

# 2021 Medical Malpractice Annual Report

# Claims closed from Jan. 1, 2016 through Dec. 31, 2020

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## About this report

Early in the 2000s, a "hard market" emerged nationally for most types of insurance. During this period, medical professional liability insurance became expensive and hard to find for many types of medical providers and facilities.

In 2006, the Legislature enacted comprehensive health care liability reform legislation (<u>2SHB 2292</u>) to address a number of concerns, including the cost and availability of medical professional liability insurance. This law also created reporting requirements for medical malpractice claims that are resolved and closed, with the intent to collect data to support policy decisions. The Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) began publishing <u>annual reports</u> in 2010 that summarize the data.

This is the 12<sup>th</sup> annual report. It includes a snapshot of the medical malpractice marketplace and summary data for closed claims and lawsuit settlements.

This report has three sections:

- 1. The current condition of the medical professional liability insurance market.
- 2. Summary data for closed claims reported by insurers, risk retention groups and self-insurers. <sup>1</sup>
- 3. Summary data for lawsuits reported by attorneys.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For simplicity, we will use the term "insurers" when referring to admitted insurers, surplus line insurers and risk retention groups.

## Key statistics

This section includes premium, loss and defense cost data reported by insurers and self-insurers to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), closed claim data reported by insurers and self-insurers to the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC), and lawsuit data reported by attorneys to the OIC.

#### About the medical professional liability insurance market

- The pure loss ratio<sup>2</sup> for 2020 was 67.3%. This represents a significant reduction from the 78.9% pure loss ratio for 2019.
- Defense costs were 18.2% of premium for 2020. This represents a significant reduction from the 27.8% defense cost ratio for 2019.
- Following a large increase in 2019, direct written premiums decreased by 2.7% to \$186 million in 2020.
- Favorable loss development fueled profitability. Insurers lowered their reserves for older claims, leading to lower incurred loss and defense costs in recent years.<sup>3</sup> For example, Physicians Insurance lowered its reserves by \$143 million over its original estimates. Reserves released from prior years translate to profit for the current year.
- Profitability continued declining. The operating ratio for Physicians Insurance, the admitted insurer with the largest market share in Washington, was 105.5% in 2020, compared to 91.4% for the prior five years. <sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pure loss ratio means incurred losses divided by direct earned premium. Incurred losses include paid claims and the change in reserves for pending and unknown claims. A pure loss ratio does not include defense and cost containment expenses, which are a significant part of the cost to resolve claims.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Claim reserves are money set aside to meet future payments associated with claims incurred but not settled on a given date. If a claim reserve is too high or an investigation shows there is no legal responsibility to pay the claim, the insurer either lowers the reserve or removes the claim reserve from its books. If an insurer lowers total claim reserves for past years, incurred losses are lower in the current year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Operating ratios measure overall profitability from underwriting and investment activities. Operating ratios are calculated using countrywide data.

#### About claim data submitted by insurers and self-insurers

#### **Total claims**

Insurers and self-insurers reported closing 3,833 claims between 2016 and 2020 with indemnity payments, defense costs, or both types of payments.<sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> Commercial insurers reported 2,293 claims, self-insured entities reported 1,491 claims, and risk retention groups reported 49 claims.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Payments to claimants**

Insurers and self-insurers closed 45% of all claims with an indemnity payment to a claimant.

- Indemnity payments totaled \$754 million on 1,726 claims over the five-year period, or \$437,040 per paid claim. The median indemnity payment for the five-year period was \$85,000.
- Economic loss payments totaled \$520 million, an average of \$301,213 per paid claim. On average, insurers and self-insurers attributed 68.9% of each claim payment to economic loss.
- Of the claims closed with an indemnity payment, 11.8% closed with a payment of \$1 million or more. These claims account for 68.9% of total paid indemnity over the five-year period.

#### **Defense costs**

Insurers and self-insurers paid \$246 million to defend 3,375 claims, an average of \$72,971 per claim. Average defense costs increased during the five-year period, reaching a high of \$96,951 in 2020.

#### Method of settlement

Insurers and self-insurers settled most claims with paid indemnity by negotiation between the claimant and the insurer. For claims with an indemnity payment, insurers and self-insurers settled:

- 68.9% of claims by negotiation, comprising 56% of the total paid indemnity.
- 22.7% of claims by alternative dispute resolution arbitration, mediation or private trial. These settlements comprised 38.8% of the total paid indemnity over the five-year period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This report includes claims data reported and edited through April 11, 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> For simplicity, this report substitutes "defense costs" for the technical phase "defense and cost containment expenses." Defense and cost containment expenses are expenses allocated to a specific claim to defend an insured, including court costs, fees paid to defense attorneys, and fees for expert witnesses. These expenses do not include the internal costs to operate a claims department.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Commercial insurers include both admitted and surplus line insurers.

#### Payments by type of medical provider

The insurer or self-insurer identified the type of medical provider in 74.4% of the closed claim reports.<sup>8</sup> Claimants made the remaining claims against an organization, not an individual medical provider.

- Nursing resulted in the most closed claims at 402. Of these claims, 259 resulted in paid indemnity averaging \$216,308.
- For physician specialties, family practice had the most claims at 219, with 91 paid claims resulting in paid indemnity averaging \$463,303. Pediatrics had the highest average paid indemnity at \$2.5 million, and the highest average defense cost at \$234,219.

#### Payments and defense costs by age of claim

- The data shows that the longer a claim takes to be settled, the higher the paid claims tend to be. Claims closed within the first year had average paid indemnity of \$109,357. Claims that took at least four years to settle had average indemnity payments of \$993,038.
- Defense costs also increased with the age of the claim. Claims that took less than one year to close had average defense costs of \$9,583. Claims that took at least four years had average defense costs of \$198,706.

#### **Regional comparisons**

- King County had the most closed claims with 1,122.
- Pierce County had the highest paid indemnity, averaging \$623,774.

#### **Allegations**

- "Vicarious liability" was the most common allegation, with 759 claims and 288 indemnity payments that averaged \$619,676.
- "Improper performance" was the second-most common allegation, with 651 claims and 241 indemnity payments that averaged \$256,640.
- "Failure to report on patient condition" was the allegation with the highest paid indemnity, averaging \$2 million.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Physician specialties, dental specialties and other types of medical providers.

#### About lawsuits filed and settled by attorneys

If an attorney files a lawsuit to resolve a medical malpractice incident, they should report data about the lawsuit to the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) once the litigation is resolved. For settlements resolved between 2016 and 20209:

#### **Compensation to claimants**

Attorneys reported claimants received \$151 million in total compensation on 120 claims, an average of \$1.3 million per settlement. Attorney fees were \$56 million, an average of \$467,352 per reported settlement. On average, attorney fees were 37.1% of the total compensation paid to the claimant.

#### How lawsuits settled

Lawsuits settled by negotiations between parties had the highest average paid indemnity at \$1.4 million per lawsuit. Lawsuits resolved by jury verdicts in favor of the plaintiff had the lowest average paid indemnity at \$730,000 per lawsuit.

#### **Gender of claimant**

Settlements for male claimants were significantly more costly than settlements for female claimants. Average indemnity payments to male claimants were 2.4 times higher than payments to female claimants and average legal expenses were 2.7 times higher.

#### Age of claimant

Settlements involving claimants 41 to 50 years old had the highest average paid indemnity at \$1.7 million and the highest average defense costs at \$624,684.

#### **Regional comparisons**

King County had the largest number of lawsuits filed, with 54 lawsuits or 42.2% of the statewide total. Spokane County had the highest average indemnity payment of \$1.8 million per settlement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> This report includes data reported by attorneys through May 12, 2021.

#### Introduction

Under chapter 48.140 Revised Code of Washington (RCW), insurers, risk retention groups (collectively "insurers") and self-insurers must submit a report to the insurance commissioner every time they close a medical malpractice claim. <sup>10</sup> Under RCW 7.70.140, attorneys must report aggregate settlement data from all defendants after they resolve all claims related to a medical malpractice lawsuit. This report includes data submitted by insurers, self-insurers and attorneys in summary form that protects the confidentiality of people and organizations involved in the claim or settlement process. <sup>11</sup>

Insurers, self-insurers and attorneys must report claim data for the prior year to the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) by March 1 each year. Attorneys' compliance with the reporting law has been low, and the Insurance Commissioner does not have enforcement mechanisms to improve compliance. As a result, this report provides very few summary exhibits for settlement data reported by attorneys, since the data is incomplete. Most of the exhibits in this report focus on data reported by insurers and self-insurers. At

This report has three sections:

#### **Market analysis**

This section is an overview of the medical professional liability insurance market in Washington and around the country that includes:

- An analysis of the profitability of the largest authorized medical malpractice insurers in Washington.
- Information about premiums, incurred losses and defense costs for medical professional liability insurance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> A risk retention group (RRG) is an owner-controlled insurance company authorized by the Federal Risk Retention Act of 1986. An RRG provides liability insurance to members who are in similar or related business or activities. The federal act allows one state to charter an RRG and allows the RRG to engage in the business of insurance in all states. The federal act pre-empts state law in many significant ways. See <u>RCW 49.92.030(1)</u>. For simplicity, and to protect the confidentiality of data, we include them with all other insurers in this report.

<sup>11</sup> RCW 48.140.040(3) says the OIC must take steps to protect the confidentiality of claim data, and RCW 48.140.060 required the OIC to adopt rules to achieve this result.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> See RCW 48.140.020(2) and WAC 284-24E-090.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> In 2010, the OIC proposed legislation, which the Legislature did not enact, that would have added enforcement mechanisms to the existing law. These bills were introduced as SB 6412 and HB 2963.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> RCW 48.140.050 lists information that must be provided by this report.

## Summary data for closed claims reported by insurers, risk retention groups and self-insurers

Insurers and self-insurers report claims with an indemnity payment and/or defense costs.<sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> Each closed claim report is associated with one defendant.<sup>17</sup> Claims can be made for a variety of allegations. People can make allegations against an organization, a medical provider or both.

Insurers and self-insurers reported three primary types of closed claim data:

- Defense costs: These are expenses paid to defend claims, and include expenses allocated to a specific claim, such as court costs and fees paid to defense attorneys or expert witnesses. They do not include internal costs to settle claims, such as salaries for claims staff or operating overhead for a claims department.<sup>18</sup>
- 2. **Economic damages**: Most of these amounts are estimates of the claimant's economic damages made by the insurer or self-insurer when it makes a payment to settle the claim. <sup>19</sup> In a few cases, a court itemized economic damages when it issued a verdict.
- 3. Paid indemnity: The amount the insurer or self-insurer paid to the claimant to resolve the claim.

#### Summary data for lawsuits reported by attorneys

If an attorney files a lawsuit alleging medical malpractice, the attorney must report data after the lawsuit is resolved. Many attorneys, however, do not comply with RCW 7.70.140, so data in this report is incomplete. Therefore, this section of the report is less detailed than the closed claim section.

Attorneys reported two primary types of settlement data:

- 1. **Total paid indemnity:** Total compensation paid by all defendants to the claimant. Indemnity payments may come from several defendants if a lawsuit named more than one party.<sup>20</sup>
- 2. **Legal expenses:** All sums paid by the claimant to the attorney, including attorney fees, expert witness fees, court costs and all other legal expenses.<sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> RCW 48.140.010(1) defines a claim.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Under <u>WAC 284-24D-060</u>, if an insurer or self-insurer closes a claim without an indemnity payment or defense costs, it is not required to report the claim to the OIC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> RCW 48.140.010(3) defines a closed claim.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> See WAC 284-24D-020(1), WAC 284-24D-330 and WAC 284-24D-340.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> See RCW 4.56.250(1)(a), WAC 284-24D-350, WAC 284-24D-360, WAC 284-24D-362, WAC 284-24D-364, and WAC 284-24D-370.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> WAC 284-24E-150.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Attorney fees for legal representation are generally contingent fees that are payable if indemnity payments are made by one or more defendants.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> RCW 7.70.140(2)(b)(v).

#### Closed claim and lawsuit statistics are different

One cannot compare data reported by insurers and self-insurers to the data reported by attorneys because insurers and self-insurers:

- Report all closed claims if the insurer or self-insurer makes payments or incurs expenses to defend the claim. Attorneys report data only if they filed a lawsuit against one or more defendants.
- Report data separately for each defendant. Attorneys submit one final settlement report that includes payments made by all defendants they sued.
- Insurers, self-insurers and risk retention groups are more diligent in reporting closed claim data.

Example: If an attorney sues several medical providers for their actions related to an incident with a poor medical outcome, some providers may resolve the litigation early, while others may be involved in the dispute resolution process for years. Insurers and self-insurers report claims as they resolve the claims against their customers, while an attorney waits until claims against all defendants are resolved to report the settlement.

# Snapshot of the medical professional liability insurance market

This is an overview of the medical malpractice market in Washington primarily using calendar year premium and loss data from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

#### **Impact of COVID-19**

Because a significant portion of medical malpractice claims develop slowly over the course of multiple years, the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be determined at this time. However, the pandemic is expected to impact the market in a variety of ways.

In the short term, the pandemic caused a reduction in claim frequency due to temporary bans on elective procedures and other nonessential care. As shown on the chart on page 14, the resulting decrease in health care utilization appears to have delayed the market premium growth that began in 2019. Owing to temporary court closures, the pandemic has also slowed the pace at which high-value claims are closed. These reductions are expected to reverse over time now that elective procedures have resumed and court backlogs are beginning to unwind. However, the full extent of this reversal cannot be predicted at this time, partly because some elective procedures may have been cancelled rather than delayed and because the economic impact of the pandemic may pressure some claimants to settle out of court for unfavorable amounts.<sup>23</sup>

In future years, we may see an increase in claim frequency due to diagnosing and treating patients with COVID-19. However, such claims could be mitigated by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which limits liability for unpaid health care volunteers for harm caused to patients relating to the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of COVID-19.<sup>25</sup> We may also see claims relating to failure to protect patients from exposure to the virus, and denial of care by health care facilities that were overwhelmed during the early stages of the pandemic.

Additional uncertainty arose due to the rapid expansion of telemedicine during the pandemic. Security breaches and other Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPPA) concerns are inherent risks in virtual care. Moreover, it is widely believed that in-person visits are superior for diagnosing serious medical conditions. Issues such as communication problems, lack of continuity, and unfamiliarity with a patient's medical history could increase the probability of misdiagnosis in a virtual setting.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> https://www.fmglaw.com/business-litigation/changes-in-the-landscape-of-civil-litigation-in-the-covid-19-era/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/committees/solo-small-firm/articles/2021/winter2021-whyearly-settlement-should-be-considered-during-the-pandemic/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> https://www.jw.com/news/insights-cares-act-healthcare-provisions-covid19/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Best's Market Segment Report – Continued Uncertainty Clouds the Horizon for MPL Insurers (May 12, 2021).

#### **Market participants**

The medical professional liability insurance market has three primary participants:

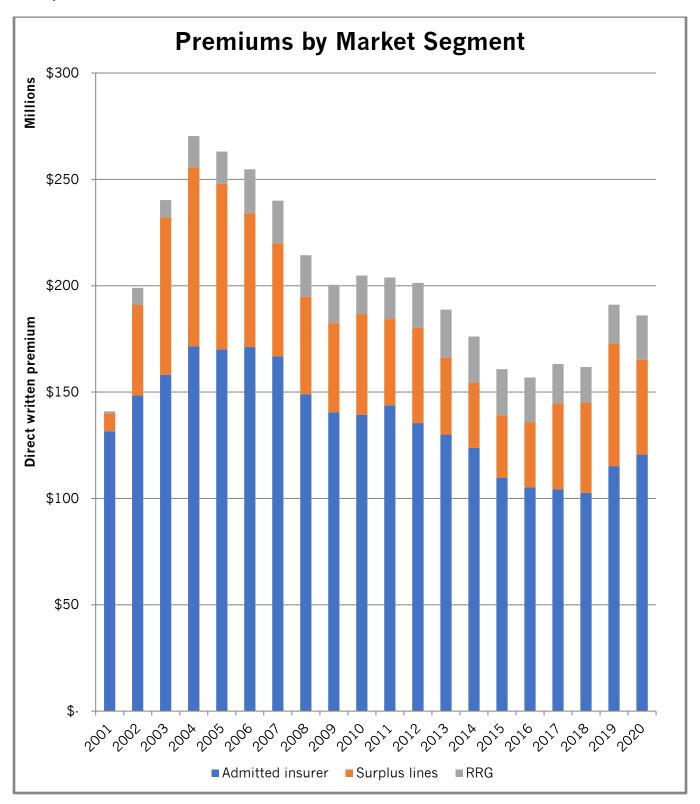
- 1. Admitted insurers regulated by the insurance commissioner.
- 2. Unregulated surplus line insurers.
- 3. Risk retention groups regulated by their home state.

In 2000, admitted insurers wrote 95.4% of medical professional liability insurance premiums in Washington state. Physicians Insurance Group led the market with 52.7% of the admitted market share and 50.3% of total market share. <sup>27</sup> In 2020, admitted insurers wrote only 64.8% of premium, and the remainder of the market was written by surplus line insurers and risk retention groups. Physicians Insurance still had more than half of the admitted market share at 61.7%, but its share of the overall market was much lower, at 40%.

Medical professional liability insurance has been a profitable line of business for insurers in Washington, but profits have declined in recent years. For Physicians Insurance, the operating ratio for 2011-2015 was 87.5%, compared to its 2016-2020 ratio of 95.1%, and reached a high of 105.5% in 2020. As shown in Appendix C, Physicians Insurance recently addressed this deterioration by filing rate increases for two of its programs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> In 2000, Physicians Insurance Group sold insurance through three companies: Physicians Insurance, A Mutual Company; Western Professional Insurance Company; and Northwest Dentists Insurance Company. Western Professional Insurance Company is no longer actively writing insurance, and a group including the ODS Companies and the Washington State Dental Association purchased Northwest Dentists Insurance Company in 2007.

This chart shows the distribution of written premiums for each segment of the medical professional liability insurance market.

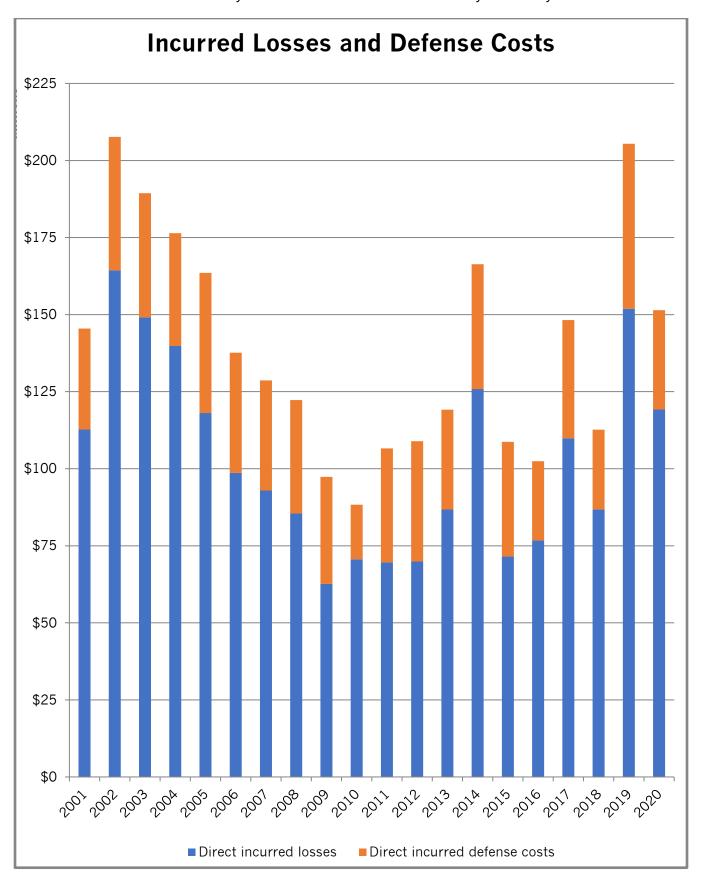


#### **Loss history**

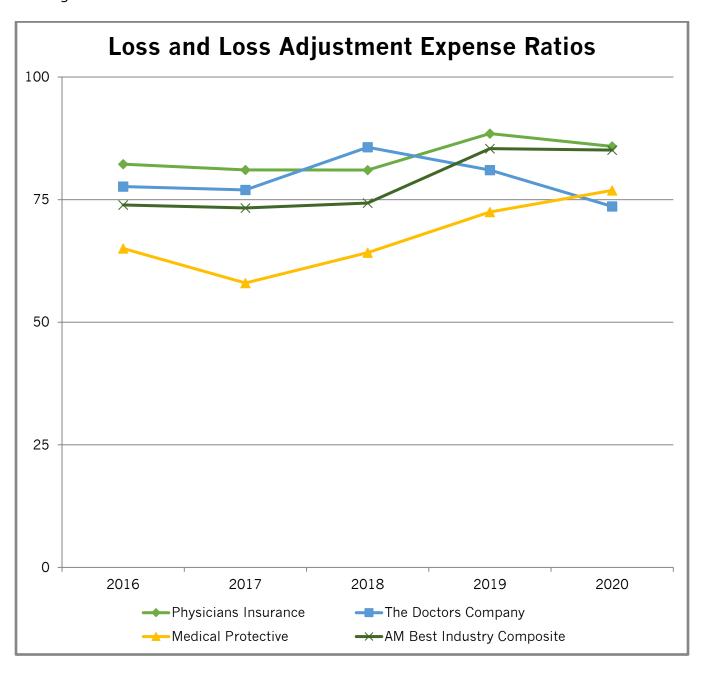
After increasing significantly to 106.7% in 2019, the overall incurred loss and defense cost ratio for medical professional liability insurance in Washington decreased to 85.6% in 2020. The following table shows data for the total market, which includes admitted insurers, surplus line insurers and risk retention groups.

							Incurred loss &
				Pure	Direct	Incurred losses	defense
	Direct written	Direct earned	Direct incurred	loss	incurred	& defense	cost
<u>Year</u>	premium	premium	losses	ratio	defense costs	costs	ratio
2001	\$140,929,627	\$134,008,616	\$112,729,787	84.1%	\$32,745,710	\$145,475,497	108.6%
2002	\$198,969,671	\$181,843,628	\$164,372,251	90.4%	\$43,275,166	\$207,647,417	114.2%
2003	\$240,251,605	\$234,439,488	\$149,126,311	63.6%	\$40,242,563	\$189,368,874	80.8%
2004	\$270,352,631	\$258,075,781	\$139,822,747	54.2%	\$36,610,655	\$176,433,402	68.4%
2005	\$263,090,674	\$258,403,214	\$118,070,079	45.7%	\$45,446,560	\$163,516,639	63.3%
2006	\$254,759,071	\$253,104,467	\$98,628,303	39.0%	\$39,005,295	\$137,633,598	54.4%
2007	\$239,959,432	\$241,654,054	\$92,960,987	38.5%	\$35,676,308	\$128,637,295	53.2%
2008	\$214,357,164	\$218,726,595	\$85,445,904	39.1%	\$36,841,513	\$122,287,417	55.9%
2009	\$200,445,437	\$202,466,303	\$62,633,183	30.9%	\$34,721,641	\$97,354,824	48.1%
2010	\$204,786,151	\$199,165,328	\$70,634,175	35.5%	\$17,701,695	\$88,335,870	44.4%
2011	\$203,869,400	\$201,195,699	\$69,646,648	34.6%	\$36,923,847	\$106,570,495	53.0%
2012	\$201,288,240	\$193,926,182	\$69,871,999	36.0%	\$39,070,682	\$108,942,681	56.2%
2013	\$188,761,301	\$187,007,042	\$86,745,683	46.4%	\$32,432,507	\$119,178,190	63.7%
2014	\$176,091,879	\$182,705,913	\$125,854,675	68.9%	\$40,501,079	\$166,355,754	91.1%
2015	\$160,752,756	\$164,616,659	\$71,518,739	43.4%	\$37,195,911	\$108,714,650	66.0%
2016	\$156,825,836	\$158,126,354	\$76,761,700	48.5%	\$25,678,427	\$102,440,127	64.8%
2017	\$163,187,482	\$157,522,013	\$109,863,807	69.7%	\$38,378,783	\$148,242,590	94.1%
2018	\$161,729,313	\$164,641,866	\$86,829,886	52.7%	\$25,828,741	\$112,658,627	68.4%
2019	\$191,108,177	\$192,612,461	\$151,898,275	78.9%	\$53,535,200	\$205,433,475	106.7%
2020	\$186,040,296	\$176,978,799	\$119,193,320	67.3%	\$32,261,953	\$151,455,273	85.6%
Total	\$4,017,556,143	\$3,961,220,462	\$2,062,608,459	52.1%	\$724,074,236	\$2,786,682,695	70.3%

This chart shows statewide industry incurred losses and defense costs by calendar year.



This chart compares loss and defense cost ratios for Physicians Insurance, The Doctors Company and Medical Protective Company to industrywide data obtained from A.M. Best.<sup>28</sup> The Doctors Company and Medical Protective Company are two of the largest writers of medical professional liability insurance in the United States. The loss and defense cost ratio for Physicians Insurance continues to be a bit higher than for the market overall.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Best's Market Segment Report – Continued Uncertainty Clouds the Horizon for MPL Insurers (May 12, 2021)

#### Lower claim reserves

Incurred losses and defense costs reported to the NAIC by Physicians Insurance, The Doctors Company, and The Medical Protective Company show generally favorable loss development trends. Loss development is the change in the estimated cost of a particular group of claims between the beginning and end of a period in time. Favorable loss development means losses and defense costs decreased from the beginning to the end of the period.<sup>29</sup> Reserves released from prior years translate into profit for the current year.

Appendix B shows data from the 2020 annual statement for Physicians Insurance.<sup>30</sup> This table shows the change in incurred loss and defense cost reserves over time. Overall, Physicians Insurance had favorable incurred loss development and returned some of its profits to policyholders in the form of dividends totaling \$50 million from 2011 to 2020.

Appendix B also shows development for The Doctors Company and Medical Protective Company. Loss development was also generally favorable for both companies.

<sup>29</sup> Insurers compile the first estimate of incurred losses three months after the end of the year. Medical malpractice claims often take a long time to resolve and the first estimate of incurred losses may be very inaccurate and subject to revisions in later years. There will be changes to total incurred losses from one period to the next, as more claims are paid and the insurer revises reserves for other claims using new information. "Loss development"

is the technical term for the change in incurred losses from period to period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Consolidated data from Schedule P, part 2, sections 1 and 2 for medical professional liability occurrence and claims made policies written in all states. Washington-specific information is not available.

#### Washington state market in 2020

Physicians Insurance dominates the admitted medical professional liability insurance market in Washington. The Doctors Company and Medical Protective are also important participants in the market due to both their premium volume and their strong position in the national medical professional liability marketplace. Premiums written by Physicians Insurance best indicate the profitability of this type of insurance in Washington state, whereas premiums written by The Doctors Company and Medical Protective Company indicate profitability nationwide.

	2020 direct written premiums (millions)					
			WA % of			
<u>Insurer</u>	Washington	Nationwide	Nationwide			
Physicians Insurance	\$74.4	\$95.0	78.3%			
The Doctors Company	\$9.5	\$634.3	1.5%			
Medical Protective Company	\$6.2	\$619.9	1.0%			

This table shows the 10 largest admitted writers in Washington in 2020.

Admitted insurer	Washington direct written premiums (millions)	Admitted market share
Physicians Insurance	\$74.4	61.7%
The Doctors Co.	\$9.5	7.9%
Medical Protective Co.	\$6.2	5.1%
ProSelect Insurance Co.	\$5.5	4.6%
American Casualty Co. of Reading, PA	\$4.7	3.9%
Dentists Insurance Co.	\$4.5	3.7%
NCMIC Insurance Co.	\$2.7	2.3%
Church Mutual Insurance Co. SI	\$2.1	1.8%
Aspen American Insurance Co.	\$2.0	1.6%
ProAssurance Insurance Co. of America	\$1.7	1.4%
All other admitted insurers	\$7.3	6.0%
_Total	\$120.6	100.0%

#### National market in 2020

Appendix A shows the profitability for Physicians Insurance, The Doctors Company and Medical Protective Company for the 10-year period ending Dec. 31, 2020 using two ratios:

- The operating ratio, which is the combined ratio minus the net investment income ratio. 31 32
- The combined ratio, which is the sum of the expense ratio, loss ratio, and dividend ratio. 33 34 35

This table summarizes overall profitability by operating ratios.<sup>36</sup> Operating ratios for Physicians Insurance and Medical Protective Company increased significantly over the last year.

		Operating ratio	
			Medical
	Physicians	The Doctors	Protective
<u>Year</u>	Insurance	Company	Company
2011	86.2%	61.6%	41.9%
2012	86.2%	76.8%	65.8%
2013	89.7%	83.8%	42.6%
2014	85.7%	102.7%	128.5%
2015	89.5%	98.1%	37.2%
2016	90.6%	101.6%	49.3%
2017	88.7%	93.6%	46.7%
2018	90.8%	95.7%	47.9%
2019	96.0%	99.3%	48.8%
2020	105.5%	94.1%	60.9%

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> The operating ratio measures a company's overall operational profitability from underwriting and investment activities. If an operating ratio is below 100%, the company is making a profit from its underwriting and investment activities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> The net investment income ratio is calculated by dividing net investment income by net earned premiums.

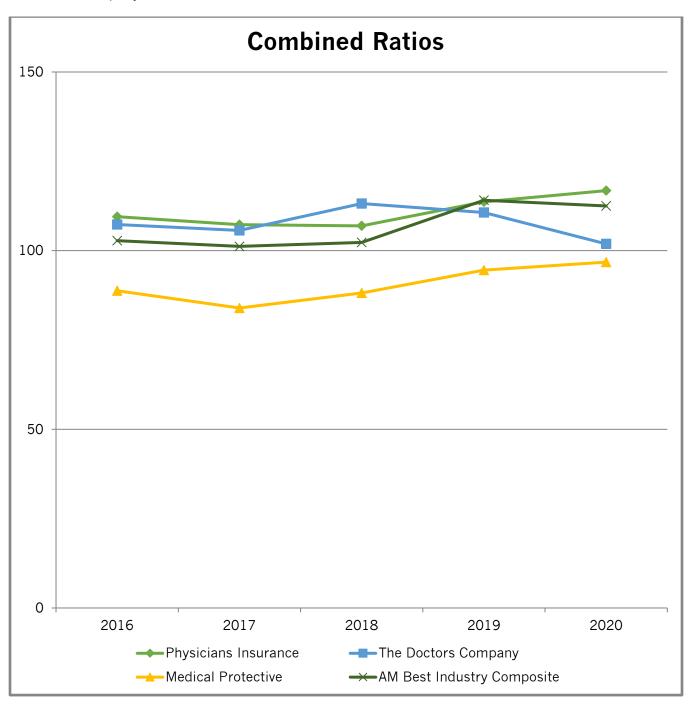
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> The expense ratio is calculated by dividing incurred underwriting expenses by net written premiums.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> The loss ratio is calculated by dividing losses and defense costs by net earned premiums.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> The dividend ratio is calculated by dividing policyholder dividends by net earned premiums.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Loss portfolio transfers between Medical Protective and its affiliates distorted its operating ratios in 2012, 2014, and 2015.

This chart compares combined ratios from Physicians Insurance, The Doctors Company and Medical Protective Company to cumulative data obtained from A.M. Best.<sup>37</sup> <sup>38</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Best's Market Segment Report – Continued Uncertainty Clouds the Horizon for MPL Insurers (May 12, 2021)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> The combined ratio measures how well an insurance company is performing in its daily operations. A ratio below 100% means the company is making an underwriting profit. A company can make an operating profit if the combined ratio is above 100%, because the ratio does not include investment income.

# Information about medical malpractice claims

	Year closed						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
Claims closed	898	814	834	677	610		
Number of indemnity payments	391	361	412	302	260		
Paid indemnity	\$110,088,350	\$119,624,942	\$186,978,969	\$186,438,929	\$151,199,179		
Average indemnity payment	\$281,556	\$331,371	\$453,832	\$617,347	\$581,535		
Median indemnity payment	\$75,000	\$35,000	\$100,000	\$117,500	\$125,000		
Economic loss	\$76,913,851	\$84,214,632	\$110,899,936	\$152,520,859	\$95,344,378		
Average economic loss	\$196,711	\$233,282	\$269,175	\$505,036	\$366,709		
Median economic loss	\$45,000	\$20,000	\$44,600	\$82,500	\$75,000		
Number of claims with defense costs	804	681	720	607	563		
Defense costs	\$52,597,149	\$42,198,930	\$51,770,661	\$45,127,091	\$54,583,427		
Average defense cost	\$65,419	\$61,966	\$71,904	\$74,344	\$96,951		
Median defense cost	\$16,645	\$14,108	\$15,170	\$22,003	\$16,231		

From 2016 through 2020, insurers and self-insurers paid \$754 million on 1,726 claims, or \$437,040 per paid claim.<sup>39</sup> The total economic loss was \$520 million, or \$301,213 per paid claim. On average, insurers and self-insurers attributed 68.9% of indemnity payments to economic loss.

Claims reported by insurers and self-insurers included defense costs 88.1% of the time. Insurers and self-insurers paid \$246 million to defend 3,375 claims, or an average defense cost of \$72,971 per claim. The table above shows the annual average defense cost has increased since 2017 and increased by 30.4% from 2019 to 2020. However, the median defense cost decreased by 26.2% from 2019 to 2020.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> These amounts differ from what we reported in prior reports, because reporting entities can edit their data. For example, a reporting entity can re-open a claim, make additional payments, and edit the report to show it closed a year later than earlier reported.

#### **Related claims**

Insurers and self-insurers identified medical incidents for which they defended more than one claim. This happens if a claimant alleges more than one medical provider or facility is responsible for their injury and the insurer covers both parties. About half of the 1,375 reported multiclaim incidents resulted in indemnity payments. From 2008<sup>40</sup> to 2020, the aggregate average indemnity payment per incident was \$654,168, which is 2.2 times the average per-claim indemnity payment for the same period.

Often, related claims from a single incident are resolved at the different times, so there can be a lag between the insurer's or self-insurer's first claim report related to an incident and its final report that closes the series of related claims. This means average indemnity payments at the incident level will increase over time as additional claims related to previously reported incidents are resolved.

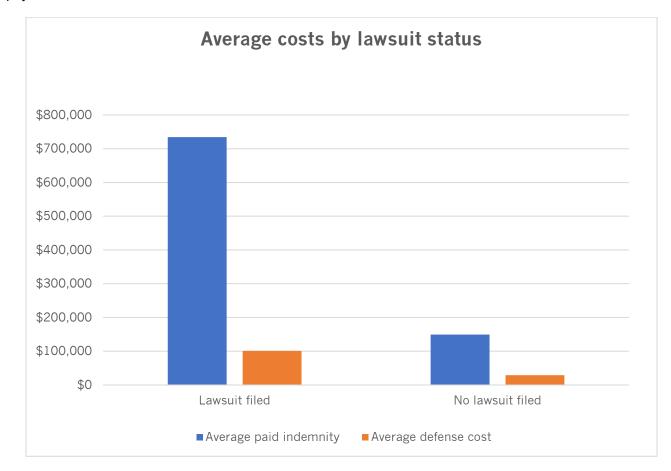
<sup>40</sup> Because claims related to the same incident can be closed on different dates, this discussion of incident-level information uses all available closed claim data, which insurers started reporting to the OIC in 2008. The remainder of our analysis of closed claim data uses information related to claims closed between 2016 and 2020.

#### **Lawsuit status**

This table summarizes litigation data.<sup>41</sup>

	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020								
Lawsuit status	Number of claims	Claims with paid indemnity	Paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity	Claims with defense costs	Defense costs	Average defense cost		
Lawsuit filed	2,079	849	\$623,463,817	\$734,351	2,067	\$208,604,284	\$100,921		
No lawsuit filed	1,754	877	\$130,866,552	\$149,221	1,308	\$37,672,974	\$28,802		
Total	3,833	1,726	\$754,330,369	\$437,040	3,375	\$246,277,258	\$72,971		

Of the 3,833 claims reported, claimants filed lawsuits 54.2% of the time. Insurers and self-insurers incurred defense costs in 99.4% of the claims in which the plaintiff filed a lawsuit. Lawsuits resulted in indemnity payments 40.8% of the time, whereas 50% of claims without litigation resulted in indemnity payments.

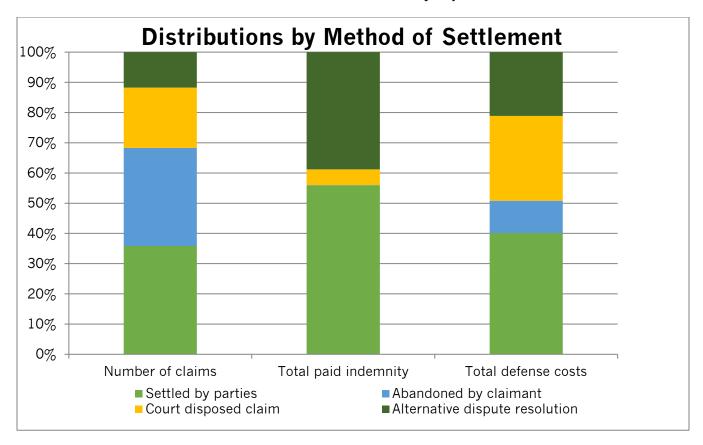


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> These amounts are not comparable to lawsuit settlement data reported by attorneys. Insurers and self-insurers report data separately for each defendant. Attorneys submit one settlement report that includes payments made by all defendants named in the lawsuit.

#### **Method of settlement**

	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020						
					Claims		
		Claims		Average	with		Average
	Number	with paid	Paid	paid	defense	Defense	defense
Method of settlement	of claims	indemnity	indemnity	indemnity	costs	costs	costs
Settled by parties	1,374	1,189	\$422,161,625	\$355,056	1,025	\$98,806,070	\$96,396
Abandoned by claimant	1,243	123	\$460,087	\$3,741	1,142	\$26,366,518	\$23,088
Court disposed claim	766	23	\$38,981,157	\$1,694,833	766	\$69,143,389	\$90,266
Alternative dispute resolution	450	391	\$292,727,500	\$748,664	442	\$51,961,281	\$117,559
Total	3,833	1,726	\$754,330,369	\$437,040	3,375	\$246,277,258	\$72,971

Plaintiff verdicts or judgments were few in number. Insurers and self-insurers reported 22 claims resolved by plaintiff verdict or judgment, 20 of which resulted in an indemnity payment averaging \$1.9 million.<sup>42</sup> The courts ruled in favor of defendants in the vast majority of cases.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> In cases where a lawsuit has more than one defendant, some defendants may not be responsible to compensate the claimant.

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#### Size of indemnity payments

This table shows that insurers and self-insurers settled 55% of claims without making an indemnity payment, and 55.3% of the remaining claims had indemnity payments of \$100,000 or less.

	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020							
	Number of		Paid		Average paid			
Range of paid indemnity	claims	% of claims	Indemnity	% of paid	indemnity			
\$0	2,107	55.0%						
\$1 - \$100,000	954	24.9%	\$27,757,875	3.7%	\$29,096			
\$100,001 - \$200,000	183	4.8%	\$28,809,447	3.8%	\$157,429			
\$200,001 - \$300,000	117	3.1%	\$29,657,157	3.9%	\$253,480			
\$300,001 - \$400,000	70	1.8%	\$25,537,132	3.4%	\$364,816			
\$400,001 - \$500,000	78	2.0%	\$37,414,970	5.0%	\$479,679			
\$500,001 - \$600,000	36	0.9%	\$20,653,628	2.7%	\$573,712			
\$600,001 - \$700,000	30	0.8%	\$19,790,000	2.6%	\$659,667			
\$700,001 - \$800,000	29	0.8%	\$21,971,876	2.9%	\$757,651			
\$800,001 - \$900,000	19	0.5%	\$16,441,771	2.2%	\$865,356			
\$900,001 - \$999,999	7	0.2%	\$6,690,000	0.9%	\$955,714			
\$1 million or more	203	5.3%	\$519,606,513	68.9%	\$2,559,638			
Total	3,833	100.0%	\$754,330,369	100.0%	\$437,040			

This next table shows how defense costs are related to the size of the indemnity payment.

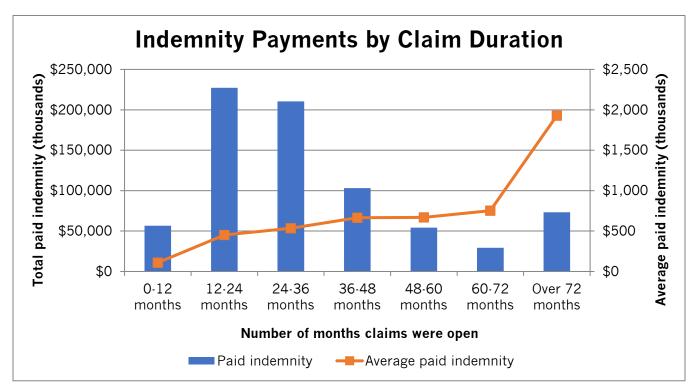
	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020							
	Number of	% of total						
	claims with	claims with		% of total	Average			
Range of paid indemnity	defense costs	defense costs	Defense costs	defense costs	defense cost			
\$0	2,107	62.4%	\$98,760,065	40.1%	\$46,872			
\$1 - \$100,000	528	15.6%	\$22,433,541	9.1%	\$42,488			
\$100,001 - \$200,000	169	5.0%	\$13,849,580	5.6%	\$81,950			
\$200,001 - \$300,000	113	3.3%	\$9,821,317	4.0%	\$86,914			
\$300,001 - \$400,000	69	2.0%	\$7,538,889	3.1%	\$109,259			
\$400,001 - \$500,000	74	2.2%	\$8,877,351	3.6%	\$119,964			
\$500,001 - \$600,000	36	1.1%	\$7,698,637	3.1%	\$213,851			
\$600,001 - \$700,000	28	0.8%	\$3,442,354	1.4%	\$122,941			
\$700,001 - \$800,000	28	0.8%	\$3,894,821	1.6%	\$139,101			
\$800,001 - \$900,000	19	0.6%	\$2,238,347	0.9%	\$117,808			
\$900,001 - \$999,999	7	0.2%	\$1,600,944	0.7%	\$228,706			
\$1 million or more	197	5.8%	\$66,121,412	26.8%	\$335,642			
Total	3,375	100.0%	\$246,277,258	100.0%	\$72,971			

#### **Claim duration**

This table shows claims by age on the date they were closed. Average indemnity and average defense costs tend to increase with the age of the claim.

	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020								
Notice date <u>to closed date</u>	Number of claims	% of total claims	Claims with paid indemnity	Paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity	Claims with defense costs	Defense costs	Average defense costs	
0-12 months	1,221	31.9%	517	\$56,537,613	\$109,357	901	\$8,634,549	\$9,583	
12-24 months	1,210	31.6%	503	\$227,336,705	\$451,962	1,142	\$53,946,452	\$47,239	
24-36 months	722	18.8%	393	\$210,334,485	\$535,202	666	\$76,247,867	\$114,486	
36-48 months	333	8.7%	155	\$103,221,493	\$665,945	325	\$39,689,718	\$122,122	
48-60 months	170	4.4%	81	\$54,260,822	\$669,887	169	\$19,132,425	\$113,210	
60-72 months	82	2.1%	39	\$29,367,582	\$753,015	81	\$20,075,110	\$247,841	
Over 72 months	95	2.5%	38	\$73,271,669	\$1,928,202	91	\$28,551,137	\$313,749	
Total	3,833	100.0%	1,726	\$754,330,369	\$437,040	3,375	\$246,277,258	\$72,971	

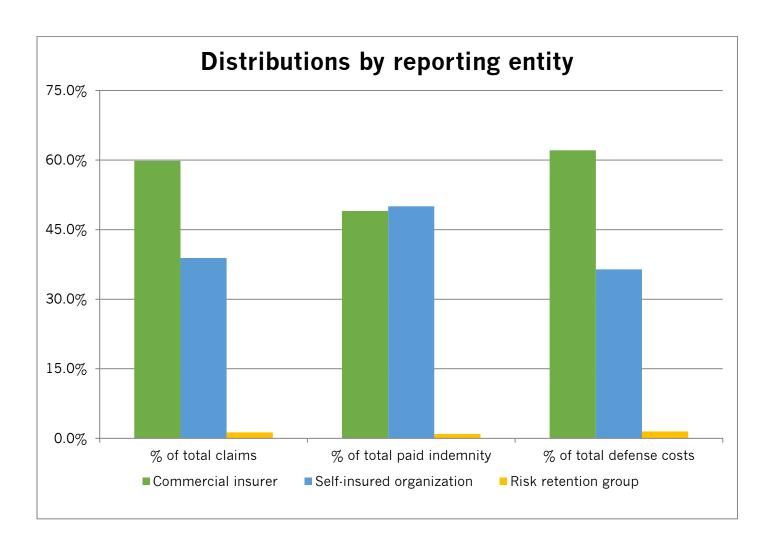
For the 3,833 claims, the average length of time between the notice date and the date closed was 23 months and the median length of time was 18.1 months. Insurers and self-insurers closed 82.3% of all claims within 36 months. Overall, claims closed within 36 months account for 65.5% of total paid indemnity and 56.4% of total defense costs.



#### Type of reporting entity

Commercial insurers reported the highest number of claims and had the highest average paid indemnity.<sup>43</sup> Risk retention groups reported the highest average defense costs.

	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020									
					Claims					
		Claims			with		Average			
	Number	with paid	Paid	Average paid	defense		defense			
Reporting entity	of claims	indemnity	indemnity	indemnity	costs	Defense costs	costs			
Commercial insurer	2,293	817	\$369,795,813	\$452,626	2,175	\$152,949,785	\$70,322			
Self-insured organization	1,491	885	\$377,352,806	\$426,387	1,154	\$89,698,012	\$77,728			
Risk retention group	49	24	\$7,181,750	\$299,240	46	\$3,629,461	\$78,901			
Total	3,833	1,726	\$754,330,369	\$437,040	3,375	\$246,277,258	\$72,971			



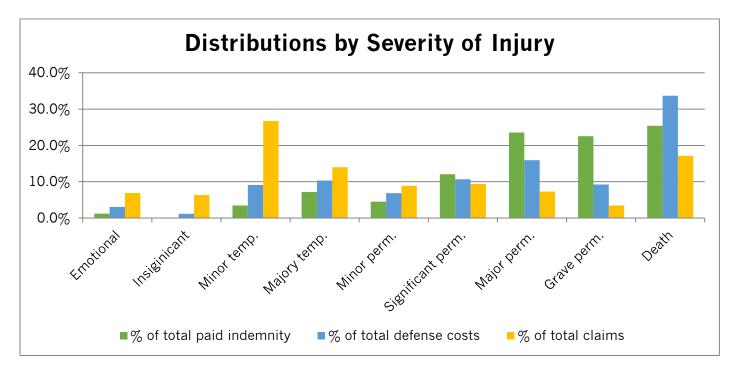
 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 43}$  Commercial insurers include admitted (licensed) and surplus line insurers.

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#### **Injury outcome**

This exhibit shows compensation and defense costs by severity of injury.<sup>44</sup> Injuries were most often classified as minor and temporary, but these claims comprised only 3.5% of total paid indemnity and 9.1% of total defense costs. Grave permanent injuries<sup>45</sup> had the highest average paid indemnity and average defense costs, followed by major permanent injuries in both respects.

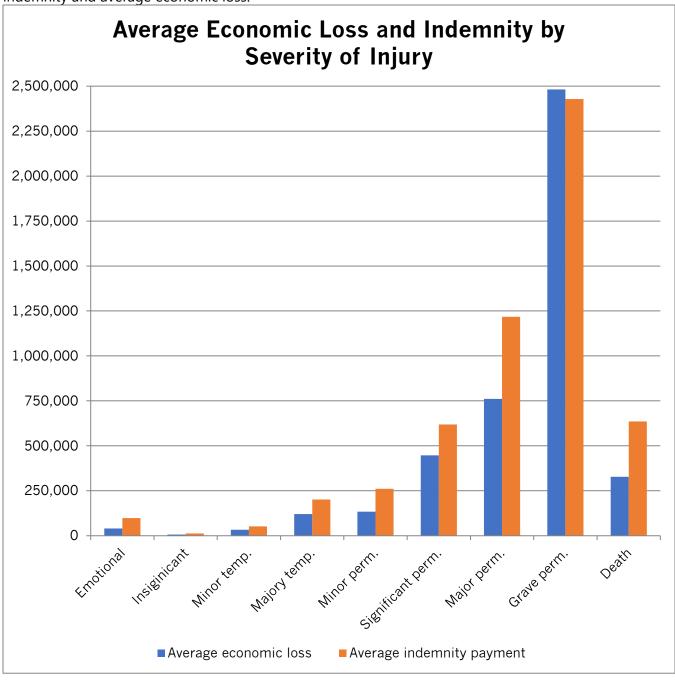
	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020								
<u>Injury outcome</u>	Number of claims	Claims with paid indemnity	Paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity	Claims with defense costs	Defense costs	Average defense costs		
Emotional injury only	264	93	\$9,148,567	\$98,372	228	\$7,529,564	\$33,024		
Insignificant injury	242	69	\$859,593	\$12,458	196	\$2,854,937	\$14,566		
Minor temporary injury	1,025	501	\$26,134,281	\$52,164	774	\$22,429,703	\$28,979		
Major temporary injury	536	269	\$54,147,892	\$201,293	472	\$25,441,479	\$53,901		
Minor permanent injury	340	130	\$33,912,513	\$260,865	315	\$16,854,413	\$53,506		
Significant permanent injury	358	147	\$90,994,404	\$619,010	349	\$26,269,324	\$75,270		
Major permanent injury	280	146	\$177,700,432	\$1,217,126	274	\$39,200,542	\$143,068		
Grave permanent injury	132	70	\$169,985,606	\$2,428,366	129	\$22,721,383	\$176,135		
Death	656	301	\$191,447,081	\$636,037	638	\$82,975,913	\$130,056		
Total	3,833	1,726	\$754,330,369	\$437,040	3,375	\$246,277,258	\$72,971		



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> For a description of each type of injury outcome, see <u>WAC 284-24D-220</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Grave permanent injuries include quadriplegia and severe brain damage, requiring lifelong dependent care.

If they made an indemnity payment, insurers and self-insurers reported the economic loss related to the injury. <sup>46</sup> The insurer or self-insurer either estimated the economic loss or reported the amount of economic loss awarded by a court. Patient death claims had lower average economic loss than claims for significant permanent injury, major permanent injury, or grave permanent injury. If a patient dies, compensation for economic loss is largely calculated based on lost income and services the patient would have provided. This chart shows the relationship between injury outcome, average paid indemnity and average economic loss.

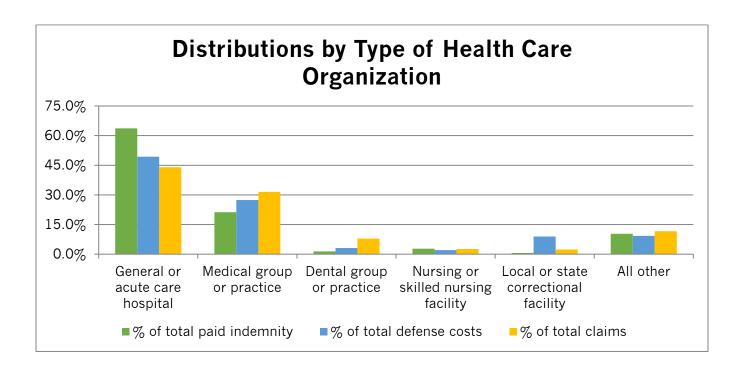


 $<sup>^{46}</sup>$  Economic damages are defined in <u>RCW 4.56.250</u>, and the components of economic losses are described in <u>WAC 284-24D-360</u>.

#### Type of health care organization

This exhibit shows data segmented by the type of health care organization or provider group.<sup>47</sup>

	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020								
Health care organization	Number of claims	Claims with paid indemnity	Paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity	Claims with defense costs	Defense costs	Average defense costs		
General or acute care hospital	1,687	864	\$480,532,284	\$556,172	1,421	\$121,459,630	\$85,475		
Medical group or practice	1,208	420	\$160,043,354	\$381,056	1,129	\$67,388,878	\$59,689		
Dental group or practice	302	140	\$10,410,537	\$74,361	248	\$7,563,677	\$30,499		
Nursing or skilled nursing facility	100	73	\$21,285,962	\$291,589	90	\$5,142,427	\$57,138		
Local or state correctional facility	91	28	\$4,468,048	\$159,573	82	\$21,948,653	\$267,666		
Podiatric group or practice	46	14	\$2,574,990	\$183,928	46	\$3,107,596	\$67,556		
Ambulatory surgical center	43	15	\$6,360,000	\$424,000	41	\$2,548,271	\$62,153		
Chiropractic group or practice	35	18	\$5,250,500	\$291,694	35	\$2,308,922	\$65,969		
Ambulatory clinic or center	20	10	\$7,443,116	\$744,312	20	\$935,878	\$46,794		
Physical/occupational therapy	20	10	\$535,775	\$53,578	19	\$463,199	\$24,379		
All other organizations	281	134	\$55,425,803	\$413,625	244	\$13,410,127	\$54,960		
Total	3,833	1,726	\$754,330,369	\$437,040	3,375	\$246,277,258	\$72,971		



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Under <u>RCW 48.140.060</u> and <u>RCW 42.56.400</u>(10), the Insurance Commissioner must protect the identify of each insuring entity, self-insurer, claimant, health care provider, or health care facility involved in a particular claim or collection of claims. For this reason, types of organizations with few claims are grouped together.

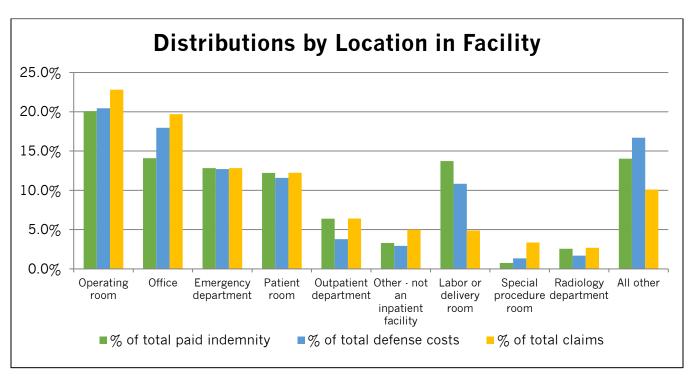
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#### Location within the facility

This exhibit shows data by location within the facility where the incident leading to the claim occurred.

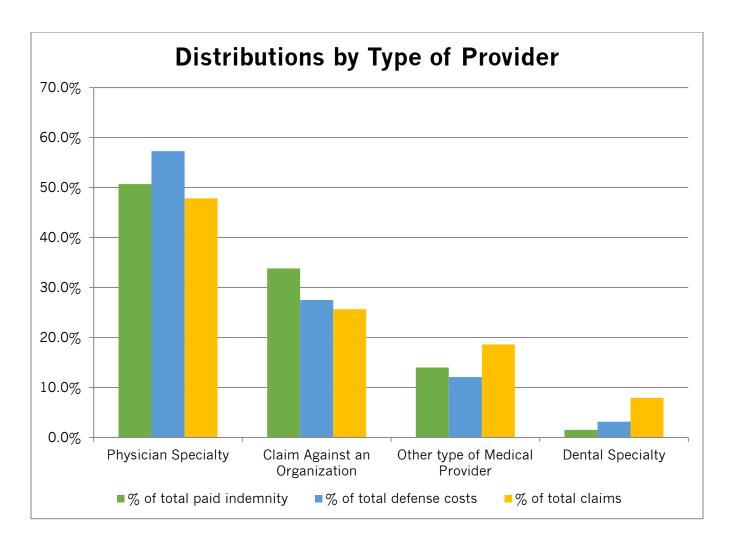
	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020									
Location within facility	Number of claims	Claims with paid indemnity	Paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity	Claims with defense costs	Defense costs	Average defense costs			
Operating room	874	366	\$151,513,401	\$413,971	779	\$50,378,477	\$64,671			
Office	755	246	\$106,337,914	\$432,268	726	\$44,246,099	\$60,945			
Emergency department	492	206	\$96,848,229	\$470,137	445	\$31,304,106	\$70,346			
Patient room	469	268	\$92,213,757	\$344,081	405	\$28,516,793	\$70,412			
Outpatient department	246	138	\$48,194,379	\$349,235	189	\$9,315,115	\$49,286			
Other - not an inpatient facility	191	71	\$24,825,361	\$349,653	176	\$7,227,994	\$41,068			
Labor or delivery room	187	94	\$103,473,648	\$1,100,783	173	\$26,668,482	\$154,153			
Special procedure room	129	78	\$5,689,384	\$72,941	77	\$3,293,309	\$42,770			
Radiology department	103	45	\$19,336,079	\$429,691	86	\$4,180,387	\$48,609			
Walk-in clinic	72	40	\$16,112,521	\$402,813	58	\$3,178,095	\$54,795			
Laboratory	49	33	\$34,365,973	\$1,041,393	36	\$1,940,678	\$53,908			
Physical therapy department	38	23	\$2,170,012	\$94,348	36	\$1,679,713	\$46,659			
Critical care unit	38	21	\$11,785,605	\$561,219	34	\$2,489,778	\$73,229			
All other locations	190	97	\$41,464,106	\$427,465	155	\$31,858,232	\$205,537			
Total	3,833	1,726	\$754,330,369	\$437,040	3,375	\$246,277,258	\$72,971			



#### Type of medical provider

This exhibit shows data by type of medical provider. The "physician" specialty includes surgeons, general practice physicians, radiologists, neurologists, psychiatrists, and many more. The "other type of medical provider" category includes nursing, physician assistants, technicians, pharmacy, podiatry and psychology, among others.

	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020									
Provider type	Number of claims	Claims with paid indemnity	Paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity	Claims with defense costs	Defense costs	Average defense cost			
Physician specialty	1,833	724	\$382,427,882	\$528,215	1,696	\$141,056,790	\$83,170			
Claim against an organization	983	441	\$255,042,624	\$578,328	863	\$67,707,155	\$78,456			
Other type of medical provider	713	417	\$105,516,806	\$253,038	566	\$29,722,386	\$52,513			
Dental specialty	304	144	\$11,343,057	\$78,771	250	\$7,790,927	\$31,164			
Total	3,833	1,726	\$754,330,369	\$437,040	3,375	\$246,277,258	\$72,971			



This table shows claim data for physician specialties that had the largest number of claims.<sup>48</sup>

	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020							
Provider specialty	Number of claims	Claims with paid indemnity	Paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity	Claims with defense costs	Defense costs	Average defense cost	
Family practice	219	91	\$42,160,608	\$463,303	196	\$15,105,735	\$77,070	
Obstetrics and gynecology	208	93	\$48,299,107	\$519,345	196	\$22,315,014	\$113,852	
Emergency medicine	206	70	\$25,720,900	\$367,441	190	\$13,154,166	\$69,232	
General surgery	198	87	\$34,750,732	\$399,434	185	\$13,451,293	\$72,710	
Orthopedic surgery	170	59	\$17,611,007	\$298,492	156	\$14,051,287	\$90,072	
Radiology	123	41	\$23,383,869	\$570,338	118	\$7,915,190	\$67,078	
Internal medicine	95	28	\$13,761,647	\$491,487	90	\$6,180,175	\$68,669	
Anesthesiology	91	55	\$12,312,214	\$223,858	64	\$5,300,666	\$82,823	
Neurological surgery	79	32	\$53,190,661	\$1,662,208	78	\$8,203,405	\$105,172	
Hospitalist	46	17	\$13,700,000	\$805,882	46	\$3,344,201	\$72,700	
Urological surgery	46	21	\$6,676,377	\$317,923	43	\$1,915,006	\$44,535	
Cardiovascular diseases	44	21	\$6,587,549	\$313,693	40	\$3,952,715	\$98,818	
Gastroenterology	43	10	\$4,543,265	\$454,326	40	\$2,383,181	\$59,580	
Pediatrics	38	12	\$30,282,525	\$2,523,544	34	\$7,963,450	\$234,219	
Otolaryngology	25	12	\$4,416,500	\$368,042	25	\$2,351,004	\$94,040	
Neurology	20	11	\$6,635,275	\$603,207	20	\$2,915,800	\$145,790	
Diagnostic radiology	16	10	\$4,305,093	\$430,509	15	\$663,424	\$44,228	
All other physician types	166	54	\$34,090,553	\$631,307	160	\$9,891,078	\$61,819	
Total	1,833	724	\$382,427,882	\$528,215	1,696	\$141,056,790	\$83,170	

The largest number of claims against physician specialties were for family practice. The most common allegations against family practice physicians were "failure to diagnose" with 58 claims, "delay in diagnosis" with 25 claims, and "improper management" with 21 claims.

Pediatrics ranked highest among specialties in average paid indemnity and average defense costs. The most common allegation against pediatrics was "failure to diagnose" with nine claims.

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 $<sup>^{48}</sup>$  Under <u>RCW 48.140.060</u> and <u>RCW 42.56.400</u>(10), some specialties are grouped together to maintain confidentiality.

This table shows claim data for other types of medical providers.<sup>49</sup> Nursing staff accounted for the majority of these claims. The most common allegations against nursing staff were "failure to ensure patient safety" with 43 claims, followed by "failure to monitor" with 39 claims, and "improper technique" with 36 claims. Physician assistants had the second-highest number of claims, and the most common allegation against this type was "failure to diagnose" with 17 claims.

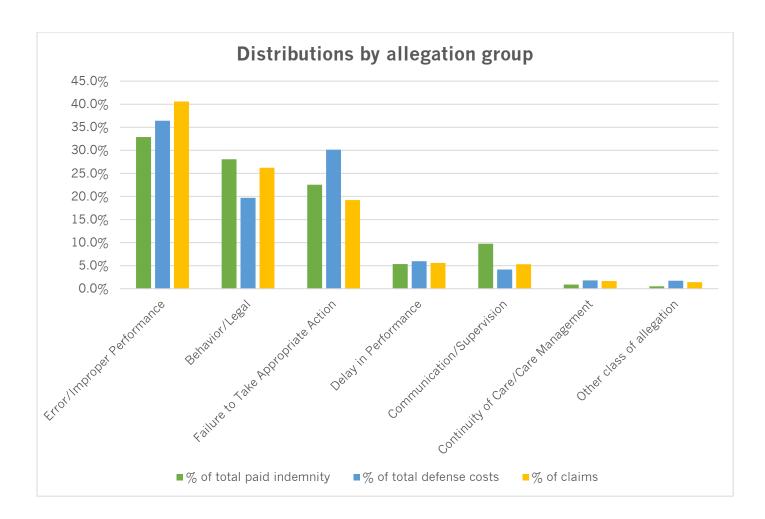
	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020								
<u>Provider type</u>	Number of claims	Claims with paid indemnity	Paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity	Claims with defense costs	Defense costs	Average defense cost		
Nursing	402	259	\$56,023,824	\$216,308	304	\$15,429,783	\$50,756		
Physician assistant	82	40	\$13,301,290	\$332,532	68	\$3,458,260	\$50,857		
Podiatry	55	17	\$3,772,490	\$221,911	55	\$3,583,621	\$65,157		
Chiropractic	35	17	\$5,215,500	\$306,794	35	\$2,246,537	\$64,187		
Physical therapy	24	14	\$1,180,487	\$84,321	22	\$1,236,327	\$56,197		
Emergency medicine	20	10	\$3,481,294	\$348,129	15	\$524,545	\$34,970		
All other types	95	60	\$22,541,921	\$375,699	67	\$3,243,313	\$48,408		
Total	713	417	\$105,516,806	\$253,038	566	\$29,722,386	\$52,513		

 $<sup>^{49}</sup>$  Under <u>RCW 48.140.060</u> and <u>RCW 42.56.400</u>(10), some types of providers are grouped together to maintain confidentiality.

#### **Claim allegations**

Insurers and self-insurers identified the primary complaint that led to the medical malpractice claim. This table shows the most common classes of allegations.

	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020								
Allegation group	Number of claims	Claims with paid indemnity	Paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity	Claims with defense costs	Defense costs	Average defense cost		
Error / improper performance	1,556	720	\$247,958,800	\$344,387	1,337	\$89,719,027	\$67,105		
Behavior / legal	1,005	430	\$211,639,458	\$492,185	888	\$48,520,890	\$54,641		
Failure to take appropriate action	736	320	\$170,011,450	\$531,286	692	\$74,277,142	\$107,337		
Delay in performance	214	93	\$40,347,888	\$433,848	186	\$14,724,861	\$79,166		
Communication / supervision	204	121	\$73,568,587	\$608,005	169	\$10,295,433	\$60,920		
Continuity of care / care management	64	21	\$6,859,858	\$326,660	54	\$4,445,790	\$82,329		
Other class of allegation	54	21	\$3,944,328	\$187,825	49	\$4,294,115	\$87,635		
Total	3,833	1,726	\$754,330,369	\$437,040	3,375	\$246,277,258	\$72,971		



This table shows the most common specific allegations for each major class of allegation.

			Five-year period	ending Decen	nber 31, 202	<u>20</u>	
Error / improper performance	Total number of claims	Claims with paid indemnity	Total paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity	Claims with defense costs	Total defense costs	Average defense cost
Improper performance	651	241	\$61,850,330	\$256,640	599	\$33,385,212	\$55,735
Improper management	203	90	\$55,139,726	\$612,664	185	\$16,811,541	\$90,873
Improper technique	202	127	\$39,053,692	\$307,509	146	\$8,792,125	\$60,220
Patient history, exam, or workup problem	69	24	\$8,189,030	\$341,210	63	\$3,364,182	\$53,400
Surgical or other foreign body retained	46	29	\$2,577,808	\$88,890	39	\$1,385,960	\$35,537
Patient monitoring problem	37	24	\$10,940,266	\$455,844	33	\$2,265,764	\$68,660
Wrong medication administered	30	16	\$688,038	\$43,002	22	\$603,285	\$27,422
Wrong dosage administered	29	13	\$19,261,371	\$1,481,644	28	\$2,858,684	\$102,096
Equipment utilization problem	28	20	\$1,719,026	\$85,951	20	\$1,004,088	\$50,204
Wrong diagnosis or misdiagnosis	24	12	\$11,907,773	\$992,314	22	\$1,427,941	\$64,906
Intubation problem	21	12	\$6,436,211	\$536,351	16	\$1,951,398	\$121,962
Behavior / legal							
Vicarious liability	759	288	\$178,466,684	\$619,676	671	\$37,165,020	\$55,388
Failure to ensure patient safety	125	89	\$23,346,705	\$262,323	106	\$4,792,405	\$45,211
Sexual misconduct	15	11	\$1,555,000	\$141,364	15	\$984,262	\$65,617
Failure to take appropriate action							
Failure to diagnose	415	171	\$87,516,461	\$511,792	394	\$32,023,129	\$81,277
Failure to treat	98	34	\$9,184,180	\$270,123	95	\$6,463,837	\$68,040
Failure to monitor	85	54	\$20,520,231	\$380,004	76	\$25,165,954	\$331,131
Failure to recognize a complication	36	17	\$11,090,371	\$652,375	33	\$2,193,669	\$66,475
Failure to order appropriate test	28	12	\$8,508,589	\$709,049	24	\$1,374,154	\$57,256
Delay in performance							
Delay in diagnosis	108	43	\$25,521,718	\$593,528	105	\$8,413,363	\$80,127
Delay in treatment	79	41	\$9,609,126	\$234,369	56	\$2,994,861	\$53,480
		, _	<i>+0,000,</i>	<b>7</b> = 0 1,000		<i>+</i> =/00 1/00=	400)
Communication / supervision							
Failure to instruct or communicate w/patient	77	39	\$27,773,716	\$712,147	60	\$2,927,396	\$48,790
Communication problem between practitioners	48	30	\$10,928,243	\$364,275	36	\$2,550,907	\$70,859
Improper supervision	34	25	\$12,549,927	\$501,997	31	\$2,502,950	\$80,740
Failure to supervise	19	12	\$2,083,847	\$173,654	18	\$810,520	\$45,029
Failure to report on patient condition	16	10	\$19,692,500	\$1,969,250	16	\$1,425,524	\$89,095
Continuity of care / care management							
Premature discharge from institution	21	10	\$2,087,595	\$208,760	16	\$2,243,620	\$140,226

This table shows the most common allegations against physician specialties.

			Five-year perio	d ending Dece	ember 31, 2	2020	
Allegation made against physician specialty	Total number of claims	Claims with paid indemnity	Total paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity	Claims with defense costs	Total defense costs	Average defense cost
Failure to diagnose	358	147	\$77,141,154	\$524,770	342	\$29,430,906	\$86,055
Improper performance	345	116	\$49,377,808	\$425,671	326	\$23,047,387	\$70,698
Improper technique	135	74	\$34,958,953	\$472,418	104	\$6,076,093	\$58,424
Improper management	132	48	\$47,024,263	\$979,672	129	\$14,156,902	\$109,743
Delay in diagnosis	84	30	\$21,384,218	\$712,807	82	\$7,413,744	\$90,412
Failure to instruct or communicate w/patient	59	28	\$4,757,328	\$169,905	49	\$2,328,982	\$47,530
Failure to treat	54	17	\$5,746,105	\$338,006	52	\$5,305,303	\$102,025
Patient history, exam or workup problem	53	15	\$6,411,997	\$427,466	51	\$2,957,115	\$57,983
Delay in treatment	38	12	\$6,021,810	\$501,818	36	\$2,564,568	\$71,238
Surgical or other foreign body retained	38	22	\$2,387,136	\$108,506	35	\$1,358,082	\$38,802
Failure to recognize a complication	27	10	\$8,805,326	\$880,533	25	\$1,821,518	\$72,861
Unnecessary procedure	20	11	\$2,755,000	\$250,455	19	\$1,719,024	\$90,475
Communication problem between practitioners	19	10	\$7,994,714	\$799,471	16	\$944,911	\$59,057
Wrong diagnosis	18	11	\$11,589,773	\$1,053,616	16	\$1,175,344	\$73,459

This table shows the most common allegations made against dental specialties.

	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020								
	Total	-1.			Claims				
	number	Claims		Average	with	Total	Average		
	of	with paid	Total paid	paid	defense	defense	defense		
Allegation made against dental provider	claims	indemnity	indemnity	indemnity	costs	costs	cost		
Improper performance	205	81	\$6,898,408	\$85,166	184	\$5,297,336	\$28,790		
Improper technique	13	11	\$1,089,000	\$99,000	12	\$906,835	\$75,570		

This table shows the most common allegations made against other types of medical providers.

			Five-year perio	d ending Dec	ember 31, 2	2020	
	Total				Claims		
	number	Claims		Average	with	Total	Average
Allegation made against	of	with paid	Total paid	paid	defense	defense	defense
other type of provider	claims	indemnity	indemnity	indemnity	costs	costs	cost
Improper performance	99	42	\$5,500,752	\$130,970	88	\$5,023,407	\$57,084
Failure to ensure patient safety	55	37	\$6,231,074	\$168,407	46	\$1,626,460	\$35,358
Improper technique	54	42	\$3,005,739	\$71,565	30	\$1,809,197	\$60,307
Failure to diagnose	51	23	\$10,351,557	\$450,068	46	\$2,319,345	\$50,421
Failure to monitor	42	31	\$13,070,040	\$421,614	37	\$2,992,072	\$80,867
Improper management	38	23	\$2,819,392	\$122,582	33	\$1,182,420	\$35,831
Failure to treat	27	11	\$2,355,575	\$214,143	26	\$813,923	\$31,305
Communication problem between practitioners	22	16	\$2,321,476	\$145,092	14	\$1,160,233	\$82,874
Patient monitoring problem	19	13	\$4,264,575	\$328,044	18	\$1,212,372	\$67,354
Delay in diagnosis	19	11	\$4,050,000	\$368,182	18	\$891,072	\$49,504

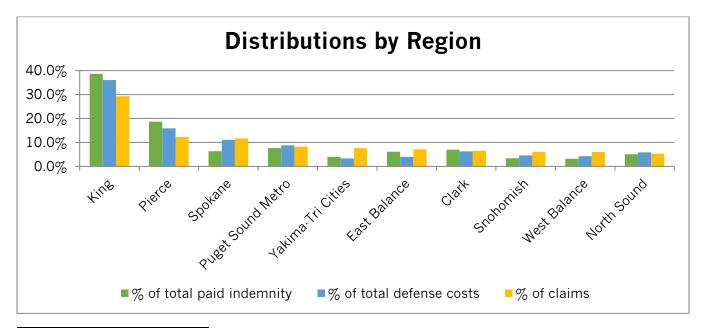
This table shows the most common allegations made against an organization. The most common allegation, "vicarious liability," is secondary liability in which the organization becomes responsible for the acts of an employee or another third party when it had the right, ability or duty to control those actions.

	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020									
	Total number of	Claims with paid	Total paid	Average paid	Claims with defense	Total defense	Average defense			
Allegation made against an organization	claims	indemnity	indemnity	indemnity	costs	costs	cost			
Vicarious liability	725	283	\$178,369,797	\$630,282	638	\$36,197,437	\$56,736			
Failure to ensure patient safety	59	47	\$16,672,191	\$354,727	51	\$2,722,062	\$53,374			
Improper supervision	26	21	\$11,674,874	\$555,946	24	\$1,912,840	\$79,702			
Failure to monitor	19	13	\$2,830,751	\$217,750	16	\$20,206,073	\$1,262,880			
Failure to supervise	15	10	\$2,057,347	\$205,735	14	\$740,272	\$52,877			

#### **Counties**

Insurers and self-insurers reported the county where the medical incident occurred.<sup>50</sup> To provide information about differences by location, we divided the state into 10 regions.<sup>51</sup> A few claims were reported as occurring outside of Washington state (not shown).

			Five-yea	r period endin	g December 31	<u>, 2020</u>		
Region	Number of claims	Claims with paid indemnity	Paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity	Average economic loss	Claims with defense costs	Defense costs	Average defense costs
King	1,122	558	\$290,925,791	\$521,372	\$363,278	922	\$88,415,789	\$95,896
Pierce	468	226	\$140,972,895	\$623,774	\$386,788	414	\$38,887,512	\$93,931
Spokane	445	174	\$47,636,985	\$273,776	\$228,371	391	\$27,106,561	\$69,326
Puget Sound Metro	313	120	\$57,590,919	\$479,924	\$396,927	293	\$21,526,309	\$73,469
Yakima-Tri Cities	291	117	\$30,225,972	\$258,342	\$206,640	271	\$8,159,456	\$30,109
East Balance	272	123	\$46,118,704	\$374,949	\$242,831	242	\$9,783,922	\$40,429
Clark	249	124	\$52,464,352	\$423,100	\$276,545	220	\$15,369,314	\$69,861
Snohomish	231	90	\$25,407,905	\$282,310	\$221,148	213	\$11,180,543	\$52,491
West Balance	228	96	\$24,126,308	\$251,316	\$126,130	213	\$10,399,825	\$48,825
North Sound	204	95	\$38,121,519	\$401,279	\$224,372	186	\$14,296,252	\$76,862



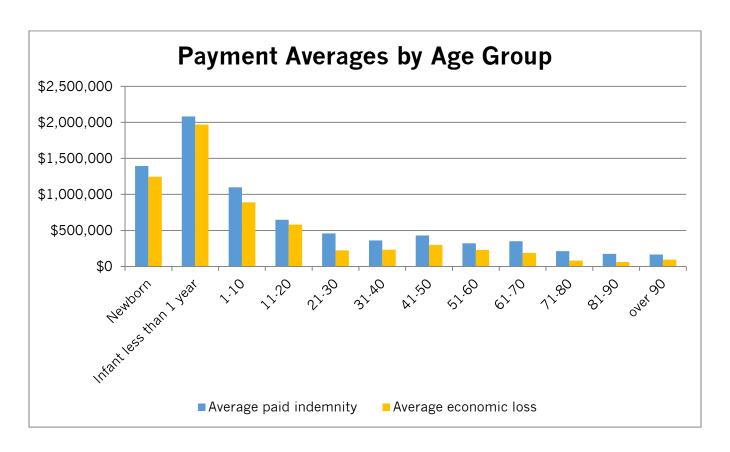
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Under RCW 48.140.060 and RCW 42.56.400(10), some counties are grouped together to maintain confidentiality.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> **Yakima-Tri Cities** includes Benton, Franklin and Yakima counties. **East balance** includes Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla and Whitman counties. **Puget Sound Metro** includes Kitsap and Thurston counties. **West balance** includes Clallam, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties. **North Sound** includes Island, San Juan, Skagit and Whatcom counties.

### Age of claimant

Insurers and self-insurers reported the age group of the claimant.

	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020								
Age group	Total number of claims	Claims with paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity	Average economic loss	Claims with defense costs	Average defense cost			
Newborn	150	67	\$1,393,391	\$1,244,736	141	\$194,946			
Infant less than 1 year	46	27	\$2,081,591	\$1,968,295	40	\$150,026			
1-10	65	34	\$1,099,625	\$890,023	53	\$74,749			
11-20	114	63	\$648,142	\$581,229	85	\$66,091			
21-30	316	145	\$459,114	\$223,969	271	\$141,945			
31-40	527	222	\$361,995	\$232,562	467	\$67,415			
41-50	621	255	\$430,962	\$300,222	558	\$59,466			
51-60	838	320	\$322,471	\$231,082	753	\$61,378			
61-70	653	327	\$350,499	\$189,135	578	\$52,833			
71-80	311	148	\$212,703	\$81,380	275	\$47,288			
81-90	161	98	\$174,725	\$62,481	130	\$68,876			
over 90	31	20	\$165,677	\$94,642	24	\$56,824			
Total	3,833	1,726	\$437,040	\$301,213	3,375	\$72,971			

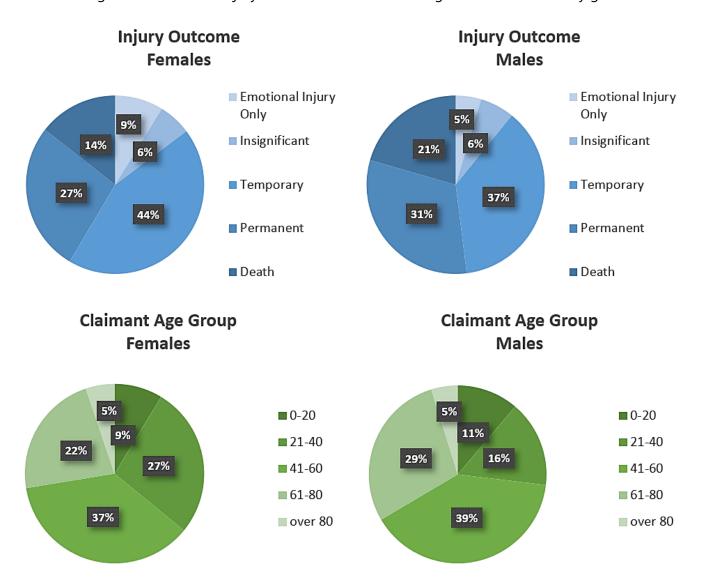


#### **Gender of claimant**

This exhibit shows data by gender. For a few claims, the gender was reported as unknown (not shown).

			<u>Five-year</u>	period endin	g December 3	<u>1, 2020</u>		
	Total					Claims		
	number	Claims		Average	Average	with	Total	Average
	of	with paid	Total paid	paid	economic	defense	defense	defense
<u>Gender</u>	claims	indemnity	indemnity	indemnity	loss	costs	costs	costs
Female	2,109	964	\$352,317,742	\$365,475	\$229,546	1,839	\$126,033,761	\$68,534
Male	1,714	761	\$401,812,627	\$528,006	\$392,131	1,526	\$119,671,101	\$78,421

The following charts show how injury outcomes<sup>52</sup> and claimant ages were distributed by gender.



 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 52}$  See page 29 for a more detailed breakdown of the injury outcome categories.

#### **Trends**

This chart shows estimates of trends in frequency and severity.<sup>53</sup> Average claim costs continued to increase.

<u>Year closed</u>	Average paid indemnity	Average limited indemnity	Average defense costs	Average of limited indemnity + defense costs	Number of claims closed
2011	\$215,145	\$174,386	\$40,930	\$113,385	1,207
2012	\$169,887	\$144,012	\$50,081	\$113,480	1,182
2013	\$231,292	\$179,372	\$47,612	\$127,190	1,126
2014	\$269,353	\$236,575	\$58,177	\$156,593	1,044
2015	\$379,443	\$222,156	\$65,487	\$147,684	1,020
2016	\$281,556	\$219,297	\$65,419	\$154,056	898
2017	\$331,371	\$195,488	\$61,966	\$138,538	814
2018	\$453,832	\$275,128	\$71,904	\$197,990	834
2019	\$617,347	\$285,945	\$74,344	\$194,213	677
2020	\$581,535	\$314,229	\$96,951	\$223,415	610
Annual trend	14.0%	7.3%	8.1%	7.4%	-7.2%

Average limited indemnity amounts were calculated by restricting individual claims to a maximum of \$1 million, which is a way to reduce volatility in the trend estimate. The estimated trend in the number of claims closed is low due to late-reported claims; there will likely be more claims than the 610 already reported for 2020.

These trends in medical malpractice insurance costs are not reliable estimates of changes over time for several reasons. Medical malpractice claims can take several years to close and the averages shown for each closed-year include data from incidents that occurred over many years. Thus, trends estimated using closed-year data can be distorted by changes in claim settlement rates. Because of these distortions, the trend in the number of claims closed is a poor estimate of frequency trend. A frequency is calculated as the number of claims per exposure (e.g., per policy or per physician). Since insurers do not report policy counts, physician counts or other exposure data, we cannot calculate a true frequency trend. These trend estimates could also be distorted by changes in data reporting compliance over time.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> An analysis of trends in frequency and severity is required by <u>RCW 48.140.050(1)(a)(i)</u>. Trends shown are based on exponential least squares regression.

# Information about medical malpractice lawsuits

This section of the report presents data submitted by plaintiffs' attorneys following the resolution of lawsuits filed against health care providers and facilities.

			Year settled		
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Settlements reported by attorneys	42	34	31	12	9
Number of settlements with paid indemnity	40	31	31	9	9
Total paid indemnity	\$61,564,825	\$27,239,000	\$42,872,870	\$7,890,000	\$11,670,000
Average payment to claimant	\$1,539,121	\$878,677	\$1,382,996	\$876,667	\$1,296,667
Median payment to claimant	\$450,000	\$475,000	\$750,000	\$500,000	\$650,000
Total legal expenses	\$25,273,923	\$11,347,914	\$18,714,718	\$3,540,712	\$4,687,136
Total attorney fees	\$22,847,061	\$9,520,746	\$16,574,797	\$2,915,485	\$4,224,181
Average legal expense	\$601,760	\$333,762	\$603,701	\$295,059	\$520,793
Average fee paid to attorney	\$571,177	\$307,121	\$534,671	\$323,498	\$469,353

From January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020, claimants received \$151 million in compensation on 120 settlements, averaging \$1.3 million per settlement.

Claimants paid \$64 million for legal expenses, averaging \$496,597 per lawsuit. Claimants paid \$56 million in attorney fees, or an average of \$467,352 per settlement.<sup>54</sup> On average, the attorney fee was 37.1% of the total compensation paid to the claimant.

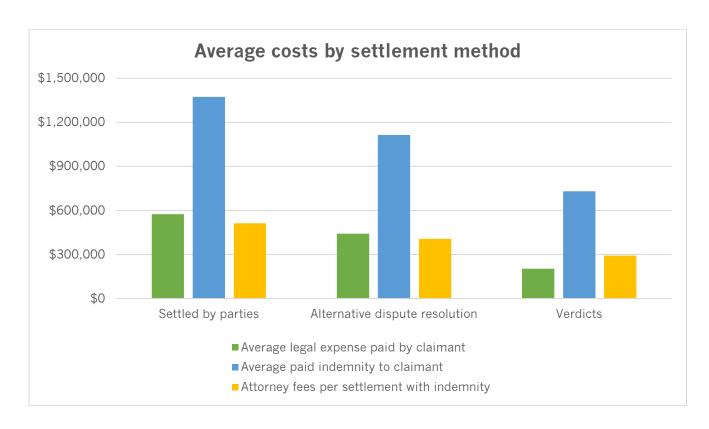
The average indemnity payment per settlement reported by attorneys was much higher than the average indemnity payment reported by insurers on a per-defendant basis. Per-lawsuit averages are expected to be higher than per-defendant averages, since settlements reported by attorneys can involve multiple defendants. Averages reported by attorneys may be biased high; attorneys might be less likely to report data to the OIC for lawsuits resulting in small indemnity payments.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Attorneys in this area of litigation typically work on a contingency basis, and receive fees if one or more defendants compensate the claimant.

#### How lawsuits were settled

This exhibit shows data segmented by lawsuit settlement method.

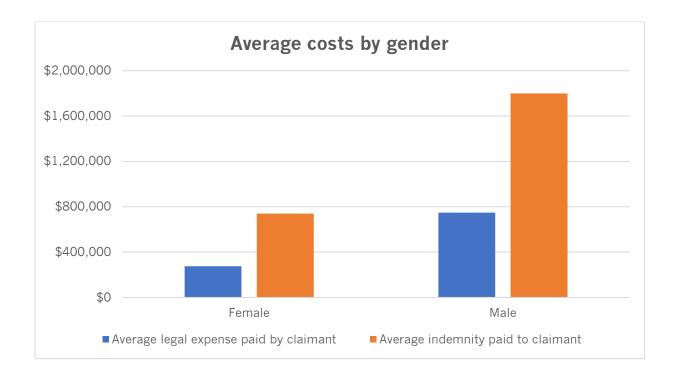
	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020							
Lawsuit settlement method	Average legal expense paid by claimant	Average paid indemnity to claimant	Attorney fees per settlement with indemnity	Attorney fee as % of indemnity				
Settled by parties	\$574,987	\$1,373,600	\$512,303	37.3%				
Alternative dispute resolution	\$441,803	\$1,114,389	\$407,019	36.5%				
Verdicts	\$203,218	\$730,000	\$292,200	40.0%				



### **Gender of claimant**

More settlements involved female claimants: 53.1% compared to 46.9% with male claimants.

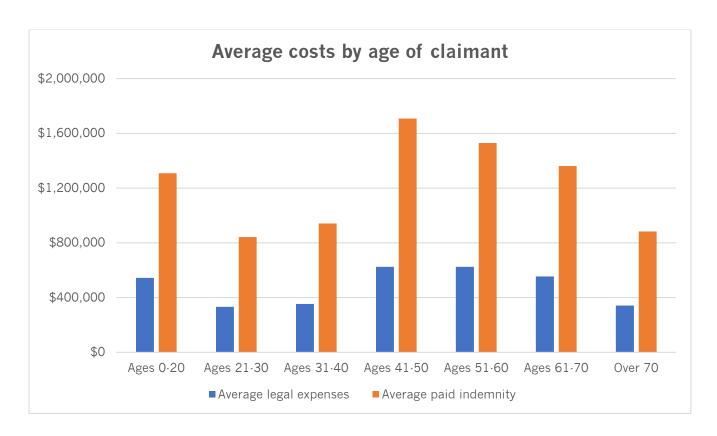
		Five-y	ear period endi	ng December 3	1, 2020	
			Average legal			Average
	Settlements		expense	Settlements		indemnity
	with legal	Total legal	paid by	with paid	Total paid	paid to
<u>Gender</u>	fees	fees	claimant	indemnity	indemnity	claimant
Female	68	\$18,728,206	\$275,415	61	\$45,099,195	\$739,331
Male	60	\$44,836,197	\$747,270	59	\$106,137,500	\$1,798,941
Total	128	\$63,564,403	\$496,597	120	\$151,236,695	\$1,260,306



## Age of claimant

This exhibit shows data segmented by the age of the claimant.

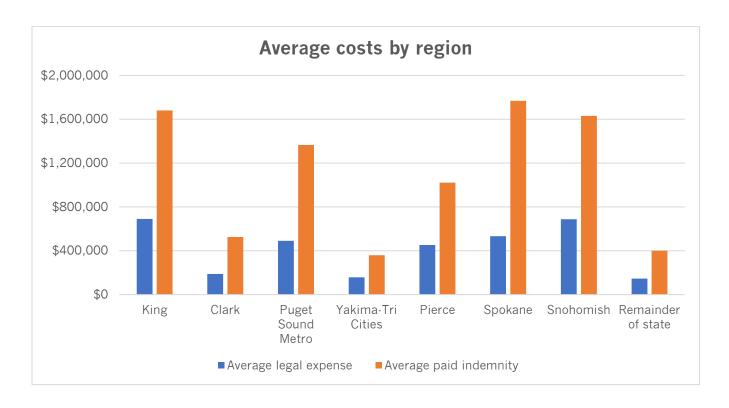
	Five-year period ending December 31, 2020											
Age group	Settlements with legal expenses	Total legal expenses	Average legal expenses	Settlements with paid indemnity	Total paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity						
Ages 0-20	15	\$8,158,568	\$543,905	15	\$19,630,000	\$1,308,667						
Ages 21-30	9	\$2,993,209	\$332,579	9	\$7,580,000	\$842,222						
Ages 31-40	16	\$5,652,641	\$353,290	16	\$15,058,000	\$941,125						
Ages 41-50	23	\$14,367,737	\$624,684	20	\$34,158,162	\$1,707,908						
Ages 51-60	18	\$11,239,016	\$624,390	16	\$24,477,500	\$1,529,844						
Ages 61-70	24	\$13,300,064	\$554,169	24	\$32,663,033	\$1,360,960						
Over 70	23	\$7,853,168	\$341,442	20	\$17,670,000	\$883,500						
Total	128	\$63,564,403	\$496,597	120	\$151,236,695	\$1,260,306						



#### **Counties**

Attorneys reported settlement data by county where the medical incident occurred. To provide meaningful information regarding differences by location, we divided the state into eight regions.<sup>55</sup>

		Five-	year period endir	ng December 31,	2020	
<u>Region</u>	Settlements with legal expenses	Total legal expenses	Average legal expense	Settlements with paid indemnity	Total paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity
King	54	\$37,319,292	\$691,098	52	\$87,423,370	\$1,681,219
Clark	15	\$2,834,955	\$188,997	14	\$7,356,163	\$525,440
<b>Puget Sound Metro</b>	11	\$5,391,169	\$490,106	10	\$13,655,000	\$1,365,500
Yakima-Tri Cities	11	\$1,735,138	\$157,740	11	\$3,950,000	\$359,091
Pierce	10	\$4,524,595	\$452,460	10	\$10,227,162	\$1,022,716
Spokane	9	\$4,795,320	\$532,813	7	\$12,375,000	\$1,767,857
Snohomish	8	\$5,498,406	\$687,301	8	\$13,050,000	\$1,631,250
Remainder of state	10	\$1,465,528	\$146,553	8	\$3,200,000	\$400,000
Total	128	\$63,564,403	\$496,597	120	\$151,236,695	\$1,260,306



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Under <u>RCW 48.140.060</u> and <u>RCW 42.56.400</u>(10), some counties are grouped together to maintain confidentiality. **Yakima-Tri Cities** includes Benton, Franklin and Yakima counties. **Puget Sound Metro** includes Kitsap and Thurston counties.

# Report limitations

Analysis based on historical closed claim data has multiple limitations:

- 1. There is a natural mismatch between premiums and losses used to calculate loss ratios and profitability ratios for commercial insurers. Premiums used for loss ratios are earned during the calendar year, but the amounts booked as incurred loss during the same calendar year are from claims from various accident years. As a result, most losses do not correspond to the same policies that the premium comes from.
- 2. Claims are reported based on the year in which they reach final resolution. Some arose from recent medical incidents, but many arose from incidents that occurred several years prior.
- 3. This report contains claims that closed during a limited period.
- 4. The Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) cannot use data in this report to evaluate past or current medical professional liability insurance rates. Insurers develop medical malpractice rates using an analysis of open and closed claims, and develop rates based on an estimate of expected future claim costs and expenses.
- 5. In producing this report, the OIC relied upon data submitted by insurers, self-insurers, and attorneys. Data may contain anomalies. The OIC audits data and has adopted administrative rules that contain data definitions and reporting instructions, but the accuracy of the report still depends largely on the accuracy of the data reported by others. People who report data may interpret data fields differently or make errors.
- 6. The OIC did not adjust the data for economic differences occurring during the report period, such as inflation and the cost of medical care.
- 7. Insurers and self-insurers do not report policy limits, so the report does not analyze the data by type of policy, whether coverage is primary or excess, limits of coverage, or size of deductibles or retentions to determine if coverage limits affect the frequency or severity of claims.
- 8. Insurers and self-insurers reported data separately for each defendant. This reporting method may overstate the frequency of "incidents" and understate the severity of an "incident," but it reduces inconsistencies and inaccuracies by limiting the amount of incomplete reporting.
- 9. This report analyzes only closed claims. Any claims that are still open, such as claims that are in settlement negotiations or on trial, are not included in this study. The analysis of closed claim information is valuable; however, open claims information may be more indicative of the current claims environment. For example, the impact of recent legislation or judicial decisions will not be reflected in a closed claim database.
- 10. Although insurers and self-insurers report data only after the claim has been closed, they occasionally re-open claims that were previously closed. Amounts reported may not be the true, ultimate amounts.

# **Appendices**

# **Appendix A: Profitability**

			Physicians In	surance, a Mu	tual Company			
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
<u>Year</u>	Net premium written	Net premium earned	Underwriting expense ratio	Loss and LAE ratio	Dividend ratio	Combined ratio [c+d+e]	Net investment income ratio	Operating ratio [f-g]
2011	73,321,941	70,370,781	15.3%	82.7%	7.2%	105.1%	19.0%	86.2%
2012	67,765,626	65,640,184	17.9%	80.0%	7.7%	105.7%	19.4%	86.2%
2013	72,889,552	69,671,138	16.9%	85.2%	7.3%	109.3%	19.6%	89.7%
2014	76,701,101	75,121,138	16.6%	82.1%	6.7%	105.5%	19.8%	85.7%
2015	76,301,471	71,271,073	18.9%	84.4%	7.0%	110.3%	20.8%	89.5%
2016	78,240,313	78,437,989	20.9%	82.2%	6.4%	109.5%	18.8%	90.6%
2017	81,130,272	79,275,075	19.9%	81.0%	6.3%	107.3%	18.5%	88.7%
2018	94,256,910	93,442,936	20.5%	81.0%	5.4%	106.9%	16.1%	90.8%
2019	110,476,767	104,381,324	20.4%	88.5%	4.8%	113.7%	17.6%	96.0%
2020	115,217,227	109,632,385	26.4%	85.9%	4.6%	116.8%	11.3%	105.5%
Total	846,301,180	817,244,023	19.8%	83.6%	6.2%	109.5%	17.7%	91.8%
			Five-year	period-to-peri	od results			
2011-2015	366,979,691	352,074,314	17.1%	82.9%	7.2%	107.2%	19.7%	87.5%
2016-2020	479,321,489	465,169,709	21.9%	84.0%	5.4%	111.3%	16.2%	95.1%

		<u>The</u>	Doctors Comp	any, an Interi	nsurance Excha	ange_		
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
<u>Year</u>	Net premium written	Net premium earned	Underwriting expense ratio	Loss and LAE ratio	Dividend ratio	Combined ratio [c+d+e]	Net investment income ratio	Operating ratio [f-g]
2011	564,467,114	536,671,691	21.4%	63.0%	3.3%	87.7%	26.1%	61.6%
2012	596,528,843	584,386,263	19.8%	69.1%	3.2%	92.1%	15.3%	76.8%
2013	675,729,455	641,792,914	21.2%	75.1%	3.1%	99.4%	15.5%	83.8%
2014	644,037,543	659,903,069	23.1%	78.3%	2.8%	104.2%	1.4%	102.7%
2015	622,861,093	628,266,492	24.2%	74.5%	3.8%	102.5%	4.4%	98.1%
2016	602,359,134	610,408,597	25.0%	77.7%	4.6%	107.3%	5.7%	101.6%
2017	595,891,924	600,702,260	24.9%	77.0%	3.8%	105.7%	12.0%	93.6%
2018	620,395,036	620,335,603	25.3%	85.7%	2.2%	113.2%	17.5%	95.7%
2019	627,555,678	623,780,051	28.2%	81.0%	1.4%	110.7%	11.3%	99.3%
2020	654,774,790	652,428,039	28.2%	73.6%	0.1%	101.9%	7.8%	94.1%
Total	6,204,600,610	6,158,674,979	24.2%	75.7%	2.8%	102.7%	11.4%	91.2%
			Five-year	period-to-peri	iod results			
2011-2015	3,103,624,048	3,051,020,429	22.0%	72.4%	3.2%	97.6%	12.0%	85.6%
2016-2020	3,100,976,562	3,124,757,335	26.4%	79.0%	2.4%	107.7%	10.9%	96.9%

			Th	e Medical Prot	ective Compa	nv		
	(a) (b)		(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
<u>Year</u>	Net premium written	Net premium earned	Underwriting expense ratio	Loss and LAE ratio	Dividend ratio	Combined ratio [c+d+e]	Net investment income ratio	Operating ratio [f-g]
2011	327,172,569	302,854,289	24.6%	48.7%	0.0%	73.3%	31.5%	41.9%
2012	643,824,861	616,894,746	14.9%	71.7%	0.0%	86.6%	20.8%	65.8%
2013	366,900,050	371,799,546	24.1%	51.3%	0.0%	75.3%	32.8%	42.6%
2014	-680,001,929	-575,282,426	-3.1%	114.5%	0.0%	111.5%	-17.0%	128.5%
2015	226,451,495	214,665,128	23.7%	59.5%	0.0%	83.2%	46.1%	37.2%
2016	255,837,377	228,980,322	23.7%	65.0%	0.0%	88.8%	39.5%	49.3%
2017	239,978,122	251,862,659	26.0%	58.0%	0.0%	84.0%	37.2%	46.7%
2018	260,421,768	260,308,096	24.0%	64.2%	0.0%	88.1%	40.2%	47.9%
2019	288,139,624	274,597,913	22.1%	72.5%	0.0%	94.6%	45.7%	48.8%
2020	347,993,367	349,375,371	19.9%	76.9%	0.0%	96.8%	35.9%	60.9%
Total	2,276,717,304	2,296,055,644	28.9%	51.3%	0.0%	80.2%	47.1%	33.1%
			Five-year	period-to-peri	od results			
2011-2015	884,347,046	930,931,283	38.4%	26.7%	0.0%	65.1%	58.2%	6.9%
2016-2020	1,392,370,258	857,057,316	22.9%	68.1%	0.0%	91.0%	39.5%	51.4%

# **Appendix B: Reserve development**

				Ph	ysicians In	surance, a	Mutual Co	mpany					
			Incurred	net losses a	and defense	and cost c	ontainment	expenses (S	\$000 omitte	d)			
Year in											0		
which losses											One- year	Cumulative	
occurred	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	dev.	dev.	
Prior	110,278	93,729	86,893	80,174	72,447	73,106	69,940	71,164	70,924	71,310	386	-38,968	
2011	68,571	61,519	54,457	50,314	48,425	47,268	46,997	46,497	45,400	45,083	-317	-23,488	
2012 2013		64,479	58,836 65,630	60,309 56,757	54,902 49,966	49,046 44,418	48,009 37,641	47,525 36,266	47,022 35,511	46,361 36,066	-661 555	-18,118 -29,564	
2013			05,030	65,379	63,625	59,703	55,647	49,941	49,884	48,820	-1,064	-16,559	
2015				05,579	67,830	64,651	65,694	62,944	64,173	62,406	-1,767	-5,424	
2016					07,000	66,696	62,982	53,921	52,100	53,946	1,846	-12,750	
2017						00,000	66,331	68,246	69,232	69,300	68	2,969	
2018							, , ,	72,676	71,001	78,728	7,727	6,052	
2019									77,955	70,307	-7,648	-7,648	
2020										73,508			
										Total	-875	-143,498	
				The Doc	tors Comp	any, an Int	erinsuranc	e Exchang	<u>e</u>				
	Incurred net losses and defense and cost containment expenses (\$000 omitted)												
			mouncu	1101 103303 6	ilia aciciisc	and cost of	ontainment	cxpcnaca (	ψυσο στιπειο	u)			
Year in which											One-		
losses											year	Cumulative	
occurred	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	dev.	dev.	
Prior	531,063	469,938	434,032	382,784	364,135	360,035	356,733	356,506	349,631	349,611	-20	-181,452	
2011	402,382	401,470	401,593	398,810	359,691	350,613	350,850	350,954	347,894	339,682	-8,212	-62,700	
2012		437,363	421,491	420,738	407,422	369,422	332,719	327,824	322,939	316,038	-6,901	-121,325	
2013			478,868	479,267	475,791	475,791	458,008	457,972	433,614	410,681	-22,933	-68,187	
2014				523,776	523,475	523,475	520,327	519,162	425,875	394,734	-31,141	-129,042	
2015 2016					499,160	499,644	498,925	495,904	483,729	461,959	-21,770	-37,201	
2016						467,527	465,811 466,642	467,528 466,886	499,157 490,691	504,310 490,901	5,153 210	36,783 24,259	
2017							400,042	474,260	496,802	503,509	6,707	29,249	
2019								474,200	463,018	470,539	7,521	7,521	
2020									100,010	456,428	7,021	7,021	
										Total	-71,386	-502,095	
											,	00=,000	
					The Medi	cal Protect	ive Compa	ny					
			Incurred	net losses a	ind defense	and cost c	ontainment	expenses (	\$000 omitte	d)			
Year in													
which											One-	Cumulative	
losses occurred	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	year dev.	dev.	
Prior	962,616	989,863	871,303	514,225	470,897	443,066	420,519	405,425	401,141	400,014	-1,127	-562,602	
2011	282,074	314,451	301,159	169,322	154,949	146,890	136,678	129,861	125,390	126,770	1,380	-155,304	
2012		322,195	315,585	163,486	159,471	152,546	135,840	127,642	124,086	124,535	449	-197,660	
2013			322,225	157,295	155,514	149,149	139,670	129,103	122,557	121,004	-1,553	-201,221	
2014				174,469	177,627	172,179	162,275	153,700	140,992	134,612	-6,380	-39,857	
2015					186,030	183,767	175,535	168,667	160,859	152,707	-8,152	-33,323	
2016						185,285	184,199	180,654	175,884	175,177	-707	-10,108	
2017							187,661	185,686	182,851	186,928	4,077	-733	
2018								193,274	193,409	197,958	4,549	4,684	
2019									199,180	200,850	1,670	1,670	
2020										211,449		4.46.45.	
										Total	-5,794	-1,194,454	

# **Appendix C: Rate filing information**

Company	<u>Description</u>	Approved <u>Change</u>	Filed Loss & LAE Trend	Effective <u>Date</u>
Medical Mutual Ins. Co. of N.C.	Physicians and Surgeons	New Program	0.0%	7/1/2021
Physicians Ins. A Mutual Co.	Hospitals and Employed Physicians	2.1%	0.0%	7/1/2021
ProSelect Ins. Co.	Hospitals	8.0%	2.4%	7/1/2021
Ins. Services Office Inc.	Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists	-20.0%	-2.0%	5/1/2021
Doctors Co. An Interins. Exchange	Physicians, Surgeons, Ancillary Health Care Providers	6.1%	2.0%	1/16/2021
Physicians Ins. A Mutual Co.	Physicians and Surgeons	8.0%	1.5%	1/1/2021
ProAssurance Ins. Co. of America	Chiropractors	17.0%	1.7%	12/1/2020
Cincinnati Ins. Co.	Home Health Care and Health Care Facilities	15.8%	2.5%	9/1/2020
Ins. Services Office Inc.	Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists	-8.1%	0.0%	5/1/2020
MAG Mutual Ins. Co.	Physicians and Surgeons	New Program	0.0%	4/14/2020
Doctors Co. An Interins. Exchange	Physicians, Surgeons, Ancillary Health Care Providers	7.3%	2.0%	1/1/2020

# Appendix D: 2019 NAIC profitability of medical professional liability insurance

				Percent of net worth									
	Direct				•		Invest			Earned	Inv.	Tax on	
	premiums		Loss	Under-	Dividend	Under-	gain	Tax	Profit	prem.		inv.gain	Return
	earned	Losses	adjust	writing	to	writing	on ins.	on ins.	on ins.				on net
<u>State</u>	(000s)	incurred	expense	expense	plcyhldr	profit	trans.	trans.	trans.	worth	worth	worth	worth
Alabama	124,600	56.5	35.3	20.8	1.4	-13.9	11.3	-1.0	-1.6	47.9	3.7	0.6	2.3
Alaska	25,088	95.5	27.3	22.7	7.8	-53.1	7.8	-9.9	-35.5	61.1	3.7	0.6	-18.6
Arizona	206,247	49.7	25.9	23.1	11.7	-10.3	11.5	-0.2	1.5	45.5	3.8	0.6	3.8
Arkansas	62,990	69.2	32.7	26.5	2.2	-30.4	11.7	-4.4	-14.3	46.8	3.8	0.6	-3.5
California	773,995	62.0	38.3	25.4	1.3	-26.9	10.4	-3.9	-12.6	50.5	3.8	0.6	-3.2
Colorado	151,610	41.2	23.4	21.8	11.2	2.5	10.2	2.2	10.5	50.8	3.7	0.6	8.4
Connecticut	212,417	118.1	31.4	21.2	0.2	-70.8	11.7	-12.9	-46.2	49.0	3.7	0.6	-19.5
Delaware	29,896	46.8	18.1	25.3	0.3	9.5	12.2	4.0	17.6	44.4	3.8	0.6	11.0
District of Columbia	27,208	66.6	28.5	28.0	0.2	-23.3	11.6	-2.9	-8.7	47.6	3.8	0.6	-1.0
Florida	630,400	73.7	25.8	25.4	1.7	-26.4	10.1	-3.9	-12.5	51.8	3.8	0.6	-3.3
Georgia	279,225	90.2	37.4	24.9	4.0	-56.3	13.1	-9.6	-33.6	42.8	3.8	0.6	-11.3
Hawaii	31,048	31.1	20.9	22.8	8.5	16.8	10.8	5.3	22.3	49.3	3.7	0.6	14.1
Idaho	33,659	35.9	27.6	25.7	4.8	6.2	9.8	2.9	13.1	53.0	3.8	0.6	10.1
Illinois	457,995	64.6	37.9	25.4	3.0	-30.7	16.2	-3.7	-10.8	37.0	3.8	0.6	-0.9
Indiana	122,894	42.2	34.4	21.3	0.2	2.0	15.5	3.0	14.5	38.6	3.7	0.6	8.7
Iowa	66,704	91.3	40.5	23.4	1.7	-56.8	12.3	-9.9	-34.6	46.1	3.7	0.6	-12.8
Kansas	66,919	42.9	35.4	25.5	0.8	-4.4	11.8	1.0	6.3	47.7	3.8	0.6	6.1
Kentucky	109,727	76.8	46.9	23.8	1.0	-48.4	17.2	-7.3	-23.9	35.6	3.7	0.6	-5.4
Louisiana	99,495	13.8	29.6	24.0	2.8	29.9	12.2	8.3	33.7	46.1	3.8	0.6	18.7
Maine	46,307	30.2	11.3	20.2	3.0	35.3	11.8	9.4	37.7	46.5	3.7	0.6	20.6
Maryland	289,649	71.9	30.5	22.3	12.5	-37.0	8.8	-6.3	-21.9	57.5	3.7	0.6	-9.5
Massachusetts	334,558	59.0	18.9	21.0	2.2	-1.0	14.9	2.3	11.6	40.7	3.7	0.6	7.8
Michigan	191,737	15.0	25.4	25.0	0.7	34.1	11.3	9.0	36.3	47.7	3.8	0.6	20.5
Minnesota	80,909	59.4	31.8	24.3	0.3	-15.6	9.2	-1.7	-4.7	56.4	3.8	0.6	0.5
Mississippi	45,413	25.1	17.2	24.8	1.1	31.9	10.6	8.5	34.0	50.4	3.8	0.6	20.3
Missouri	150,052	79.3	29.4	22.8	10.2	-41.7	10.4	-7.0	-24.3	51.0	3.7	0.6	-9.2
Montana	43,503	61.5	32.8	27.2	0.9	-22.3	10.1	-3.0	-9.2	53.0	3.8	0.6	-1.7
Nebraska	33,341	62.6	50.2	24.5	0.6	-37.7	15.4	-5.4	-17.0	38.5	3.8	0.6	-3.4
Nevada	71,509	57.1	42.4	28.5	0.3	-28.3	9.9	-4.3	-14.1	52.0	3.8	0.6	-4.2
New Hampshire	45,401	61.2	20.6	26.7	0.7	-9.2	14.3	0.5	4.7	40.6	3.8	0.6	5.0
New Jersey	407,491	52.3	20.8	25.4	0.3	1.3	16.9	3.1	15.1	35.8	3.8	0.6	8.5
New Mexico	58,273	111.9	64.7	25.9	0.9	-103.4	14.1	-19.3	-69.9	41.4	3.8	0.6	-25.8
New York	1,569,296	40.4	27.2	20.8	0.2	11.6	21.7	6.1	27.2	29.8	3.7	0.6	11.2
North Carolina	195,067	44.4	21.8	23.1	3.0	7.8	8.6	3.1	13.3	57.5	3.8	0.6	10.8
North Dakota	11,129	8.5	20.2	27.3	1.6	42.5	9.3	10.5	41.3	54.7	3.8	0.6	25.7

				Percent	of direct pre	miums ea	rned				Percent o	f net worth	
	Direct						Invest					Tax on	
	premiums		Loss	Under-	Dividend	Under-	gain	Tax	Profit			inv.gain	Return
	earned	Losses	adjust	writing	to	writing	on ins.	on ins.	on ins.				on net
<u>State</u>	(000s)	incurred	expense	expense	plcyhldr	profit	trans.	trans.	trans.	worth	worth	worth	worth
Ohio	234,541	24.2	19.8	25.9	1.4	28.6	15.1	8.5	35.2	39.0	3.8	0.6	16.8
Oklahoma	97,263	51.2	33.2	25.9	0.2	-10.5	12.8	-0.1	2.4	44.0	3.8	0.6	4.2
Oregon	92,084	97.3	30.8	23.3	1.4	-52.8	9.9	-9.4	-33.4	52.5	3.8	0.6	-14.4
Pennsylvania	697,906	54.8	27.6	20.1	0.2	-2.7	13.8	1.7	9.3	42.7	3.7	0.6	7.1
Rhode Island	30,080	81.1	44.4	23.6	0.2	-49.1	26.5	-5.9	-16.7	25.0	3.7	0.6	-1.1
South Carolina	76,639	60.0	28.9	26.4	3.8	-19.2	13.0	-1.8	-4.3	43.5	3.8	0.6	1.3
South Dakota	15,950	81.4	22.1	28.5	0.2	-32.1	9.6	-5.1	-17.4	54.4	3.8	0.6	-6.3
Tennessee	225,339	70.6	39.0	20.4	2.7	-32.7	15.9	-4.2	-12.5	37.8	3.7	0.6	-1.6
Texas	337,319	48.3	30.6	26.5	0.3	-5.6	10.3	0.5	4.1	51.3	3.8	0.6	5.3
Utah	56,472	54.0	42.5	23.9	2.6	-22.9	12.1	-2.8	-8.0	46.9	3.8	0.6	-0.6
Vermont	16,167	117.2	39.7	36.0	1.8	-94.5	12.8	-17.7	-64.0	43.0	3.9	0.6	-24.3
Virginia	188,541	42.7	17.8	26.6	2.6	10.5	9.9	3.9	16.5	52.5	3.8	0.6	11.8
Washington	192,612	78.8	37.1	22.4	2.6	-40.8	9.8	-6.9	-24.1	54.2	3.7	0.6	-9.9
West Virginia	97,507	57.0	21.3	22.2	3.8	-4.2	7.7	0.4	3.0	64.2	3.7	0.6	5.1
Wisconsin	75,009	48.0	33.9	22.1	0.3	-4.3	12.5	1.2	7.0	45.0	3.7	0.6	6.3
Wyoming	19,407	19.3	16.1	26.7	2.1	35.9	10.9	9.4	37.4	49.8	3.8	0.6	21.8
Guam	852	-26.0	-11.0	29.0	0.1	108.0	9.5	24.3	93.2	53.0	3.8	0.6	52.6
Puerto Rico	68,523	35.3	22.5	25.0	0.0	17.3	9.2	5.2	21.4	55.9	3.8	0.6	15.1
U.S. Virgin Islands	271	-57.1	15.7	35.2	0.7	105.6	5.5	23.1	88.0	74.4	3.9	0.7	68.7
N Mariana Islands	5	68.4	14.2	30.0	0.0	-12.5	8.2	-1.3	-3.1	63.0	3.8	0.6	1.2
Countrywide	9,608,241	56.9	29.6	23.4	2.2	-12.0	13.8	-0.2	2.0	42.0	3.7	0.6	4.0