Alabama Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: None

Population in 2015: 4,858,979

Number ofLicensed Physicians\(^1\) in 2015: 16,064

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita(^3) Amount Paid Against all Practitioners</td>
<td>$6.21</td>
<td>$9.63</td>
<td>$3.90</td>
<td>$6.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Rank</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita(^3) Amount Paid Against Physicians (MD/DO) Only</td>
<td>$3.84</td>
<td>$6.82</td>
<td>$2.70</td>
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<td>State Rank</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paid Claims/100 Physicians</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.20</td>
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Table showing the amount paid per capita\(^3\) in Alabama for medical malpractice claims against all practitioners each year as well as against physicians only. It also shows the number of claims won against physicians per 100 licensed physicians in Alabama in 2014 and 2015.

Notes

1) MDs and DOs only. Many physicians are licensed in more than one state which is why the total number of physicians in all of the states exceeds the total number of physicians in the US.

2) All Practitioners includes MDs, DOs, podiatrists, dentists, nurses, hygienists, pharmacists, pharmacy techs, lab techs, physical therapists, etc…

3) Total amount paid in medical malpractice claims in the state that year/ the state’s Population
Graphic Summary of Medical Malpractice Incidence and Cost for Alabama from 2003-2015

**Figure 1:** Total number of Paid Medical Malpractice Claims for Alabama from 2003-2015 for All Health Care Practitioners Combined as Well as for MD/DOs Only.

**Figure 2:** Total Amount Paid for All Medical Malpractice Claims from 2003-2015 for All Health Care Practitioners and MD/DOs Only in Alabama.
Figure 3: Figure 2 Data When Adjusted for Inflation.

Brief summary: Alabama has no tort reform law, yet over the past decade, they've had among the lowest medical malpractice costs in the United States and few paid malpractice claims each year.

Sources


http://truecostofhealthcare.net/malpractice_statistics/

http://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/resources/npdbstats/npdbStatistics.jsp

http://www.atra.org/issues/noneconomic-damages-reform