Ohio Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: §2323.43. Non-economic damages: $250,000 or 3x economic damages up to $350,000/plaintiff, whichever is greater. $500,000 total for multiple plaintiffs. In catastrophic cases, $500,000 or $1,000,000.
Effective 2003

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

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2012-2016 Average</th>
<th>State Rank</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita(^1) Malpractice costs: All Providers(^2)</td>
<td>$6.35</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: MD/DO only</td>
<td>$5.60</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 1 Million Residents</td>
<td>19.81</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 100 Practicing Physicians</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>42</td>
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Brief summary: Ohio is one of the great success stories for those who argue for tort reform. In 2004 Ohio passed a law that caps non-economic damages in medical malpractice cases at $350,000. Over the next few years, the cost of medical malpractice and the number of paid claims in that state plummeted. Ohio went from having relatively high malpractice costs in 2003 to having among the lowest in the U.S. since 2006.

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 Ohio from 1991-2017

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