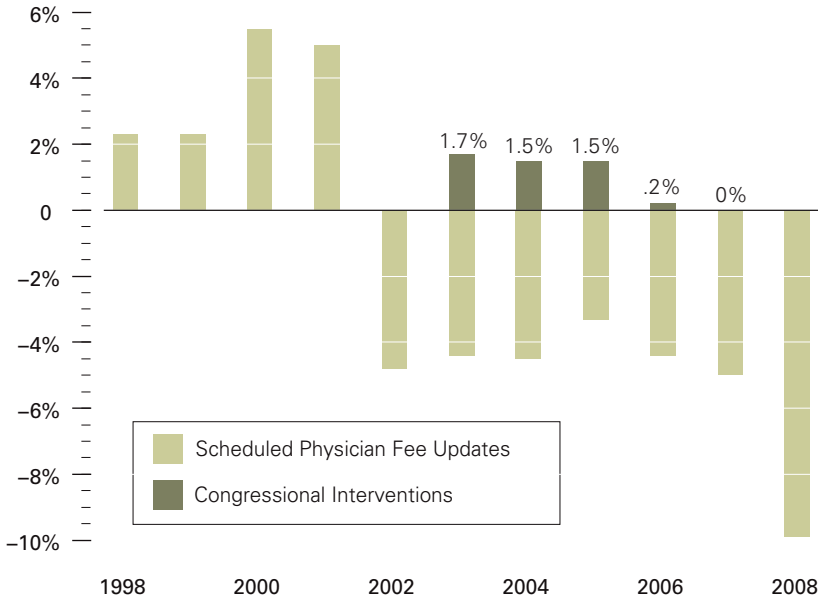


## Physician Fix

■ From 1998 through 2000, the cumulative total of Medicare payments to physicians remained under targets set by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which led to payment boosts in each of those four years. Starting in 2001, Medicare payments have exceeded targets, triggering corrective cuts designed to control the growth of Medicare payments to physicians. But after a cut in 2002, Congress has overridden subsequent fee reductions, and is moving to block next year's 9.9 percent cut.



Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services