Washington Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: None, constitutionally prohibited

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012-2016 Average</th>
<th>State Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita¹ Malpractice costs: All Providers²</td>
<td>$9.18</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: MD/DO only</td>
<td>$7.18</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 1 Million Residents</td>
<td>29.32</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 100 Practicing Physicians</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>38</td>
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Table showing the average amount paid per capita¹ each year in Washington 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 Washington those years.

Brief summary: Washington State has no tort reform law aimed at controlling medical malpractice costs. Their per-capita malpractice costs and paid claims have remained close to the national average for the U.S. most years and have generally declined over the last decade.

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/noeconomic-damages-reform
Graphic Summary of Medical Malpractice Incidence and Cost for Washington from 1991-2017

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