

Methodology and Validity



For more information contact: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS 444 East Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005-4664
PHONE 847-228-9900 FAX 847-228-7485 E-MAIL media@plasticsurgery.org WEB SITE www.plasticsurgery.org

National Clearinghouse of Plastic Surgery Statistics

Methodology

Since 1992, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons® (ASPS®) has been the sole source of cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery statistical trends in the U.S. Trends representing more than a decade of patients who had procedures performed by board-certified ASPS Member Surgeons (see pages 16-18). ASPS has partnered with DataHarbor Inc., a health care industry data management and technology development company, to ensure objectivity in the gathering, analysis and publication of its procedural statistics.

The ASPS 6-year trend report is a universal and comprehensive estimate of cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery procedures performed by ASPS Member Surgeons as well as other physicians most likely to perform plastic surgery procedures. These physicians are all certified by American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) recognized boards.

ABMS is the umbrella organization for the 24 approved medical specialty boards in the United States. Established in 1933, ABMS serves to provide information concerning issues involving specialization and certification in medicine. ASPS represents physicians who are certified by The American Board of Plastic Surgery® (ABPS), the only ABMS member board that certifies surgeons in plastic surgery of the face and entire body.

ASPS offers the most comprehensive, reliable statistics on plastic surgery procedures collected through the first online national database for plastic surgery procedures, Tracking Operations and Outcomes for Plastic SurgeonsSM (TOPSSM). This data is combined with the annual survey sent to more than 17,000 board-certified physicians. All responses are aggregated and extrapolated to the entire population of more than 23,000 physicians most likely to perform cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery procedures, resulting in the most accurate census available.

Validity

Results of the survey are based on a 95 percent confidence level with a maximum error range of ± 3.1 percent.