

SEPSIS AND AGING

What is sepsis?

Sepsis is the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death. It takes a life every 90 seconds (350,000 adults each year in the U.S.), and over 80% of these deaths may be preventable. Sepsis is a medical emergency that requires rapid diagnosis and treatment.

Who does sepsis impact?

While sepsis can and does affect people of all ages, the very young (infants) and those who already have a chronic health problem or a compromised immune system are at higher risk of developing sepsis. **But people who are over 60 years old, particularly those who have health issues, are even more susceptible to sepsis than any other group.**

The impact of sepsis on older adults:

- More than **70%** of sepsis cases occur in individuals aged 60 or older.
- **87%** of sepsis cases originate in home and community.
- **63%** of adults 60 years and older who are admitted to the ICU present with sepsis.
- More than **40%** of older patients have another hospitalization within three months of the initial sepsis, most commonly due to a repeat episode of sepsis or another infection.
- Older sepsis survivors (65+) experience on average **1 to 2 new limitations on activities of daily living** (e.g., bathing, dressing, managing money) after hospitalization.
- There is a **3-fold increase in prevalence of moderate to-severe cognitive impairment after hospitalization** and a high prevalence of mental health problems, such as depression and anxiety after sepsis.
- Nursing home residents are over **6 times more likely to present with sepsis in the emergency room** than non-nursing home residents.

The Partnership for Sepsis and Aging (TPSA):

Given the breadth of the problem, Sepsis Alliance has formed a national coalition of partners – leading off with **The New York State Office for the Aging**, the **Association on Aging**, and the **Home Care Association of New York State** – dedicated to healthy aging and protecting our nation's older adults from sepsis.

TPSA is comprised of state and national aging leaders who coordinate their state and local aging services networks toward sepsis education, prevention, and system interventions for older individuals, including collaboration with health care professionals, and other partner organizations in their communities, including care site facilities.



To learn more about sepsis visit [Sepsis.org](https://www.sepsis.org)



If your organization supports the needs of older adults, please join **The Partnership for Sepsis and Aging:** www.sepsis.org/the-partnership-for-sepsis-and-aging-tpsa/



Office for
the Aging

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