

Alaska Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: §09.55.549. Non-economic damages capped at \$250,000. Wrongful death or a disability considered more than 70% disabling capped at \$400,000. Effective 1996, revised to lower cap in 2005.

Population in 2015: 738,432

Number of Licensed Physicians¹ in 2015: 3,786

	2013	2014	2015	Average for 2013-2015
Per Capita ³ Amount Paid Against all Practitioners	\$7.01	\$7.61	\$10.78	\$8.47
State Rank	34	37	19	29
Per Capita ³ Amount Paid Against Physicians (MD/DO) Only	\$6.04	\$2.24	\$10.31	\$6.19
State Rank	33	50	18	35
Paid Claims/100 Physicians		0.25	0.29	
State Rank		44	45	

Table showing the amount paid per capita³ in Alaska 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 Alaska 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 Alaska from 2003-2015

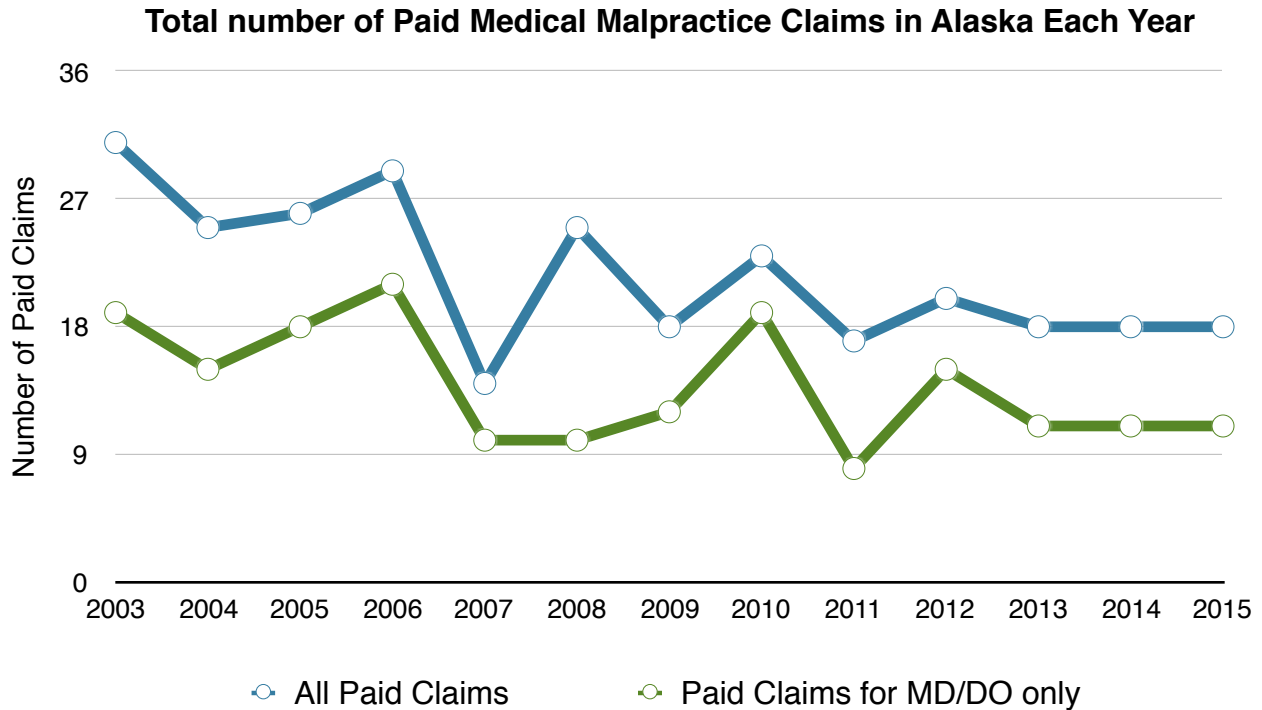


Figure 1: Total number of Paid Medical Malpractice Claims for Alaska from 2003-2015 for All Health Care Practitioners Combined as Well as for MD/DOs Only.

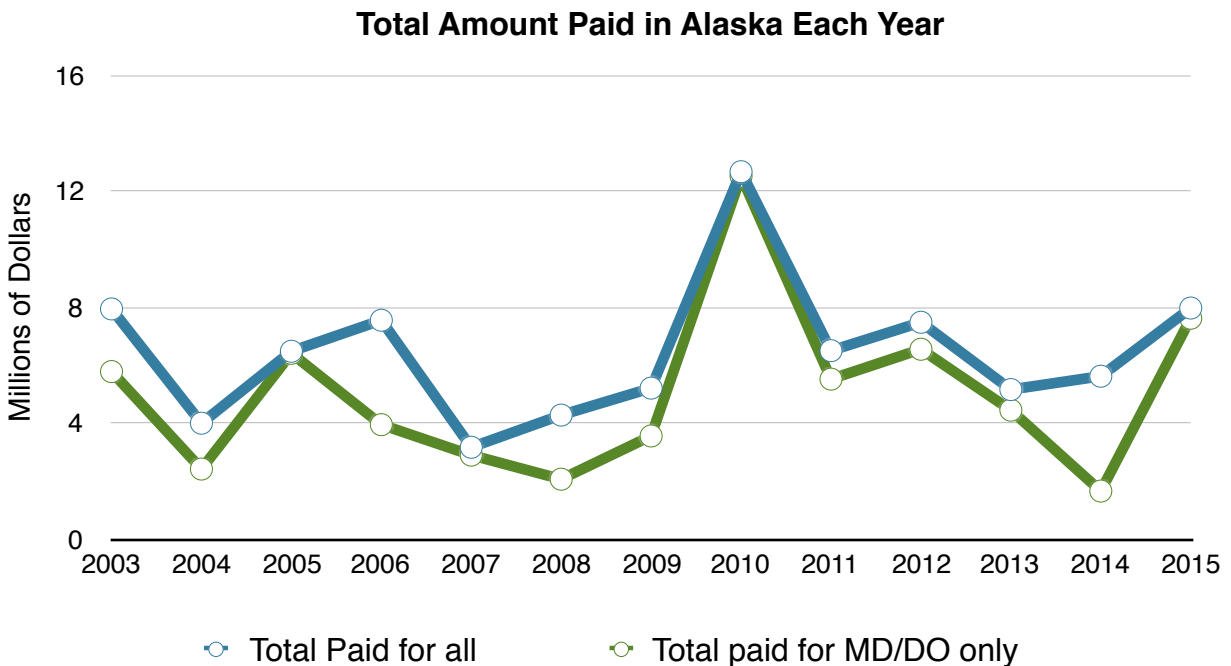


Figure 2: Total Amount Paid for All Medical Malpractice Claims from 2003-2015 for All Health Care Practitioners and MD/DOs Only in Alaska.

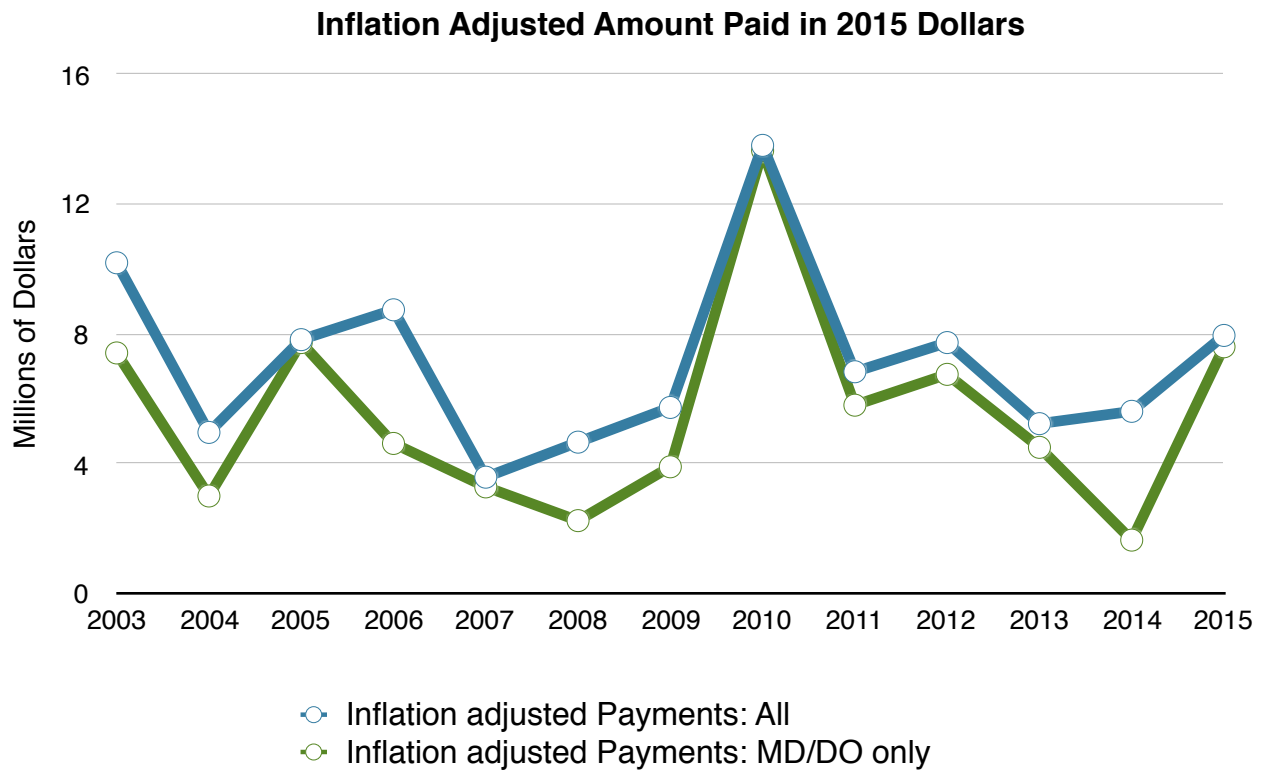


Figure 3: Figure 2 Data When Adjusted for Inflation.

Brief summary: With the exception of a couple of years (2010, 2015), medical malpractice costs have been very low in Alaska when compared to other states.

Sources

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