



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: Sepsis is a medical emergency that requires urgent attention and rapid treatment for survival. Sepsis can be treated in all cases, and in many instances lives are saved by utilizing existing and proven protocols

Recovery: Many individuals recover fully from sepsis while many others have 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 – 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**