

Massachusetts Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

Tort Reform Law: Ch. 231 §60H. Non-economic damage cap of \$500,000 except in catastrophic injuries.

Effective 1986

Population in 2014: 6,745,408

Number of Licensed Physicians¹ in 2014: 33,965

Number of Paid Medical Malpractice claims per 100 physicians in 2014: 0.65

State Rank: 18th

Amount paid for malpractice claims against all practitioners² per capita³ in 2014: \$22.22

State Rank: 6th

Amount paid for malpractice claims against all practitioners per capita in 2013: \$20.65

State Rank: 5th

Amount paid for malpractice claims against Physicians only per capita in 2014: \$19.20

State Rank: 6th

Amount paid for malpractice claims against Physicians only per capita in 2013: \$17.14

State Rank: 6th

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 Massachusetts from 2003-2014

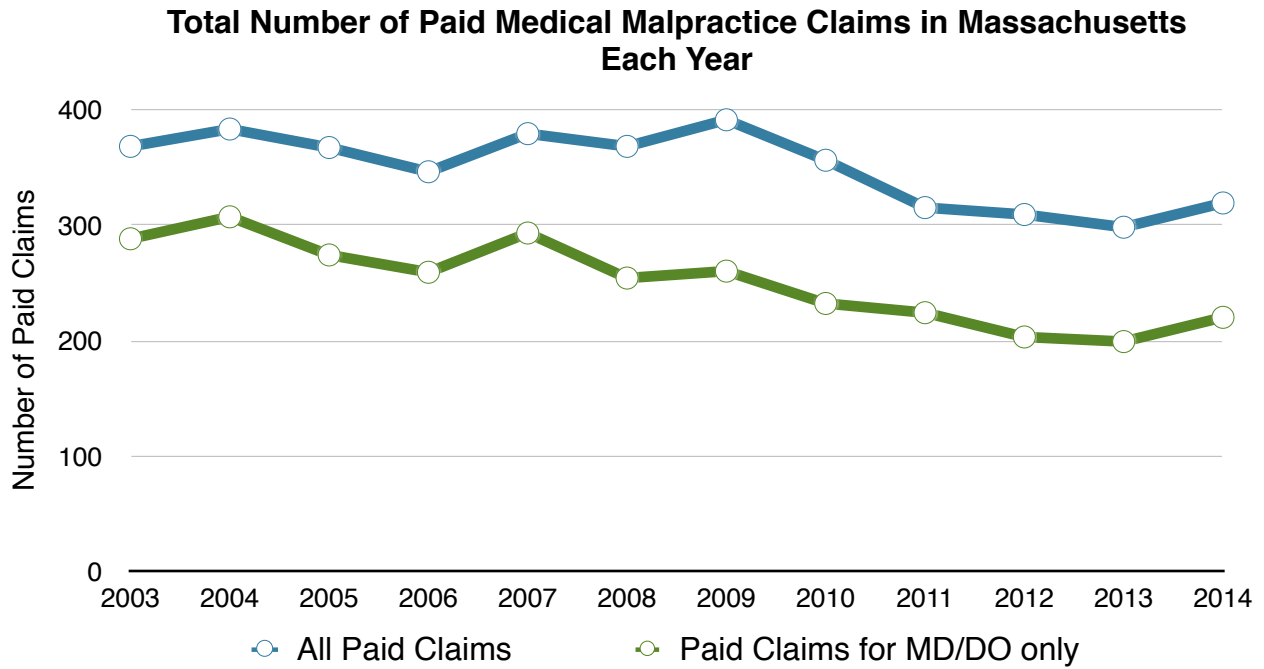


Figure 1: Total number of Paid Medical Malpractice Claims for Massachusetts from 2003-2014 for All Health Care Practitioners Combined as Well as for MD/DOs Only

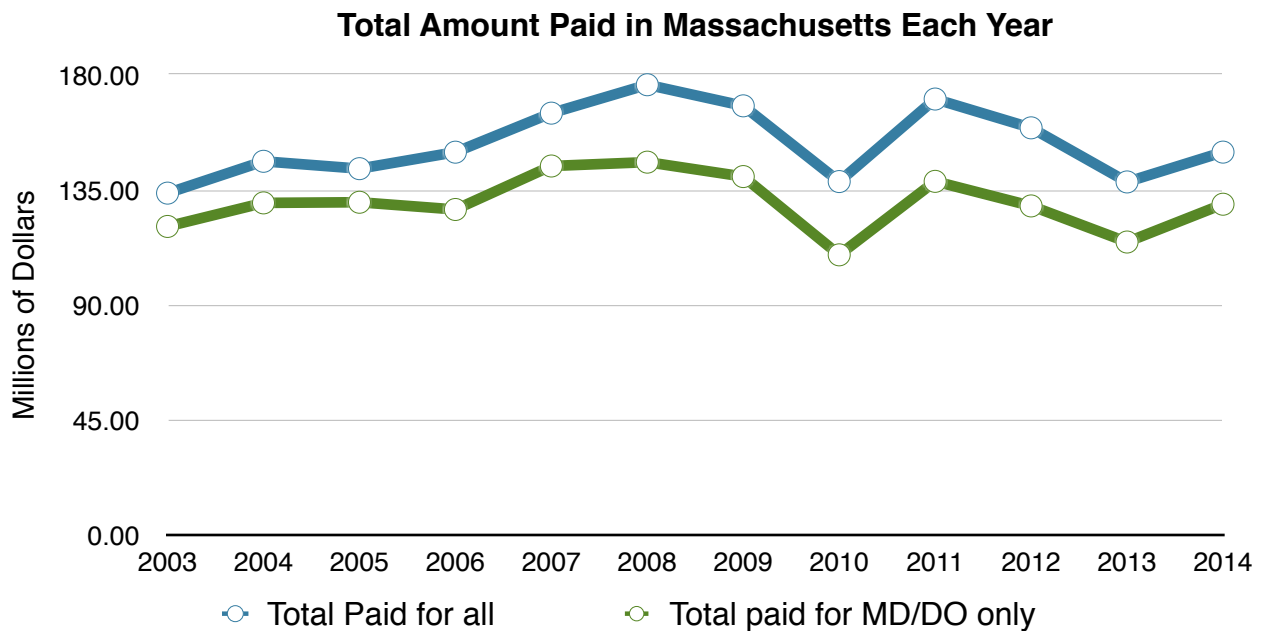


Figure 2: Total Amount Paid for All Medical Malpractice Claims from 2003-2014 for All Health Care Practitioners and MD/DOs Only in Massachusetts.

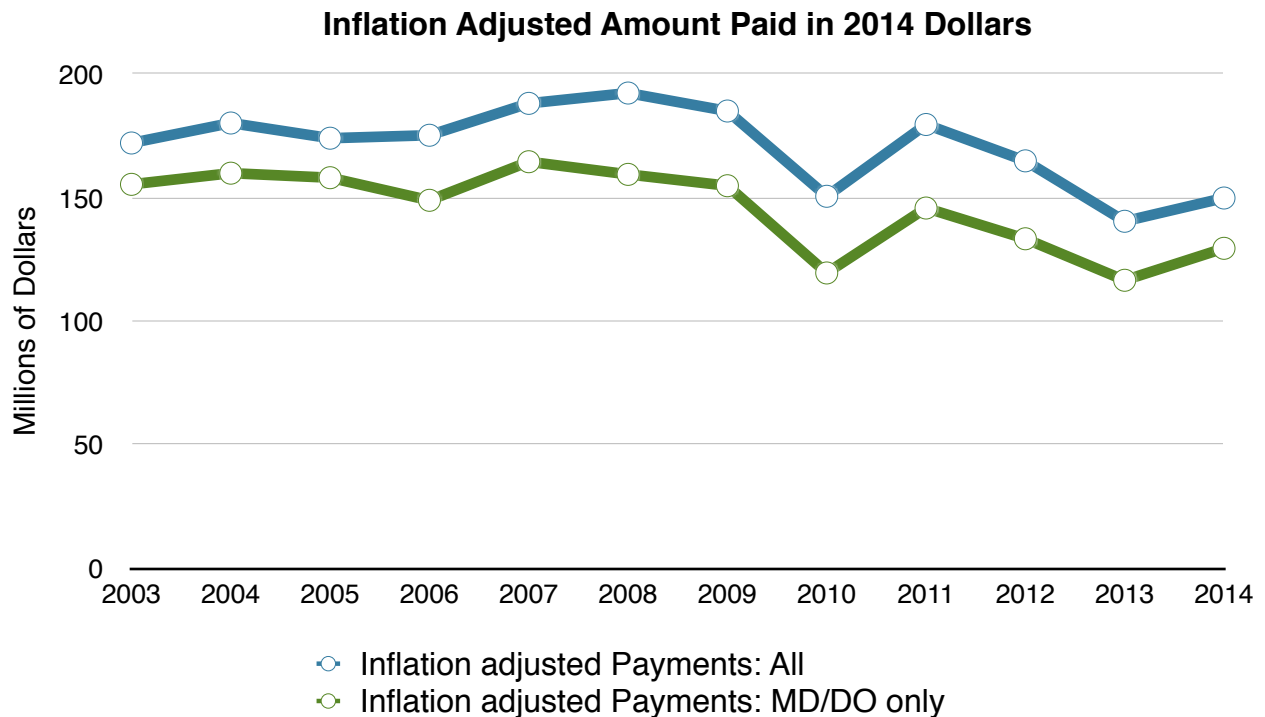


Figure 3: Figure 2 Data When Adjusted for Inflation.

Brief summary: Massachusetts has had among the highest medical malpractice costs in the US for many years in spite of their cap on awards for non-economic damages. what's interesting is the fact that the damage cap in Massachusetts is essentially the same as Florida's damage cap. So, why did this law work so well in Florida when it doesn't appear to have any effect on medical malpractice costs in Massachusetts?

Sources

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