Illinois Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: None now. Illinois had a Non-economic cap of $500,000 against providers and a $1,000,000 cap against hospitals that passed in 2005. In 2010 it was declared unconstitutional by the Illinois State Supreme Court.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012-2016 Average</th>
<th>State Rank</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: All Providers(^1)</td>
<td>$17.15</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: MD/DO only</td>
<td>$15.36</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 1 Million Residents</td>
<td>32.51</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 100 Practicing Physicians</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>26</td>
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Table showing the average amount paid per capita\(^1\) each year in Illinois 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 Illinois those years.

Brief summary: For many years now, Illinois has had among the highest medical malpractice costs in the U.S. That might be why they felt a need to cap malpractice damage awards in 2005. Alas, that cap was thrown out by their State Supreme Court in 2010. Since then, the number of paid malpractice claims have continued to drop in Illinois, though the total cost of these claims went up by about 50% in 2015.

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 Illinois 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 Illinois.
Figure 3: Figure 2 data when adjusted for inflation.