Arkansas Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: None now. Bill §16-114-208 was ruled unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court in 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012-2016 Average</th>
<th>State Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita¹ Malpractice costs: All Providers²</td>
<td>$7.09</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: MD/DO only</td>
<td>$6.19</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 1 Million Residents</td>
<td>22.31</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 100 Practicing Physicians</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>29</td>
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</table>

Table showing the average amount paid per capita¹ each year in Arkansas 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 Arkansas those years.

Brief summary: In spite of having their tort reform bill struck down by the Arkansas court in 2007, medical malpractice costs have remained well below the national average. So, perhaps they don’t really need it.

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
Graphic Summary of Medical Malpractice Incidence and Cost for Arkansas from 1991-2017

Figure 1: Total number of paid medical malpractice claims for Arkansas 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 Arkansas.
Figure 3: Figure 2 data when adjusted for inflation.