



# Civil RICO Lawsuits in 2025: How Much of the Jump Came From Insulin Pricing Cases

Original analysis of 16,227 records from the Federal Judicial Center, FY2010–FY2025 (federal fiscal years, Oct–Sep).

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**Insulin pricing cases accounted for 28.3% of federal civil RICO filings in fiscal 2025: 455 of 1,608 filings, almost all of them in MDL No. 3080 in New Jersey.** RICO filings rose by 711 from fiscal 2024; the insulin cases account for 53.2% of that rise, while all other RICO filings grew by 40.6%.

**28%**

Share of FY2025 civil RICO filings:  
insulin pricing

**53%**

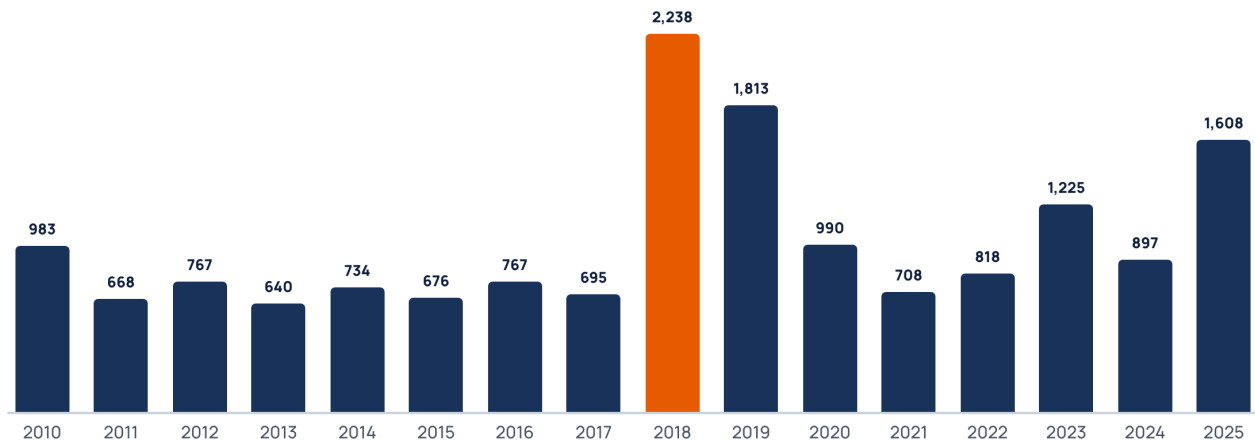
Share of the FY2024–FY2025 rise from  
insulin cases

**1.8×**

Civil RICO filings, FY2025 vs. FY2024



## Civil RICO filings in U.S. district courts by fiscal year



Source: Settlement Insight analysis of data from the Federal Judicial Center  
[settlementinsight.com/research/rico-lawsuits-insulin-pricing-surge](https://settlementinsight.com/research/rico-lawsuits-insulin-pricing-surge) · free to use with a link (CC BY 4.0)

### What the federal court records show

- Insulin cases were more than a quarter of RICO filings.** Of 1,608 civil RICO filings in fiscal 2025, 455 were insulin pricing cases, up from 77 of 897 (8.6%) in fiscal 2024.
- They explain about half of the jump.** Total RICO filings rose by 711, or 79.3%. Insulin cases added 378 of them; the other RICO filings rose from 820 to 1,153.

3. **One month carried the wave.** In January 2025 alone, 290 insulin pricing RICO filings were recorded, 63.7% of the fiscal year's total and 75.1% of all RICO filings that month.
4. **Public bodies filed most of them.** School districts and other education bodies filed 220 of the insulin filings, counties 64 and cities 46. Altogether, public entities account for 75.8% of the insulin filings by our classification.
5. **Eli Lilly is named first in nearly all.** Eli Lilly and Company is the first-named defendant in 438 of the 455 filings; a pharmacy benefit manager is named first in 17. The court data record only the first defendant, so co-defendants are not counted.
6. **Still below the opioid peak.** Fiscal 2025 had the most civil RICO filings since fiscal 2019. Fiscal 2018 had 2,238, of which 906 belonged to MDL No. 2804, the opioid litigation against makers and distributors such as Purdue Pharma and AmerisourceBergen.

## How we measured

The data come from the Federal Judicial Center's Integrated Database (IDB) of federal civil cases, in the version we imported on October 10, 2026. The IDB is built from the case data that district courts report to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. We count the 16,227 records with nature-of-suit code 470 (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) and a filing date in fiscal 2010 through fiscal 2025, which ended September 30, 2025.

Each record is one filing in a district court, the unit the judiciary uses in its Table C-2 of cases commenced. That includes reopened cases, cases transferred from another district and cases that join a multidistrict litigation. Counted this way, our fiscal 2025 total of 1,608 is 0.9% above the 1,593 RICO cases in Table C-2, and our fiscal 2024 total of 897 is 1.8% above the published 881.

A filing counts as an insulin pricing case if it carries the docket number of MDL No. 3080 (In re Insulin Pricing Litigation, District of New Jersey) or if its first-named defendant is Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk or Sanofi and the filing carries no other MDL's docket number; this keeps out, for example, a fiscal 2020 RICO filing against Sanofi that belongs to the Zantac (ranitidine) MDL. Filings against a pharmacy benefit manager outside the MDL are not counted, because the court data do not show what those cases are about. Shares are insulin filings divided by all civil RICO filings in the same fiscal year.

Plaintiff types were assigned from the first-named plaintiff using keyword rules (for example school, county, city of, local union, welfare fund). The classification is rule-based, not a case-by-case review, so a few filings may sit in a neighboring category. Private individuals are not named anywhere in the results.

## Checked against published figures

- Civil RICO cases commenced in U.S. district courts, FY2025 (Oct 1, 2024–Sep 30, 2025): published 1,593, our count 1,608 (0.94% apart). [Table C-2: U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Commenced, by Basis of Jurisdiction and Nature of Suit \(12-month periods ending September 30, 2024 and 2025\)](#).
- Civil RICO cases commenced in U.S. district courts, FY2024 (Oct 1, 2023–Sep 30, 2024): published 881, our count 897 (1.82% apart). [Table C-2: U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Commenced, by Basis of Jurisdiction and Nature of Suit \(12-month periods ending September 30, 2024 and 2025\)](#).

## Limitations

- Filings are not the same as lawsuits. A case first filed in a plaintiff's home district and then transferred into the MDL appears twice, and reopened cases appear again. In fiscal 2025, the 1,608 RICO filings carry 1,592 distinct docket numbers.
- The data show which code a filer chose on the civil cover sheet, not whether the complaint's RICO claim succeeds. Many insulin complaints also plead state consumer protection and other claims; a case coded under a different nature of suit is not counted here.
- Only the first-named plaintiff and defendant are recorded, and names are cut off. The plaintiff types are therefore approximate, and the co-defendants named in the insulin complaints, including Novo Nordisk, Sanofi and the pharmacy benefit managers, are not visible in the defendant count.
- Courts add and correct records after the fact. Fiscal 2025 ended about a year before our import, but later court data releases can still change the counts slightly; fiscal 2026 is incomplete and left out.
- The district ranking counts filings and does not adjust for the size of a district's caseload or population.

## Data files

- [Insulin pricing RICO filings by first-named defendant, FY2025](#) (CSV, 4 rows)
- [Insulin pricing RICO filings by plaintiff type, FY2025](#) (CSV, 7 rows)
- [Federal civil RICO filings by district court, FY2025](#) (CSV, 88 rows)
- [Federal civil RICO filings by fiscal year, FY2010–FY2025](#) (CSV, 16 rows)
- [Federal civil RICO filings by month, October 2023–September 2025](#) (CSV, 24 rows)

## How to cite

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