

# District of Columbia Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: None

Population in 2015: 672,228

Number of Licensed Physicians<sup>1</sup> in 2015: 10,623

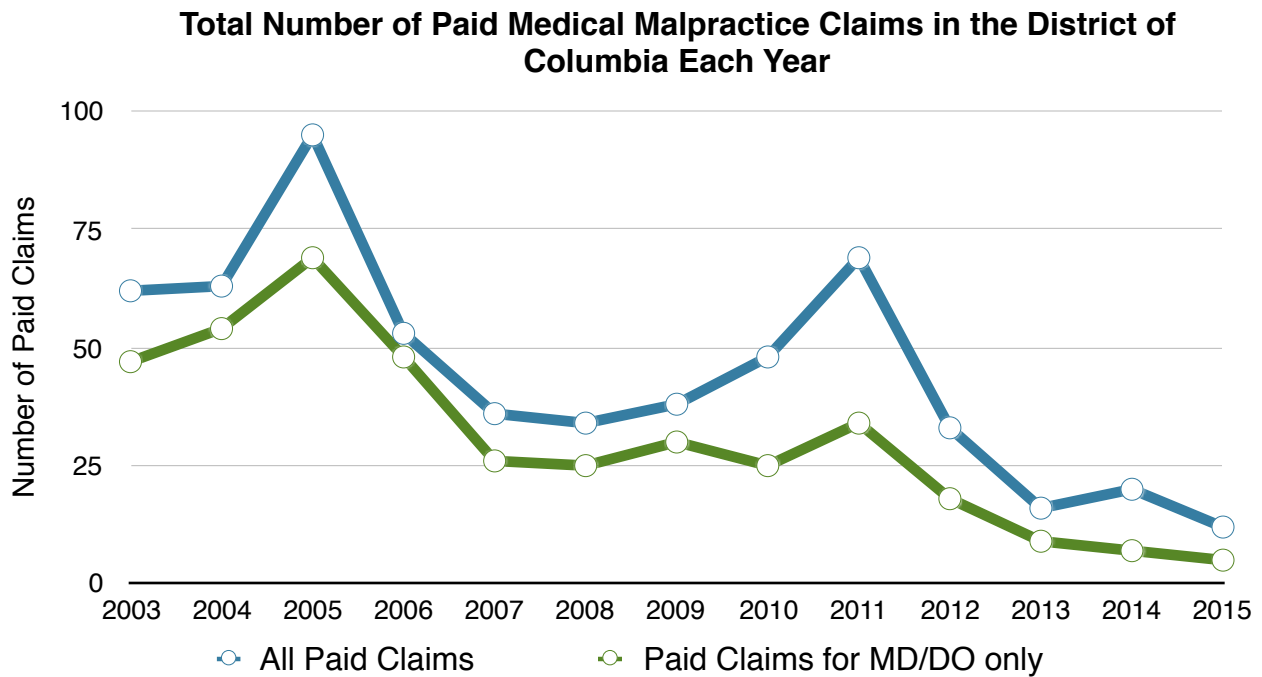
	2013	2014	2015	Average for 2013-2015
Per Capita <sup>3</sup> Amount Paid Against all Practitioners	\$7.01	\$14.27	\$12.54	\$11.27
State Rank	33	14	14	17
Per Capita <sup>3</sup> Amount Paid Against Physicians (MD/DO) Only	\$6.42	\$12.20	\$11.42	\$10.02
State Rank	30	14	13	16
Paid Claims/100 Physicians		0.07	0.05	
State Rank		51	51	

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

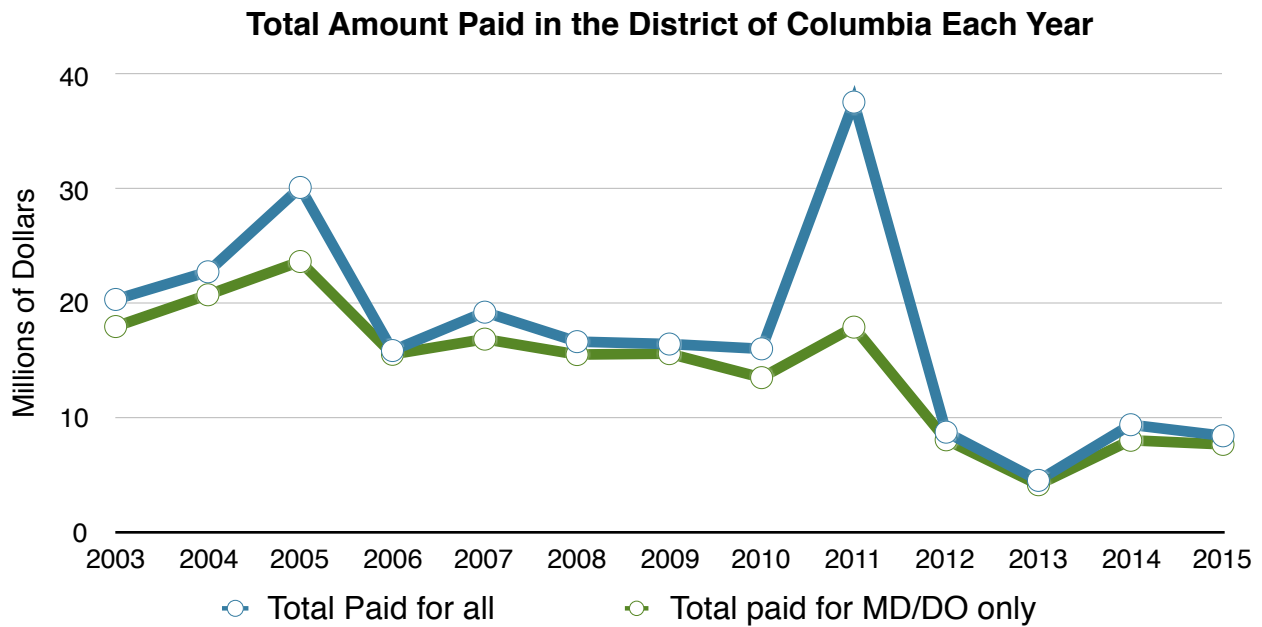
## Notes

- 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

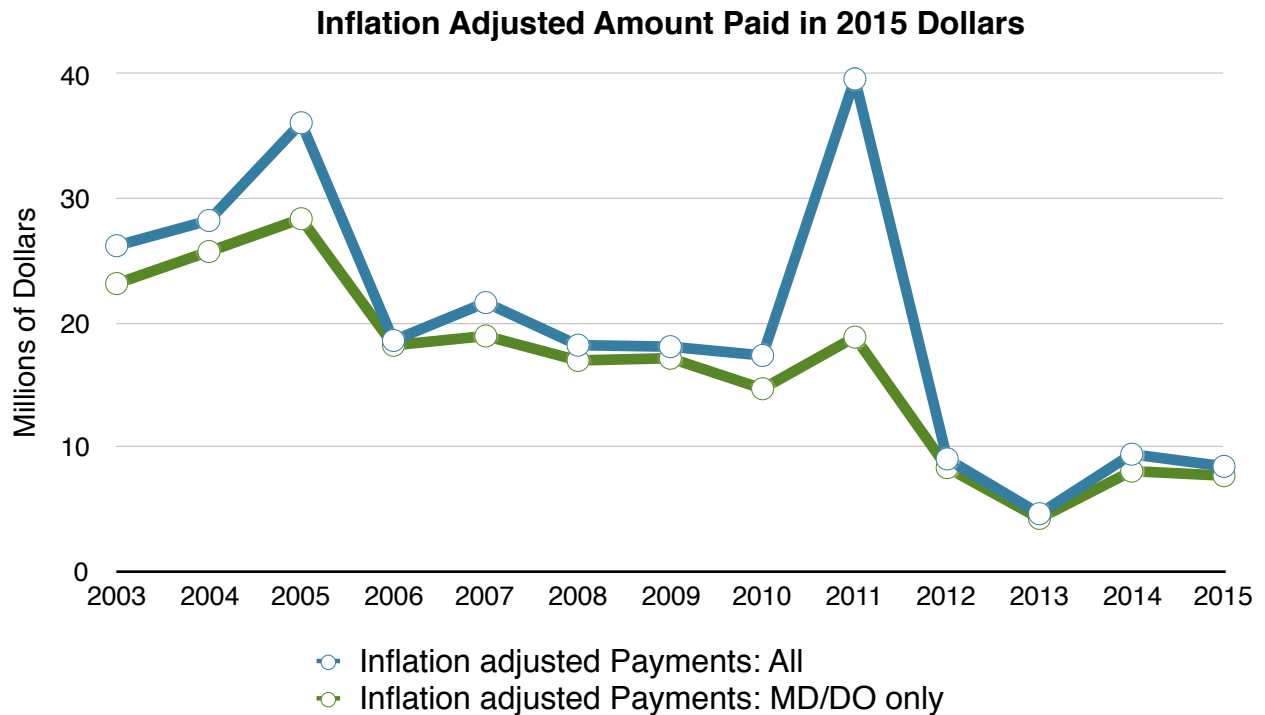
**Graphic Summary of Medical Malpractice Incidence and Cost for the District of Columbia from 2003-2015**



**Figure 1:** Total number of Paid Medical Malpractice Claims for the District of Columbia 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 the District of Columbia.



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

Brief summary: Washington DC has had only 21 paid medical malpractice cases against physicians from 2013-2015. This was the lowest total number of paid cases as well as the lowest per 100 licensed physicians in the US for that period of time. However, two of those cases had extremely high awards which drove the average cost of malpractice in Washington DC to be higher than average for the U.S.

#### Sources

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