

Local Search & Shopping: How



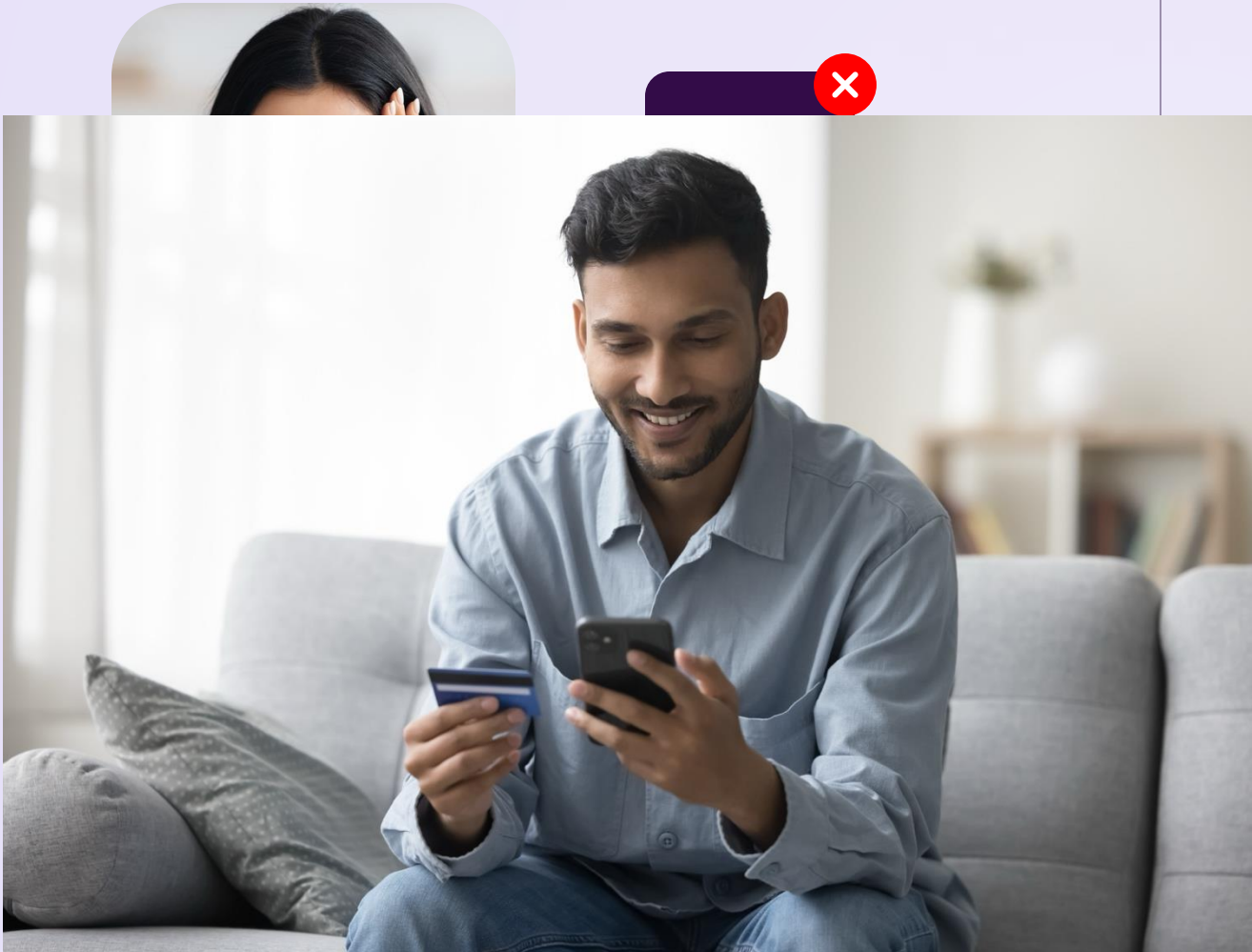
🔍 Item not found

Greg Sterling

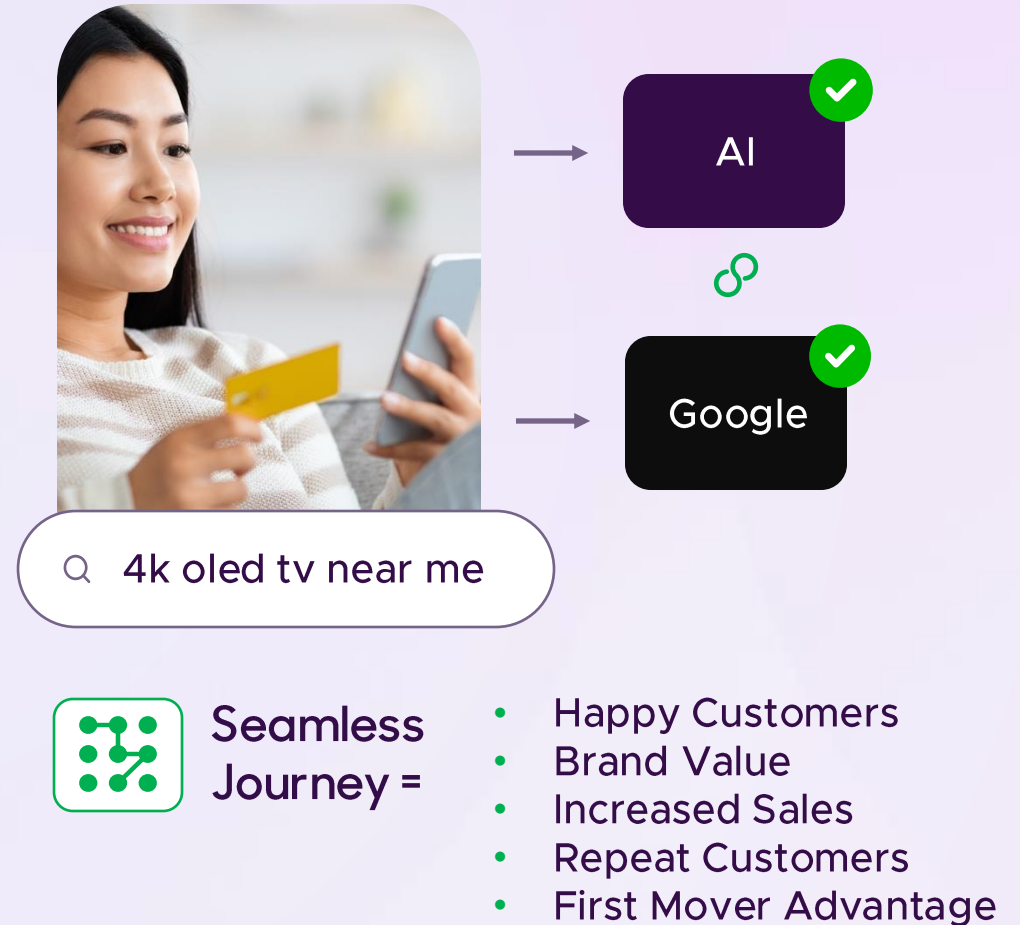


Why Brand's Need to Fill AI's Local Gap

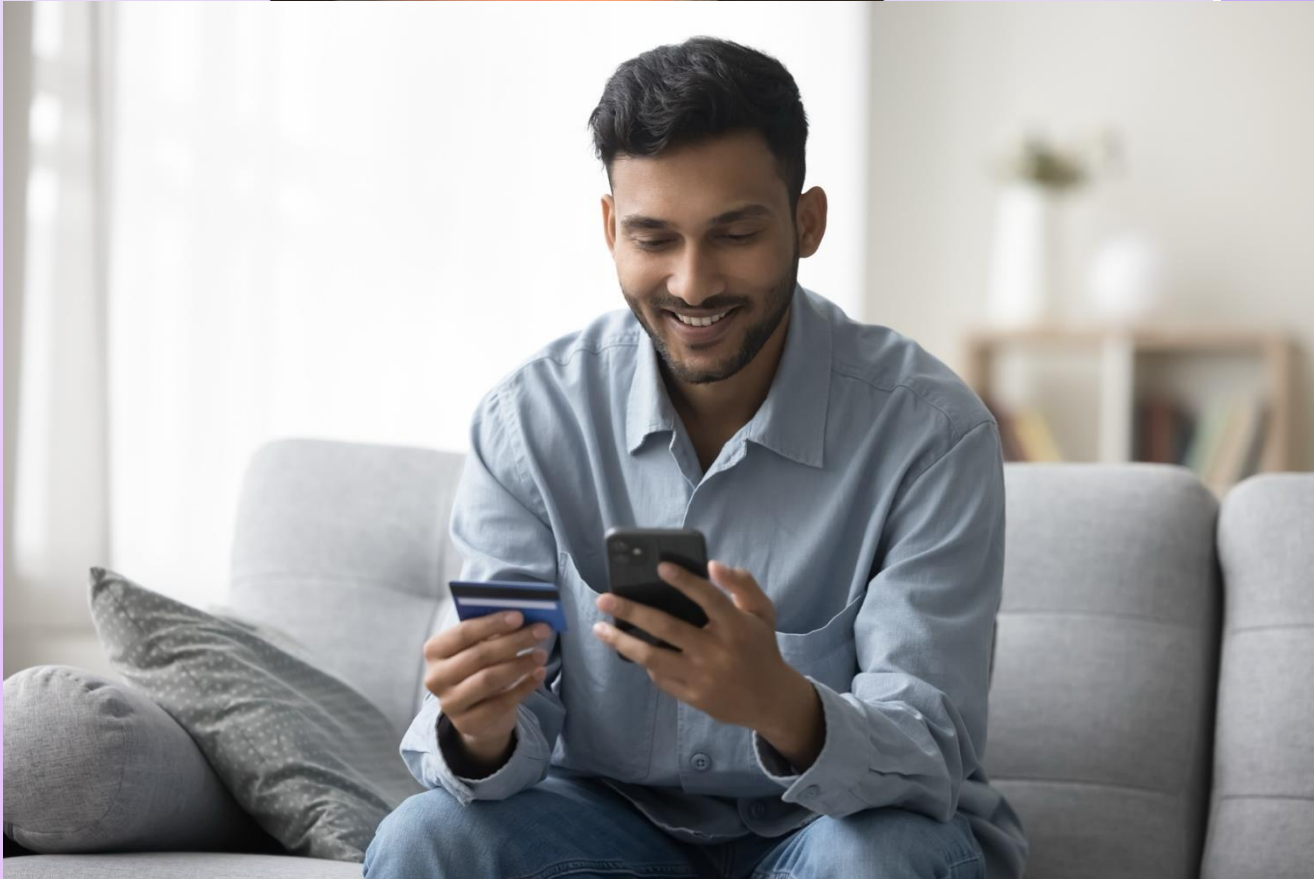
Current State



Future State



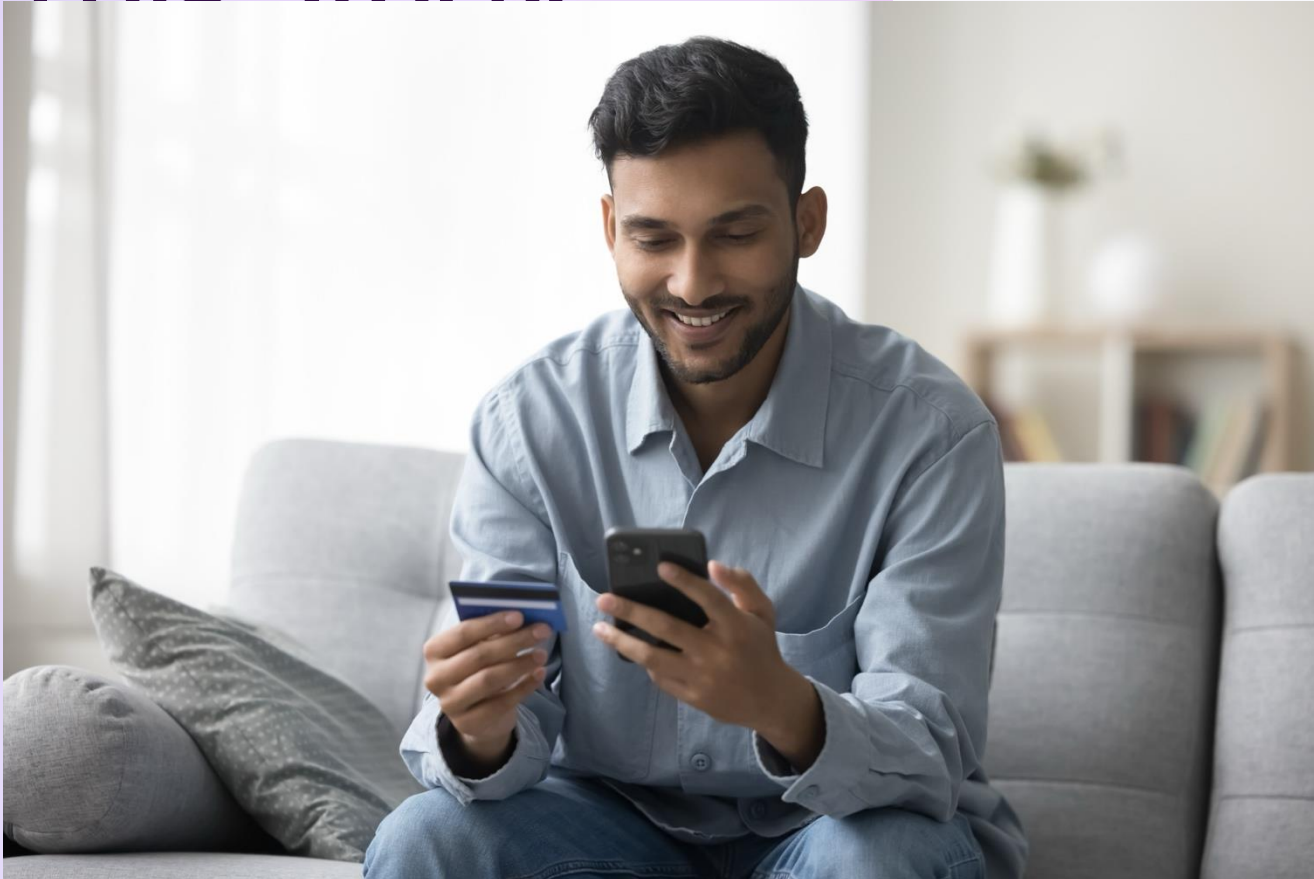
Who Are We?



Greg Sterling



What Sparked This Study



Lastmile **RETAIL**



How

shoppers are adopting AI in their journeys

Where

local content (inventory, pricing, service details) fits into those journeys

What

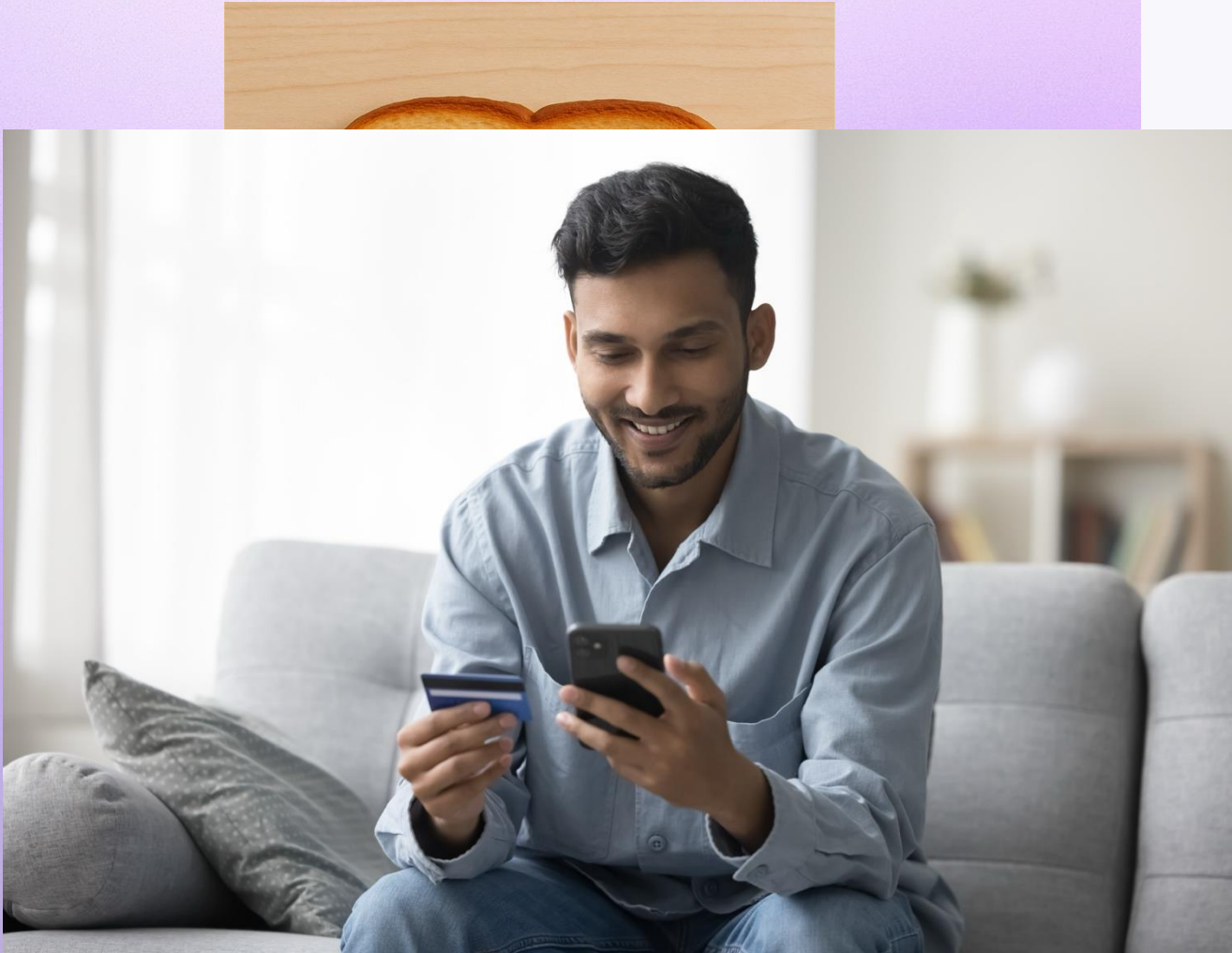
customers expect from AI, search, and brands in the future

What's happening



Customer journeys are changing
more complex, also compressing
demographic fragmentation
Google remains the last click

The Two Narratives 🔍



ChatGPT Is Not Replacing Google —It's Expanding Search

	Before Using ChatGPT	After Using ChatGPT
Google Search sessions/week	10.5	12.6
ChatGPT sessions/week	0	5

semrush.com

SEMRUSH

“Nothing’s changed,
Google’s usage is
unchanged”

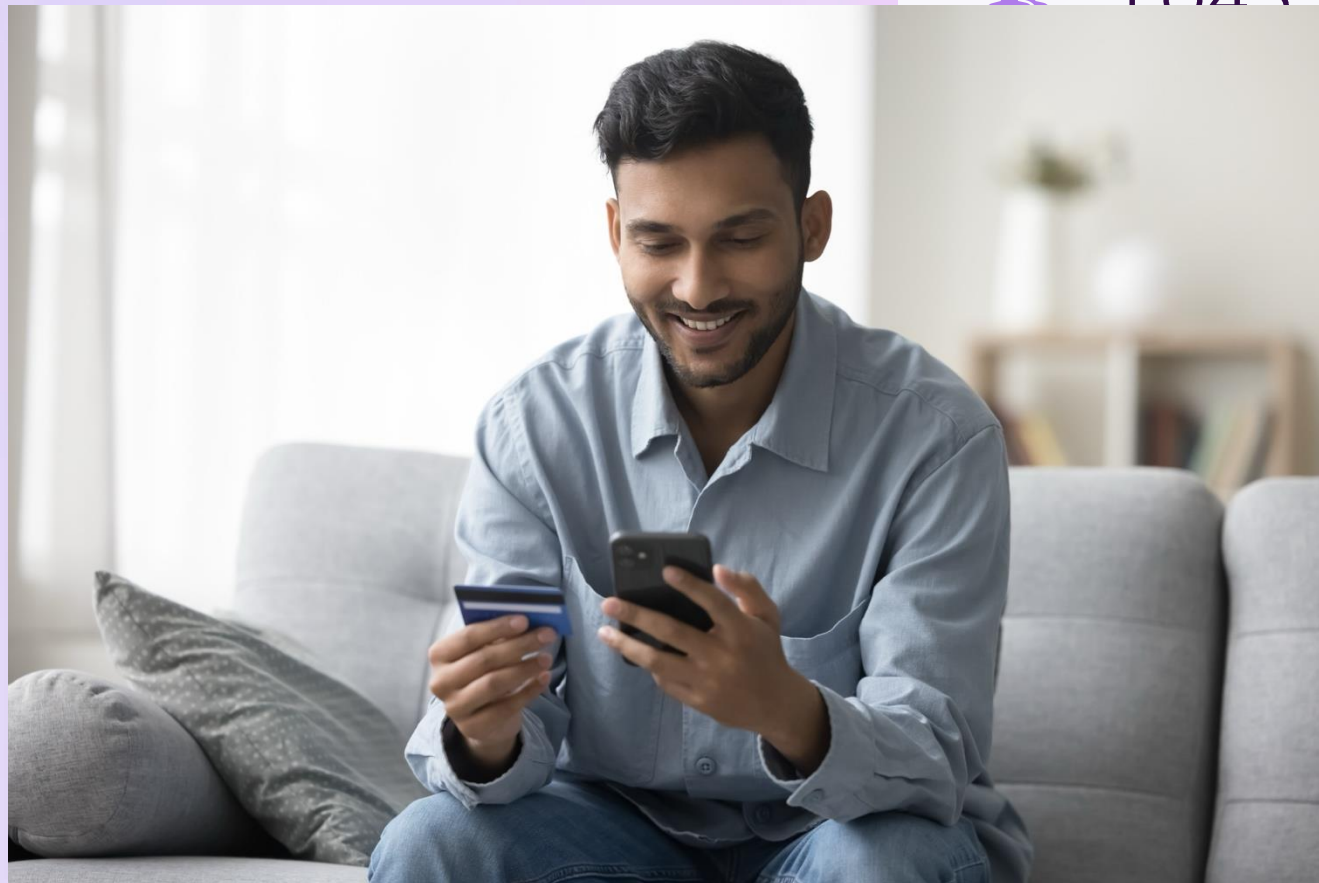
Survey Details



1,045 US adults (July 2025)

months: used both search, AI

the mirrors US adult population



Why we shouldn't

- Visibility into *intent* and motivation
- Context for *behavior* (the “why”)

Intentions & *preferences*

Is *pain points*/unmet needs

Surveys + behavioral data
complete the picture



TL;DR

 AI now a core shopping tool; **17%** start with AI



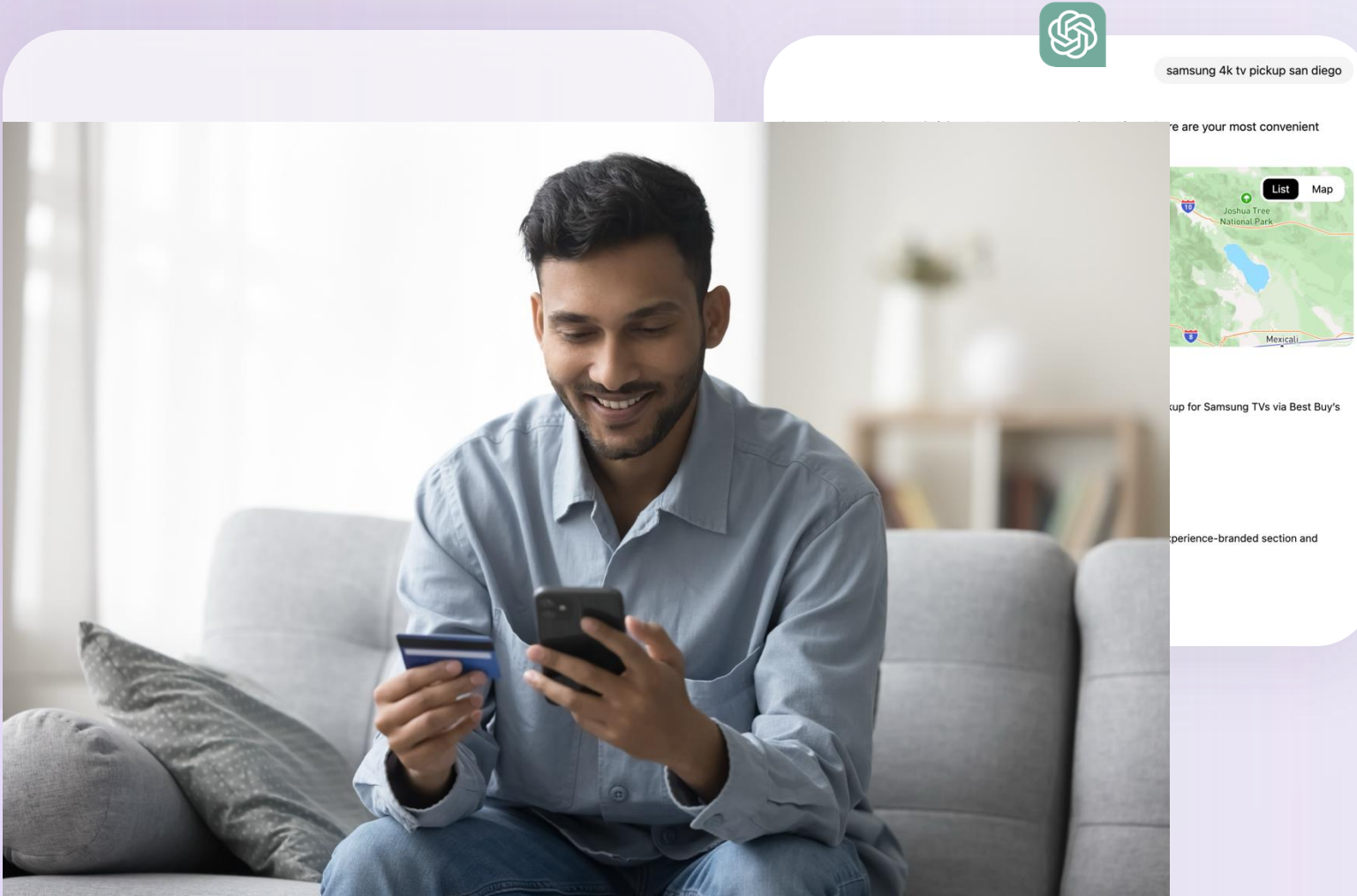
Information in AI


Accuracy are pain points

when AI doesn't deliver

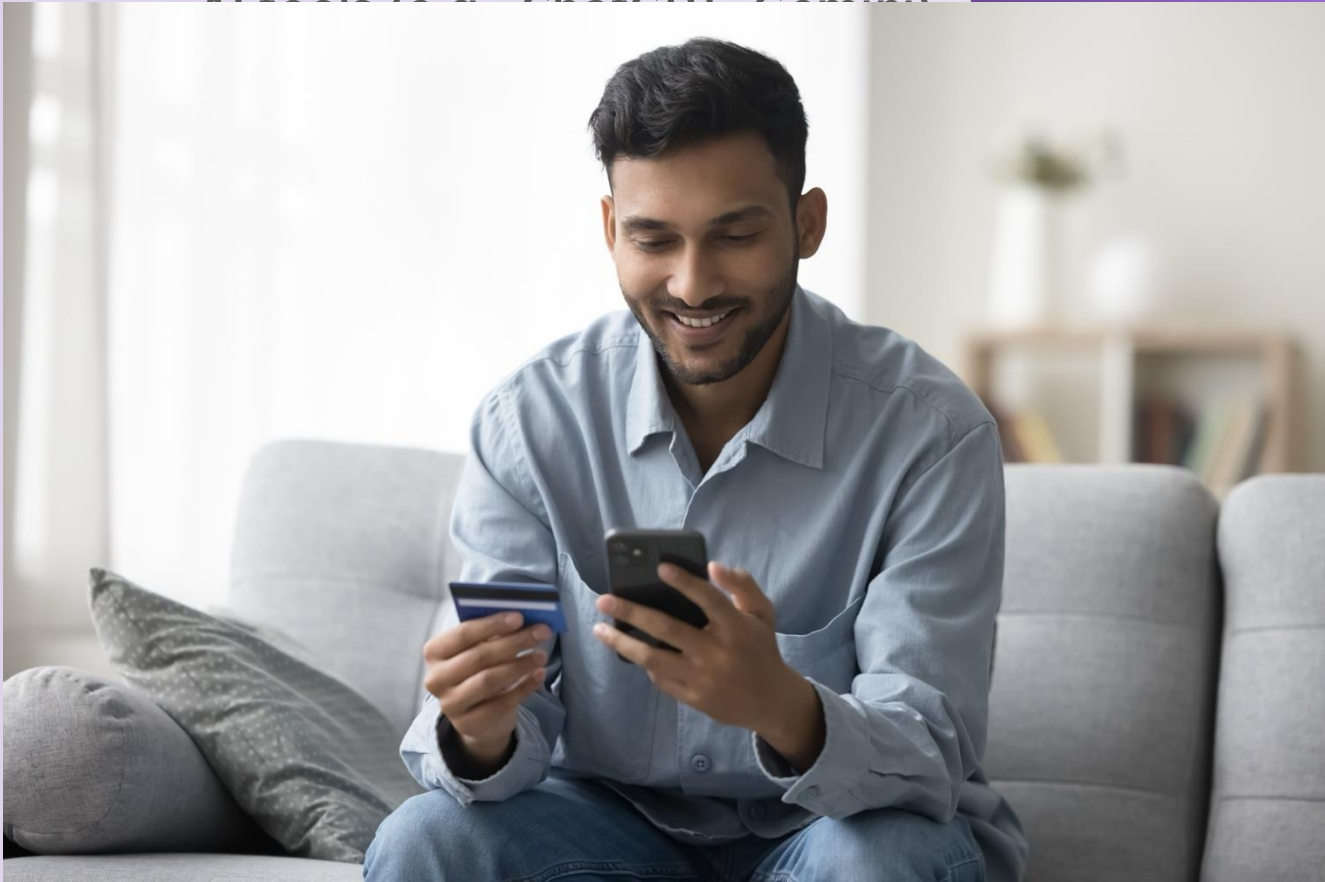
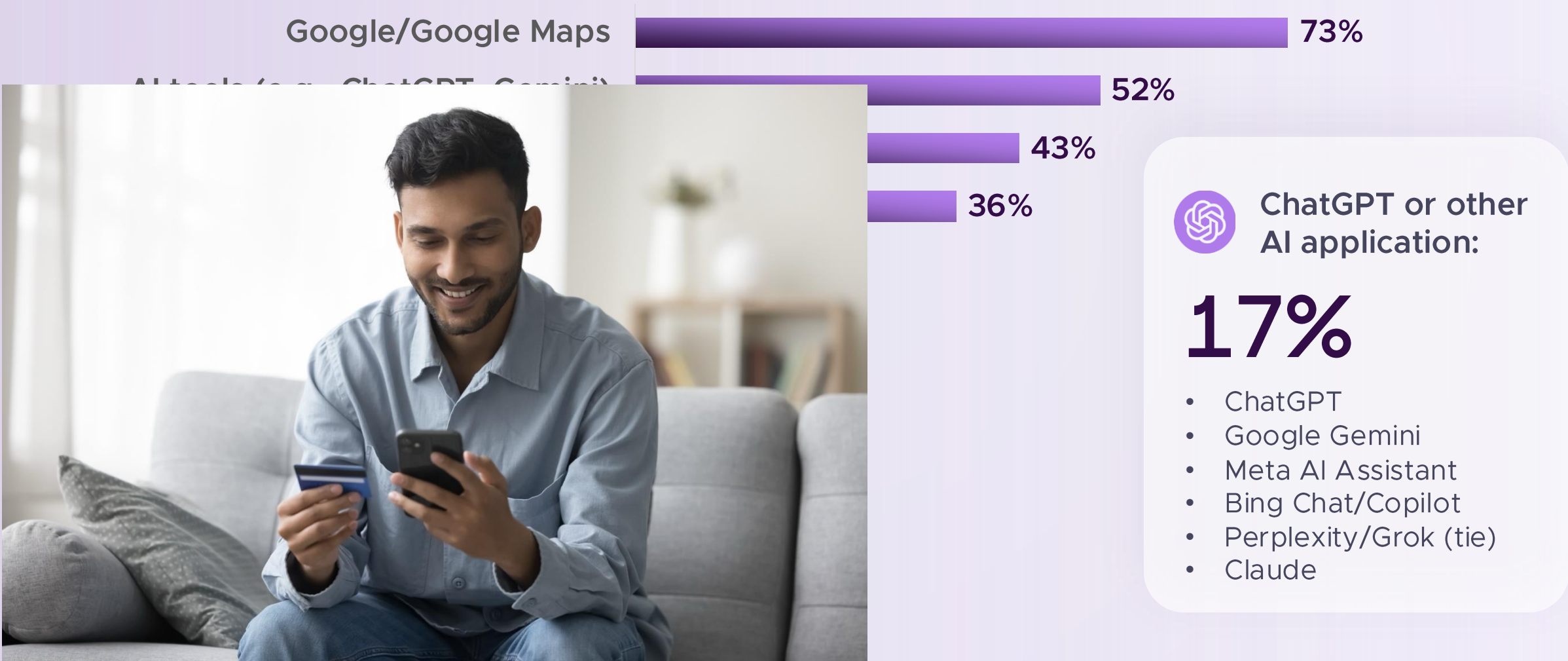
could impact Google

Consumers regularly use AI to shop



 **79%**
trust AI product
recommendations

Used to Research Local Products, Services



Traditional Online Shopper	AI-First Shopper	Social Media-First Shopper
Start with Amazon/Google	Start with AI	Start with social sites
	18–44	Younger: 18–34
	Although not y)	More likely female
	ent	Urban or suburban
	uate	Some college or college graduate
	\$150K+	Income under \$100K



AI-first shoppers

More likely to be:



Gender – Male (58%)



Age – 25–44

Education – College graduate

Income – \$100K+

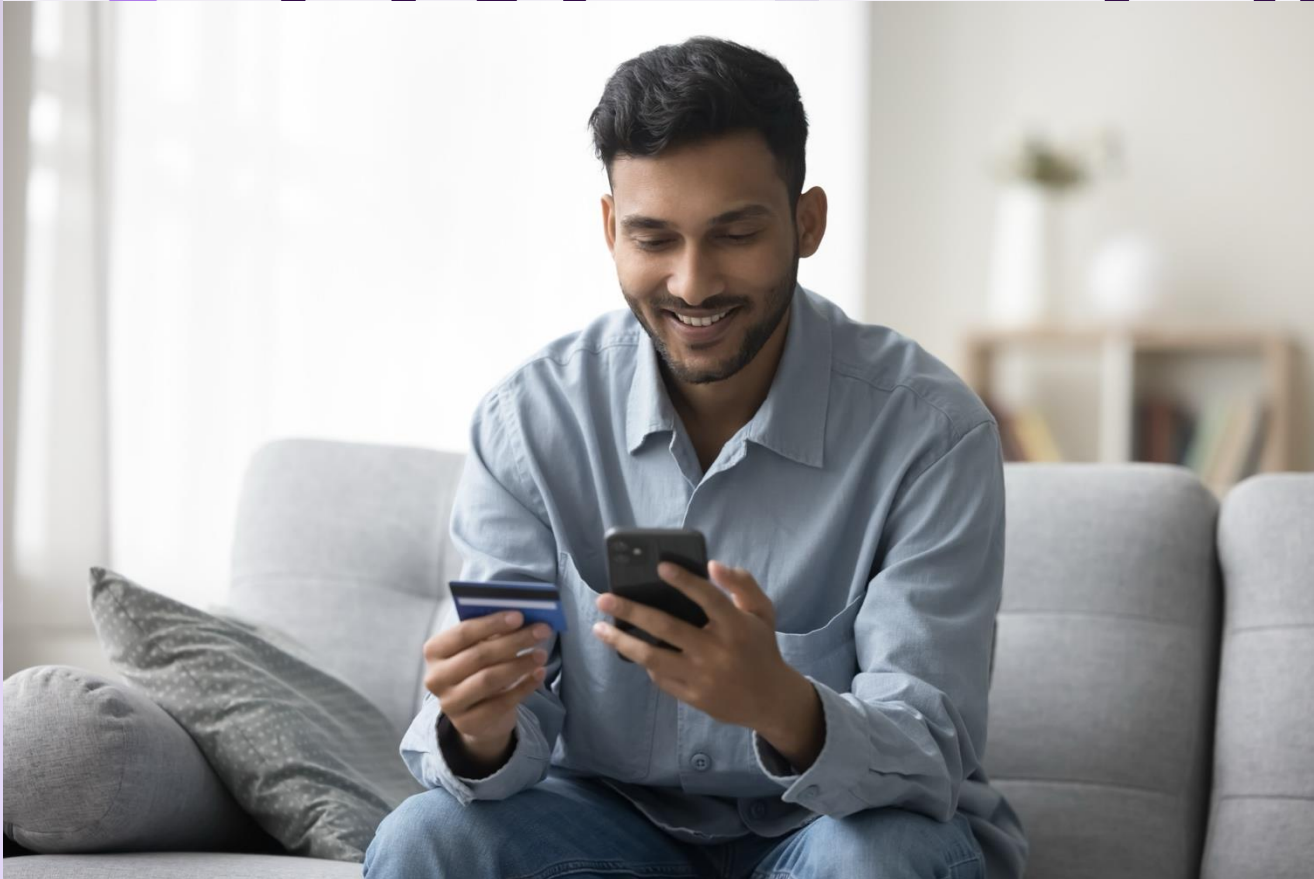
Area type – Urban


Less likely: older, rural, lower-income

without a college degree



Local Search for Products & Services



 **57%**
have used
AI for local
'multiple times'

Local AI
satisfaction
mixed

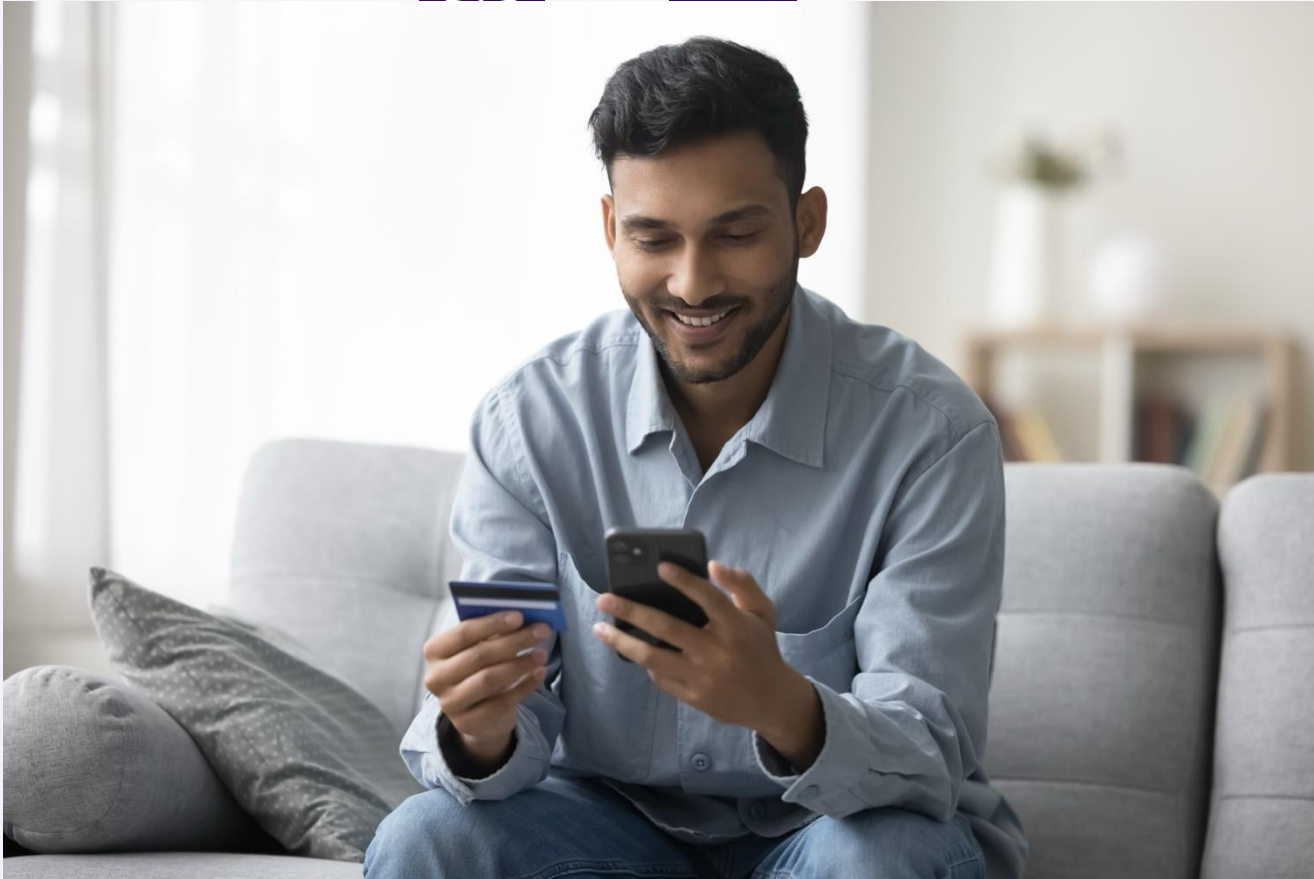


68%
Agree

What's missing?

50%

40%



Directions
& parking
info



Reviews
or local
reviews



Local events
or in-store
experiences



none



"When AI



45%
Go to
Google



50%

oogle and
t equally

24%

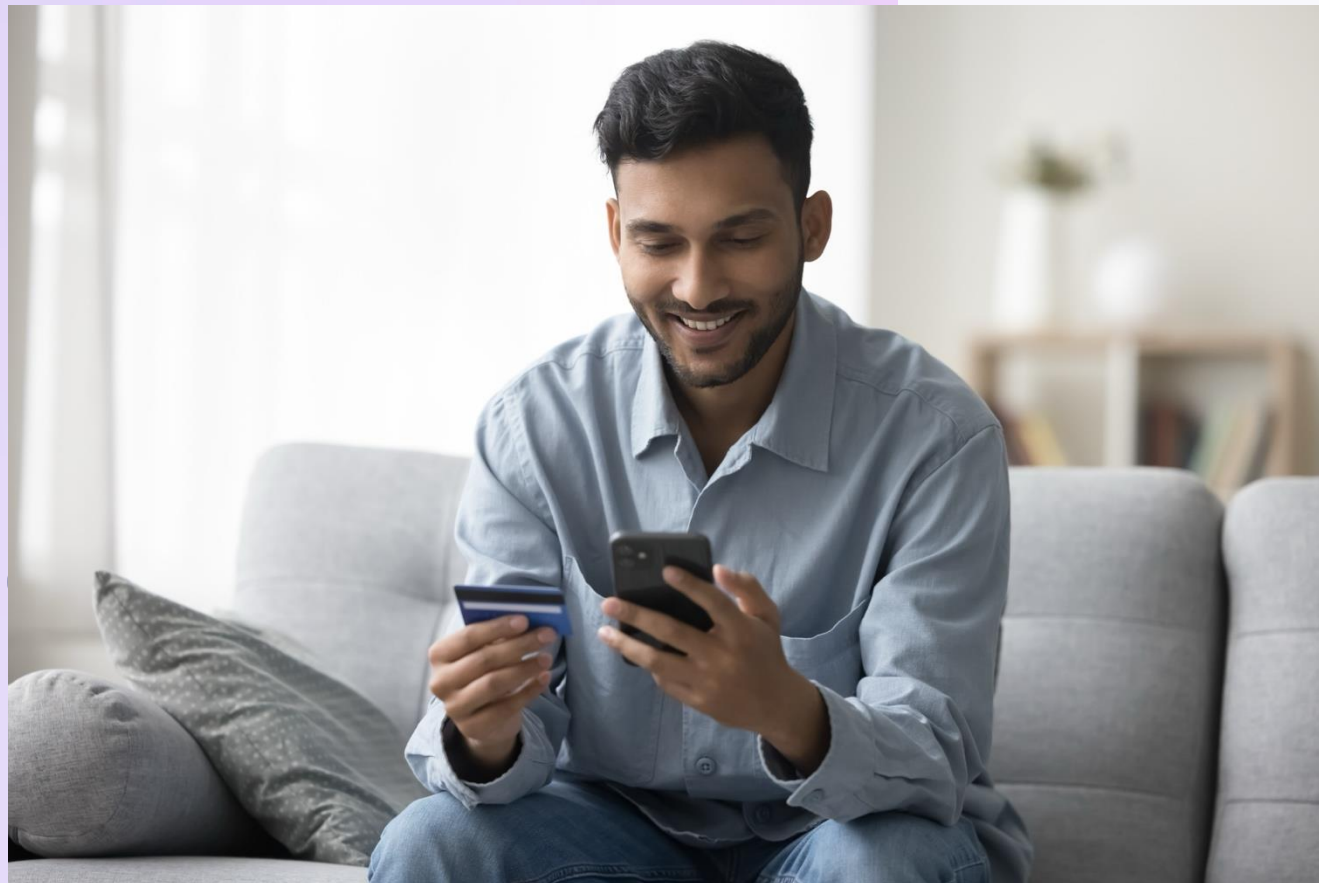
Primarily using
search

%

oogle

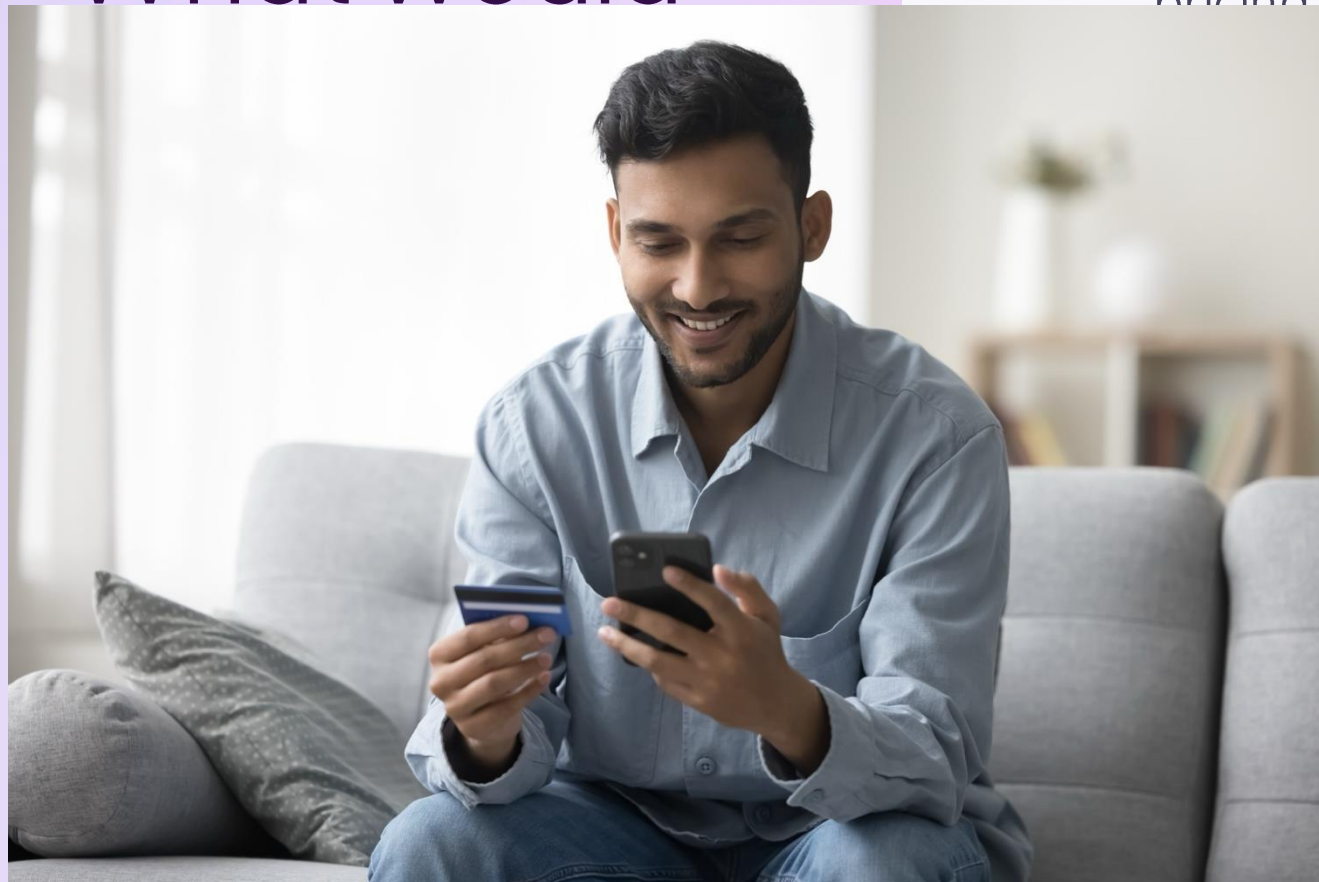
4%

No impact



?

"What would



52%

Clear and accurate
pricing information

50%

More accurate / real-
time inventory info

%

alized
recommendations

39%

Reserve or buy
online/pick up locally

%

Integration with
directions

32%

Source links to local
businesses

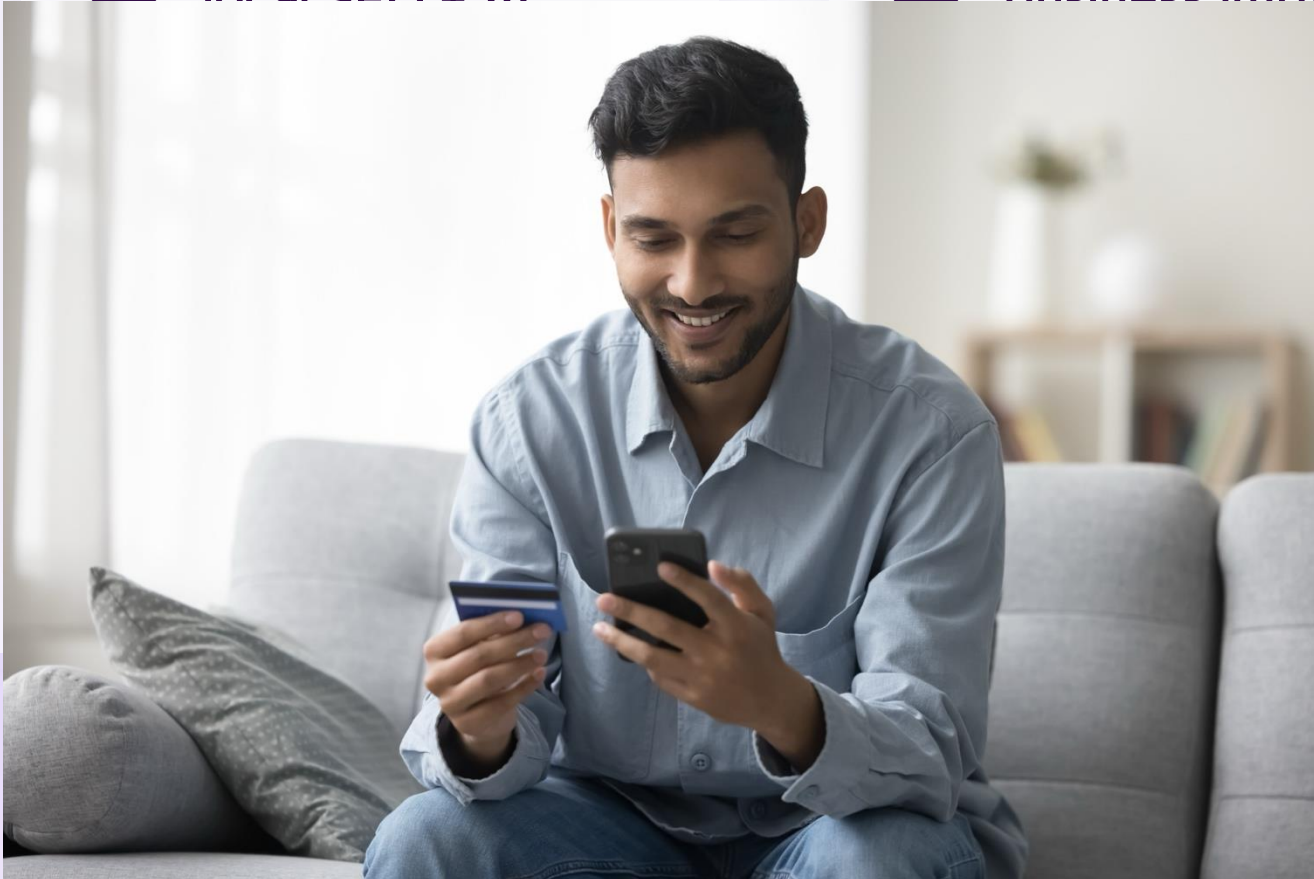


cal dations

Why This Shift Can't Be Ignored

1

A new reality for
local SEO + AI

**2**

Measurable
business impact

intent
missed.

e
al sales

3

Scale is the
real challenge

It's not one query or one store—
it's answering the full range of
local questions everywhere.

We optimize to ensure consistent
results across all locations.

ffic | **450%** local engagement | **30%** ROAS

Key Takeaways

1 Breadth

Expand localized content so AI can answer



3 Crawlability

Ensure local content is easy for AI and search engines to crawl; optimize site structure, avoid heavy JS, and fix legacy technical SEO issues.

4 Accuracy & Differentiation

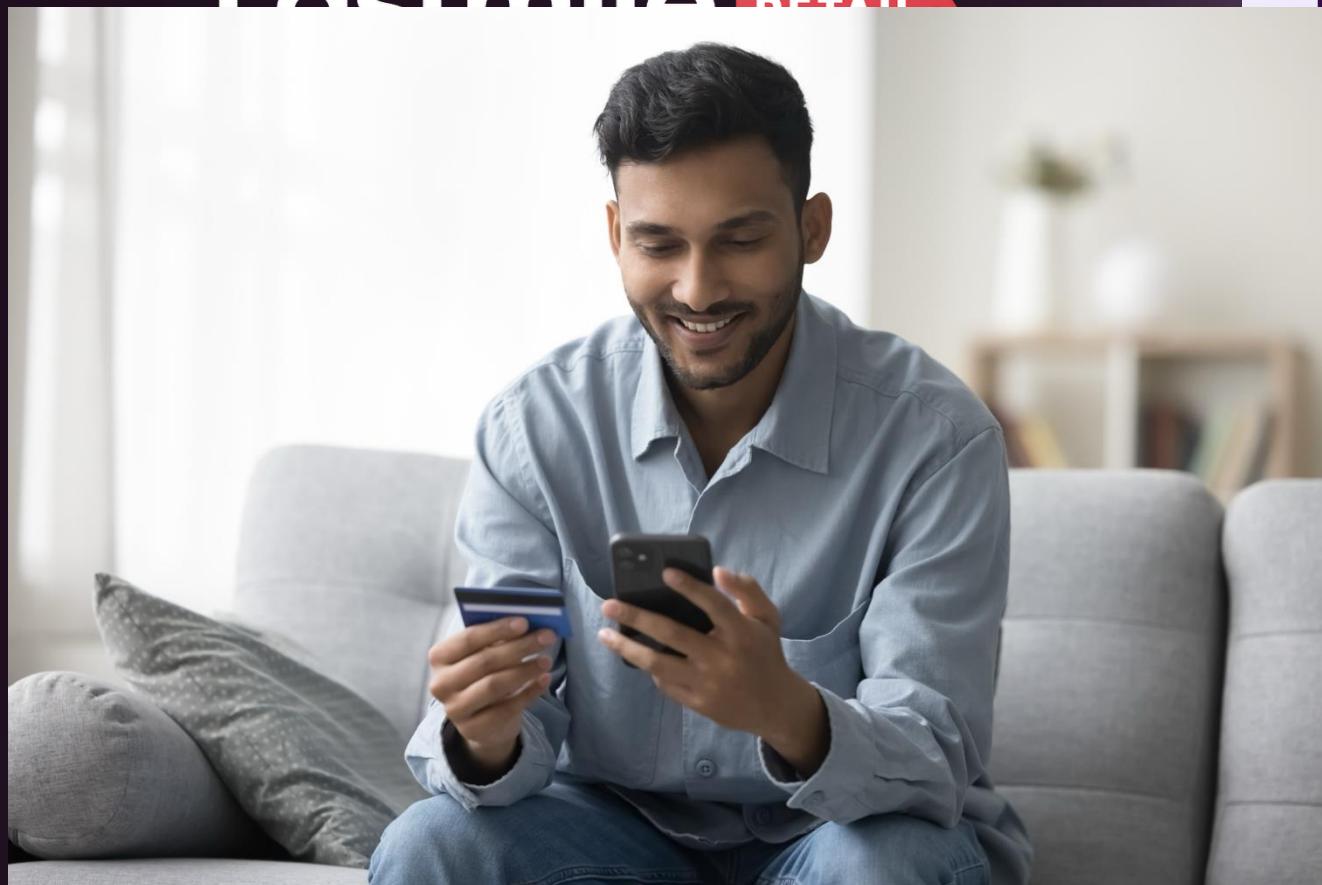
Keep promotions and pricing current, highlight local competitive advantages, and tailor content to the unique audience of each store.

Read the



Thank you!

Lastmile **RETAIL**



Listings
& Reviews
Management



Local
Microsites
& Locator

End-to-end Service & Support



Hyperlocal
Posting &
Ads



Location-
Level
Analytics

