



# 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:

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