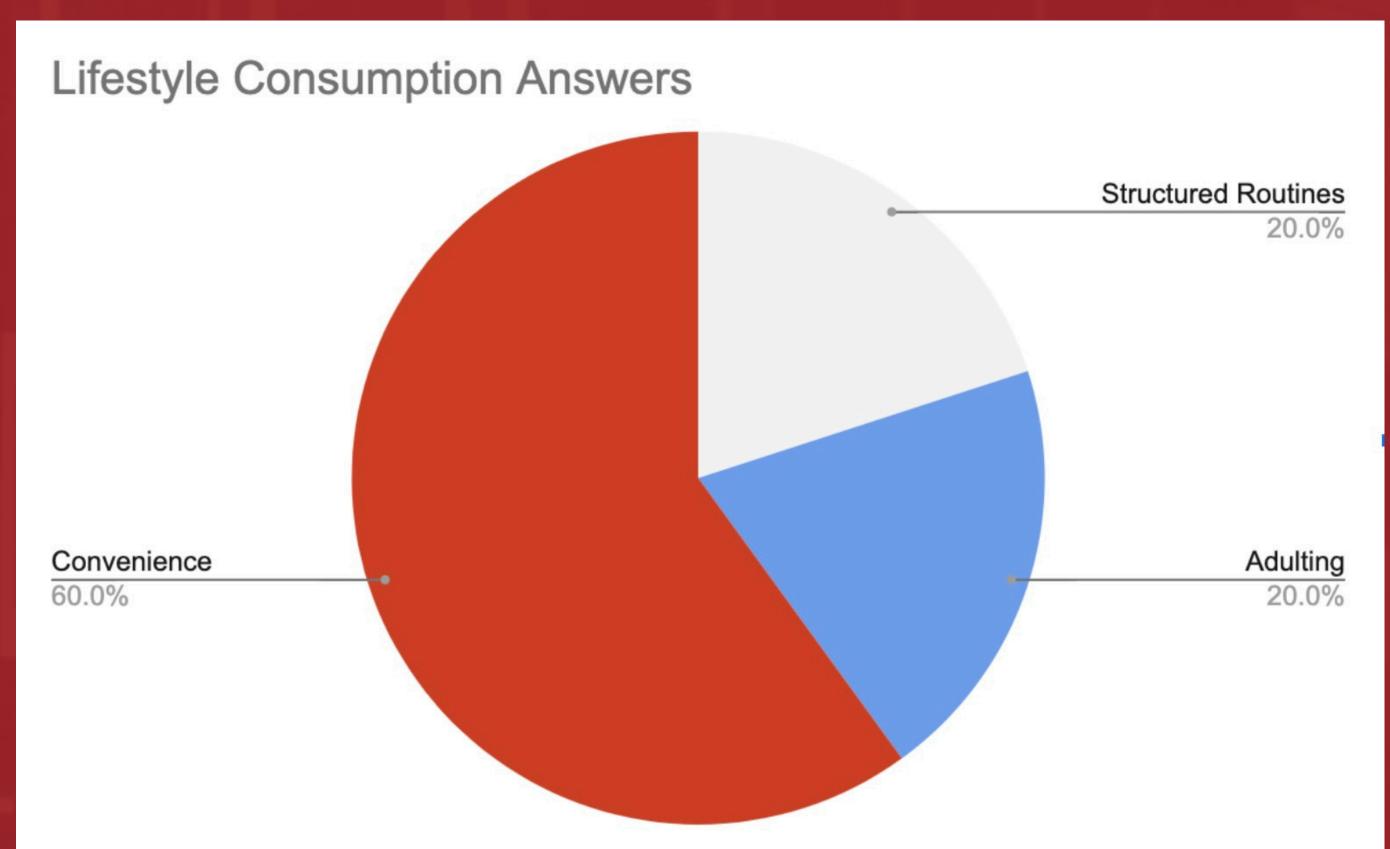
Four In-Depth Interviews

- 4 participants
- Age ranges: 19-32
- **Professions:**
 - **Full-time students**
 - Student Athlete
 - Social work intern
 - Transportation Management
- Race/Ethnicity: Latinx, White, and Black

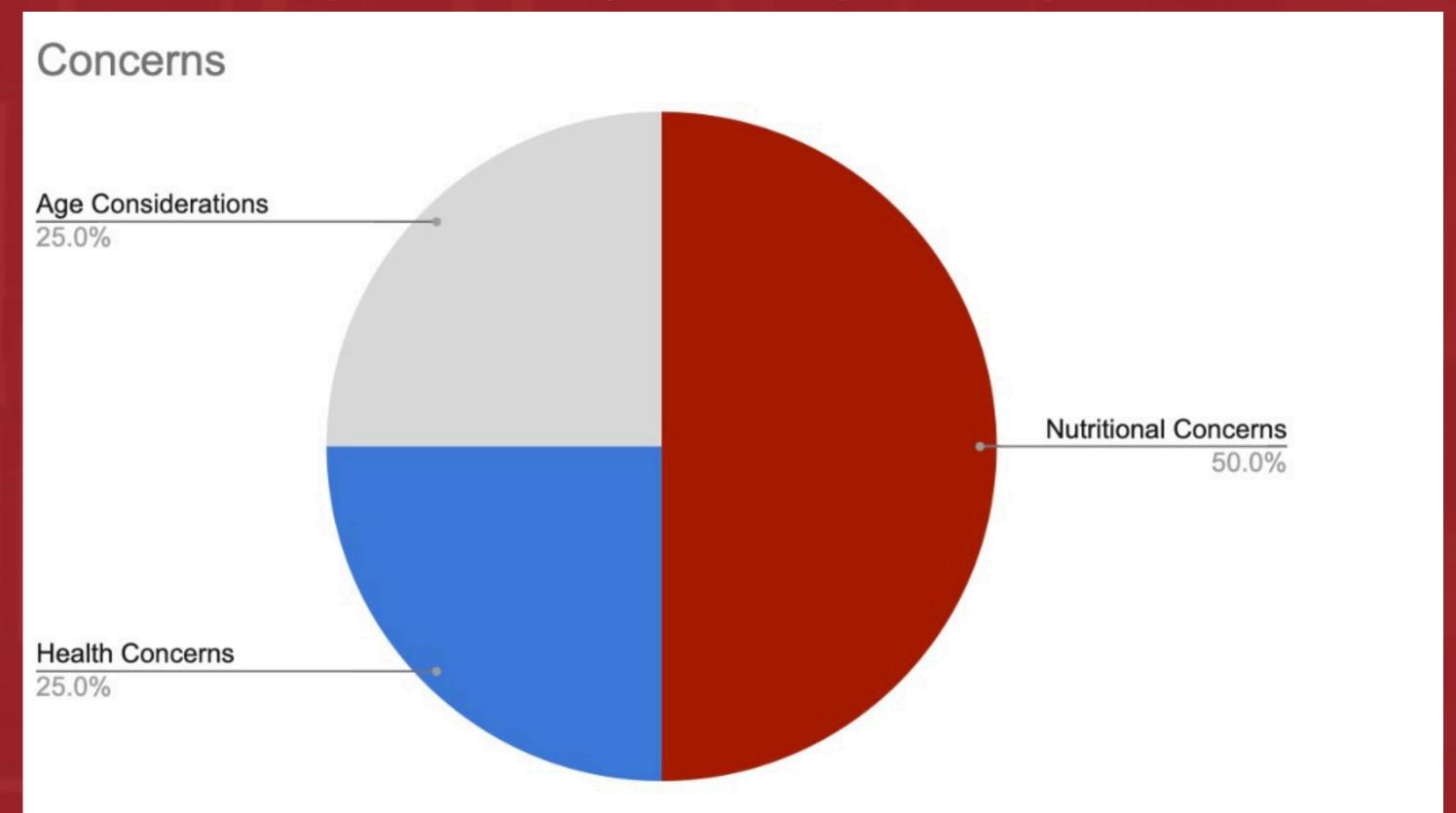
Charts Interview



Charts Interview



Charts Interview



Findings: Focus Group

Nostalgia

"One day out of like, nostalgia, I put some water and threw one of those on the microwave, and it was, it was good, yeah, missed it, for sure."

Convenience

"Five days a week, and I like the idea of meal prep, but to be honest, I don't do it that often because it takes a lot of time for me."

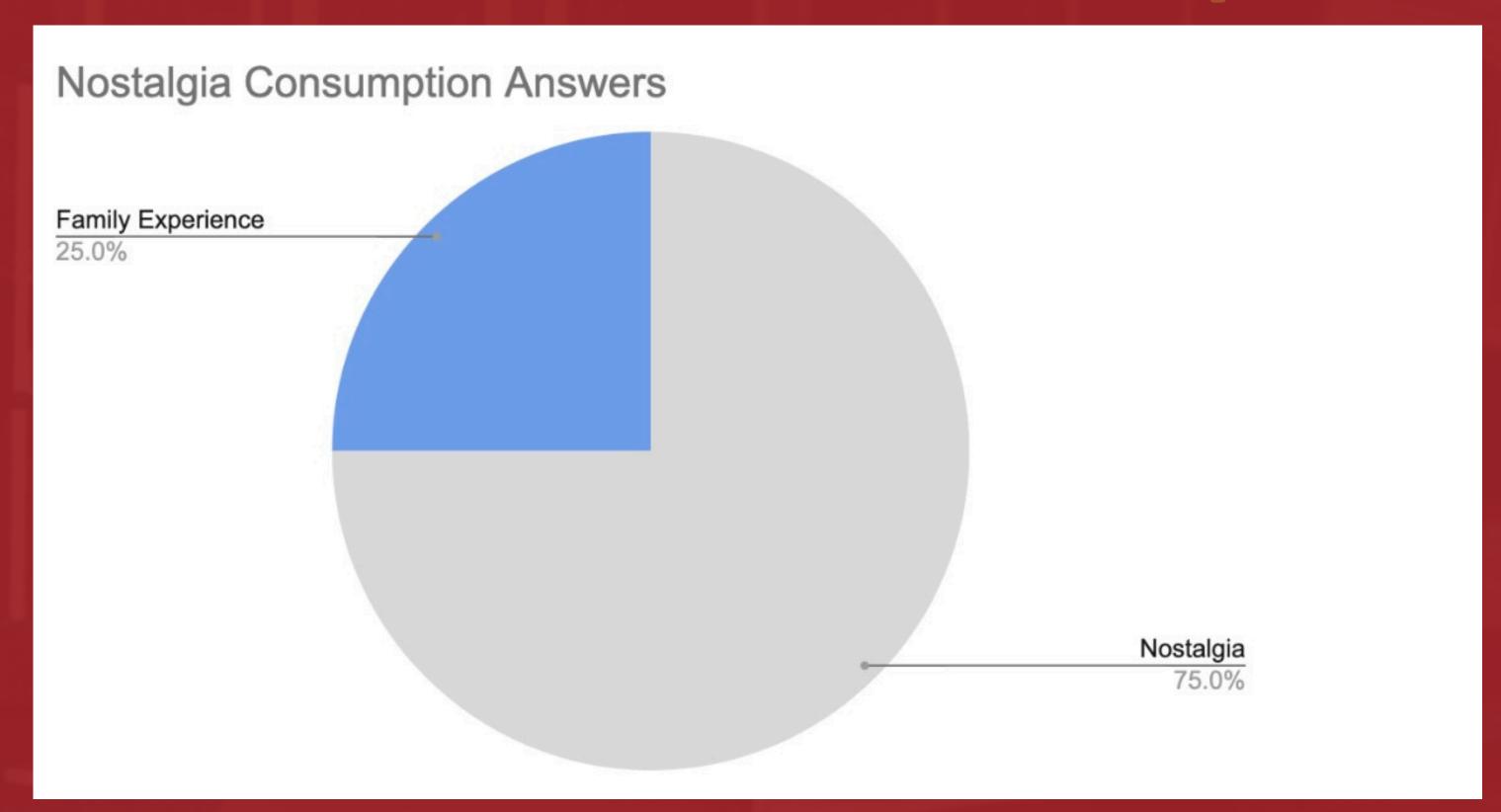
Health Concerns

"It produces a lot of waste, a lot of like, single use plastics and stuff. For sure, I don't like that part."

Two Focus Groups

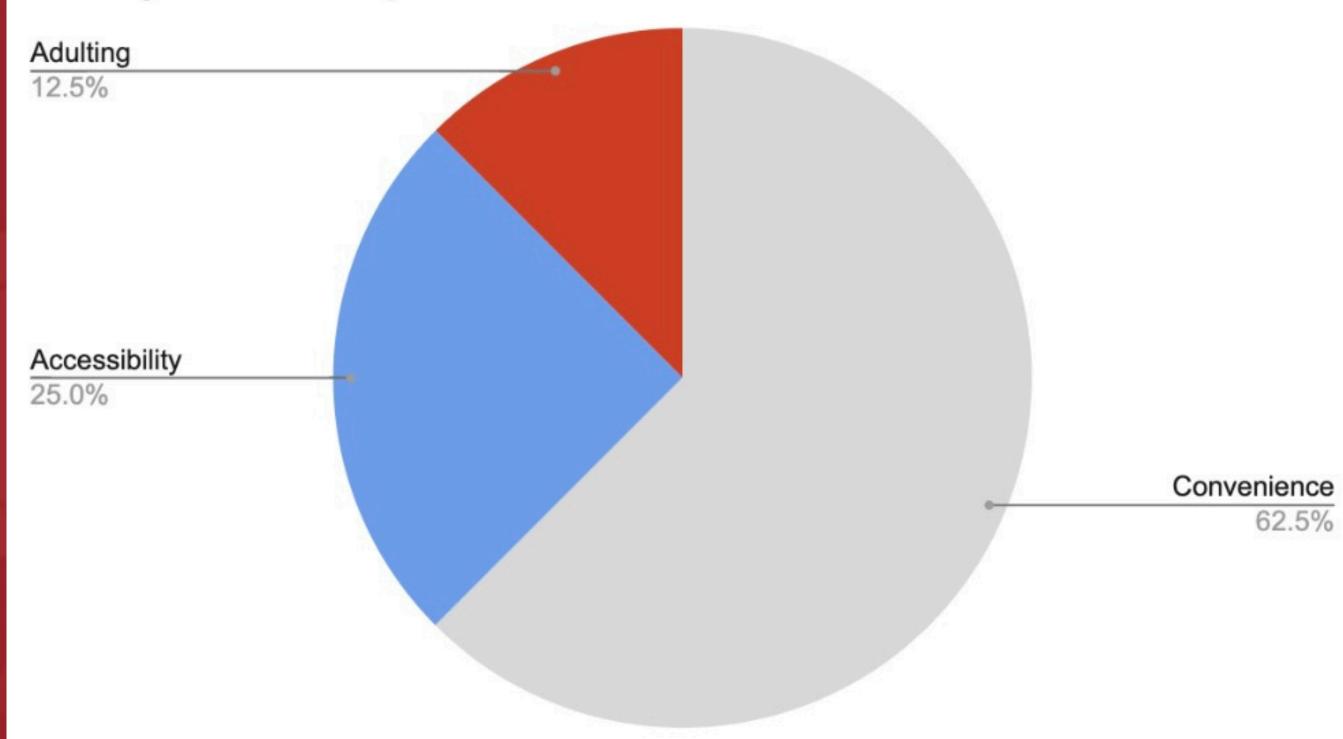
- 9 Participants
- Age ranges: 19-32
- Professions:
 - Full-time Students
 - Social Work Intern
 - Youth Tutors
 - Business Analyst
 - Event Coordinator
 - Personal Trainer
 - Lawyer
- Race/Ethnicity: Latinx,
 Asian, White, and Black

Charts Focus Groups

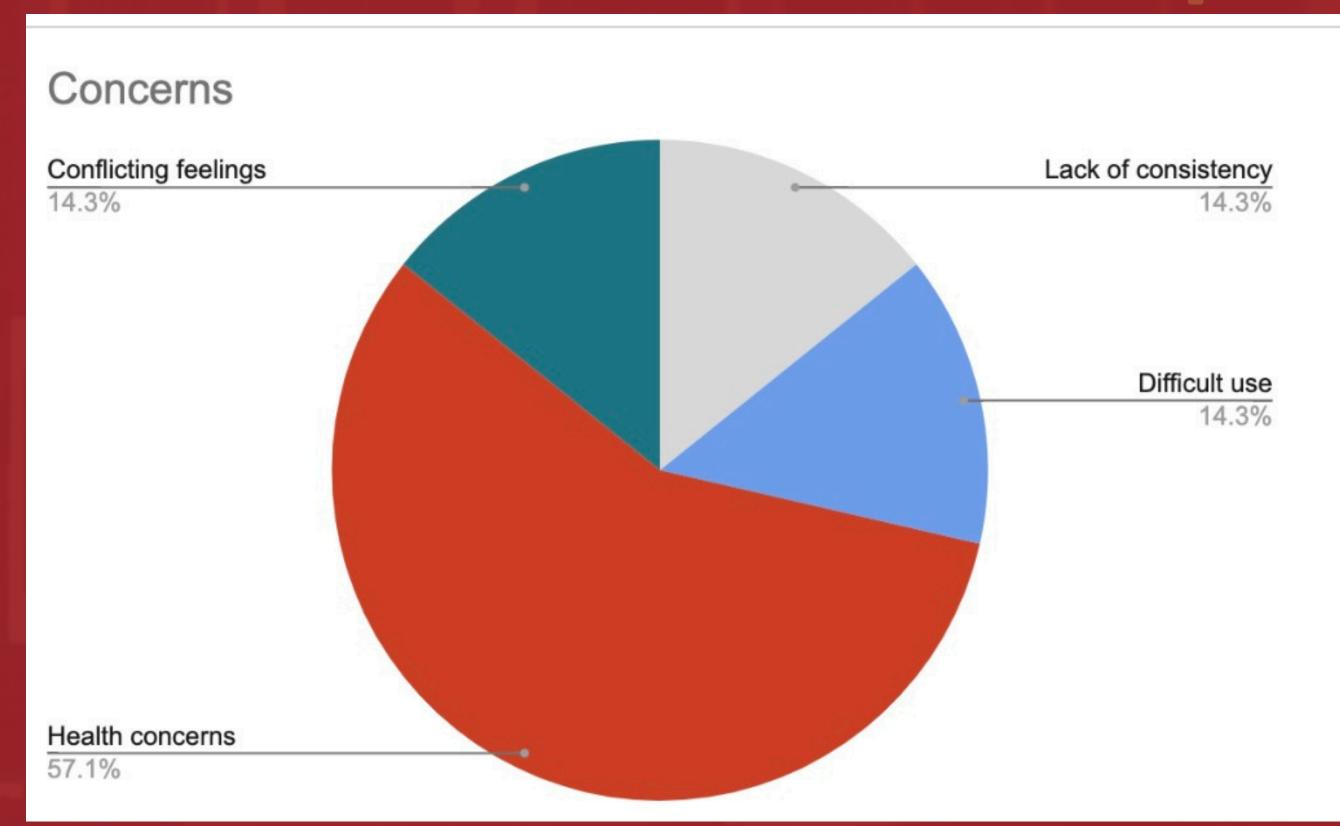


Charts Focus Groups





Charts Focus Groups



Key Insights

Nostalgia is a time machine for shoppers

Convenience is a driving force for younger consumers

Convenient meals can still be health conscious



RAIDMEDIA

- Commercial Ad
- Print/Digital Ad
- Influencerpartnerships



@dollartreedinners

128 Following **1.5M** Followers

36.8M Likes

5.8M



@lazypotnoodle •

• Following

3.5M Followers

97.3M Likes



EARNED AND OWNED

Sponsoring
University and
Community Food
Pantries







Pop-Up Activations **Events**







- Rice-A-Roni remains an iconic brand, with its familiar red packaging evoking family memories.
- Consumers appreciate its affordability, convenience, and versatility. However, to meet new demands for sustainable, less processed foods and inclusive marketing, companies must adapt or risk losing market share.
- Our data and recommendations can help keep Rice-A-Roni a consumer favorite.



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