Arizona Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: None, Constitutionally prohibited.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012-2016 Average</th>
<th>State Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita(^1) Malpractice costs: All Providers(^2)</td>
<td>$10.14</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: MD/DO only</td>
<td>$8.94</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 1 Million Residents</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 100 Practicing Physicians</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>21</td>
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</table>

Table showing the average amount paid per capita\(^1\) each year in Arizona from 2012-2016 for medical malpractice claims against all practitioners as well as against physicians (MD and DO’s) only. It also shows the number of paid claims per million residents and per 100 practicing physicians in Arizona those years.

Brief summary: The cost of medical malpractice has been dropping rather steadily in Arizona since 2003 in spite of them not having any tort reform laws aimed at lowering these costs. Over the last decade, Arizona’s malpractice costs have remained close to the national average.

Notes

1) Total amount paid in medical malpractice claims in the state each year/ the state’s Population.
2) All practitioners includes physicians, podiatrists, dentists, nurses, hygienists, pharmacists, pharmacy techs, lab techs, physical therapists, etc…

Sources

http://truecostofhealthcare.net/malpractice_statistics/
https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/analysistool/
http://www.atra.org/issues/noneconomic-damages-reform
Figure 1: Total number of paid medical malpractice claims for Arizona from 1991-2017 for all health care practitioners combined as well as for MD/DOs only.

Figure 2: Total amount paid for all medical malpractice claims from 1991-2017 for all health care practitioners and MD/DOs only in Arizona.
Figure 3: Figure 2 data when adjusted for inflation.