

# California's Proposition 65

## A Boon for Lawyers



Proposition 65, California's law requiring labels on products and areas containing chemicals "known to the state of California to cause cancer or reproductive harm" has evolved into a tool for trial lawyers to earn millions at the expense of small businesses. Proving a business' innocence in court is often more expensive and time-consuming than simply paying lawyers to settle their claims. Though evidence suggests the law has had very little impact on Californian's health, the ease of filing Proposition 65 lawsuits has allowed trial lawyers to earn over \$150 million in fees since 2000.

If exposure to a substance carries a **1** in **100,000** chance of developing cancer over **70** years, a Proposition 65 warning label is required.

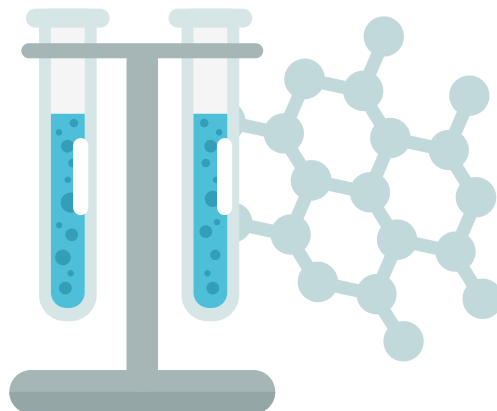
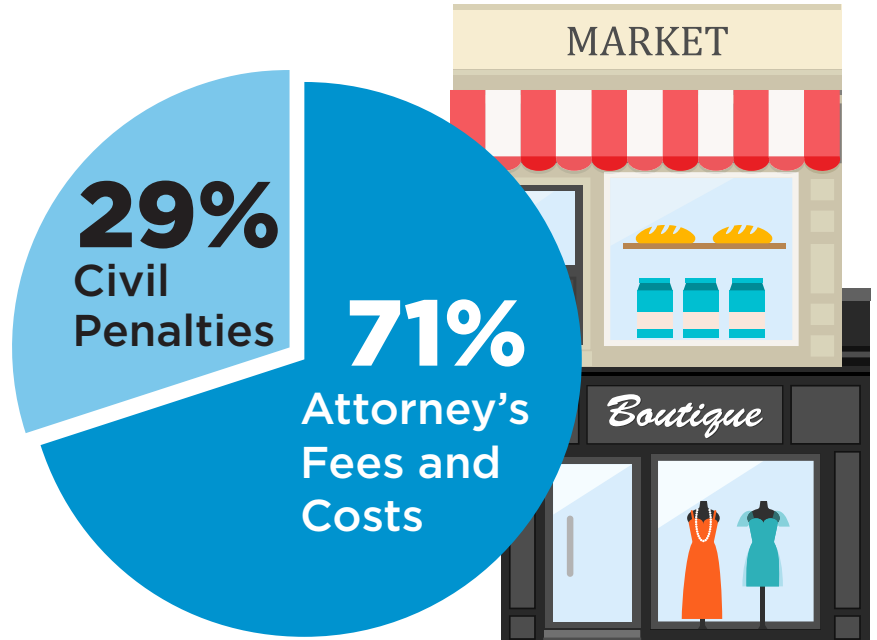


**\$29,482,280** settlement money paid by businesses in 2014—

A **68%** increase since 2013.

Of that total, **\$21,047,746** went to attorney's fees and costs—

That's **71%** of settlement money paid.



**847**  
Number of unique chemicals on Proposition 65 warning list.

**\$228,410,681** settlement money paid by businesses since 2000



**\$150,485,623** Attorney's fees and costs paid by businesses since 2000