



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.¹
- 62% of people hospitalized with sepsis are re-hospitalized within 30 days.²
- As many as 92% of sepsis cases originate in the community.³
- Mortality from sepsis increases 8% for every hour that treatment is delayed.
As many as 80% of sepsis deaths could be prevented with rapid diagnosis and treatment.⁴

Human Cost:

- Sepsis affects over 26 million people worldwide each year and is the largest killer of children – more than 5 million each year.⁵

- More than 1.6 million people in the U.S. are diagnosed with sepsis each year – one every 20 seconds and the incidence is rising 8% every year.^{6,7}
- 258,000 people die from sepsis every year in the U.S. – one every 2 minutes; more than from prostate cancer, breast cancer and AIDS combined.^{8,9}
- More than 42,000 children develop severe sepsis each year and 4,400 of these children die, more than from pediatric cancers.¹⁰
- Sepsis causes at least 75,000 maternal deaths every year worldwide and is driving increases in pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S.^{11,12}
- Each day, there are an average of 38 amputation procedures performed due to sepsis.¹³
- 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.^{14,15}

Economic Cost:

- Sepsis is the #1 cost of hospitalization in the U.S. consuming more than \$24 billion each year.¹⁶
- The average cost per hospital stay for sepsis is \$18,400, double the average cost per stay across all other conditions.¹⁷
- Sepsis is the #1 cause for readmissions to the hospital costing more than \$2 billion each year.¹⁸

Awareness:

- Just 55% of U.S. adults have heard of sepsis.¹⁷

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

Sources:

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- ² <https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb196-Readmissions-Trends-High-Volume-Conditions.jsp>
- ³ <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1873131&resultClick=3>
- ⁴ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16625125>
- ⁵ <http://www.g-i-n.net/conference/10th-conference/monday/2-45-pm-to-5-45-pm/lang-63.pdf>
- ⁶ <https://www.med.unc.edu/pediatrics/news/2015/june/june-10/code-sepsis>
- ⁷ <http://www.clevelandclinicmeded.com/medicalpubs/diseasemanagement/infectious-disease/sepsis/>
- ⁸ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK65391/>
- ⁹ <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/leading-causes-of-death.htm>
- ¹⁰ <http://ceaccp.oxfordjournals.org/content/4/1/12.full>
- ¹¹ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20375891>
- ¹² <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/pmss.html>
- ¹³ Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project, Nationwide Inpatient Sample, 2012. Accessed April 6, 2016
- ¹⁴ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20308885>
- ¹⁵ <http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/article-abstract/2542681>
- ¹⁶ <http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb204-Most-Expensive-Hospital-Conditions.pdf>
- ¹⁷ http://sepsis.org/news/2016/number_one_cause_of_readmissions/
- ¹⁸ <http://www.sepsis.org/sepsis-alliance-news/fifty-five-percent-americans-heard-sepsis-nations-third-leading-killersepsis-alliance-survey-reveals/>