

California Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

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Tort Reform Law: Civil Code §3333.2. A \$250,000 limit for non-economic damages. Law also limits how much plaintiff attorneys can collect as a percentage of damages. Effective 1975

	2012-2016 Average	State Rank
Annual Per Capita ¹ Malpractice costs: All Providers ²	\$6.44	42
Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: MD/DO only	\$5.60	42
Annual Claims per 1 Million Residents	34.04	19
Annual Claims per 100 Practicing Physicians	0.88	27

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

Brief summary: Medical malpractice costs have remained very low in California and the number of paid malpractice claims have dropped steadily since 1991. Is this because of their cap on non-economic damages? Maybe, but the law was passed in 1975 and, since I don't have data going back that far, I can't really tell.

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://www.alllaw.com/articles/nolo/personal-injury/effect-tort-reform.html>

<http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/state-state-medical-malpractice-damages-caps.html>

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/financial-services-and-commerce/medical-liability-medical-malpractice-laws.aspx>

http://truecostofhealthcare.net/malpractice_statistics/

<https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/analysistool/>

<http://www.atra.org/issues/noneconomic-damages-reform>

Summary of Medical Malpractice Incidence and Cost for California from 1991-2017

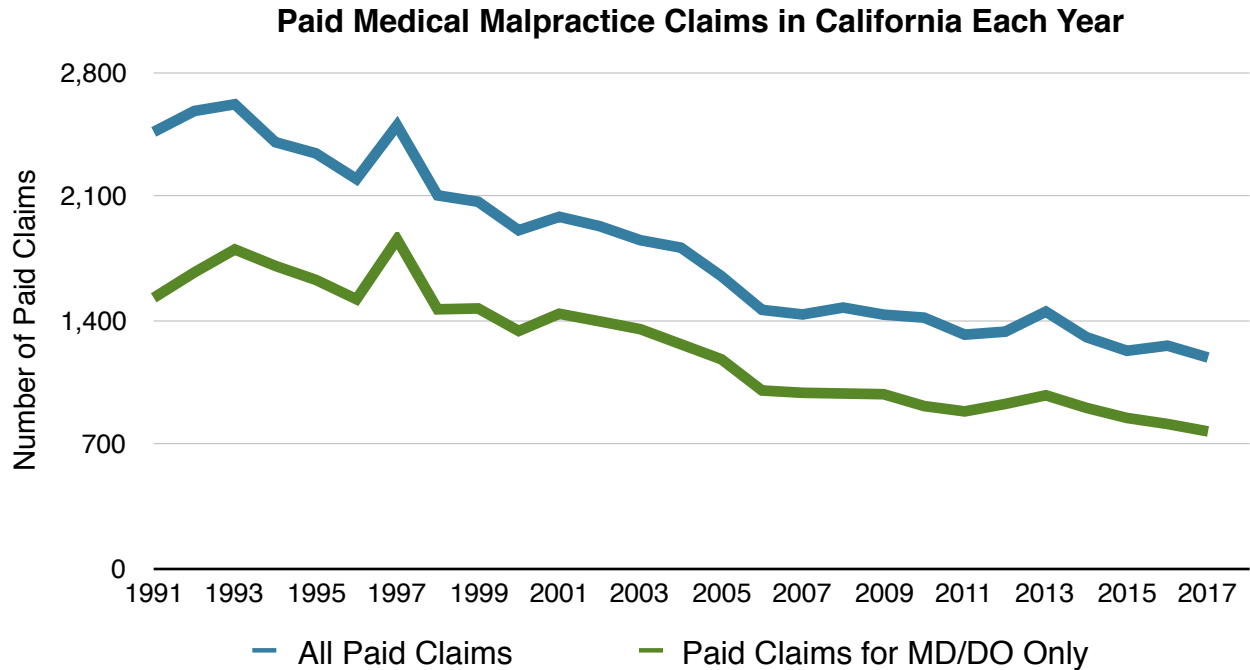


Figure 1: Total number of paid medical malpractice claims for California from 1991-2017 for all health care practitioners combined as well as for MD/DOs only.

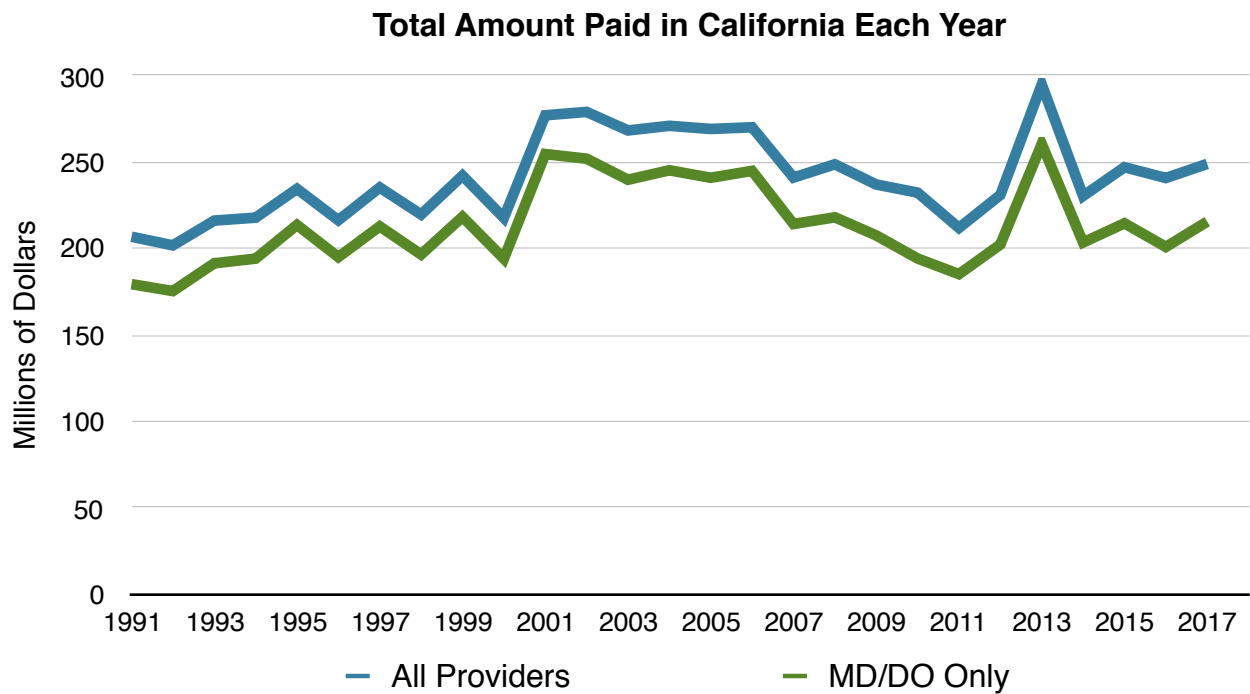


Figure 2: Total amount paid for all medical malpractice claims from 1991-2017 for all health care practitioners and MD/DOs only in California.

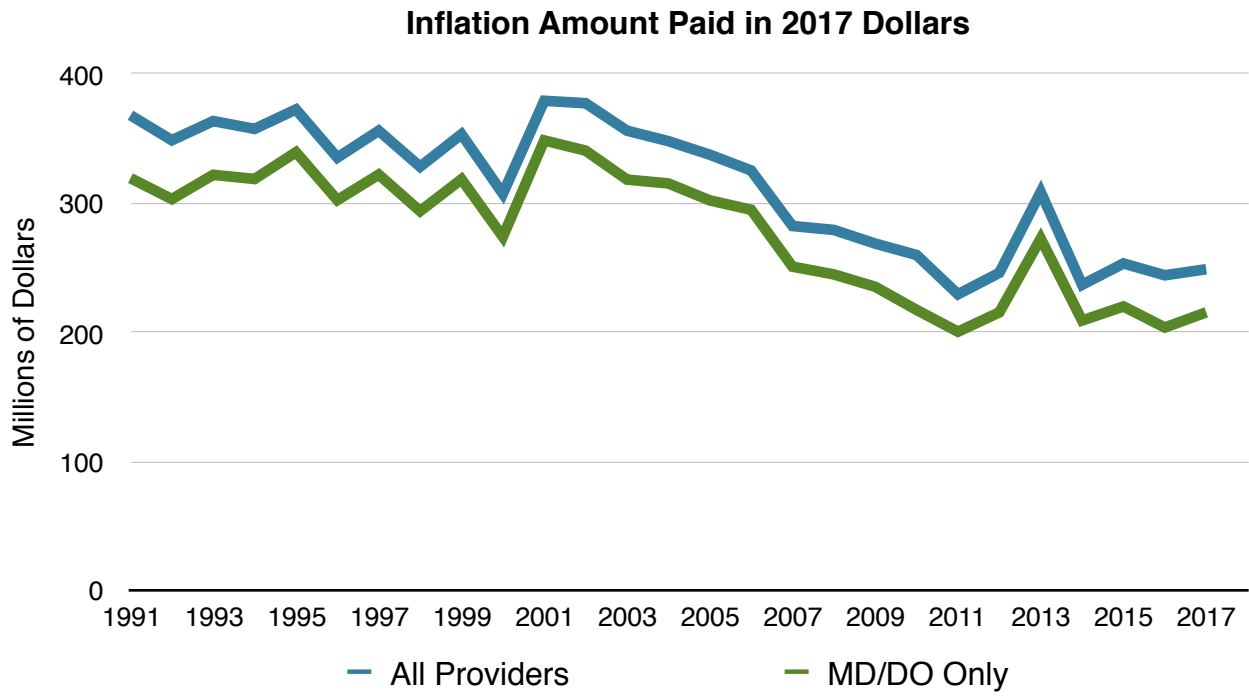


Figure 3: Figure 2 data when adjusted for inflation.