Mississippi Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: §11-1-60. $500,000 cap on non-economic damages. Effective 2004

<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>$5.99</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: MD/DO only</td>
<td>$5.24</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 1 Million Residents</td>
<td>29.07</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 100 Practicing Physicians</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table showing the average amount paid per capita\(^1\) each year in Mississippi 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 Mississippi those years.

Brief summary: Mississippi has had very low medical malpractice costs for more than a decade. Though it’s tempting to say that Mississippi’s low malpractice costs are a result of their cap on non-economic damages, it should be noted that Alabama has similar costs and fewer paid claims per-capita in spite of having no such cap. Also, the cost of medical malpractice in Mississippi wasn’t much higher most of the years before they instated their damage cap.

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 Mississippi 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 Mississippi.
Inflation Adjusted Amount Paid in 2017 Dollars

Figure 3: Figure 2 data when adjusted for inflation.