



MONTANA MEDICAL LEGAL PANEL

2025 ANNUAL REPORT
As Of January 6, 2026

MONTANA MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS, HEARINGS, LAWSUITS AND JURY TRIALS

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MONTANA MEDICAL LEGAL PANEL

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Note: *Because of pending actions some totals are unavailable.*

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MONTANA MEDICAL LEGAL PANEL

**PROVIDERS IN CLAIMS, HEARINGS, LAWSUITS
AND JURY TRIALS**

MONTANA MEDICAL LEGAL PANEL REPORT

MONTANA PROVIDERS IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS, LAWSUITS AND JURY TRIALS

MONTANA HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Panel Claim Filing Year	In Claims Filed	In Claims Abandoned, Settled Or Special Ruling Without A Panel Hearing	In Claims With A Hearing	In Claims Abandoned Or Settled After A Hearing Prior To A Lawsuit	In Lawsuits After The Panel	In Claims Abandoned Or Settled After A Lawsuit & Prior To A Trial	In Lawsuits Ending In Summary Judgment Or Dismissal	In Jury Trials	In Trials With Jury Verdicts And Verdict Results	
									In Favor Of Provider	In Favor Of Claimant
2016	190	58	131	48	64	3	2	0	0	0
2017	220	48	172	33	53	3	0	0	0	0
2018	242	83	159	47	45	4	3	1	1	0
2019	237	73	161	43	50	0	3	0	0	0
2020	209	52	157	32	36	3	0	0	0	0
2021	221	45	176	9	23	0	0	0	0	0
2022	200	51	149	22	38	4	4	0	0	0
2023	257	82	171	12	14	1	0	0	0	0
2024	224	43	180	10	12	0	0	0	0	0
2025	229	25	67	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2026	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2,230	560	1,523	257	336	18	12	1	1	0
ANNUAL AVERAGE	203	51	138.5	23.4	30.5	1.6	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.0

Note: Special Ruling involves claims or individual health care providers that are dismissed from MMLP level where no party prevails.

It takes approximately five years from a starting point until the rate of malpractice claims “mature” or are fully-reported from an incident year given that Montana has a three year “discovery” statue of limitations. *Some actions are still pending.*

MONTANA MEDICAL LEGAL PANEL REPORT

MONTANA PHYSICIANS IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS, LAWSUITS AND JURY TRIALS

MONTANA PHYSICIANS

Panel Claim Filing Year	In Claims Filed	In Claims Abandoned, Settled Or Special Ruling Without A Panel Hearing	In Claims With A Hearing	In Claims Abandoned Or Settled After A Hearing Prior To A Lawsuit	In Lawsuits After The Panel	In Claims Abandoned Or Settled After A Lawsuit & Prior To A Trial	In Lawsuits Ending In Summary Judgment Or Dismissal	In Jury Trials	In Trials With Jury Verdicts And Verdict Results	
									In Favor Of Physician	In Favor Of Claimant
2016	115	33	81	30	38	3	2	0	0	0
2017	131	28	103	24	28	2	0	0	0	0
2018	144	47	97	29	25	3	1	0	0	0
2019	131	45	84	21	24	0	1	0	0	0
2020	109	23	86	20	16	1	0	0	0	0
2021	102	22	80	6	13	0	0	0	0	0
2022	120	30	90	15	23	2	3	0	0	0
2023	159	57	100	6	7	0	0	0	0	0
2024	117	20	96	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
2025	134	10	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2026	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,262	315	854	155	178	11	7	0	0	0
ANNUAL AVERAGE	115	29	77.6	14.1	16.2	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0

Note: Special Ruling involves claims or individual health care providers that are dismissed from MMLP level where no party prevails.

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MONTANA MEDICAL LEGAL PANEL REPORT

MONTANA HOSPITALS IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS, LAWSUITS AND JURY TRIALS

MONTANA HOSPITALS

Panel Claim Filing Year	In Claims Filed	In Claims Abandoned, Settled Or Special Ruling Without A Panel Hearing	In Claims With A Hearing	In Claims Abandoned Or Settled After A Hearing Prior To A Lawsuit	In Lawsuits After The Panel	In Claims Abandoned Or Settled After A Lawsuit & Prior To A Trial	In Lawsuits Ending In Summary Judgment Or Dismissal	In Jury Trials	In Trials With Jury Verdicts And Verdict Results	
									In Favor Of Hospital	In Favor Of Claimant
2016	56	18	38	14	20	0	0	0	0	0
2017	64	15	49	9	16	1	0	0	0	0
2018	69	24	45	14	16	1	1	0	0	0
2019	77	20	56	17	22	0	2	0	0	0
2020	76	19	57	8	17	2	0	0	0	0
2021	99	15	84	2	8	0	0	0	0	0
2022	65	17	48	6	15	2	1	0	0	0
2023	78	18	58	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
2024	83	15	68	6	7	0	0	0	0	0
2025	71	11	23	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2026	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	739	172	526	81	126	6	4	0	0	0
ANNUAL AVERAGE	67	16	47.8	7.4	11.5	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0

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MONTANA MEDICAL LEGAL PANEL REPORT

MONTANA FACILITIES IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS, LAWSUITS AND JURY TRIALS

MONTANA FACILITIES

Panel Claim Filing Year	In Claims Filed	In Claims Abandoned, Settled Or Special Ruling Without A Panel Hearing	In Claims With A Hearing	In Claims Abandoned Or Settled After A Hearing Prior To A Lawsuit	In Lawsuits After The Panel	In Claims Abandoned Or Settled After A Lawsuit & Prior To A Trial	In Lawsuits Ending In Summary Judgment Or Dismissal	In Jury Trials	In Trials With Jury Verdicts And Verdict Results	
									In Favor Of Facility	In Favor Of Claimant
2016	6	3	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
2017	16	5	11	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
2018	21	8	13	2	3	0	1	0	0	0
2019	17	4	13	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
2020	16	8	8	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
2021	12	5	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
2022	10	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	14	4	10	2	3	1	0	0	0	0
2024	9	1	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2025	13	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2026	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	134	43	85	9	22	1	1	0	0	0
ANNUAL AVERAGE	12	4	7.7	0.8	2.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

Note: Special Ruling involves claims or individual health care providers that are dismissed from MMLP level where no party prevails.

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MONTANA MEDICAL LEGAL PANEL REPORT

MONTANA DENTISTS IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS, LAWSUITS AND JURY TRIALS

MONTANA DENTISTS

Panel Claim Filing Year	In Claims Filed	In Claims Abandoned, Settled Or Special Ruling Without A Panel Hearing	In Claims With A Hearing	In Claims Abandoned Or Settled After A Hearing Prior To A Lawsuit	In Lawsuits After The Panel	In Claims Abandoned Or Settled After A Lawsuit & Prior To A Trial	In Lawsuits Ending In Summary Judgment Or Dismissal	In Jury Trials	In Trials With Jury Verdicts And Verdict Results	
									In Favor Of Dentist	In Favor Of Claimant
2016	9	3	6	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
2017	6	0	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
2018	6	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	8	4	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2020	4	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	7	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	5	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	11	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2025	9	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2026	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	69	22	41	8	5	0	0	0	0	0
ANNUAL AVERAGE	6	2	3.7	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Note: Special Ruling involves claims or individual health care providers that are dismissed from MMLP level where no party prevails.

It takes approximately five years from a starting point until the rate of malpractice claims “mature” or are fully-reported from an incident year given that Montana has a three year “discovery” statue of limitations. *Some actions are still pending.*

MONTANA MEDICAL LEGAL PANEL REPORT

MONTANA PODIATRISTS IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS, LAWSUITS AND JURY TRIALS

MONTANA PODIATRISTS

Panel Claim Filing Year	In Claims Filed	In Claims Abandoned, Settled Or Special Ruling Without A Panel Hearing	In Claims With A Hearing	In Claims Abandoned Or Settled After A Hearing Prior To A Lawsuit	In Lawsuits After The Panel	In Claims Abandoned Or Settled After A Lawsuit & Prior To A Trial	In Lawsuits Ending In Summary Judgment Or Dismissal	In Jury Trials	In Trials With Jury Verdicts And Verdict Results	
									In Favor Of Podiatrist	In Favor Of Claimant
2016	4	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017	3	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
2018	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
2019	4	0	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
2020	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2025	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2026	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	26	8	17	4	5	0	0	1	1	0
ANNUAL AVERAGE	2	1	1.5	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0

Note: Special Ruling involves claims or individual health care providers that are dismissed from MMLP level where no party prevails.

It takes approximately five years from a starting point until the rate of malpractice claims “mature” or are fully-reported from an incident year given that Montana has a three year “discovery” statue of limitations. *Some actions are still pending.*



MONTANA MEDICAL LEGAL PANEL

NUMBER & RATE OF MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS FILED AT THE PANEL
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MONTANA MEDICAL LEGAL PANEL				
NUMBER AND RATE OF FILED MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS				
ANNUAL DATA				
Panel Claim Filing Year	Number Of Claims Filed At The Panel	Number Of Hearings	Number Of Health Care Providers*	Number Of Claims As A Percentage Of Montana Health Care Providers
1997	143	110	2,148	6.7%
1998	146	131	2,189	6.7%
1999	149	134	2,230	6.7%
2000	145	141	2,272	6.4%
2001	139	112	2,416	5.8%
2002	149	124	2,414	6.2%
2003	170	132	2,547	6.7%
2004	153	127	2,558	6.0%
2005	175	162	2,623	6.7%
2006	130	125	2,618	5.0%
2007	136	107	2,738	5.0%
2008	110	98	2,783	4.0%
2009	122	93	2,905	4.2%
2010	100	98	3,015	3.3%
2011	94	78	3,215	2.9%
2012	108	80	3,215	3.4%
2013	92	75	3,367	2.7%
2014	118	77	3,480	3.4%
2015	113	99	3,446	3.3%
2016	123	90	3,689	3.3%
2017	133	110	3,844	3.5%
2018	150	129	4,041	3.7%
2019	146	96	4,011	3.6%
2020	118	111	4,344	2.7%
2021	140	137	4,808	2.9%
2022	108	92	4,640	2.3%
2023	143	120	5,506	2.6%
2024	138	120	6,808	2.0%
2025	147	110	8,632	1.7%
2026	1	42	9,207	0.0%
Total	3,839	3,260		
*Montana Health Care Providers include: Physicians, Podiatrists, Dentists, Facilities and Hospitals.				