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America's Best Plastic Surgeons 2021 – Methodology

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1 Introduction

America's Best Plastic Surgeons 2021 recognizes the best plastic surgeons in the US in four major cosmetic surgery procedures: Breast Augmentation, Liposuction, Facelift, and Rhinoplasty. The procedures were chosen based on the total number of procedures performed per year as well as market volume in the US – they are among the procedures with the highest total annual expenditure in the US.¹ The survey specifically asked for recommendations for plastic surgeons in the US who offer at least one of these four procedures.

1.1 Included States

Surgeons in the 20 states with the highest number of plastic surgeons who offer at least one of the four procedures, according to the American Board of Plastic Surgery², were included in the national online survey.

The following states were included in the analysis for In-State recommendations:

- California
- Indiana
- Florida
- Texas
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Illinois
- Ohio
- New Jersey
- Georgia
- North Carolina
- Virginia
- Michigan
- Arizona
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Washington
- Tennessee
- Connecticut
- Minnesota

¹ <https://www.plasticsurgery.org/documents/News/Statistics/2020/plastic-surgery-statistics-report-2020.pdf>

² <https://www.abplasticsurgery.org/public/verify-certification/VerifyCert?section=SurgeonSearch>

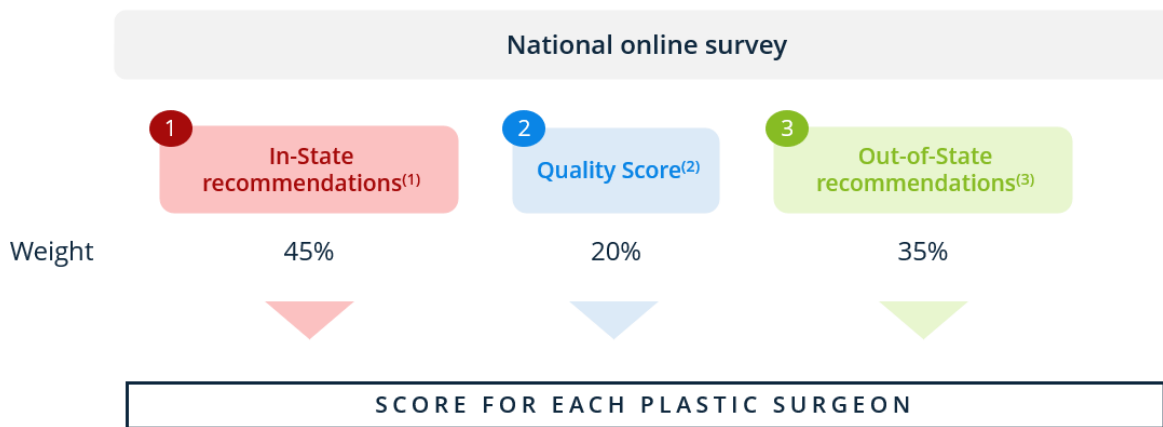
Survey participants were asked to recommend surgeons in their own state as well as throughout the US (In-State and Out-of-State recommendations). Based on these recommendations, plastic surgeons outside the above mentioned 20 states were also eligible to be included in the ranking.

1.2 Scope of Plastic Surgeons included in the Survey

The eligibility of plastic surgeons in the US is determined by their offer of specific cosmetic surgery procedures to patients. Plastic surgeons who exclusively offer reconstruction or non-elective reconstruction/correction were excluded from the survey. From the field of cosmetic surgery, the four major procedures (breast augmentation, facelift, liposuction, and rhinoplasty) were selected (see above). The awarded plastic surgeons must offer at least one of the mentioned procedures.

In total, 387 individual plastic surgeons in the US were awarded by Newsweek and Statista. Plastic surgeons may be recommended for all procedures specified in the survey if offered. For this reason, it is possible for the individual plastic surgeon to be represented in up to four rankings. The 2021 rankings feature the top 200 plastic surgeons for Breast Augmentation and the top 150 for Liposuction, Facelift, and Rhinoplasty.

2 Scoring Model



(1) Recommendations from peers from the respective state by procedure
 (2) Assessment of four quality criteria by In-State participants
 (3) Recommendations from peers outside the respective state by procedure

In order to create the ranking, a score was calculated for every plastic surgeon that was part of the analysis. This total score is based on the In-State recommendations and Out-of-State recommendations as well as the quality score which will be described in this section.

Score for each plastic surgeon: The score for each plastic surgeon is based on three sub scores, for In-State and Out-of-State recommendations and for quality, as shown above. In cooperation with Newsweek, Statista invited almost 3,000 medical experts (doctors/surgeons, plastic surgery clinic managers & health care professionals) to an online survey. Additionally, experts from all over the US could participate in the survey of America's Best Plastic Surgeons on newsweek.com. All data was collected by Newsweek and Statista during the survey period from March to April 2021. It was mandatory to perform an email verification and self-recommendations was not possible.

During the survey period, more than 5,000 national votes from medical experts in the field of plastic surgery were collected.

2.1 Calculation of Recommendations Score

For the In-State recommendations participants were asked to name at least five and up to fifteen of the best plastic surgeons for each of the four procedures (Breast Augmentation, Facelift, Liposuction, Rhinoplasty) in their respective home state. They were asked to recommend plastic surgeons by considering the quality of surgery preparation, quality of surgical procedure, quality of follow-up care and quality of surgical outcomes. These quality criteria are discussed in more detail in chapter 2.2 "Calculation of Quality Score". For the Out-of-State recommendations, participants were asked to name up to fifteen plastic surgeons in the US.

Entry of recommendations was aided by an autocomplete function, which showed plastic surgeon based on the letters entered. It was also possible to recommend any plastic surgeons that was not proposed by the autocomplete list. For the participations in the survey on newsweek.com it was mandatory to perform an email verification.

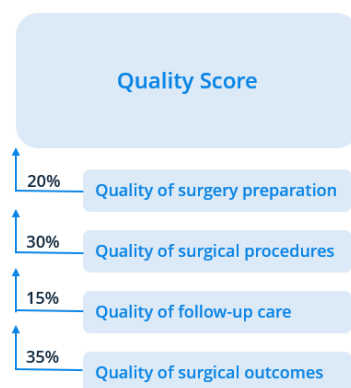
Recommendations received different weights depending on the order in which they were given, with the first recommendation being assigned the highest weight. For example, recommendations of plastic surgeons that were stated as the best plastic surgeon in a state and in the US received a 36% higher weight than those

recommendations that were stated as the fifth plastic surgeon. A score was assigned to each plastic surgeon for each procedure based on the number of weighted recommendations. Recommendations constitute 80% of the overall score (as depicted above).

2.2 Calculation of Quality Score

Within the In-State recommendations participants were also asked to rank the quality dimensions which influence the quality of plastic surgeons. Participants were asked to differentiate between these variables:

- Quality of surgery preparation (e.g. consultation with doctor, information)
- Quality of surgical procedure (e.g. complications)
- Quality of follow-up care (e.g. follow-up checks)
- Quality of surgical outcomes (e.g. desired outcome of procedures)



The quality dimensions were shown to participants in a randomized order in the survey. Based on the reported importance of each quality dimension a quality score was assigned using the following weights: 20% Quality of surgery preparation, 30% Quality of surgical procedure, 15% Quality of follow-up care and 35% Quality of surgical outcomes.

For each recommended plastic surgeon, the participant rated the four quality variables on a scale from 1 ("Poor") to 7 ("Excellent"). A quality score was assigned to each plastic surgeon based on the weighted average of these ratings. The Quality score contributes 20% towards the overall score (as depicted above).

3 Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of plastic surgeons that are eligible based on the scope described in this document. A mention in the ranking is a positive recognition based on peer recommendations. The ranking was created through an elaborate process, however, the information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about plastic surgeons or, if possible,

accompanied by a visit to a facility. The quality of plastic surgeons that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.