

Summary of Medical Malpractice Incidence and Cost for the US from 2003-2015

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Each of the following graphs provide medical malpractice data for all health care professionals as well as for physicians (MDs and DOs) only. Claims against all health care professionals include claims against nurses, nurse practitioners, psychologists, social workers, counselors, optometrists, dentists, dental hygienists, pharmacists, pharmacy techs, podiatrists, physical and occupational therapists and speech therapists.

Over the last 13 years there has been an unquestionable drop in the total number of paid medical malpractice claims against health care professionals including doctors in the U.S. The amount spent on these claims has dropped significantly as well. The first two graphs show this trend.

For example, there were just over 15,000 paid medical malpractice claims against MDs and DOs in 2003 in the US. By 2015 that number had dropped to below 8600 which is more than a 40% drop in 13 years. The amount paid on these claims dropped by 23% during that time.

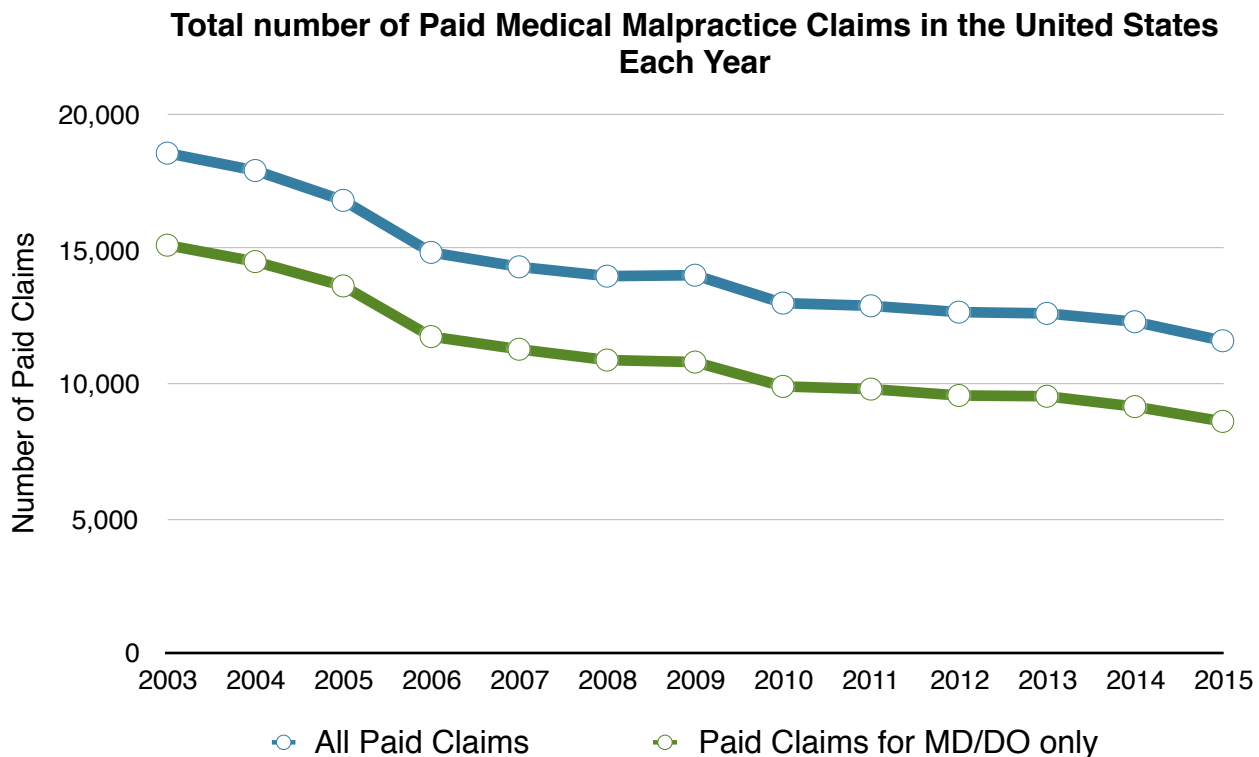


Figure 1: Total number of Paid Medical Malpractice Claims for the United States from 2003-2015 for All Health Care Practitioners Combined as Well as for MD/DOs Only.

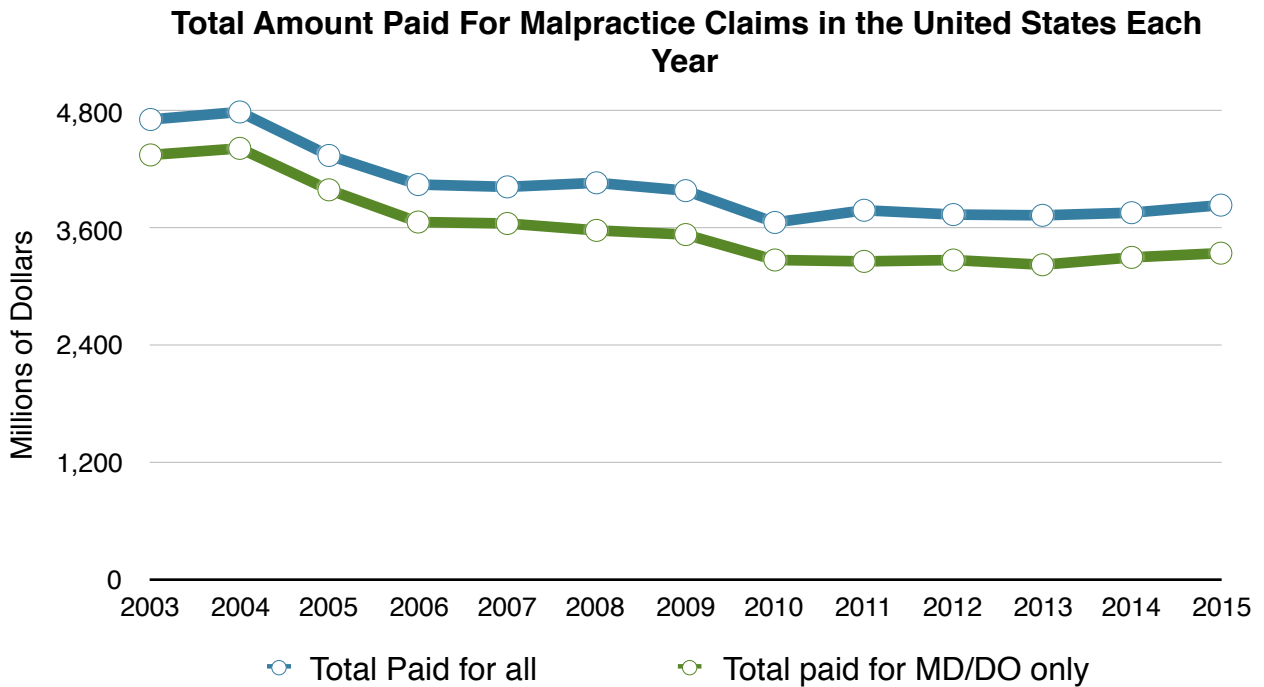


Figure 2: Total Amount Paid for All Medical Malpractice Claims from 2003-2015 for All Health Care Practitioners and MD/DOs Only in the United States.

The third graph shows that, when adjusted for inflation, the cost of medical malpractice in the US has dropped even further.

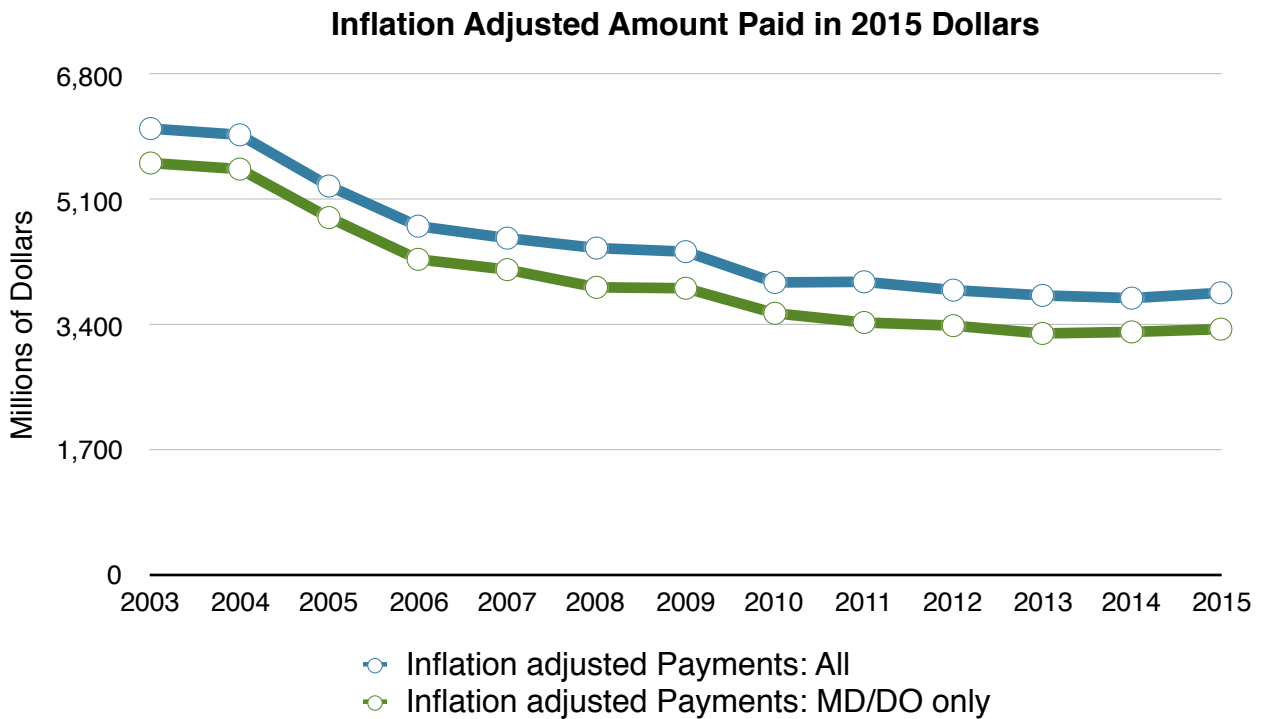


Figure 3: Figure 2 Data When Adjusted for Inflation.

The next two graphs show that most of the drop in paid medical malpractice claims have been in those that resulted in smaller payouts (less than \$500,000) which, for physicians, have dropped about 47% since 2003.

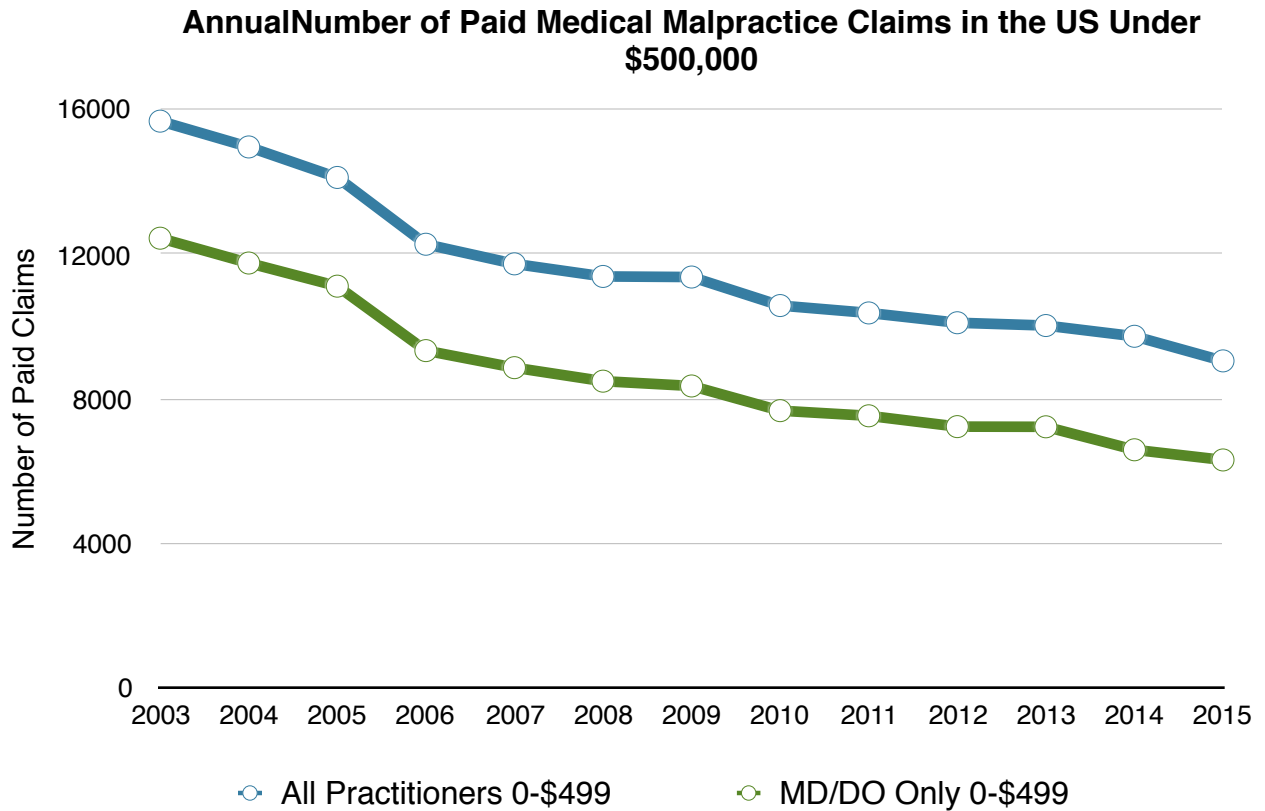


Figure 4: Number of paid Medical Malpractice Claims Each Year in the US that were Settled for Less than \$500,000.

The number of large claims (\$500,000 or more) against health care providers has also dropped somewhat since 2003 but not nearly as much (next page).

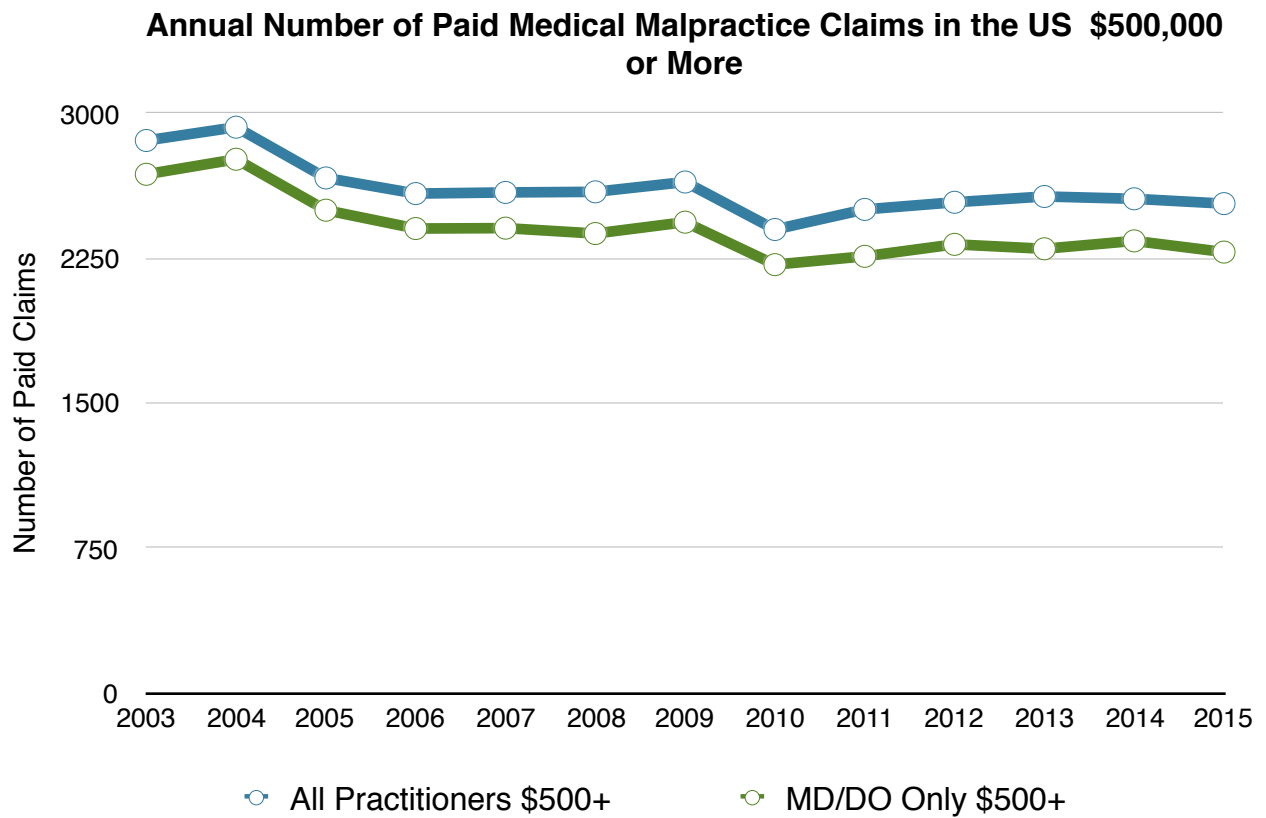


Figure 5: Number of Paid Medical Malpractice Claims in the US Each Year that were Settled for \$500,000 or More.

Sources

http://truecostofhealthcare.net/malpractice_statistics/

<http://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/resources/npdbstats/npdbStatistics.jsp>