

Tennessee Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

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Tort Reform Law: §29-39-101 et seq. (2011 Public Chapter 510). Non-economic damages are capped at \$750,000 per claim. That limit also captures related claims made by the injured patient's family members. The cap will increase to \$1 million for non-economic damages where the defendant's medical malpractice causes "catastrophic" injury, such as paralysis, amputation of multiple limbs, and certain instances of wrongful death. Effective 2012

	2012-2016 Average	State Rank
Annual Per Capita ¹ Malpractice costs: All Providers ²	\$6.73	41
Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: MD/DO only	\$5.47	44
Annual Claims per 1 Million Residents	22.6	39
Annual Claims per 100 Practicing Physicians	0.65	39

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

Brief summary: The cost of medical malpractice in Tennessee has been well below the national average for decades. In spite of this, Tennessee passed a tort reform bill capping damages in 2011. Since this bill was passed not much has changed.

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>

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

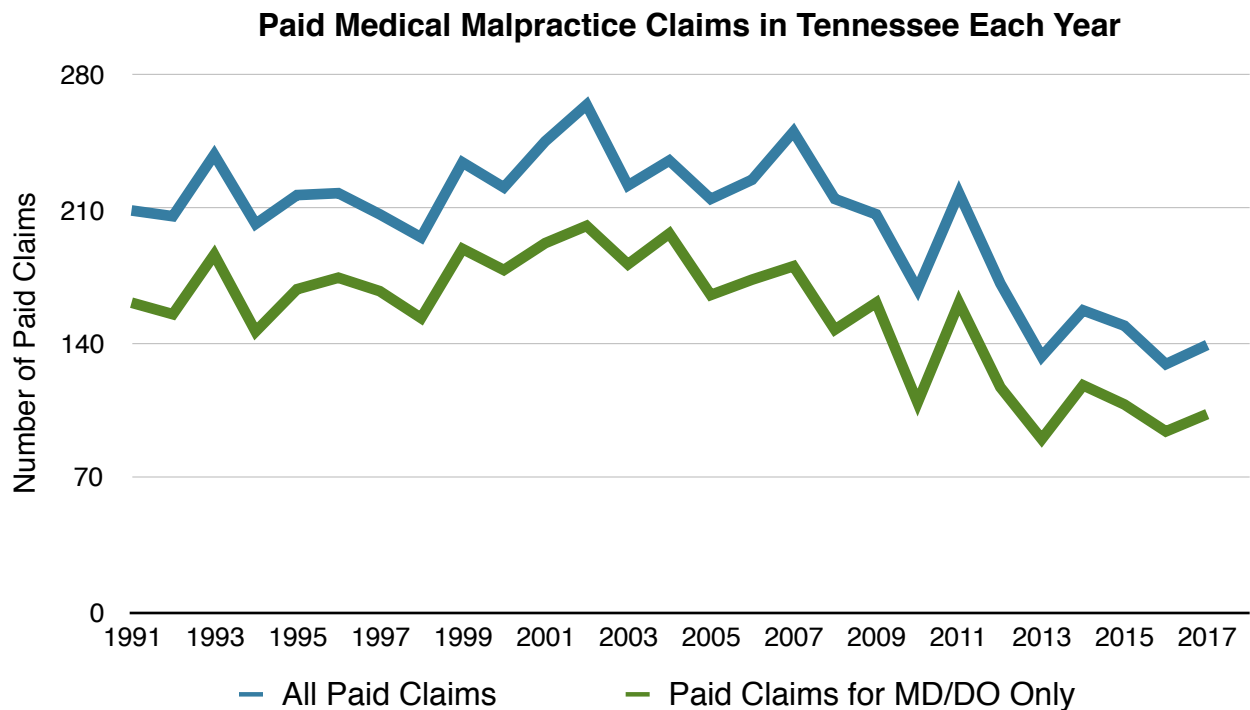


Figure 1: Total number of paid medical malpractice claims for Tennessee from 1991-2017 for all health care practitioners combined as well as for MD/DOs only.

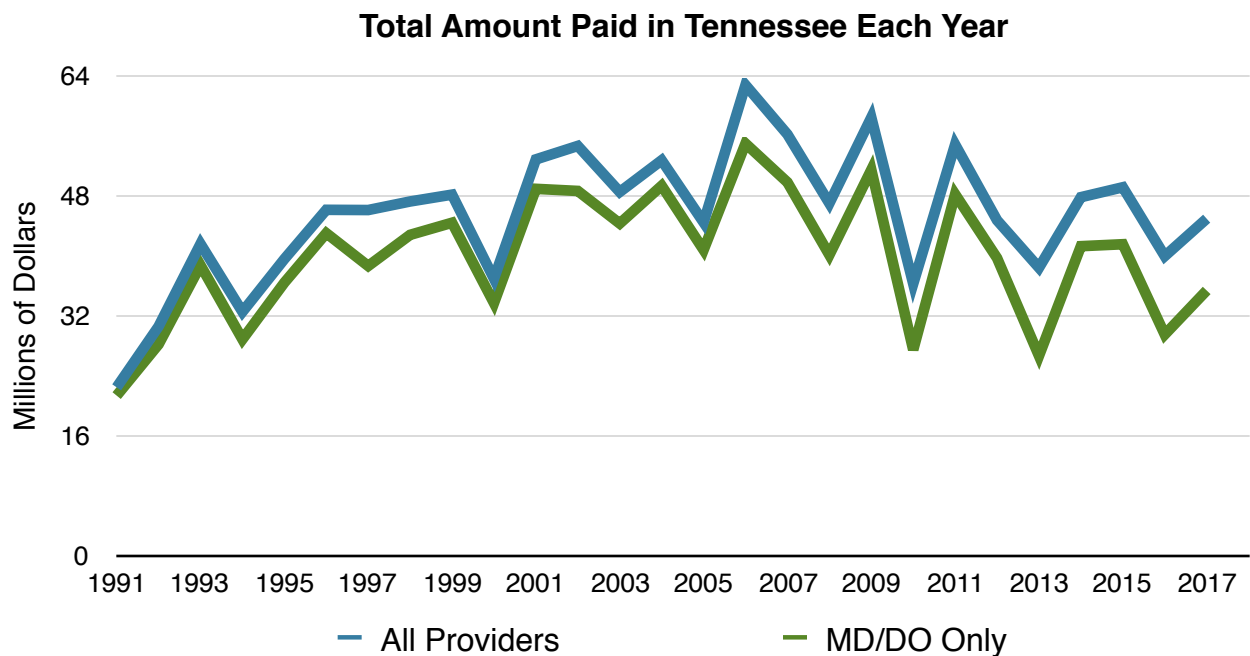


Figure 2: Total amount paid for all medical malpractice claims from 1991-2017 for all health care practitioners and MD/DOs only in Tennessee.

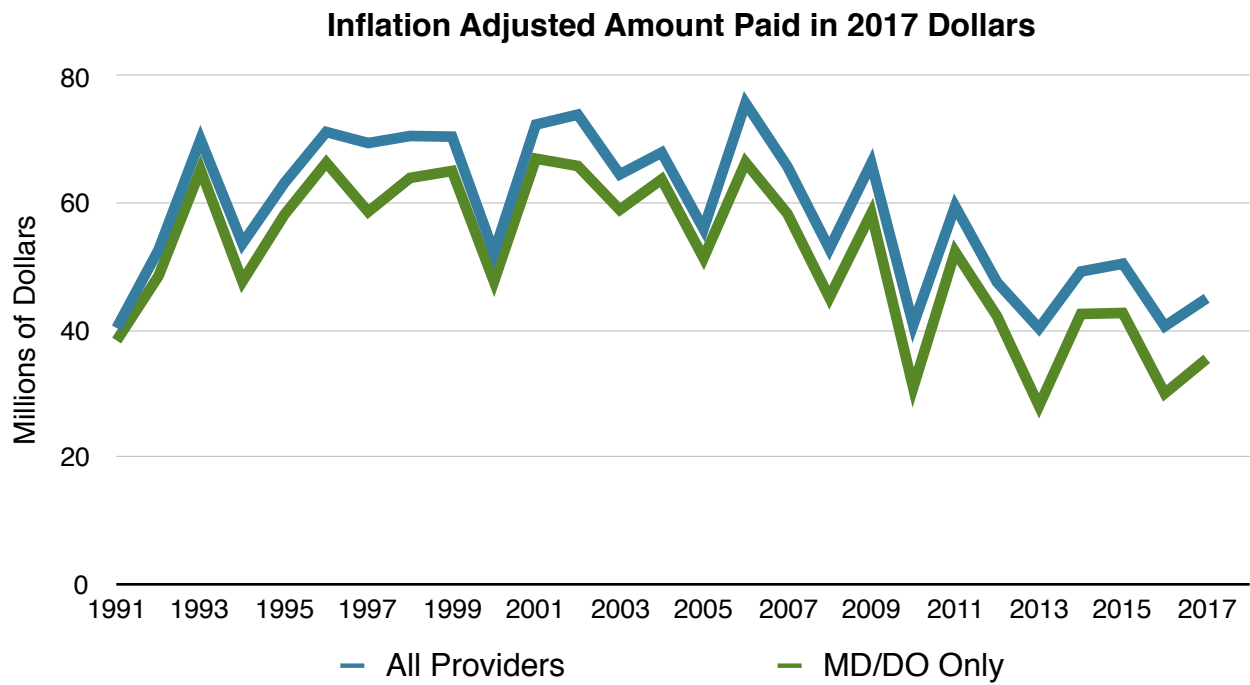


Figure 3: Figure 2 data when adjusted for inflation.