



# SEPSIS ALLIANCE®

*Suspect Sepsis. Save Lives.™*

## Sepsis Fact Sheet

**Definition:** Sepsis is the body's overwhelming response to infection, which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, amputations, and death.

**Who it Hurts:** While sepsis is more likely to affect very young children, older adults, people with chronic diseases, and those with a weakened immune system, sepsis is an equal-opportunity killer impacting people of all ages and levels of health.

**Prevention:** The risk of sepsis can be reduced by preventing infections, practicing good hygiene, and staying current with vaccinations.

**Treatment:** Sepsis is a medical emergency that requires urgent attention and rapid treatment for survival. Sepsis can be treated and, in many instances, lives are saved by using existing and proven protocols.

**Recovery:** Many individuals fully recover from sepsis, while many others are left with long-lasting effects, such as missing limbs or organ dysfunction, like kidney failure. Other after-effects of sepsis are less obvious, such as memory loss, anxiety, or depression.

**Symptoms:** Symptoms of sepsis include:

- S** – Shivering, fever, or very cold
- E** – Extreme pain or general discomfort ("worst ever")
- P** – Pale or discolored skin
- S** – Sleepy, difficult to rouse, confused
- I** – "I feel like I might die"
- S** – Shortness of breath

If you **suspect sepsis** (observe a combination of these symptoms), see your medical professional immediately, CALL 911, or go to a hospital with an advocate and say, "**I AM CONCERNED ABOUT SEPSIS.**"

### **Critical Facts:**

- Sepsis is the leading cause of death in U.S. hospitals.<sup>1</sup>
- Sepsis is the leading cause of readmissions to the hospital with 19% of people hospitalized with sepsis needing to be re-hospitalized within 30 days.<sup>2</sup>
- As many as 87% of sepsis cases originate in the community.<sup>3</sup>
- Mortality from sepsis increases by as much as 8% for every hour that treatment is delayed. As many as 80% of sepsis deaths could be prevented with rapid diagnosis and treatment.<sup>4</sup>
- Approximately 6% of all hospitalizations are due to sepsis and 35% of all deaths in hospital are due to sepsis.<sup>3</sup>

### **Human Cost:**

- Sepsis affects more than 30 million people worldwide each year and takes 8 million lives including more than 3 million children each year.<sup>5,6,7</sup>
- More than 1.7 million people in the U.S. are diagnosed with sepsis each year – one every 20 seconds and the incidence is rising 8% every year.<sup>3,8,9</sup>
- 270,000 people die from sepsis every year in the U.S. – one every 2 minutes; more than from prostate cancer, breast cancer and AIDS combined.<sup>3,10</sup>
- More than 75,000 children develop severe sepsis each year and 6,800 of these children die, more than from pediatric cancers.<sup>11</sup>
- Sepsis causes at least 261,000 maternal deaths every year worldwide and is driving increases in pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S.<sup>12,13</sup>
- Every day, there are an average of 38 amputations in the U.S. as the result of sepsis.<sup>14</sup>
- Sepsis survivors have a shortened life expectancy, are more likely to suffer from an impaired quality of life, and are 42% more likely to commit suicide.<sup>15,16</sup>

### **Economic Cost:**

- Sepsis is the #1 cost of hospitalization in the U.S. consuming more than \$27 billion each year.<sup>17,18,19,20</sup>
- The average cost per hospital stay for sepsis is \$18,400, double the average cost per stay across all other conditions.<sup>21</sup>
- Sepsis is the #1 cause for readmissions to the hospital costing more than \$2 billion each year.<sup>17</sup>

### **Awareness:**

- More than 40% of U.S. adults have NEVER heard of sepsis.<sup>22</sup>

**To find out more please visit [Sepsis.org](http://Sepsis.org)**

#### **Sources:**

1. <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1873131&resultClick=3>
2. <https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb196-Readmissions-Trends-High-Volume-Conditions.jsp>
3. <http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2654187>
4. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16625125>
5. [http://www.journalofinfection.com/article/S0163-4453\(17\)30193-7/pdf](http://www.journalofinfection.com/article/S0163-4453(17)30193-7/pdf)
6. <http://www.atsjournals.org/doi/full/10.1164/rccm.201504-0781OC>
7. [http://www.journalofinfection.com/article/S0163-4453\(15\)00109-7/fulltext](http://www.journalofinfection.com/article/S0163-4453(15)00109-7/fulltext)
8. <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa022139>
9. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db62.pdf>
10. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/leading-causes-of-death.htm>
11. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23897242>
12. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214109X1470227X>
13. <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/pmss.html>
14. Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project, Nationwide Inpatient Sample, 2012. Accessed April 6. 2016
15. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20308885>
16. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/article-abstract/2542681>
17. <https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb204-Most-Expensive-Hospital-Conditions.pdf>
18. <https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb225-Inpatient-US-Stays-Trends.jsp>
19. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-07-14/america-has-a-27-billion-sepsis-crisis>
20. [http://www.journalofinfection.com/article/S0163-4453\(16\)30288-2/fulltext](http://www.journalofinfection.com/article/S0163-4453(16)30288-2/fulltext)
21. <https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb146.pdf>
22. <https://www.sepsis.org/sepsis-alliance-news/sepsis-word-know-meaning-learn/>