

# California Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

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Tort Reform Law: Civil Code §3333.2. A \$250,000 limit for non-economic damages.  
Effective 1975

Population in 2015: 39,144,818

Number of Licensed Physicians<sup>1</sup> in 2015: 143,427

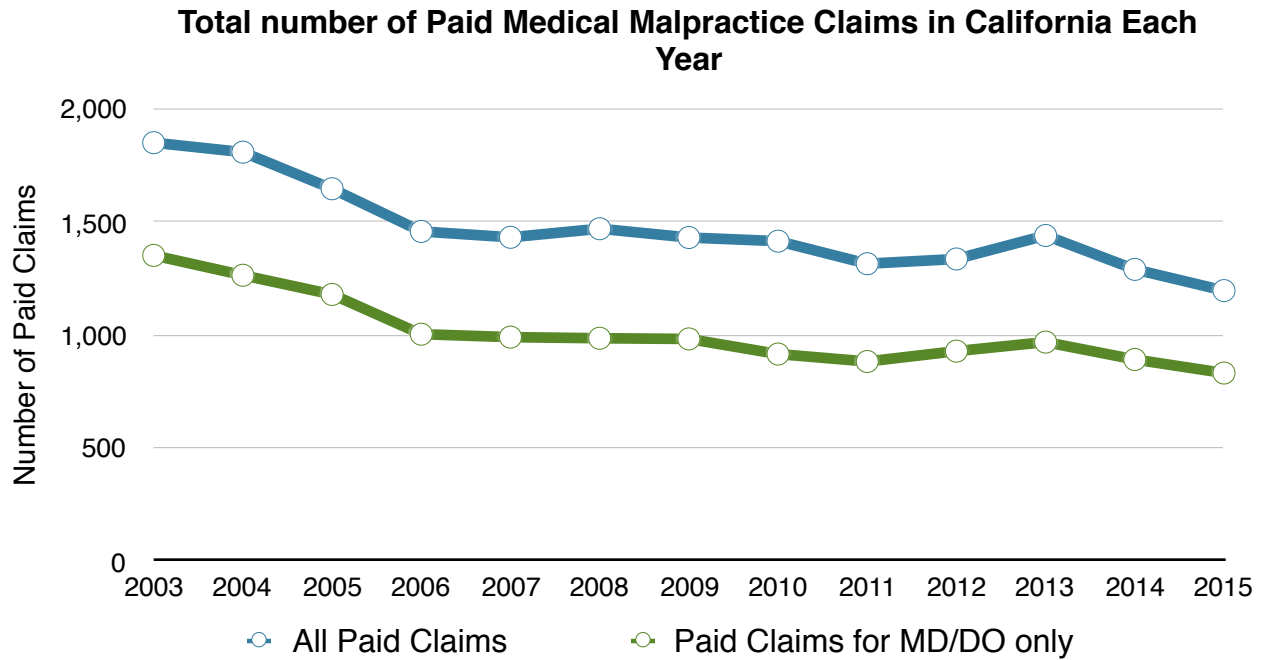
	2013	2014	2015	Average for 2013-2015
Per Capita <sup>3</sup> Amount Paid Against all Practitioners	\$7.66	\$5.90	\$6.13	\$6.56
State Rank	29	43	41	42
Per Capita <sup>3</sup> Amount Paid Against Physicians (MD/DO) Only	\$6.76	\$5.20	\$5.37	\$5.78
State Rank	27	41	39	38
Paid Claims/100 Physicians		0.62	0.58	
State Rank		23	23	

Table showing the amount paid per capita<sup>3</sup> in California 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 California in 2014 and 2015.

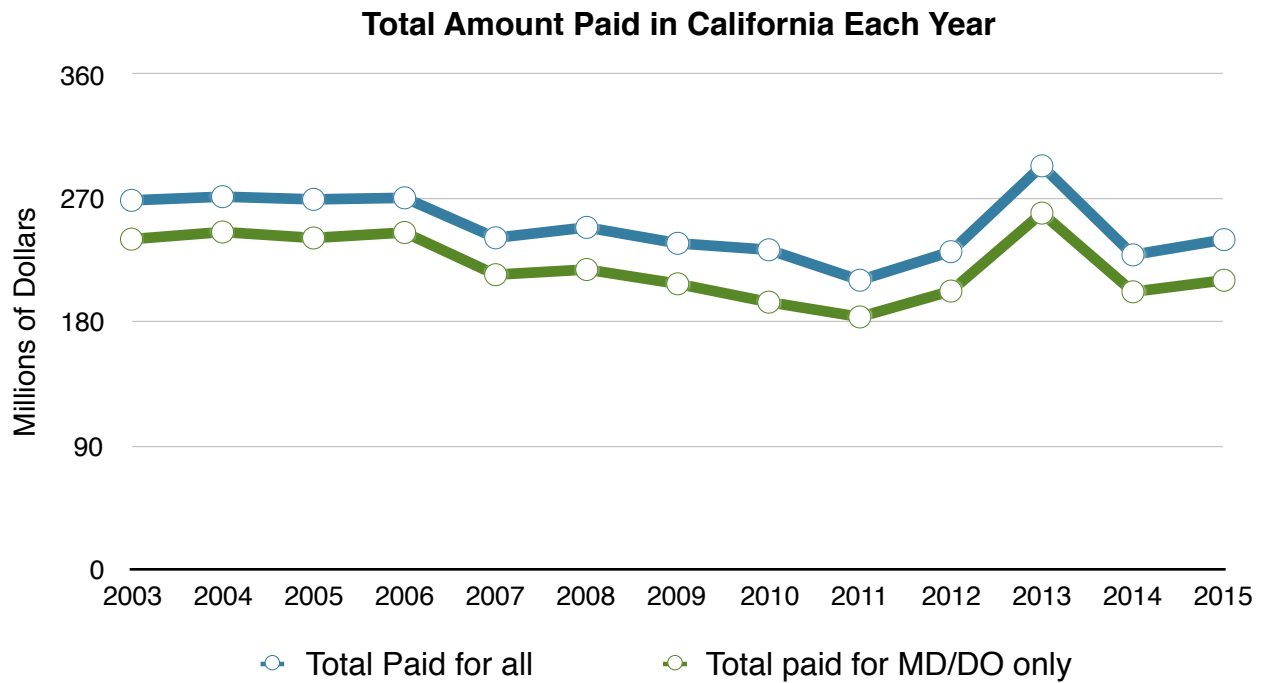
## Notes

- 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

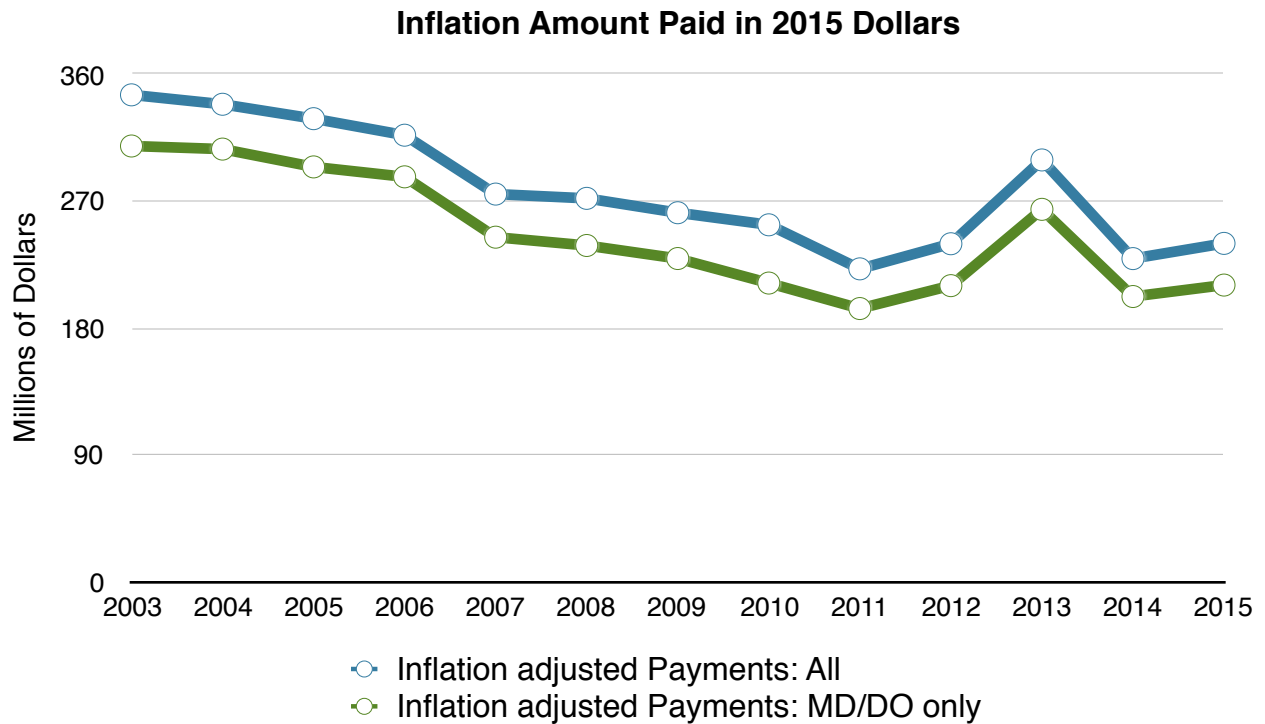
**Summary of Medical Malpractice Incidence and Cost for California from 2003-2015**



**Figure 1:** Total number of Paid Medical Malpractice Claims for California 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 California.



**Figure 3:** Figure 2 Data When Adjusted for Inflation.

Brief summary: Apart from 2013, medical malpractice costs have remained very low in California. Is this because of their cap on non-economic damages?

Sources

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