California Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

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

Population in 2014: 38,802,500

Number of Licensed Physicians\(^1\) in 2014: 143,427

Number of Paid Medical Malpractice claims per 100 physicians in 2014: 0.6

State Rank: 24th

Amount paid for malpractice claims against all practitioners\(^2\) per capita\(^3\) in 2014: $5.72

State Rank: 43rd

Amount paid for malpractice claims against all practitioners per capita in 2013: $7.46

State Rank: 30th

Amount paid for malpractice claims against Physicians only per capita in 2014: $5.05

State Rank: 41st

Amount paid for malpractice claims against Physicians only per capita in 2013: $6.61

State Rank: 27th

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 2003-2014

Figure 1: Total number of Paid Medical Malpractice Claims for California from 2003-2014 for All Health Care Practitioners Combined as Well as for MD/DOs Only

Figure 2: Total Amount Paid for All Medical Malpractice Claims from 2003-2014 for All Health Care Practitioners and MD/DOs Only in California.
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


http://truecostofhealthcare.net/malpractice_statistics/

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

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