



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
- 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.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}
- Every day, there is an average of 38 amputations in the U.S. as the result of 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 58% of U.S. adults have heard of sepsis.¹⁷

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

Sources:

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