Vermont Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: None

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012-2016 Average</th>
<th>State Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: All Providers¹</td>
<td>$5.23</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: MD/DO only</td>
<td>$4.04</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 1 Million Residents</td>
<td>21.44</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 100 Practicing Physicians</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>47</td>
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</table>

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

Brief Summary: Vermont has no tort reform law aimed at controlling medical malpractice costs yet has among the lowest malpractice costs per capita in the U.S. nearly every year for the last two decades. The only real exception was in 2008 when a total of $8.25 million was awarded in two separate cases. Those two cases amounted to over half the malpractice damages awarded that year and 15% of all of the damages awarded for medical malpractice since 2005.

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://truescostofhealthcare.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 Vermont from 1991-2017

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