Indiana Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: §34-18-14-3. A $1,250,000 cap on total compensation for cases that occurred after 1999. Providers are liable for a maximum of $250,000 with the rest to be paid through state's Patient Compensation Fund.

<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</td>
<td>$10.03</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: MD/DO only</td>
<td>$9.65</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 1 Million Residents</td>
<td>40.8</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 100 Practicing Physicians</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Brief summary: Indiana has a cap on total compensation for medical malpractice awards, but it’s a rather high cap: $1.25 million. Since few awards for medical malpractice ever exceed this amount, you wouldn’t expect a cap like this to have much effect; and it doesn’t. Both Indiana’s per capita malpractice costs and their number of paid claims are above the national average most years.

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 Indiana from 1991-2017**

**Paid Medical Malpractice Claims in Indiana Each Year**

![Chart showing the number of paid medical malpractice claims in Indiana from 1991 to 2017 for all health care practitioners combined as well as for MD/DOs only.]

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

**Total Amount Paid in Indiana Each Year**

![Chart showing the total amount paid for all medical malpractice claims in Indiana from 1991 to 2017 for all providers and 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 Indiana.
Figure 3: Figure 2 data when adjusted for inflation.