Idaho Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: §6-1603. A $250,000 limit on non-economic damages, adjusted annually according to state’s average annual wage. Effective 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Per Capita¹ Malpractice costs: All Providers²</th>
<th>2012-2016 Average</th>
<th>State Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: MD/DO only</td>
<td>$7.80</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 1 Million Residents</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 100 Practicing Physicians</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>35</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Brief summary: Idaho has had a $250,000 cap on non economic damages since 2003. Their malpractice costs were among the lowest in the nation prior to having that cap, and didn’t change much afterward. Ironically, in 2011 and 2012 the cost on medical malpractice in Idaho was the highest it had been in decades due to six cases where the damages exceeded $2 million each (3 cases in 2011 and 3 in 2012).

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 Idaho from 1991-2017

Paid Medical Malpractice Claims in Idaho Each Year

Figure 1: Total number of paid medical malpractice claims for Idaho from 1991-2017 for all health care practitioners combined as well as for MD/DOs only.

Total Amount Paid in Idaho Each Year

Figure 2: Total amount paid for all medical malpractice claims from 1991-2017 for all health care practitioners and MD/DOs only in Idaho.
Inflation Adjusted Amount Paid in 2017 Dollars

Figure 3: Figure 2 data when adjusted for inflation.