Analysis of National Practitioners Data Bank June 2004 Report

According to the National Practitioners Data Bank (NPDB), Pennsylvania had 8,650 physicians make medical malpractice payouts for the June 2004 report. From this report comes the following statistics:

- Of the 8,650 physicians making malpractice payouts, only 212 were disciplined by the Pennsylvania state board – only 2.5%.
- Twenty-seven doctors in Pennsylvania made between 15 and 33 medical malpractice payouts but were NOT disciplined by the PA state board. In fact, of all doctors making between 15 and 33 payouts (30 doctors), only three doctors were disciplined at all.
- Only 4.7% of doctors making between five and 10 medical malpractice payouts were disciplined by the Pennsylvania state board (26 doctors out of a total of 555).
- A total of 21 doctors in Pennsylvania have paid over $5 million each, ranging from 3 payouts to 29 payouts. Of these 21 doctors only ONE was disciplined by the state board. Together, these doctors have paid out a total of $149,527,250 in medical malpractice payouts.
- The top five doctors who have paid out the most money in Pennsylvania have never been disciplined by the state board (payouts: $17,690,000; $10,020,000; $9,220,000; $8,722,500; $7,662,500). Together, these five doctors have spent $53,315,000 – on average, that is over $10,600,000 per doctor.
- In Pennsylvania, the most payouts made by a doctor are 33. However, six doctors have made between 21 and 29 payouts. Combining these seven doctors who have made the most payouts in Pennsylvania, only ONCE was a doctor disciplined by the state board.
- Thirteen physicians have made that many payouts totaling more than $5 million per doctor. Collectively, there have been 20 physicians in Pennsylvania who have paid out more than $5 million. These 20 physicians have together made 129 malpractice payouts totaling nearly $80 million.

These statistics were generated from the NPDB using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Using SPSS, statistics for the state of Pennsylvania were isolated from the NPDB national data and analyzed. Note that disciplinary action may or may not be related to the issues of malpractice; reasons for discipline are not identified in the NPDB.