

# First Ever Data Released on Number of Gender Confirmation Surgeries

Experts say access to care has allowed more transgender patients to explore options

**\*Note: Embargoed until Monday May 22, 2017 at 12:01 a.m. eastern\***

American Society of Plastic Surgeons

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## NEWS PACKAGE

<b>SUGGESTED TEASE</b>	THE NUMBER OF GENDER CONFIRMATION SURGERIES PERFORMED EACH YEAR IS BEING REPORTED FOR THE FIRST TIME. COMING UP, HOW ACCESS TO CARE HAS ALLOWED MORE TRANSGENDER PATIENTS TO SEEK HELP FROM PLASTIC SURGEONS.
<b>ANCHOR LEAD</b>	NEW DATA IS SHINING A LIGHT FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE U.S. WHO UNDERGO GENDER CONFIRMATION SURGERY. CLARK POWELL HAS MORE ON THOSE NUMBERS AND WHY DOCTORS SAY IT'S A GROWING TREND.
<b>(PACKAGE START) -----</b> <b>CG: Courtesy: American Society of Plastic Surgeons</b>	(Nats - Sound) :02
Shots of Gearah walking in park	FROM AN EARLY AGE, GEARAH (GARE-uh) GOLDSTEIN (GOLD-steen) KNEW THAT SHE WAS FEMALE, BUT THAT HER BODY WAS BIOLOGICALLY MALE. :05
<b>CG: Gearah Goldstein Transgender</b>	<i>"It was something that was very internalized, something that was repressed because there was no solution."</i> :05
Shots of Gearah and Dr. Schechter in follow-up exam	BUT AFTER A LONG JOURNEY, SHE WAS ABLE TO MATCH HER OUTWARD APPEARANCE WITH WHO SHE IS ON THE INSIDE THANKS IN PART TO A TEAM OF EXPERTS INCLUDING PLASTIC SURGEON LOREN SCHECHTER (SHECK-ter). HE SAYS THE NUMBER OF TRANSGENDER PATIENTS HE SEES HAS GROWN DRAMATICALLY OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. AND THEY'RE NOT SEEKING ANY ONE

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<p>Shots of surgery</p>	<p>PARTICULAR PROCEDURE. INSTEAD, THERE IS A WIDE RANGE OF SURGERIES TO HELP TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS FEEL COMFORTABLE IN THEIR OWN SKIN. :23</p>
<p><b>CG: Loren Schechter, MD</b> <b>American Society of Plastic Surgeons</b></p>	<p><i>“It’s often the last step in what is oftentimes many years of difficulty struggling with issues related to gender and gender identity.” :10</i></p>
<p>Wide shot of Gearah and Dr. Schechter</p>	<p>NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, EXPERTS ARE KEEPING TRACK OF THESE SURGERIES.</p>
<p><u>Graphic with statistic</u> 3,256 procedures Increase of nearly 20%</p>	<p>ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS, THERE WERE MORE THAN 3-THOUSAND PROCEDURES PERFORMED IN 2016 - THAT’S AN INCREASE OF NEARLY 20-PERCENT IN JUST THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF COLLECTING DATA.</p>
<p>Shots of ASPS doctors in surgery</p>	<p>EXPERTS SAY ACCESS TO CARE HAS IMPROVED IN RECENT YEARS, ALLOWING MORE PATIENTS TO WORK WITH BOARD-CERTIFIED PLASTIC SURGEONS IN THIS BURGEONING FIELD. :24</p>
<p><b>Debra Johnson, MD</b> <b>President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons</b></p>	<p><i>“As plastic surgeons, it’s our goal to help patients get to a place where they want to be as far as their body is concerned. :10</i></p>
<p>Picture of Gearah public speaking/ working on computer</p>	<p>GEARAH IS NOW AN ADVOCATE WHO SAYS HER TRANSITION HAS ALLOWED HER TO FINALLY FEEL AT PEACE WITH HERSELF SO SHE CAN HELP OTHERS DO THE SAME. :08</p>
<p><b>Gearah (CG’d earlier)</b></p>	<p><i>“On a daily basis, when I go through life, I’m not thinking about my gender anymore. Prior to transition, it was impossible to think about anything except my gender.” :10</i></p>
<p>Shot of Gearah walking in park</p>	<p>IN CHICAGO, THIS IS CLARK POWELL REPORTING. :03</p>
<p><b>(PACKAGE END) -----</b> <b>ANCHOR TAG</b></p>	<p>GENDER CONFIRMATION PROCEDURES CAN INCLUDE EVERYTHING FROM FACIAL AND BODY CONTOURING - TO SEXUAL REASSIGNMENT SURGERIES. DOCTORS OFTEN WORK IN TEAMS SO THEY NOT ONLY ADDRESS A PATIENT’S SURGICAL NEEDS, BUT ALSO HELP WITH THINGS LIKE HORMONE THERAPY AND THE EMOTIONAL ASPECTS INVOLVED IN TRANSITIONS.</p>

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## SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Share it! Suggested tweet:**

Gender confirmation surgeries are being reported for the first time, and [@ASPS\\_News](#) found nearly a 20% jump in one year. <http://bit.ly/2raXQjW>

 **Suggested post:**

Gender confirmation surgeries are being reported for the first time, and new data from the [American Society of Plastic Surgeons](#) shows the number of surgeries jumped nearly 20% in just one year. Surgeons say access to care has given transgender patients the option of having surgery. Details: <http://bit.ly/2raXQjW>.

## EXTRA BITES

**CG: Loren Schechter, MD**  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons

Dr. Schechter explains what gender dysphoria is:  
*"It's really when there's a discordance or a disconnect between how an individual feels and what their anatomic characteristics are that can cause what we refer to as gender dysphoria."* :12

Dr. Schechter says gender confirmation varies by patient:  
*"It's important to recognize that there's no one recipe. There's no one-size-fits-all approach. Different people bring unique sets of characteristics and concerns, with them."* :11

Dr. Schechter talks about an increase in transgender patients:  
*"We've certainly seen over the last several years an exponential increase in the number of individuals who are seeking surgical treatment."* :08

Dr. Schechter says access to treatment has improved care:  
*"Now, as we've been able to gain access, we're able to look more rigorously and apply evidence-based medicine to, to many of the areas .. whether it's hormonal, medical, surgical to help provide optimal care for people."* :15

**CG: Debra Johnson, MD**  
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons

Dr. Johnson explains the ASPS annual statistics:  
*"Every year, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons surveys their members. This allows us to find out what are the trends in plastic surgery, what are the top procedures. This helps us tailor our educational programming for both consumers and our members."* :16

Dr. Johnson states the findings of the survey:  
*"Between 2015 and 2016, gender confirmation surgeries*

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<p><b>CG: Gearah Goldstein Transgender</b></p>	<p><i>increased almost twenty percent and our numbers showed that 32 hundred patients had surgery in 2016.” :09</i></p> <p>Dr. Johnson explains why gender confirmation is important: <i>“For the transgender population, they are simply wanting to have the body that they feel they belong in.” :09</i></p> <hr/> <p>Gearah explains how she felt growing up transgender: <i>“There was no actual word transgender. So there were no role models. There was really nothing for me to base the emotions and feelings that I had.” :10</i></p> <p>Gearah explains gender dysphoria: <i>“Gender dysphoria is sort of a definition of how many transgender people feel about a disconnect between a physical form of their body and where their mind is about their body.” :13</i></p>
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### References

<sup>1</sup>2016 National Plastic Surgery Statistics, American Society of Plastic Surgeons, May 2017.

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