

# Pennsylvania Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: 40 §1303.505. Punitive cap of twice actual damages. Constitutional prohibition on caps of economic damages.  
Effective 1997

Population in 2015: 12,802,503

Number of Licensed Physicians<sup>1</sup> in 2015: 55,443

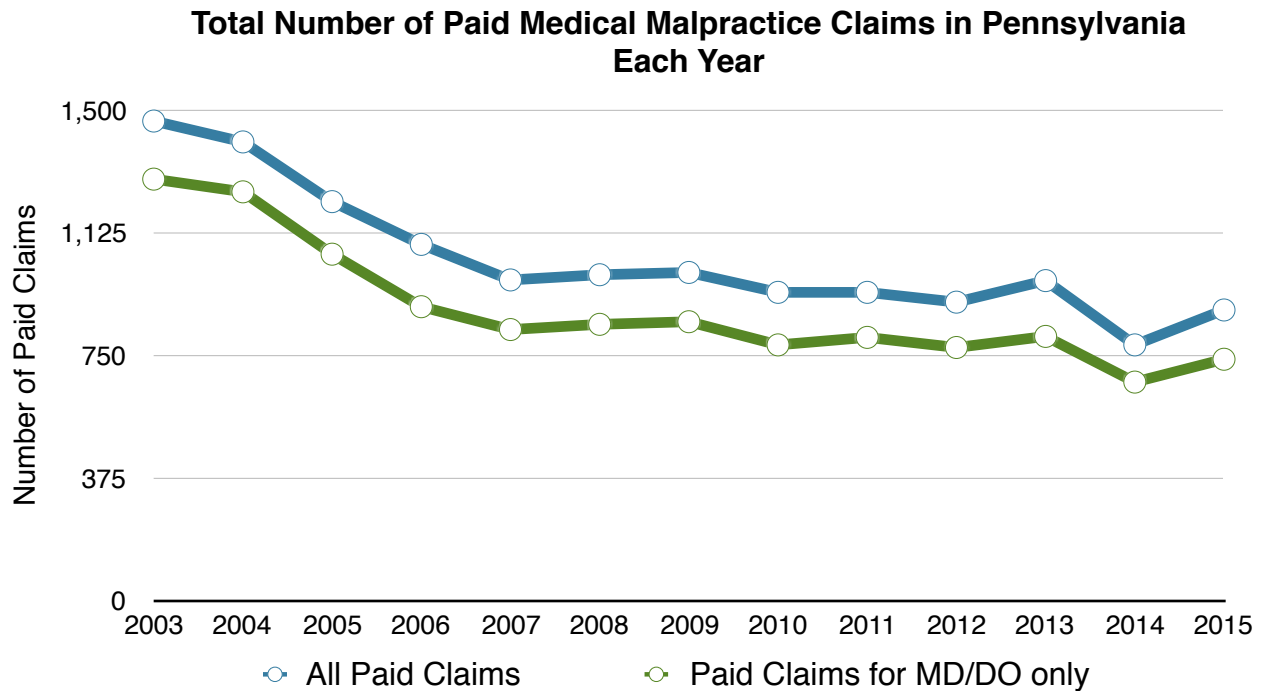
	2013	2014	2015	Average for 2013-2015
Per Capita <sup>3</sup> Amount Paid Against all Practitioners	\$29.51	\$24.22	\$27.44	\$27.06
State Rank	2	5	3	3
Per Capita <sup>3</sup> Amount Paid Against Physicians (MD/DO) Only	\$25.88	\$22.53	\$25.72	\$24.71
State Rank	2	5	2	2
Paid Claims/100 Physicians		1.20	1.33	
State Rank		4	2	

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

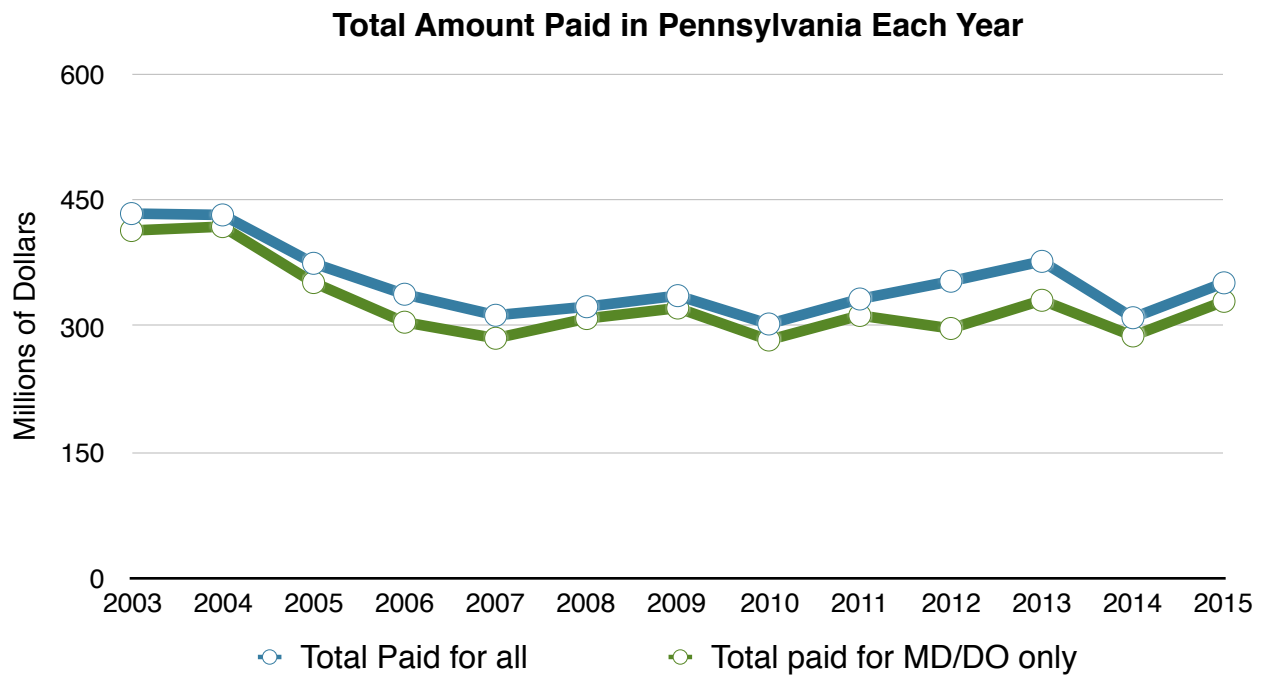
## Notes

- 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

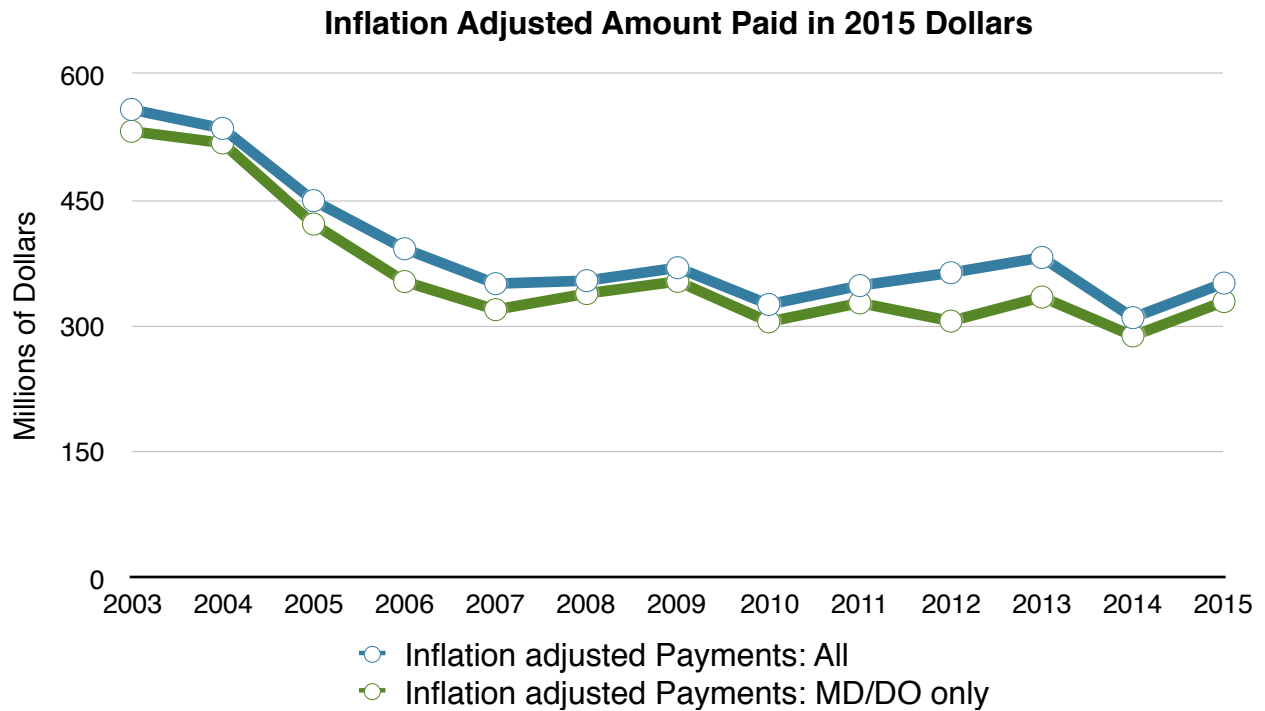
**Graphic Summary of Medical Malpractice Incidence and Cost for Pennsylvania from 2003-2015**



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



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

Brief summary: Medical malpractice costs are typically higher in the North Eastern U.S. than anywhere else in the Country. Pennsylvania is no exception. Pennsylvania does have a tort reform law aimed at limiting punitive damages in medical malpractice cases, but that law doesn't appear to have much impact.

#### Sources

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