

Texas Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

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Tort Reform Law: Civil Practice & Remedies §74.301. Non-economic damages: \$250,000 cap for physicians or providers. An additional \$250,000 against each health care institution.
Effective 2003

Population in 2015: 27,469,114

Number of Licensed Physicians¹ in 2015: 72,601

	2013	2014	2015	Average for 2013-2015
Per Capita ³ Amount Paid Against all Practitioners	\$3.58	\$3.33	\$2.73	\$3.21
State Rank	50	49	50	50
Per Capita ³ Amount Paid Against Physicians (MD/DO) Only	\$2.90	\$2.70	\$2.17	\$2.59
State Rank	50	48	50	51
Paid Claims/100 Physicians		0.58	0.50	
State Rank		29	28	

Table showing the amount paid per capita³ in Texas 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 Texas 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 Texas from 2003-2015

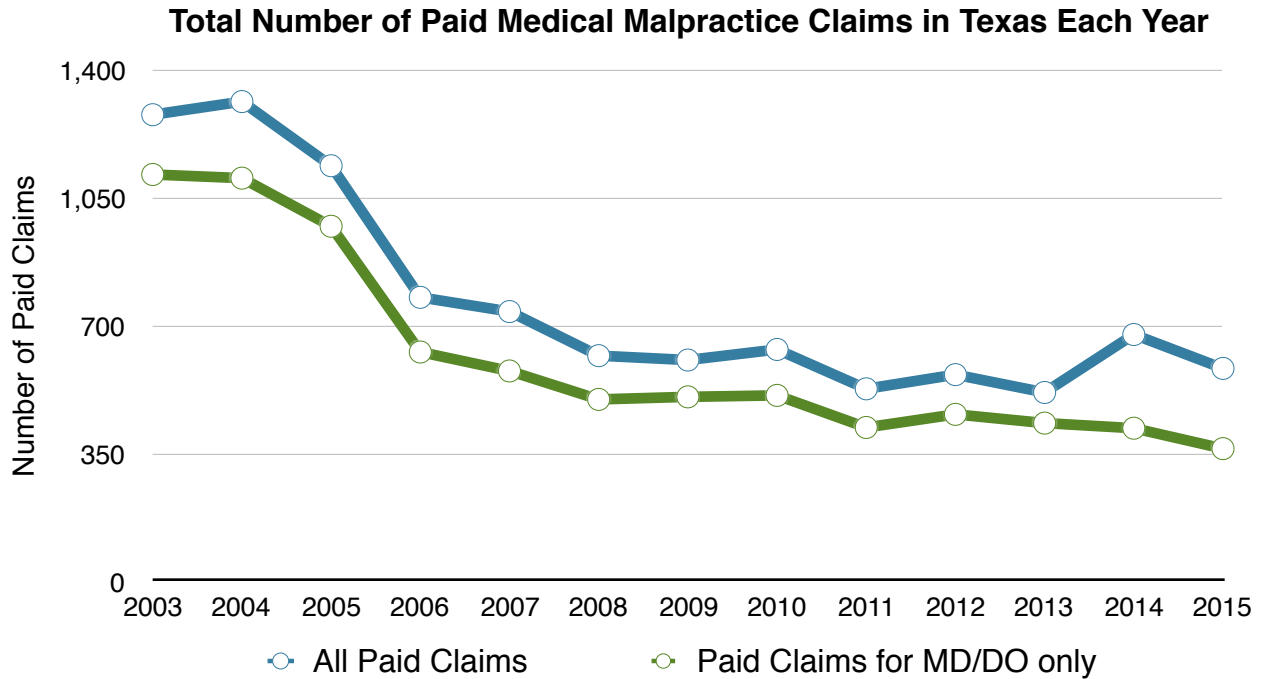


Figure 1: Total number of Paid Medical Malpractice Claims for Texas from 2003-2015 for All Health Care Practitioners Combined as Well as for MD/DOs Only.

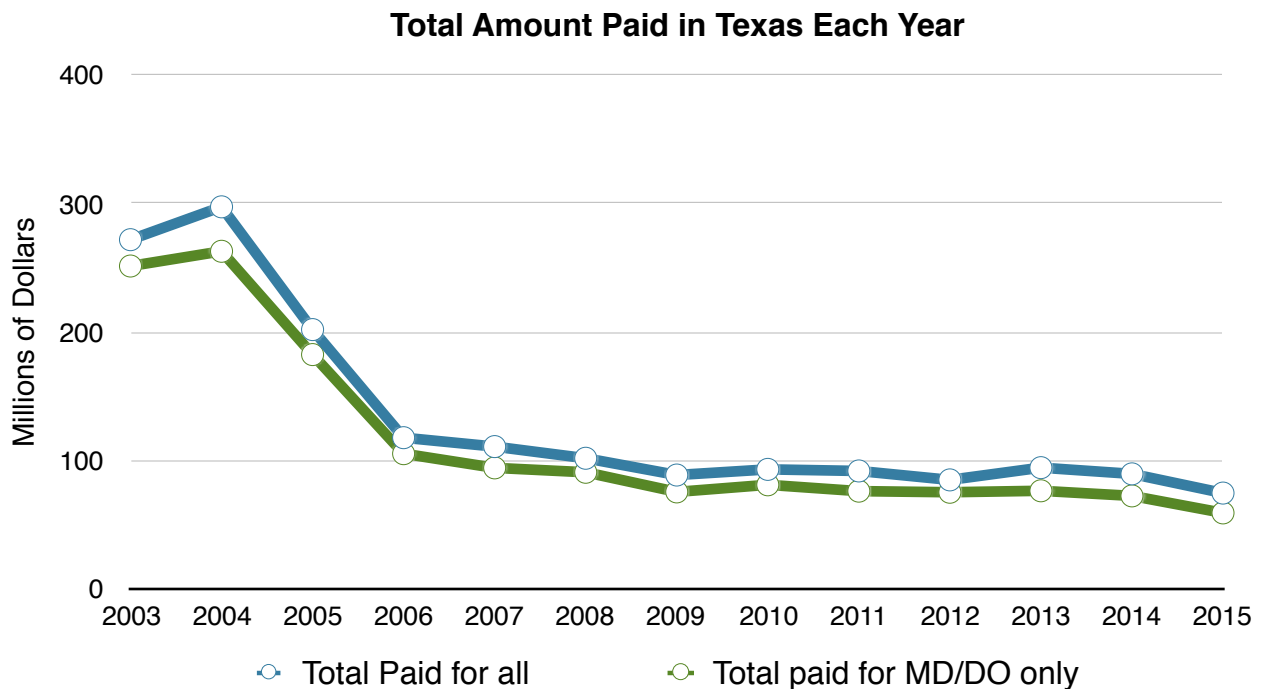


Figure 2: Total Amount Paid for All Medical Malpractice Claims from 2003-2015 for All Health Care Practitioners and MD/DOs Only in Texas.

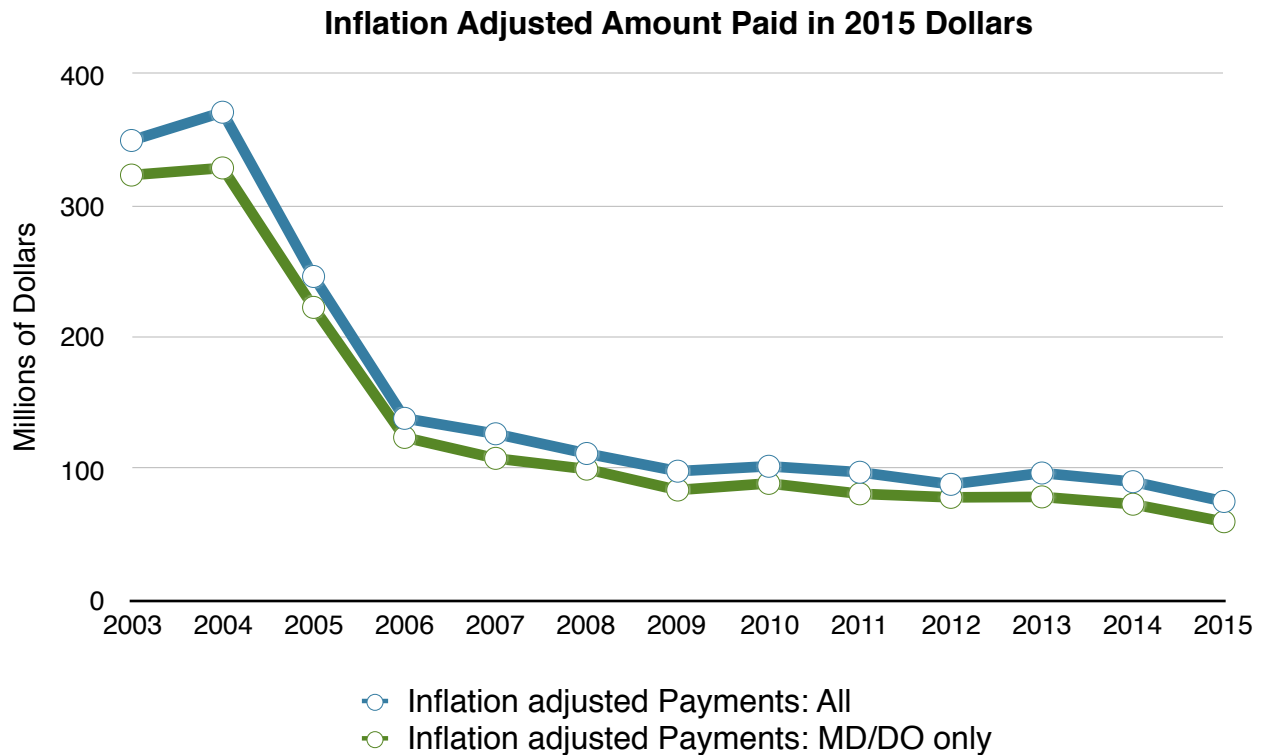


Figure 3: Figure 2 Data When Adjusted for Inflation.

Brief summary: In 2003 Texas passed a tort reform bill that capped non-economic damages at \$250,000. Over the next two years paid claims dropped by over 50%, malpractice costs dropped by over 60% and both have gone down even further in the years since. It would be hard to look at this data and not acknowledge such a dramatic effect. What's not obvious is why this bill has had such a dramatic effect in Texas while similar bills in other states haven't.

Sources

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