

# **DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER TELEVISION 5 X 5 INDUSTRY STUDY**

**5 YEARS  
5 INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATIONS.**

**2018 – 2022**



POWERED BY **DRMETRIX**  
an iSpot.tv company



2022 market conditions were more accommodating for remnant direct-response (DR) television advertisers than they were in 2021.

Due to economic concerns, digitally native direct-to-consumer and brand/DR advertisers pulled back on their TV advertising expenditures in 2022 leaving an excess of inventory in national scatter. Although this benefited remnant DR advertisers, the general consensus among DR advertisers was that 2022 was a challenging year due to lower levels of consumer response.

Thank you to all of our clients/partners, your support has made this study possible.

Joseph Gray  
FOUNDER



# INTRODUCTION

DRMetrix is pleased to present its latest AdSphere industry study. Five years of national cable industry trends (2018 - 2022) are provided with media expenditures across five brand classifications. In addition to monitoring 141 national cable and digital broadcast networks, DRMetrix monitored national broadcast feeds from ABC, NBC, CBS, and FOX in 2022.

Across the national cable and broadcast networks monitored, DRMetrix is reporting over \$19.9 billion of national ad spend in 2022 from campaigns that ask consumers to take action, such as by visiting a website or going to an app store. Another \$2 billion in spend came from direct-to-consumer household names that have dropped the mention of "dot com" or "app store" in their TV commercials such as Amazon, Doordash, Credit Karma, Carvana, etc. There were 4,222 brands who provided a way for consumers to respond to their TV advertising. 28.6 percent used traditional DR techniques such as the use of DR variations. These can be described as the assignment of unique response variants that allow advertisers to track consumer response back to specific networks, dayparts, programs, and creatives. The use of DR variations is proven over many decades and a variety of methods are used including unique web-based promotion codes, SMS codes, QR codes, and differing phone numbers. By using DR variations, advertisers are better able to track the performance of their campaigns in real time as well as optimize their TV buys to produce the highest level of return-on-investment (ROI).

For high frequency campaigns, the use of DR variations is highly recommended. [Click here](#) to skip to the TV attribution section which includes a more detailed overview / study of this topic.

It took over ten years to build, launch, and collect the data that has contributed to this study. Since its inception in the fourth quarter of 2014, AdSphere has identified more than 16,690 direct-to-consumer brands utilizing over 127,000 unique creatives. AdSphere's database contains over 155 million airings including over 759,000 - 28.5 minute infomercial airings.

In recent years, one of the biggest drivers of direct-to-consumer advertising has been web and mobile-based companies that have discovered the power of television advertising.



Many are discovering the measurability and power of DR techniques, which include the use of DR variations and utilization of longer creative formats ranging from 60 seconds to 28.5 minutes, to drive higher levels of consumer engagement and response.

Among the many advertisers who use DR variations are household names such as CarShield, Colonial Penn, Balance of Nature, Nutrisystem, Humana, Shriners Hospitals for Children, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Nugenix, Relaxium Sleep, Peptiva, and ASPCA. The Adsphere™ research system tracks these and many other brands advertising across more than 190 industry categories such as beauty, fitness, home & garden, housewares & appliances, insurance, legal services and many more.

DRMetrix collects commercial occurrence data from 141 national cable and digital broadcast networks using state-of-the-art automated content recognition (ACR) and counts as 'direct-to-consumer' any ad that provides a phone number, web address, mobile SMS, QR Code or app store logo from Apple or Google.

## **MEDIA VALUATION METHODOLOGY**

DRMetrix has partnered with numerous agencies, as well as third party media rate aggregators, to create the industry's first rate database based on the averages of what brand-direct campaigns are paying for network daypart inventory in scatter. Major media holding companies, placing hybrid brand-direct campaigns (where DR variations are not utilized) represent the majority of the business. Understanding this, DRMetrix has created these rate metrics in order to provide the industry with a more realistic understanding of the size of the direct-to-consumer marketplace which includes brand-direct as well as DR types of campaigns. DRMetrix has also collaborated with leading long form (infomercial) agencies and advertisers to a rate database for 28.5 minute program length advertisements. For more information regarding DRMetrix's spend methodology, please [click here](#).

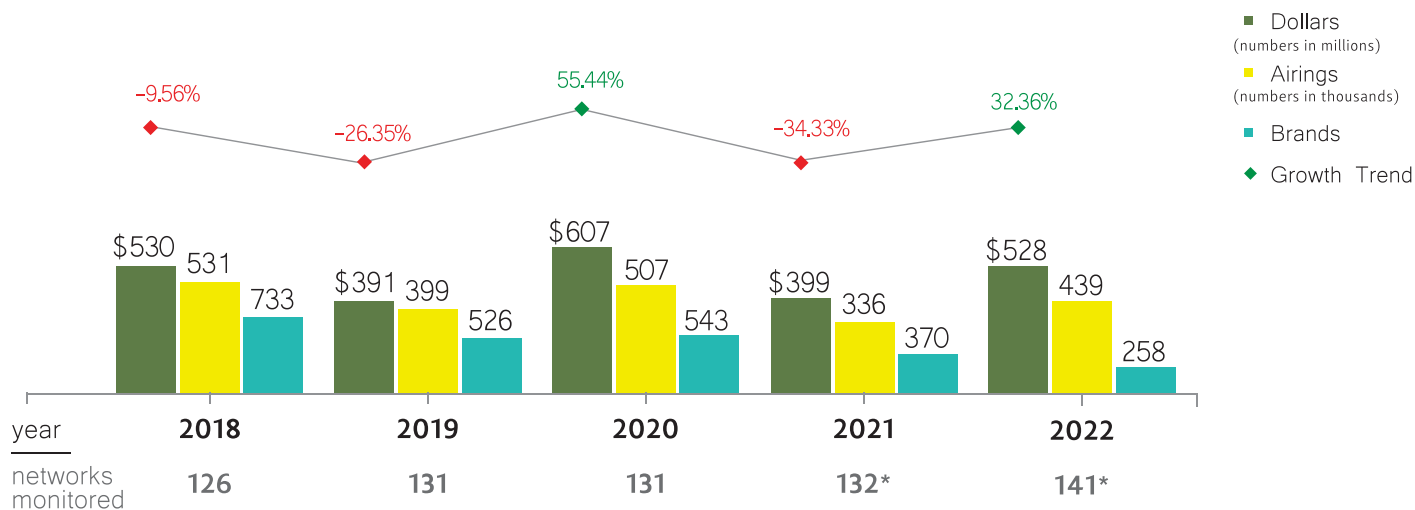


# PROJECTED EXPENDITURES BY BRAND CLASSIFICATION Using Brand-Direct (\$)

**SHORT FORM PRODUCTS + 32.36%  
INCREASE OVER 2021.**

The brand classification "Short Form Products" includes campaigns that use DR variations to better measure their advertising ROI. Creatives in this category also disclose the full price of the main product being advertised. After a difficult 2021, where this category decreased by 34.33%, this category had a nice recovery in 2022.

## NATIONAL CABLE MEDIA BILLINGS SHORT FORM PRODUCTS



Note: Projected dollars are based on the average of what Brand/DR advertisers are paying for network scatter ROS daypart inventory.  
\*145 Networks Monitored in 2022 - ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX leaves 141 networks  
Numbers above do not include ABC, CBS, NBC, or FOX dollars

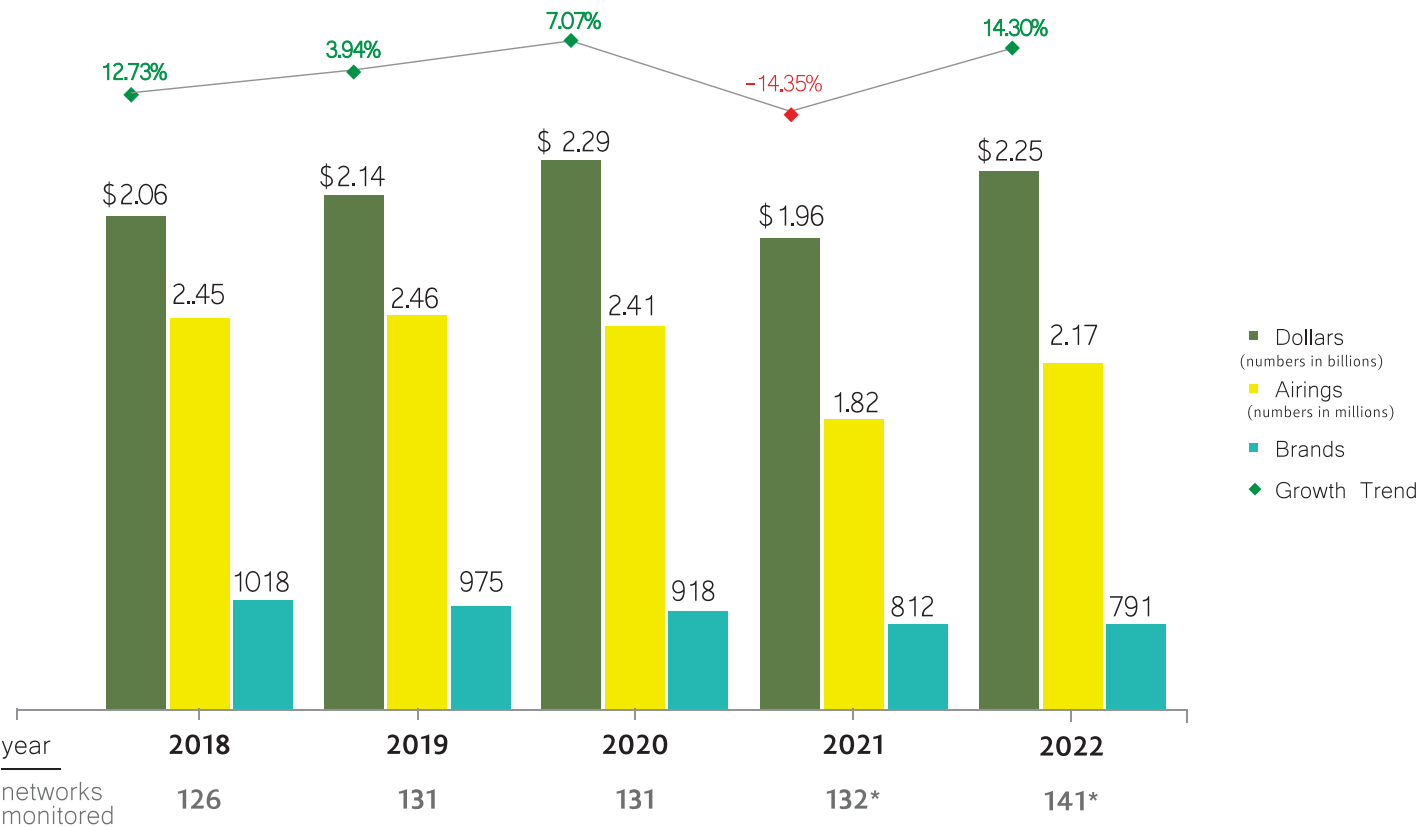


# LEAD GENERATION

## EXPERIENCES +14.30% INCREASE OVER 2021

The brand classification “Lead Generation” also includes campaigns that use DR variations but do not advertise full price points. Such campaigns include multi-pay and free-trial offers as well as free information campaigns. In terms of traditional DR classifications, Lead Generation is the largest with more than \$2.25 billion in projected media valuation for 2022.

### NATIONAL CABLE MEDIA BILLINGS LEAD GENERATION



Note: Projected dollars are based on the average of what Brand/DR advertisers are paying for network scatter ROS daypart inventory.  
\*145 Networks Monitored in 2022 - ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX leaves 141 networks  
Numbers above do not include ABC, CBS, NBC, or FOX dollars

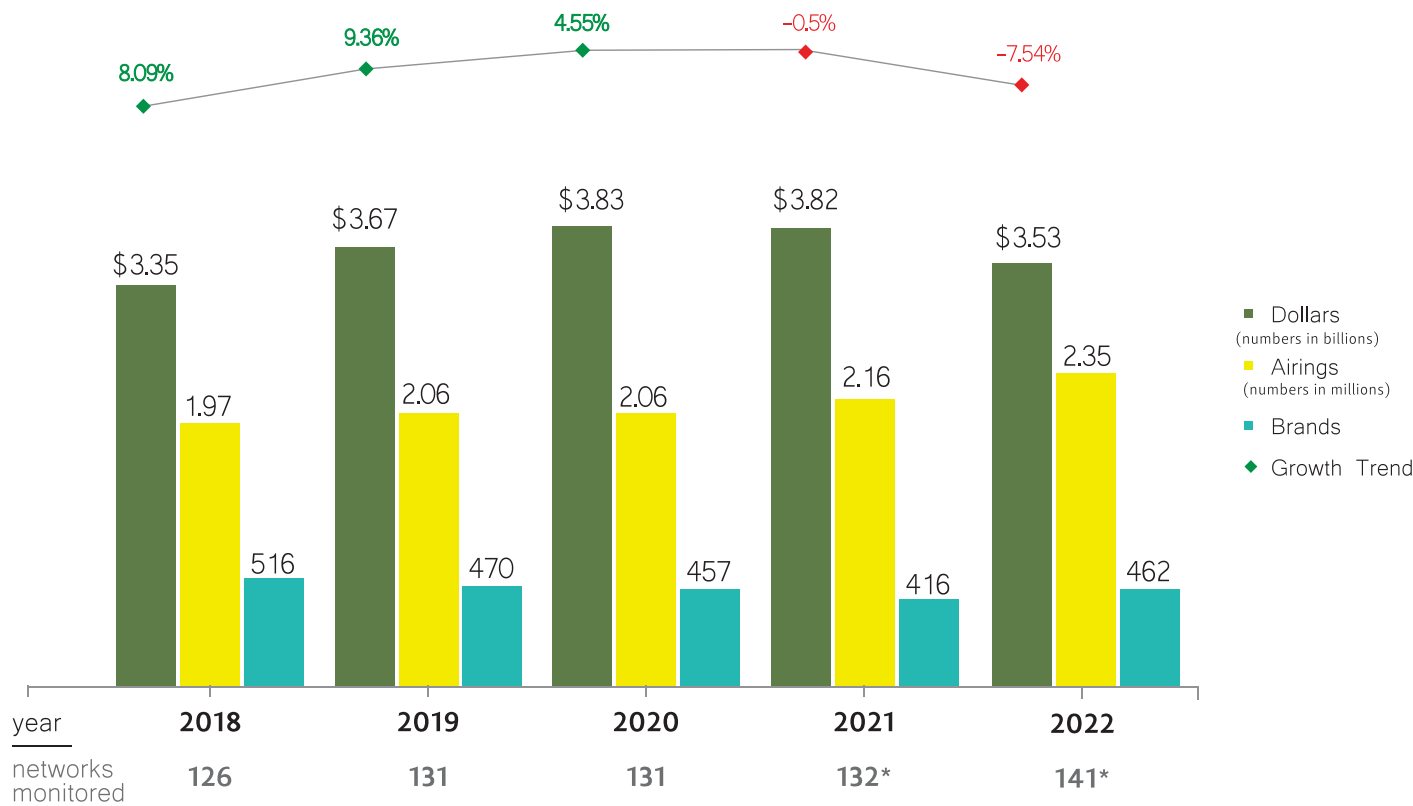




# BRAND-DIRECT EXPERIENCES TEPID GROWTH IN 2022

Brand-Direct campaigns do not use DR variations. They use a combination of vanity web addresses and/or phone numbers, SMS, or mobile app store response components. Many of these campaigns execute a combination of DR daypart buys and program specific brand buys. DRMetrix segments these campaigns into two camps: those advertising vanity phone numbers and those using non-phone methods of response such as web and/or mobile.

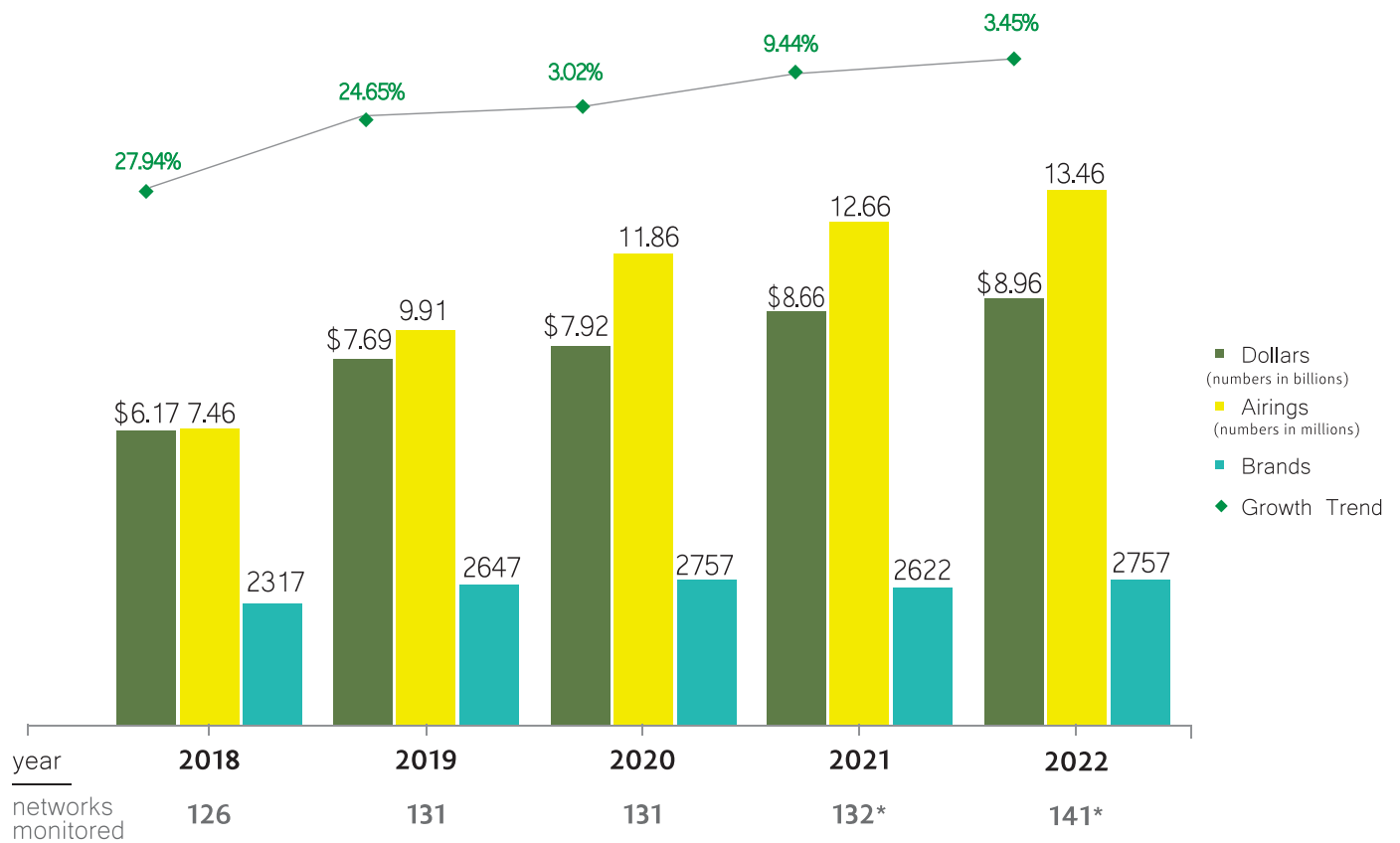
## NATIONAL CABLE MEDIA BILLINGS BRAND-DIRECT (PHONE)



Note: Projected dollars are based on the average of what Brand/DR advertisers are paying for network scatter ROS daypart inventory.  
\*145 Networks Monitored in 2022 - ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX leaves 141 networks  
Numbers above do not include ABC, CBS, NBC, or FOX dollars



## NATIONAL CABLE MEDIA EXPENDITURES BRAND-DIRECT (WEB/MOBILE)



Note: Projected dollars are based on the average of what Brand/DR advertisers are paying for network scatter ROS daypart inventory.

\*145 Networks Monitored in 2022 - ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX leaves 141 networks  
Numbers above do not include ABC, CBS, NBC, or FOX dollars

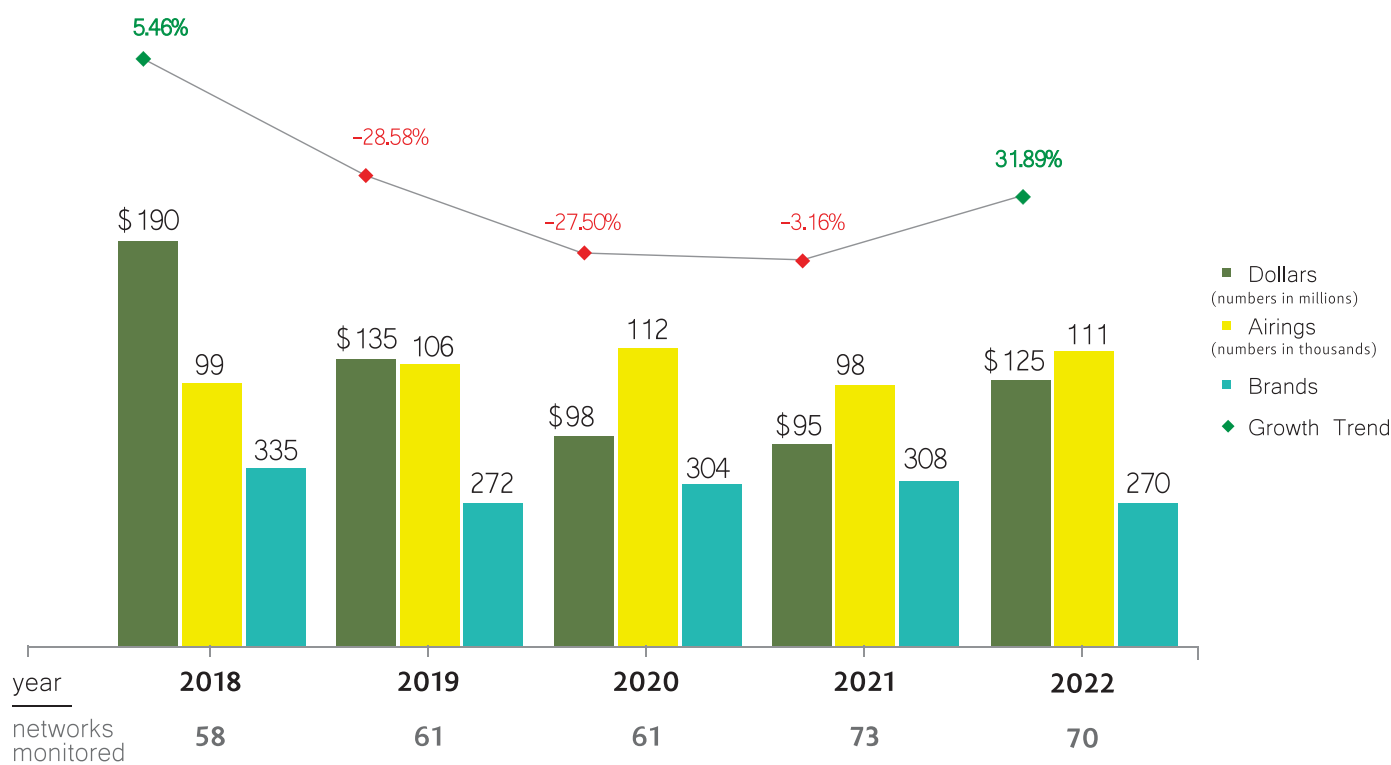




# LONG FORM (28.5m) +31.89% INCREASE OVER 2021

Our last brand classification is Long Form, which consists of creatives using the 28.5-minute infomercial format. In 2022, only a portion of the networks monitored by DRMetrix (70) offer inventory for this format. This category had a nice recovery in 2022 after 3 consecutive years of declines.

## NATIONAL CABLE MEDIA EXPENDITURES LONG FORM (28.5 m)



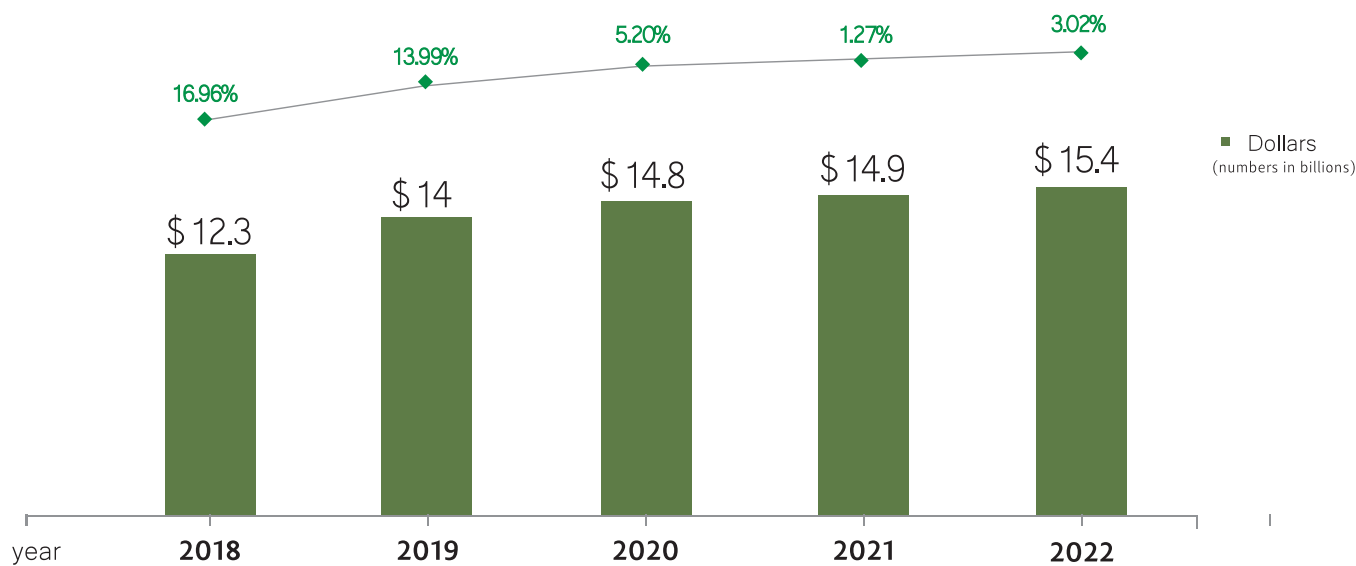


# AGGREGATE MEDIA EXPENDITURES FOR ALL 5 BRAND CLASSIFICATIONS

DRMetrix is reporting a tepid YOY growth for 2022 at 3.02 percent but this number can be a bit misleading since brand/DR advertisers pay substantially more for media than remnant DR advertisers. Within AdSphere™ the same rates are reported at the network/ daypart level while also considering the break type. With remnant DR advertisers buying more units YOY in 2022, the actual revenue realized by media companies was actually lower than in 2021. Overall, estimated national cable media expenditures increased to \$15.4 billion in 2022.

Note: DRMetrix reports that direct-to-consumer expenditures on national broadcast (ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX) were an additional 4.5 billion in 2022.

## NATIONAL CABLE MEDIA BILLINGS OVERALL TOTAL

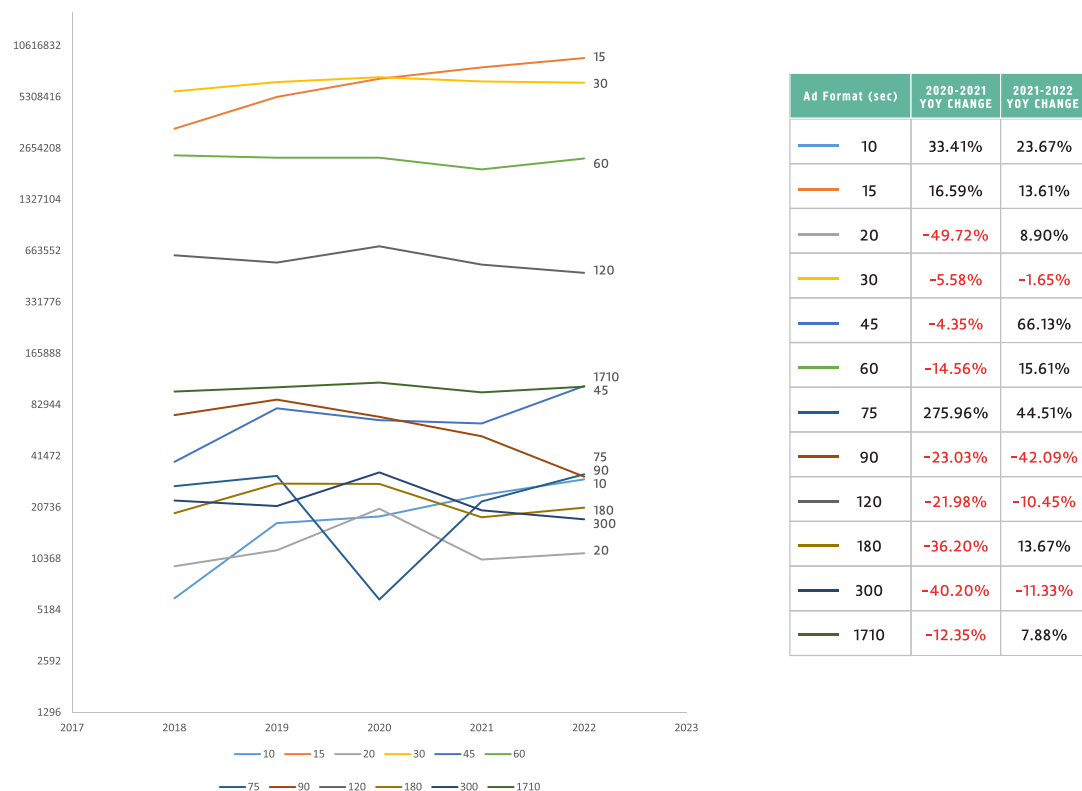


Note: Projected dollars are based on the average of what Brand/DR advertisers are paying for network scatter ROS daypart inventory.



## YEARLY AIRINGS BY AD FORMAT

The following chart shows the ad unit growth for various creative formats from 2018-2022



There were a few formats that experienced rather significant growth and/or declines in 2022.



The use of 45s units is up 66.13% with the largest use cases being for Pharma advertisers.

Brand Name	Advertiser	Airings	Spend (\$)
Latuda	Sunovion Pharmaceuticals	20,547	65,200,673
Stelara	Johnson & Johnson Consumer	16,351	57,460,350
Otezla	Amgen	13,530	38,193,074
Trulicity	Eli Lilly and Company	7,049	33,863,102
Tremfya	Johnson & Johnson Consumer	6,809	24,687,321
Xiidra	Takeda Pharmaceuticals	8,151	19,048,460
Eliquis	Bristol-Myers Squibb	3,343	13,969,272
Linzess	Ironwood Pharmaceuticals	8,139	11,866,869
Entyvio	Takeda Pharmaceuticals	4,601	11,409,718
Qulipta	AbbVie	2,578	9,448,094
Lo Loestrin Fe	AbbVie	7,754	8,885,322
Mavyret	AbbVie	3,578	6,919,340
Jublia	Bausch Health Companies	1,531	6,315,030
New Day USA	NewDay Financial	1,360	4,564,319
Cosentyx	Novartis	900	2,326,129
Krafton	Sony Interactive Entertainment America	47	274,026

75s units continued to grow at 44.51% YOY with 4 Pharma advertisers representing the vast majority of usage.

Brand Name	Advertiser	Airings	Spend (\$)
Ozempic	Novo Nordisk	20,239	163,333,691
Opdivo + Yervoy	Bristol-Myers Squibb	5,601	39,261,708
Verzenio	Eli Lilly and Company	4,015	20,135,156
Gardasil 9	Merck Sharp & Dohme	2,553	12,290,767
Paramount+	ViacomCBS	102	180,505
Noggin	ViacomCBS	112	143,989
Ocrevus	Genentech	3	18,271
Stage 29 Podcast Productions	ViacomCBS	2	2,965



90s units dropped in frequency by 42.09% YOY. The largest cause of decline being a small number of Pharma advertisers who pulled back on use of the format.

Brand Name	Advertiser	Airings	Spend (\$)
Colonial Penn	Colonial Penn Life Insurance	13,278	52,584,958
Dovato	ViiV Healthcare Company	8,400	51,267,627
Keytruda	Merck Sharp & Dohme	4,709	43,049,153
QUVIVIQ	Idorsia Pharmaceuticals	745	16,894,648
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital	St Jude Children's Research Hospital	2,169	9,444,592
Apretude	ViiV Healthcare Company	1,870	9,231,038
Miracle Ear	Miracle-Ear	1,888	4,998,684
Renewal by Anderson Window Treatment	Renewal by Andersen	41	1,884,734
Carefree Dental Card	Coverdell & Company	898	1,388,387
ASPCA	American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty...	216	1,025,990
Humana - Medicare	Humana Insurance	225	518,915
Tory Burch Foundation	Tory Burch Foundation	622	459,539
Humana - Dental	Humana Insurance	168	339,877
NFL	Everfi	7	276,481
Noggin	ViacomCBS	164	235,302
Shriners Hospitals for Children	Shriners International	12	233,277



## PROJECTED EXPENDITURES BY MASTER CATEGORY (2018 - 2022)

Over the next few pages, we're proud to present 2018 - 2022 projected media expenditures by brand classification across 20 industry categories. In the AdSphere research system, each of these master industry categories include numerous nested subcategories that number over 190. For example, under the master category Beauty, Hygiene & Personal Care, there are subcategories for Beauty Shops/Salons, Cosmetics & Skin Care, Hair Restoration Products, Hair Styling Accessories, Oral Hygiene Products, and Personal Grooming & Supplies. Under the master category Legal Services there are subcategories for Bankruptcy, General, Personal Injury, and Tort & Class Action.

Within AdSphere, one can study campaigns across any of these 190 category/subcategory combinations to understand spend levels, the ranking of network/dayparts based on share of category dollars, and even study the best performing creative executions.

INDUSTRY CATEGORY - SHORT FORM PRODUCTS					
MASTER CATEGORIES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Beauty, Hygiene & Personal Care	223,573,174	155,316,654	168,938,197	93,195,806	78,730,229
Communications	6,197	1,038,437	1,946,388	869,480	1,851,482
Drug & Toiletry	257,633	30,021	463,361	182,184	0
Education	33,282	0	0	139,232	0
Electronic & Software	21,068,241	13,156,247	16,782,303	9,474,572	2,076,185
Entertainment Venues	0	0	0	0	0
Financial	28,737	0	789,089	534,785	204,650
Health & Fitness	83,252,209	95,133,618	206,329,194	140,206,297	148,506,017
Home & Garden	38,690,893	28,274,964	57,246,482	58,808,306	114,466,942
Housewares & Appliances	78,364,414	56,667,318	99,179,866	84,814,746	140,088,192
Insurance	0	0	0	0	0
Legal Services	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	81,268,229	39,380,637	88,430,826	33,243,268	44,768,708
Music and Video	3,928,239	1,733,914	1,871,566	1,108,221	1,383,815
Online Services & Shopping	18,153	0	29,909	0	0
Public Service	0	0	3,335,135	0	1,987,069
Retail, Restaurant & Food Venues	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation (Sales and Repair)	0	0	61,628	0	14,757
Travel, Vacation and Hotel	0	0	0	0	0
Sports (New)	0	0	0	0	0
	530,489,403	390,731,811	645,403,944	422,576,897	534,078,046



INDUSTRY CATEGORY - LEAD GENERATION					
MASTER CATEGORIES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Beauty, Hygiene & Personal Care	79,346,883	63,006,797	47,210,482	26,929,765	28,526,954
Communications	19,805,931	7,901,969	18,195,594	21,257,707	17,601,311
Drug & Toiletry	12,747,777	22,645,846	13,654,687	5,379,949	14,251,755
Education	66,487,714	45,585,181	21,069,300	8,138,573	8,949,955
Electronic & Software	48,790,186	44,461,814	28,796,760	22,288,048	22,988,698
Entertainment Venues	3,052,737	4,683,066	4,495,072	3,315,304	3,555,720
Financial	183,487,313	215,594,224	283,717,343	221,381,783	178,484,959
Health & Fitness	723,364,352	591,529,142	537,861,218	479,736,676	605,784,780
Home & Garden	97,700,051	102,538,188	106,269,496	109,382,549	145,071,818
Housewares & Appliances	11,906,906	48,552,956	37,458,274	24,700,175	11,069,927
Insurance	380,511,396	546,493,882	869,420,881	893,150,796	735,557,980
Legal Services	86,130,208	149,111,243	131,697,963	110,365,313	271,686,552
Miscellaneous	125,599,909	95,043,894	87,544,892	63,916,989	65,396,177
Music and Video	5,596	11,046	0	0	2,809
Online Services & Shopping	25,462,072	40,470,320	66,932,494	35,332,942	28,493,817
Public Service	160,646,552	132,949,329	218,567,509	239,962,174	214,044,270
Retail, Restaurant & Food Venues	0	5,285,932	0	0	0
Transportation (Sales and Repair)	9,121,678	10,224,043	5,096,206	7,035,257	19,201,667
Travel, Vacation and Hotel	26,948,174	16,268,463	7,074,940	5,900,520	4,594,666
Sports (New)	0	0	0	0	0
	2,061,115,434	2,142,357,336	2,485,063,111	2,278,174,520	2,375,263,815

INDUSTRY CATEGORY - BRAND/DR (PHONE)					
MASTER CATEGORIES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Beauty, Hygiene & Personal Care	24,462,201	2,989,230	15,079,832	908,021	16,620,028
Communications	153,859,866	82,066,840	61,910,182	77,818,024	163,112,128
Drug & Toiletry	1,838,960,127	2,230,303,461	3,847,652,235	4,488,783,744	3,576,366,626
Education	54,305,876	12,677,384	22,453,876	3,000,067	5,083,987
Electronic & Software	15,791,739	32,773,380	113,229,439	85,332,081	53,325,538
Entertainment Venues	343,939	415,053	764,527	236,477	137,810
Financial	60,487,016	45,601,331	44,146,097	32,054,498	59,759,085
Health & Fitness	144,976,179	138,914,999	174,636,905	121,204,234	99,267,515
Home & Garden	109,722,087	77,031,778	122,435,801	116,621,578	161,934,529
Housewares & Appliances	11,892,652	2,359,504	21,793,737	31,599,725	18,638,614
Insurance	718,187,445	801,950,272	1,126,117,770	1,427,278,939	1,110,551,263
Legal Services	1,900,131	1,211,550	3,228,545	11,126,565	3,341,057
Miscellaneous	41,773,316	48,588,166	47,438,666	63,600,441	81,198,159
Music and Video	142,487	0	534,151	526	40,118
Online Services & Shopping	15,268,242	14,282,316	8,515,297	25,990,778	35,192,567
Public Service	38,883,955	36,424,956	67,744,652	29,626,428	57,045,949
Retail, Restaurant & Food Venues	8,554,090	136,355	8,655,937	432	139,494
Transportation (Sales and Repair)	42,163,088	56,582,342	23,969,640	46,398,323	9,720,197
Travel, Vacation and Hotel	72,535,476	83,822,628	63,595,055	65,870,368	55,074,103
Sports (New)	0	0	0	0	1,779,528
	3,354,209,912	3,668,131,547	5,773,902,344	6,627,451,249	5,508,328,295





INDUSTRY CATEGORY - BRAND/DR (WEB/MOBILE)					
MASTER CATEGORIES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Beauty, Hygiene & Personal Care	138,164,196	171,256,012	268,294,994	306,303,800	332,425,883
Communications	270,600,273	263,115,310	604,346,376	843,370,505	900,427,153
Drug & Toiletry	149,922,899	240,536,698	447,024,483	433,130,421	841,596,154
Education	205,076,792	205,584,153	297,158,171	229,442,401	226,108,994
Electronic & Software	384,112,330	440,969,432	1,056,633,787	1,070,148,242	1,150,152,987
Entertainment Venues	31,780,959	27,118,763	15,802,336	21,148,987	123,054,194
Financial	384,490,589	553,535,231	828,897,952	948,306,878	1,019,631,373
Health & Fitness	501,660,426	726,956,792	881,163,439	1,174,485,861	1,146,261,221
Home & Garden	439,179,380	599,943,564	608,961,739	515,311,746	550,074,715
Housewares & Appliances	264,221,925	298,731,989	320,771,786	339,289,079	410,258,142
Insurance	293,934,937	477,223,146	1,029,295,160	826,177,229	603,169,470
Legal Services	15,391,707	5,365,927	14,374,620	24,141,647	18,305,013
Miscellaneous	1,255,771,889	1,488,996,416	1,670,197,737	1,729,953,241	1,831,809,307
Music and Video	9,758,612	7,924,122	63,090,761	27,383,732	25,217,551
Online Services & Shopping	287,851,624	328,323,299	876,725,669	879,927,390	511,838,349
Public Service	302,756,605	303,696,758	667,484,532	346,880,910	311,641,994
Retail, Restaurant & Food Venues	436,267,691	619,573,864	1,672,286,294	1,479,295,914	1,114,110,026
Transportation (Sales and Repair)	208,432,832	275,692,164	359,065,526	406,553,769	410,946,615
Travel, Vacation and Hotel	580,969,105	648,075,329	255,966,399	234,674,172	437,227,093
Sports (New)	0	0	0	0	23,170,321
	6,160,344,771	7,682,618,966	11,937,541,761	11,835,925,924	11,987,426,555

INDUSTRY CATEGORY - LONG FORM (28.5 m)					
MASTER CATEGORIES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Beauty, Hygiene & Personal Care	41,041,550	27,907,992	20,493,739	11,371,977	24,305,783
Communications	0	1,221	444,294	194,629	741,950
Drug & Toiletry	0	0	0	0	11,156
Education	2,598,085	1,810,955	244,171	0	0
Electronic & Software	1,584,844	1,136,194	559,349	345,875	283,412
Entertainment Venues	0	0	0	0	0
Financial	9,142,549	3,231,653	2,922,612	2,967,256	6,450,892
Health & Fitness	46,214,069	33,432,728	24,955,166	20,961,996	27,108,319
Home & Garden	7,439,391	6,572,055	5,004,337	3,393,028	4,177,790
Housewares & Appliances	41,745,252	28,288,099	21,481,364	15,648,317	25,035,462
Insurance	4,918,677	5,705,643	6,606,043	3,127,778	10,447,967
Legal Services	57,261	851,184	1,674,284	1,278,357	6,371,029
Miscellaneous	16,277,150	13,374,117	10,409,470	6,094,345	10,821,433
Music and Video	5,051,295	3,078,888	3,243,358	2,356,477	2,614,727
Online Services & Shopping	11,991,016	8,817,794	2,370,706	0	6,763,018
Public Service	1,425,691	1,192,099	935,510	1,704,597	4,215,759
Retail, Restaurant & Food Venues	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation (Sales and Repair)	0	0	0	23,777	87,155
Travel, Vacation and Hotel	0	0	0	0	0
Sports (New)	0	0	0	0	0
	189,486,831	135,400,623	101,344,403	69,468,409	129,435,852



# 2022 TOP 10 BRANDS BY BRAND CLASSIFICATION

## Short Form Products

Copper Fit Arch Relief Plus	\$28,152,915
Omega XL	\$21,658,624
GraniteStone Nutriblade Knives	\$20,705,525
Luminess Breeze Airbrush	\$17,143,682
Nano Advanced Hearing Technology	\$16,439,390
MicroTouch Titanium Max	\$15,618,235
AquaCare	\$14,841,336
Copper Fit Energy Socks	\$14,731,669
GraniteStone / GraniteRock	\$14,063,101
GraniteStone Blue	\$13,233,034

## Brand/DR (Phone)

Liberty Mutual	\$344,568,721
Progressive	\$264,513,179
Rinvoq	\$248,452,127
Allstate	\$244,046,472
Dupixent	\$240,665,141
Ozempic	\$163,369,816
Jardiance	\$139,716,097
Rybelsus	\$125,259,904
State Farm	\$120,075,502
Rexulti	\$107,023,990

## Long Form

Luminess Breeze Airbrush	\$7,547,294
LifeLock by Norton	\$6,635,982
Humana- Medicare	\$5,438,555
Home Title Lock	\$4,825,599
CarShield	\$4,704,547
Meaningful Beauty Supreme System	\$4,541,137
Total Gym	\$4,453,982
Omega XL	\$4,278,073
Nuwave OxyPure Air Filter	\$2,764,070
Inogen One	\$2,746,842

## Lead Generation

CarShield	\$127,519,632
Colonial Penn	\$121,747,961
Balance of Nature	\$83,013,436
Medicare Advantage Advisors	\$77,240,469
Nutrisystem	\$69,475,981
Ideal Agent	\$58,809,258
Medicare Coverage Helpline	\$58,286,670
Humana - Medicare	\$57,388,179
Shriners Hospitals for Children	\$56,538,721
St. Jude Children's Res. Hosp.	\$50,421,178

## Brand/DR (Web / Mobile)

Geico	\$291,306,908
Subway	\$174,065,116
Kohl's	\$148,953,129
T-Mobile	\$130,162,466
Domino's	\$122,918,669
Progressive	\$110,410,698
Indeed	\$106,554,956
Disney+	\$106,269,298
Golo	\$105,308,878
Skyrizi	\$101,186,496

Note: Projected expenditures are based on the average of what Brand/DR advertisers are paying for network daypart inventory



## TV ATTRIBUTION

In offline linear television, many advertisers use traditional ratings as a guide to purchase television time. For many decades, a different approach has been used by DR advertisers who engage consumers to respond to their commercials and track responses back to specific networks and dayparts.

DR agencies have long studied the correlation between consumer response, ratings data, and resulting return on advertising spend. It has been proven that ratings data does not correlate and can not be used to reliably optimize a DR campaign. Further, DR agencies have discovered that some television attribution solutions, based on web spike analysis, are highly inaccurate when it comes to properly attributing consumer response to specific linear television networks.

These are some of the reasons why many consumer-response brands continue to use DR variations as an important part of their attribution and media optimization strategy. This time proven practice has been around for decades. A more modern example would be QR codes that are starting to appear in TV commercials. QR codes support embedded data such as network codes, etc., making them particularly useful for TV attribution.

Whether using QR codes, differing phone, web, or SMS variants, the goal is always the same - to attribute responses so that media schedules can be optimized. Some of the reasons why DR advertisers prefer to use DR variations have to do with difficult problems that only DR variations can solve for.

## THE PROXIMITY OF AIRING ISSUE

If you have multiple national networks running commercial spots near one another, the attribution challenge becomes problematic. The problem is further compounded by time-shifted viewing made possible by digital-video-recorders (DVR). Estimates suggest that as many as 20-40% of consumers are watching popular TV shows up to 35 days beyond live.

Depending on the frequency of the problem, and the number of networks involved, the use of DR variations can be a viable solution to these difficult problems.



17 The chart below provides insight into the proximity of airing issue, using data from 30 of the more prominent direct-to-consumer TV campaigns not using DR variations. DRMetrix wanted to determine how often these campaigns encountered conflicts where more than one network aired within a short period of time. We used a five and a one-minute delta for the study. The five-minute delta looks back five minutes and forward five minutes from when each spot ran to determine if there were other airings for the brand on a different network. Similarly, the one-minute study looks back one minute and forward one minute. DRMetrix did not consider airings on the same network to be in conflict. For a conflict to exist, there must be at least two airings on different networks within the allotted time frame. DRMetrix also studied how many networks on average were involved when conflicts were discovered.

Brand Name	Total Airings	5 Minute Delta			1 Minute Delta		
		Airings with Network Conflicts (Within Delta)	Conflict Percentage	Number of Network Conflicts (Average)	Airings with Network Conflicts (Within Delta)	Conflict Percentage	Number of Network Conflicts (Average)
4 imprint	209719	187809	89.55%	11.78	92441	44.08%	2.97
Subway	147217	115773	78.64%	6.16	43515	29.56%	2.49
BetterHelp	141241	117710	83.34%	8.78	52485	37.16%	2.77
Nuts.com	133089	99873	75.04%	5.41	36117	27.14%	2.43
Upgrade	129125	101441	78.56%	6.33	39194	30.35%	2.52
Indeed	127236	105974	83.29%	8.38	45408	35.69%	2.68
Fanatics	126230	93153	73.80%	4.95	31378	24.86%	2.35
Golo	124276	91136	73.33%	5.11	31403	25.27%	2.39
fuboTV	119042	85574	71.89%	4.94	31506	26.47%	2.42
Instacart	118178	95695	80.98%	7.68	41824	35.39%	2.74
Safelite Auto Glass	113062	87541	77.43%	6.64	34199	30.25%	2.54
Chime	110083	75377	68.47%	4.49	25754	23.40%	2.38
GO2 Bank	104310	72583	69.58%	4.4	23135	22.18%	2.28
Kohl's	103431	80058	77.40%	6.32	30972	29.94%	2.54
Geico	102279	75614	73.93%	6.22	30169	29.50%	2.6
Underdog Fantasy	97292	69324	71.25%	5.07	24572	25.26%	2.4
Lume	94466	64570	68.35%	4.77	22604	23.93%	2.42
Smile Direct Club	91547	67330	73.55%	5.06	24588	26.86%	2.42
Warby Parker	85176	52613	61.77%	3.87	16249	19.08%	2.23
Scribd	83136	49497	59.54%	3.53	14274	17.17%	2.21
Keeps	82509	47811	57.95%	3.48	13720	16.63%	2.21
Chase Bank	80645	62277	77.22%	5.98	22979	28.49%	2.46
Home Light	78241	45001	57.52%	3.63	13653	17.45%	2.25
Sleep Number	78081	49948	63.97%	4.34	18178	23.28%	2.42
Peloton Portfolio	75108	60741	80.87%	7.15	24391	32.47%	2.58
Greenlight	73145	42324	57.86%	3.62	12757	17.44%	2.24
NetCredit	72268	39171	54.20%	3.52	11717	16.21%	2.19
DQ	70642	51381	72.73%	5.01	18291	25.89%	2.42
Quicken Loans	68998	38460	55.74%	3.32	11187	16.21%	2.21
Care.com	68385	42974	62.84%	4.22	13779	20.15%	2.33



Using 4 imprint as an example, we analyzed 209,719 airings that Ad Sphere captured for 2022. Approximately 187,809 had conflicts within a 5-minute delta which is 89.55%. The average number of network conflicts was 11.78. Assuming 4 imprint is relying on traditional web-spike analysis for TV attribution, this would leave less than 10.45% of their airings unconflicted from which to build a model to accurately attribute the remaining 89.55%.

Traditional DR advertisers buy fixed network dayparts at a discount where there is little control over when spots run or which programs they air in. This is an acceptable trade off which allows the direct-to-consumer industry to buy television time at lower rates. Because of the obvious variables involved, it is difficult to model future performance based on past airings data which further supports the use of DR variations.

In conclusion, many direct-to-consumer advertisers use DR variations to dramatically improve the accuracy of their attribution and it has become an important part of their overall attribution model which includes digital attribution, multi-touch, and other methodologies.

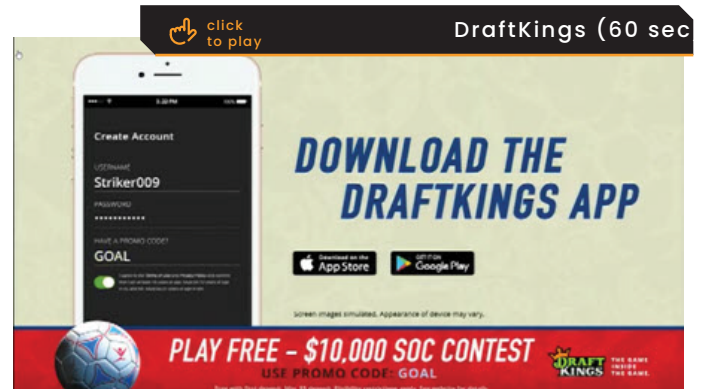
The challenges advertisers face today with linear off-line media attribution are significant enough to justify employing a combination of attribution methodologies which for many include the use of DR variations.

DRMetrix has provided some click-to-watch examples of TV creatives using DR variations on the next pages.

If your company is not currently using DR variations in your television advertising, please email DRMetrix at [info@drmetrix.com](mailto:info@drmetrix.com) for a free proximity of airing report for your brand/s.



## EXAMPLES OF DR VARIATIONS IN USE



Click on images to play spots.





Force Factor Alpha King (60 sec)



Click on images to play spots.



Martha & Marley Spoon (30 sec)

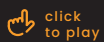
martha  
&  
MARLEY SPOON

3 FREE MEALS & FREE SHIPPING

CODE: TV6

marleyspoon.com

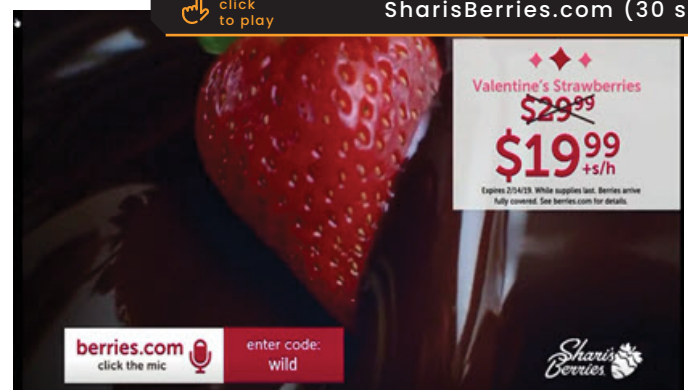
Valid for new customers only with paid subscription. \$30.75 value.  
Not valid with other offers. Delivery restrictions may apply.



Slimfast (30 sec)



SharisBerries.com (30 sec)







## FINAL THOUGHTS

In 2022, over 4,222 brands provided a way for consumers to respond to their TV ads. 28.6% of these brands used DR variations to make their television advertising more accountable.

As more web and mobile companies continue to migrate to television, they are often frustrated by the lack of measurement and accountability. The DR industry stands ready to help through education.

Since DR advertisers have the most accurate understanding of their television ROI, DRMetrix has worked over the past ten years to create AdSphere, the first television research system of its kind, which makes it easy for the broader direct-to-consumer industry to study these types of campaigns. Instead of relying on inadequate approaches that produce poor results, consider the value of leveraging competitive DR advertising research. DR agencies and advertisers are better positioned to optimize campaigns and allocate spend where they are measuring acceptable ROI. DR agencies optimize campaigns down to the network, daypart, program, and creative levels. Network dayparts and creatives that under-perform are discontinued while profitable media is continued. Accordingly, the actionable insights gained from competitive DR media research will lead many direct-to-consumer advertisers to make immediate changes to their media and/or creative strategy. The positive impact of these changes can be measured by direct-to-consumer advertisers.

Whether an advertiser uses DR variations or not, many can immediately benefit from AdSphere research data to dramatically improve their key-performance-indicators (KPIs). See [www.drmetrix.com/knowROI](http://www.drmetrix.com/knowROI) for more information.

Beyond more effective attribution, DR advertisers are vastly more successful in creating commercial campaigns that perform and generate ROI. Accurate measurement from the use of DR variations breeds success.

Industry legend, David Ogilvy, the man who many consider the father of modern advertising, said as much in a famous speech from the 1960's entitled, "[We sell or else](#)". Ogilvy lauded the value of DR advertising and predicted the worlds of DR and general advertising were on a collision course.



He recognized that longer ad formats were more effective than shorter formats and that DR advertisers were unique in their ability to determine which aspects of their television buys were actually working.

Ogilvy also predicted that the practitioners of general advertising would one day learn from the experience of the DR industry and stated it would be within the power of DR practitioners to rescue the advertising business from its "manifold lunacies".

To learn more about the DR television industry, visit the Performance-Driven Marketing Institute (PDMI) online at [www.thepdmi.com](http://www.thepdmi.com)

Through this industry study, DRMetrix is hoping more advertisers will become attracted to and discover the significant advantages of using time proven DR techniques including, but not limited to, the use of DR variations and/or embracing competitive DR media research.

We look forward to continuing to help the direct-to-consumer industry through research and education.

If you are interested in learning more about the direct-response industry, or learning where ROI is found in television advertising, please contact DRMetrix for a complimentary two-week trial of AdSphere.

