

Pennsylvania Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

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Tort Reform Law: 40 §1303.505. Punitive cap of twice actual damages. Constitutional prohibition on caps of economic damages.
Effective 1997

	2012-2016 Average	State Rank
Annual Per Capita ¹ Malpractice costs: All Providers ²	\$26.92	3
Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: MD/DO only	\$23.98	2
Annual Claims per 1 Million Residents	69.12	3
Annual Claims per 100 Practicing Physicians	1.89	4

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

Brief summary: Medical malpractice costs are typically higher in the Northeastern U.S. than anywhere else in the Country. Pennsylvania is no exception. Pennsylvania does have a tort reform law aimed at limiting punitive damages in medical malpractice cases, but that law doesn't appear to have much impact. The good news, though, is that medical malpractice claims have declined considerably in Pennsylvania since 2001 in spite of their lack of an effective law limiting these claims.

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

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

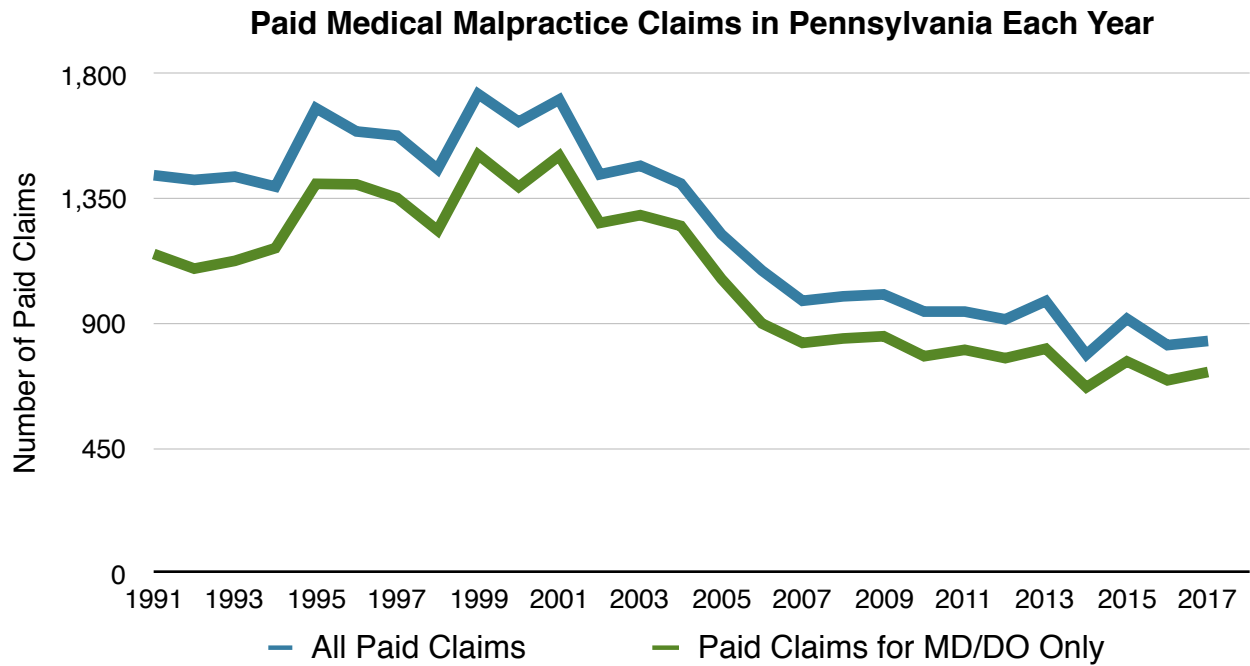


Figure 1: Total number of paid medical malpractice claims for Pennsylvania from 1991-2017 for all health care practitioners combined as well as for MD/DOs only.

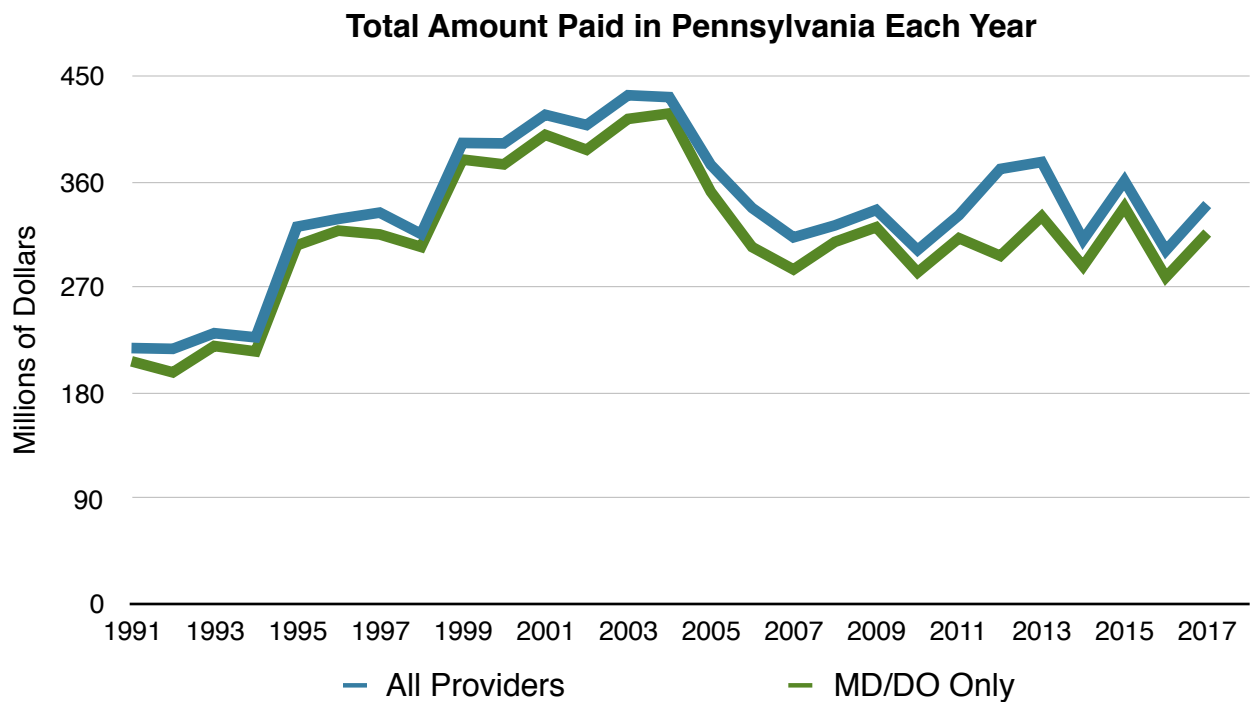


Figure 2: Total amount paid for all medical malpractice claims from 1991-2017 for all health care practitioners and MD/DOs only in Pennsylvania.

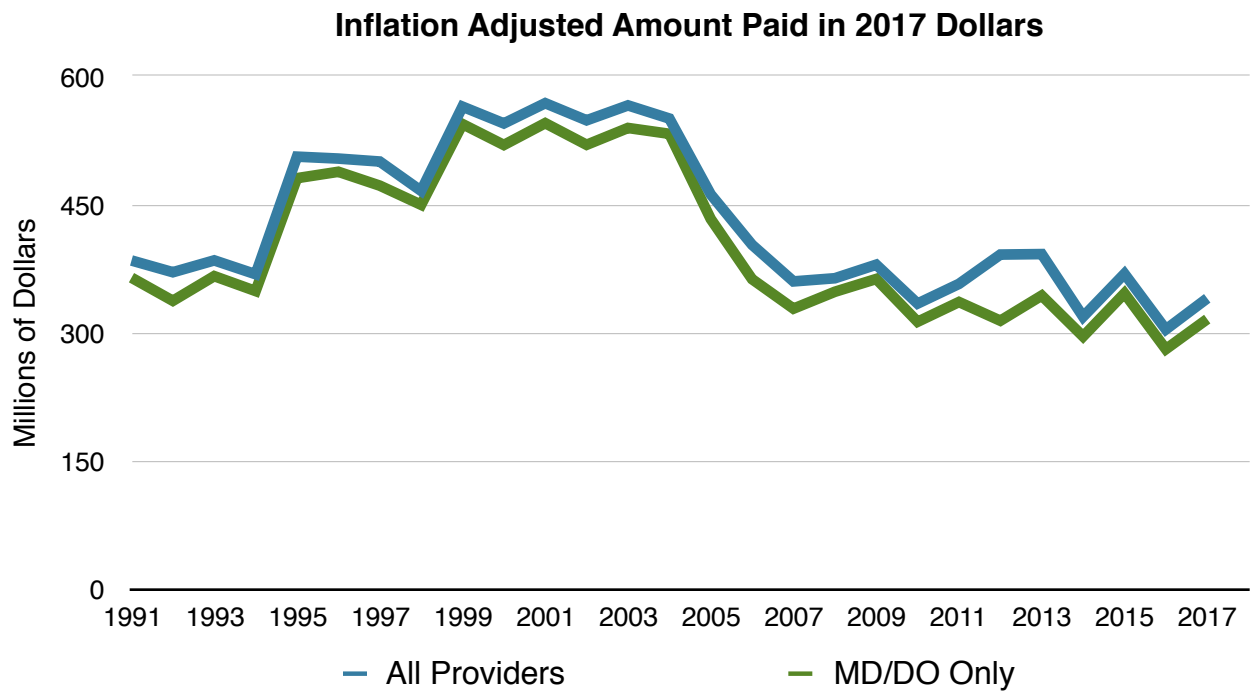


Figure 3: Figure 2 data when adjusted for inflation.