The Epidemiology of Medical Malpractice

(Source: Pooled data from 3 Harvard studies: Harvard Medical Practice Study, Utah/Colorado Medical Practice Study, MIMEPS. Prepared by Michelle Mello, Harvard School of Public Health, mmello@hsph.harvard.edu. Complete references available upon request.)

Litigation

- All episodes of medical care
  - Injuries due to medical care: 3-4%
  - Injuries due to negligent medical care: 1%
- Pool of "valid potential claims"
  - "Frivolous" claims: 30%
  - Uncertain merit: 26%
  - "Valid" claims: 44%
- Actual claims: 2-5%
- Claims: $24%
- Compensation: $53%
- $79%