



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
PLASTIC SURGEONS

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## Methodology and Validity

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### National Clearinghouse of Plastic Surgery Statistics

#### Methodology

Since 1992, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons® (ASPS®) has been the source of cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery statistical trends in the U.S., and this series represents nearly two decades of procedural data. ASPS has partnered with Data Harbor Solutions, a health care industry data management and technology development company, to ensure objectivity in the gathering, analysis and publication of its procedural statistics.

Since 2000, the report represents 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. ABMS 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 Surgeons<sup>SM</sup> (TOPS<sup>SM</sup>). This data is combined with the annual survey sent to ABMS board-certified physicians. All responses are aggregated and extrapolated to the entire population of more than 24,000 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  $\pm 3.9$  percent.