

# Iowa Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: None

Population in 2015: 3,123,899

Number of Licensed Physicians<sup>1</sup> in 2015: 11,224

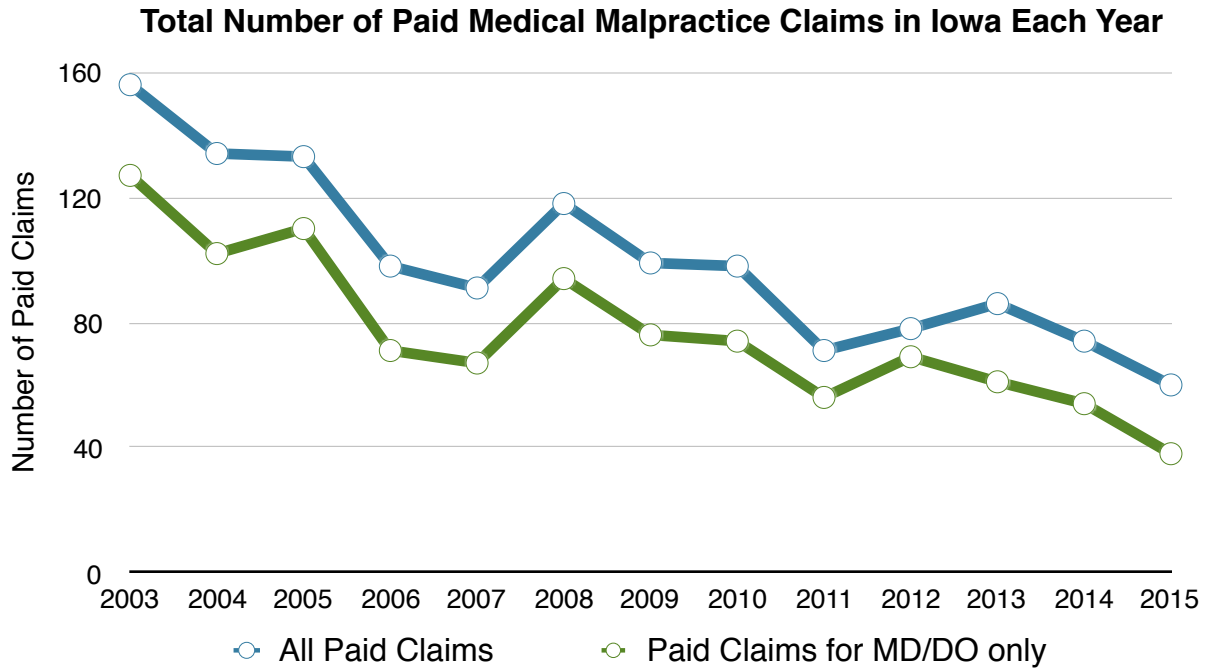
	2013	2014	2015	Average for 2013-2015
Per Capita <sup>3</sup> Amount Paid Against all Practitioners	\$6.54	\$8.00	\$5.29	\$6.61
State Rank	37	35	44	39
Per Capita <sup>3</sup> Amount Paid Against Physicians (MD/DO) Only	\$5.62	\$6.88	\$4.45	\$5.65
State Rank	37	34	43	39
Paid Claims/100 Physicians		0.48	0.34	
State Rank		35	40	

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

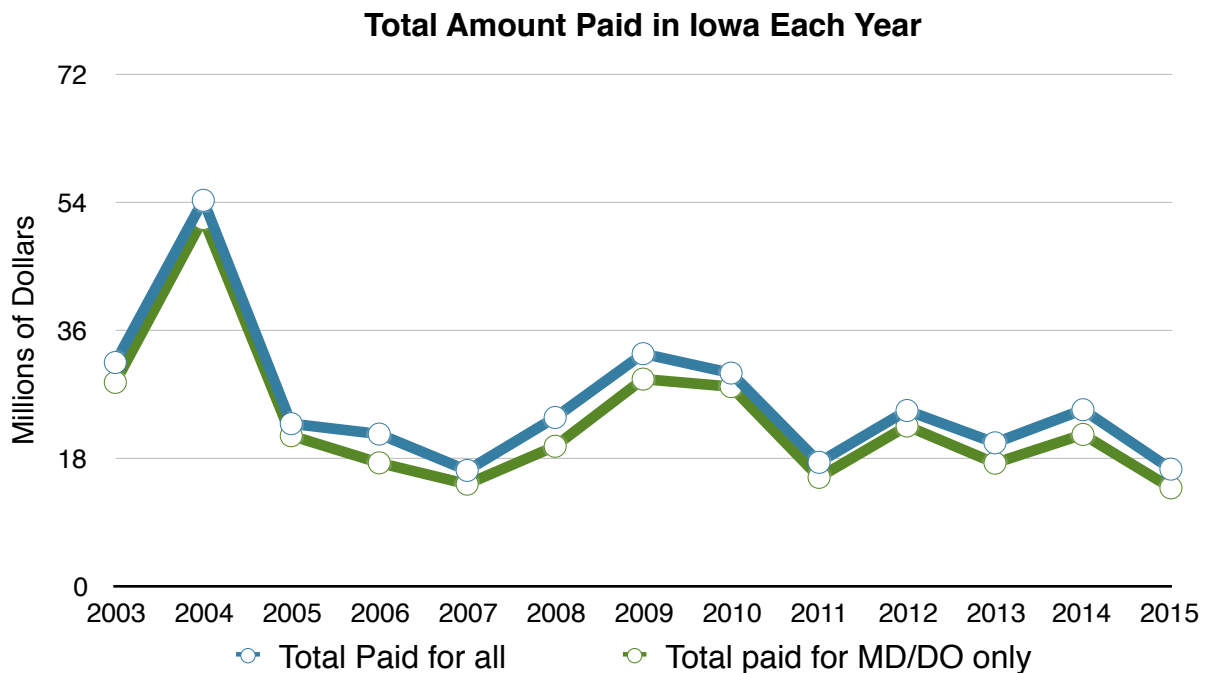
## Notes

- 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

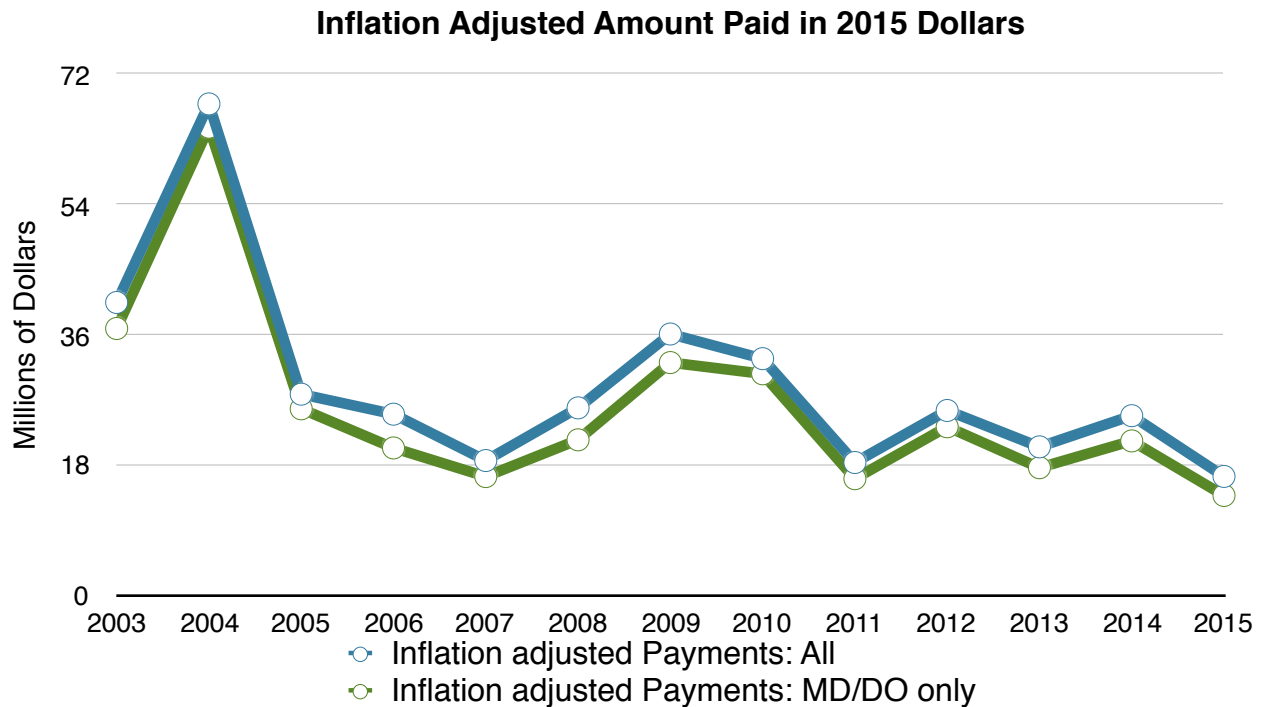
**Graphic Summary of Medical Malpractice Incidence and Cost for Iowa from 2003-2015**



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



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

Brief summary: In spite of having no tort reform law to control medical malpractice costs, Iowa has seen a substantial drop in the number of paid claims as well as the cost of malpractice since 2004. Iowa currently has among the lowest medical malpractice costs in the U.S.

#### Sources

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