

# Washington Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: None, Constitutionally prohibited

Population in 2015: 7,170,531

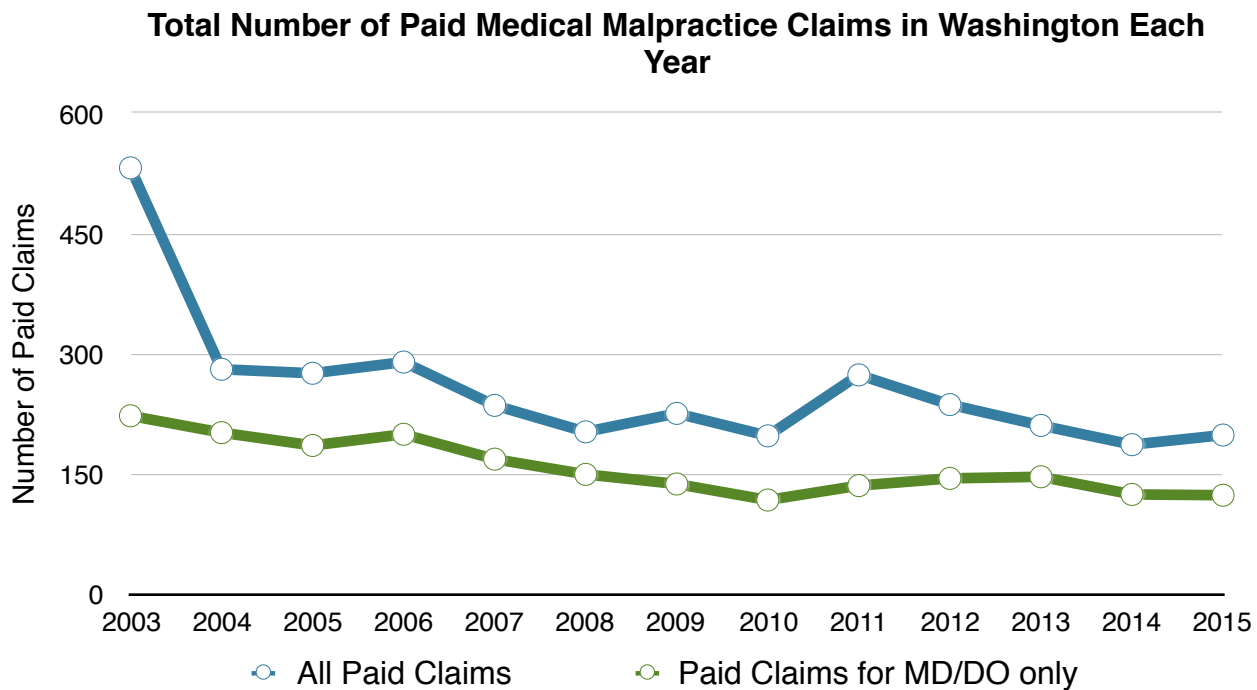
	2013	2014	2015	Average for 2013-2015
Per Capita <sup>3</sup> Amount Paid Against all Practitioners	\$8.64	\$9.65	\$6.69	\$8.32
State Rank	23	24	36	30
Per Capita <sup>3</sup> Amount Paid Against Physicians (MD/DO) Only	\$6.83	\$7.72	\$5.64	\$6.73
State Rank	25	27	37	29
Paid Claims/100 Physicians		0.47	0.47	
State Rank		37	31	

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

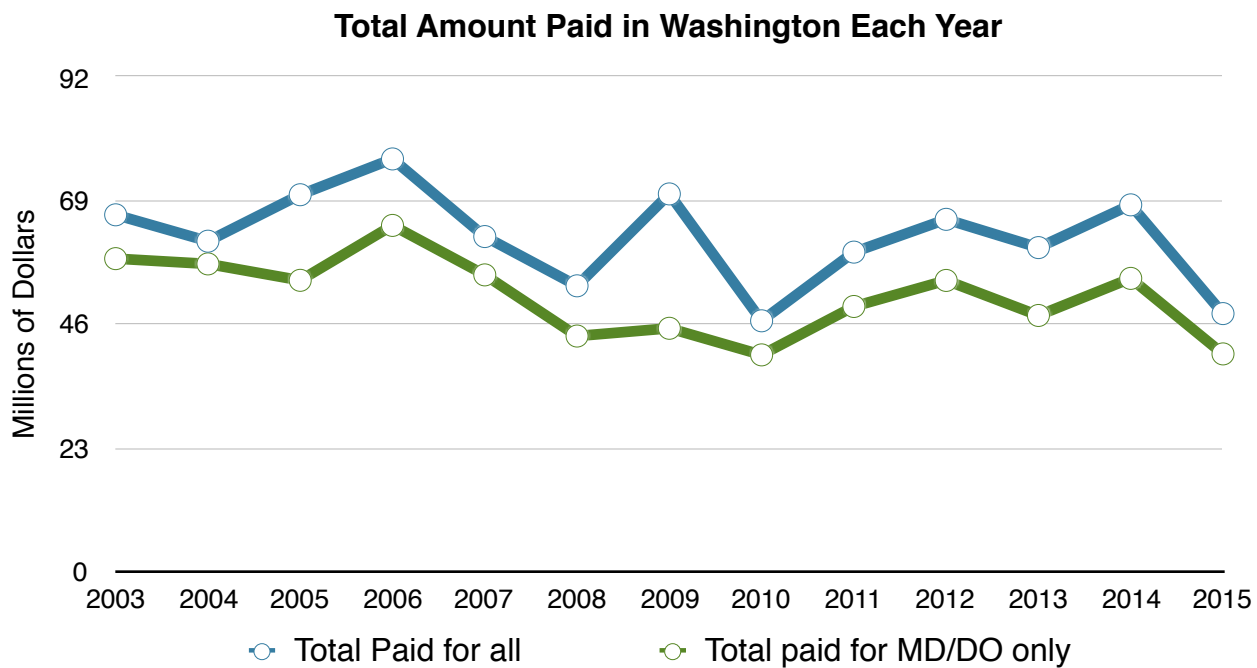
## Notes

- 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

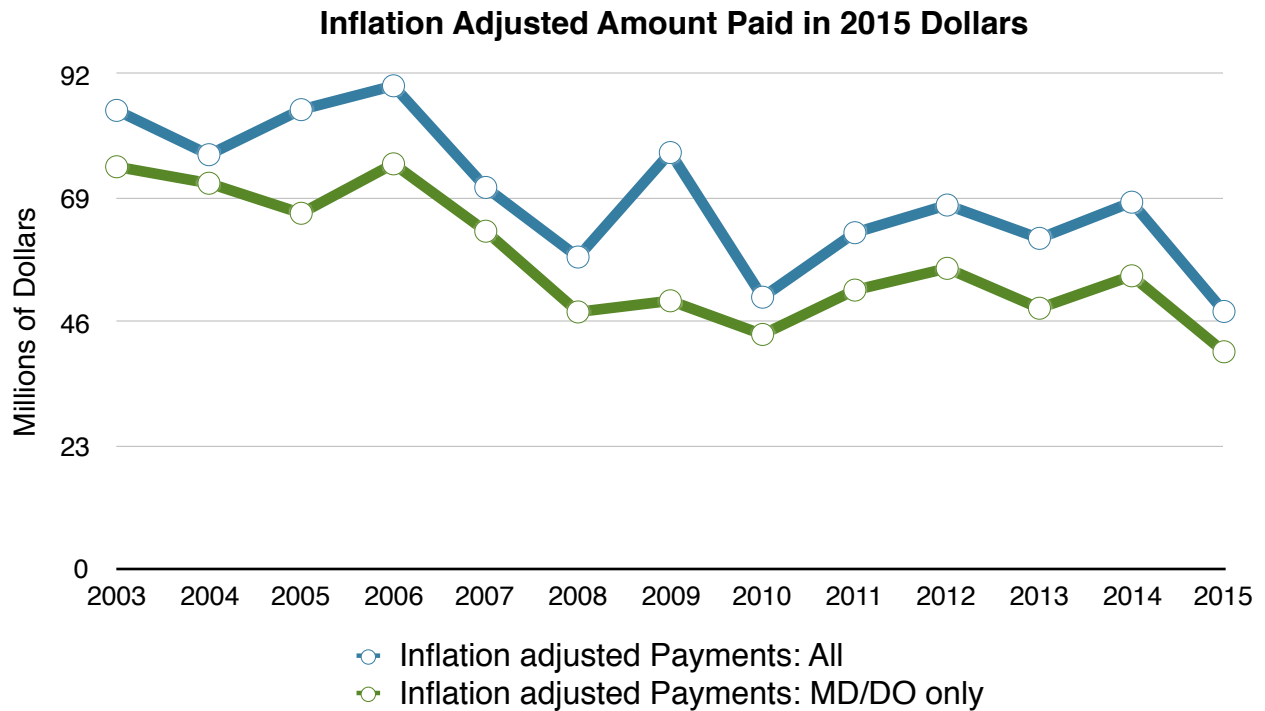
**Graphic Summary of Medical Malpractice Incidence and Cost for Washington from 2003-2015**



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



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

Brief summary: Washington State has no tort reform law aimed at controlling medical malpractice costs. Their malpractice costs are near the national average for the U.S. most years and have generally declined somewhat over the last decade.

#### Sources

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