

# Nebraska Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: §44-2825. Total damages limited to \$1,750,000. Health care provider liability limited to \$500,000. Any excess of total liability of all health care providers paid from Excess Liability Fund.

Effective 1984

Population in 2015: 1,896,190

Number of Licensed Physicians<sup>1</sup> in 2015: 8,598

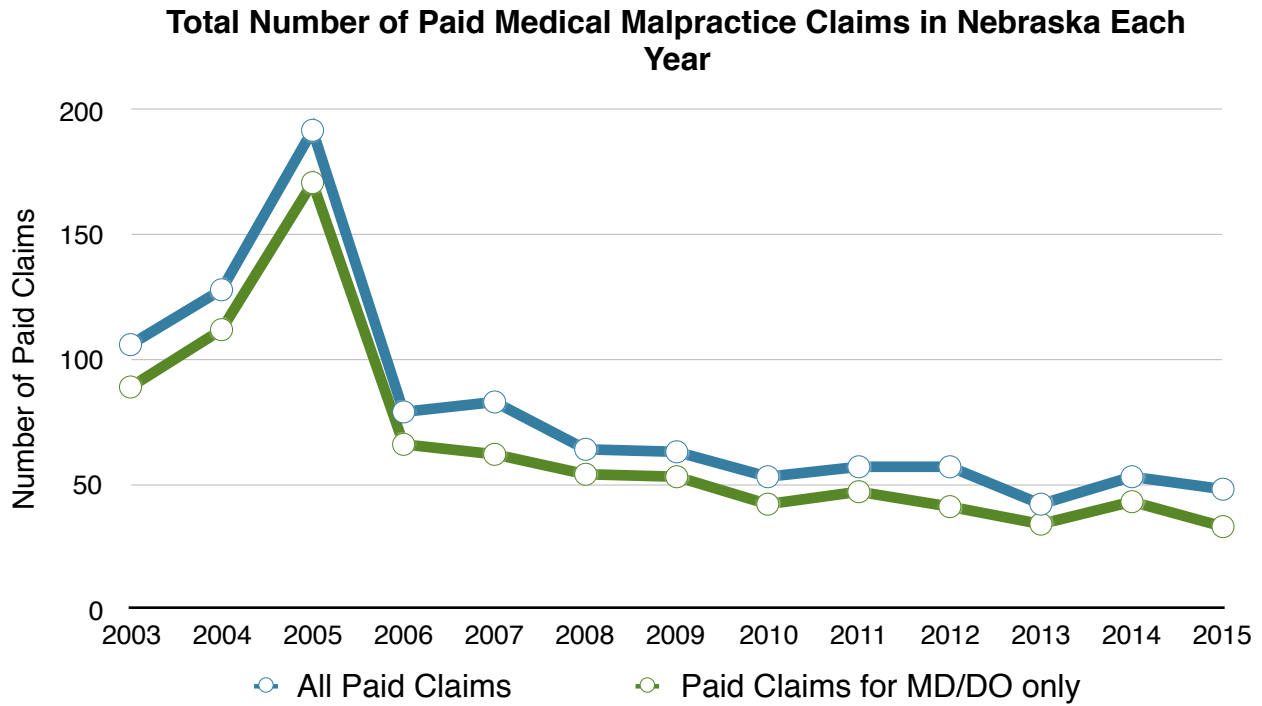
	2013	2014	2015	Average for 2013-2015
Per Capita <sup>3</sup> Amount Paid Against all Practitioners	\$6.04	\$8.04	\$6.34	\$6.82
State Rank	40	34	38	36
Per Capita <sup>3</sup> Amount Paid Against Physicians (MD/DO) Only	\$5.50	\$7.61	\$5.64	\$6.25
State Rank	39	29	36	33
Paid Claims/100 Physicians		0.5	0.38	
State Rank		34	36	

Table showing the amount paid per capita<sup>3</sup> in Nebraska for medical malpractice claims against all practitioners each year as well as against physicians only. It also shows the number of claims won against physicians per 100 licensed physicians in Nebraska in 2014 and 2015.

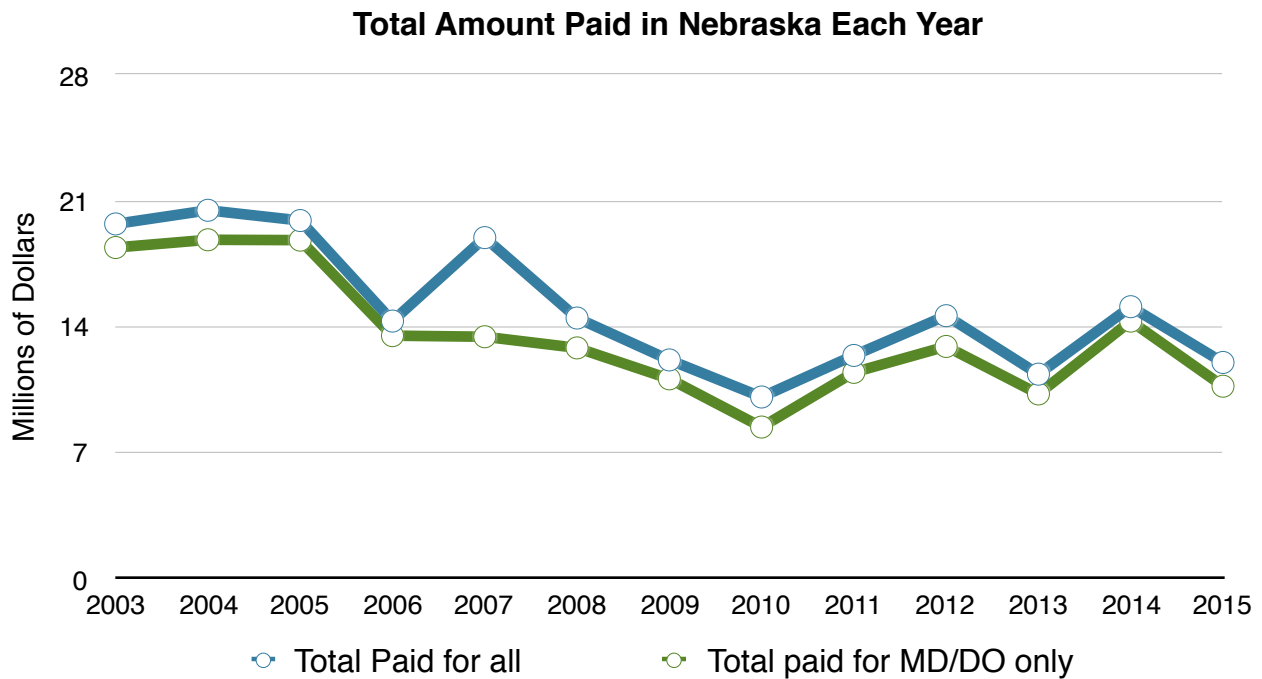
## Notes

- 1) MDs and DOs only. Many physicians are licensed in more than one state which is why the total number of physicians in all of the states exceeds the total number of physicians in the US.
- 2) All Practitioners includes MDs, DOs, podiatrists, dentists, nurses, hygienists, pharmacists, pharmacy techs, lab techs, physical therapists, etc...
- 3) Total amount paid in medical malpractice claims in the state that year/ the state's Population

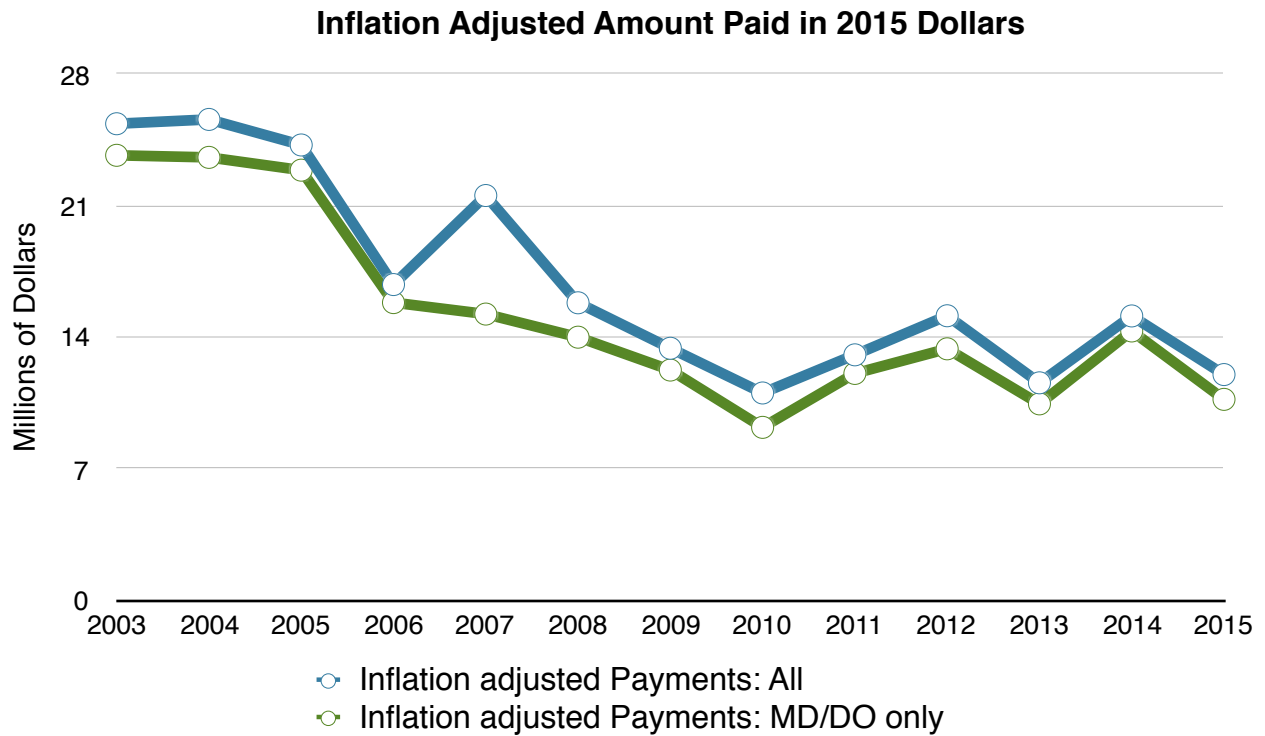
**Graphic Summary of Medical Malpractice Incidence and Cost for Nebraska from 2003-2015**



**Figure 1:** Total number of Paid Medical Malpractice Claims for Nebraska from 2003-2015 for All Health Care Practitioners Combined as Well as for MD/DOs Only.



**Figure 2:** Total Amount Paid for All Medical Malpractice Claims from 2003-2015 for All Health Care Practitioners and MD/DOs Only in Nebraska.



**Figure 3:** Figure 2 Data When Adjusted for Inflation.

Brief summary: Nebraska has a cap on medical malpractice damages, but it's a rather high cap of \$1.75 million. It's hard to see how a cap this high would have an effect on malpractice costs in Nebraska when they've only had ten settlements of over a million dollars in the last eleven years. Still, the per capita cost on medical malpractice in Nebraska is low—lower than it is in many states that have much tighter caps on damages.

#### Sources

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