Washington Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: None, Constitutionally prohibited

Population in 2015: 7,170,531

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita³ Amount Paid Against all Practitioners</td>
<td>$8.64</td>
<td>$9.65</td>
<td>$6.69</td>
<td>$8.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Rank</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita³ Amount Paid Against Physicians (MD/DO) Only</td>
<td>$6.83</td>
<td>$7.72</td>
<td>$5.64</td>
<td>$6.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Rank</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid Claims/100 Physicians</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Rank</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table showing the amount paid per capita³ 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


http://truecostofhealthcare.net/malpractice_statistics/

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

http://www.atra.org/issues noneconomic-damages-reform