CONCLUSIONS

The increase in medical malpractice insurance premiums and litigation risks are widely recognized among OB/GYNs. Little is known about the characteristics of OB/GYNs with medical malpractice payment reports (MMPR).

METHODS

The National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) was created by the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 and began operation in 1990. Detailed NPDB information is available at: http://www.npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov/index.jsp. Types of available information are:

- Medical malpractice payment reports
- Adverse action reports: state licensure, clinical privilege/membership action, professional society membership, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Medicare/Medicaid exclusions.

NPDB research dataset was linked to external data (2011) to obtain additional information regarding physician specialty, gender, and current age.

1991-2011 NPDB data with specialty information from the external data source were analyzed using SAS 9.3.

BACKGROUND

The increase in medical malpractice insurance premiums and litigation risks are widely recognized among OB/GYNs. Little is known about the characteristics of OB/GYNs with medical malpractice payment reports (MMPR).

OBJECTIVE

- Describe the characteristics of OB/GYNs with Medical Malpractice Payment Reports in the NPDB.
- Identify variations with regard to age, gender, and malpractice payment report amounts.

RESULTS

- While OB/GYN has historically been a male dominated field, females have increasingly entered OB/GYN practices over the last decade.
- Most females experienced their first MMPR between 25 and 44 years of age while males were between 35 and 54.
- Females exhibited higher risk of having an MMPR in the first 10 years of service than males.
- Between 1991 and 2011, the number of OB/GYN with MMPR decreased 52%, mostly driven by a substantial decrease among males; there was relatively little change among females.
- The 3-year average payment amounts indicated an upward trend even when adjusted for inflation.

CONCLUSIONS

- There are variations along age and gender boundaries with regard to the medical malpractice payment amounts.
- In spite of the decrease in the number of OB/GYN with MMPR, the 3-year average payment amounts increased over the last decade.
- Additional studies are underway to investigate gender variations among other physician specialties.

REFERENCES