



SEPSIS ALLIANCE®

Suspect Sepsis. Save Lives.™

Sepsis Fact Sheet

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

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

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

Treatment: In most cases, sepsis is treatable using existing and proven protocols. Sepsis is a medical emergency that requires urgent attention and rapid treatment for survival.

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 – Short 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 affects over 26 million people worldwide each year and is the largest killer of children and newborn infants in the world.¹
- Sepsis is the leading cause of death in U.S. hospitals and the disease with the highest rate of readmission to a hospital within 30 days.^{2,3}
- The vast majority of sepsis cases (as many as 92%) originate in the community, prior to hospitalization.⁴
- Mortality from sepsis increases 8% every hour that treatment is delayed. As many as 80% of sepsis deaths could be prevented with rapid diagnosis and treatment.⁵

Human Cost:

- More than 1.6 million people in the U.S. are diagnosed with sepsis each year – one every 20 seconds and the incidence of cases 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 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 cancer.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}
- Sepsis survivors have an increased risk of death and are more likely to suffer from an impaired quality of life.¹³

Economic Cost:

- Sepsis is the #1 cost of hospitalization in the U.S. consuming more than \$20 Billion each year.¹⁴
- The average cost per hospital stay for sepsis is \$18,400, double the average cost per stay across all other conditions.¹⁴
- Sepsis is the #1 cause for readmissions to the hospital costing more than \$2 Billion each year¹⁵

Awareness:

- Just 44% of U.S. adults have heard of sepsis.¹⁶

Sources:

¹<http://www.g-i-n.net/conference/10th-conference/monday/2-45-pm-to-5-45-pm/lang-63.pdf>

²<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1873131&resultClick=3>

³<https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb196-Readmissions-Trends-High-Volume-Conditions.jsp>

⁴<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1873131&resultClick=3>

⁵<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16625125>

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<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20308885>

¹⁴<http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb160.jsp>

¹⁵ http://sepsis.org/news/2016/number_one_cause_of_readmissions/

¹⁶ http://sepsis.org/news/2015/americans_more_aware/

To find out more please visit Sepsis.org