

LAWYER-MEDICINE CONNECTION

WITH EMPLOYER HEALTH CARE COSTS expected to rise up to 15 percent in 2004, *Expansion Management* thought it would be timely to add some medical measures to our table, including a ranking of states, lowest to highest, in medical malpractice premiums.

We also tabulated data from the American Medical Association that outlines which states are either facing medical liability problems or a full-blown medical liability crisis.

A few findings as noted in the chart:

- Among the nine states with the highest number of lawyers per capita, four are paying the highest, or close to the highest, medical malpractice premiums.

- Among the top 20 states with the highest number of lawyers per capita, only three are not in a medical liability crisis as defined by the American Medical Association.

- States with the lowest number of lawyers per capita have their own problems. Four of the bottom 12 states (least number of lawyers) have the worst legal liability systems in the United States.

HOW THE STATES STACK UP IN ATTORNEY COUNTS, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND MALPRACTICE MEASURES

Ranking of states w/ most lawyers per capita	State/District	No. of lawyers per 100K population	Ranking of states GSP increase — biggest to smallest rank	Ranking of best to worst legal systems	Ranking of lowest to highest malpractice premiums	AMA states in crisis ¹
1	District of Columbia	2143.1	25 ²	NA	14	p
2	Maryland	546.5	21	21	35	p
3	New York	497.1	14	22	51	c
4	Massachusetts	467.0	7	28	37	p
5	Virginia	450.5	20	3	34	p
6	New Jersey	439.1	27	26	45	c
7	Connecticut	429.0	22	18	32	c
8	Illinois	381.9	32	44	48	c
9	California	344.7	5	46	49	ok
10	Colorado	344.0	4	13	30	ok
11	Rhode Island	327.7	19	36	10	p
12	Louisiana	309.0	47	47	27	ok
13	Vermont	303.0	12	20	5	p
14	Hawaii	302.5	49	39	13	p
15	Pennsylvania	298.8	37	30	44	c
16	Minnesota	298.4	18	8	22	p
17	Alaska	297.5	50	33	1	p
18	Florida	290.4	16	38	50	c
19	Washington	284.3	15	24	36	c
20	Kansas	271.3	33	9	18	p
21	Delaware	271.2	9	1	6	p
22	Texas	261.8	16	45	47	c
23	Oklahoma	257.9	36	31	11	p
24	Georgia	256.2	11	29	43	c
25	Ohio	255.0	43	32	46	c
26	Montana	253.3	34	43	9	p
27	New Mexico	250.4	23	37	15	ok
28	New Hampshire	246.4	6	7	12	p
29	Oregon	245.2	1	27	21	c
30	Wyoming	245.0	24	15	4	c
31	Missouri	243.2	40	41	39	c
32	Nevada	236.2	7	34	24	c
33	Michigan	232.0	44	23	41	p
34	Arizona	231.1	2	14	38	p
35	Nebraska	224.1	39	2	8	p
36	Maine	223.9	26	12	17	p
37	West Virginia	222.0	48	49	29	c
38	Utah	216.5	10	6	19	p
39	Tennessee	208.4	30	25	42	p
40	Alabama	206.9	40	48	33	p
41	Kentucky	205.6	37	35	31	c
42	Idaho	199.4	3	5	7	p
43	Wisconsin	199.0	25	10	25	ok
44	Mississippi	191.2	46	50	28	c
45	Iowa	190.9	45	4	23	p
46	Indiana	189.9	35	11	26	ok
47	North Carolina	181.9	29	19	40	c
48	North Dakota	172.8	31	16	3	p
49	South Dakota	170.2	13	17	2	p
50	South Carolina	167.5	28	40	16	p
51	Arkansas	159.5	42	42	20	c

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Morgan Quitno Press, ILR/Harris Interactive, Insurance Information Institute, American Medical Association

¹For AMA states in crisis/malpractice assessment, the acronyms are: p=problem, c=crisis, ok=currenty ok, AMA

²Approximate ranking based on data in 2004 State Rankings volume. For ranking of legal liability systems in the U.S., a score of 1 is best system; a score of 50 is worst.