



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 an equal-opportunity killer, impacting the sick, the well, and people of all ages, some groups are more likely to be affected. These include very young children, older adults, and those with a weakened immune system.

Prevention: The risk of sepsis can be reduced by preventing or quickly identifying and managing infections. This includes practicing good hygiene, staying current with vaccinations, and seeking treatment when infections are suspected.

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 others may have long-lasting effects, such as amputations or organ dysfunction, like kidney failure. Other after-effects of sepsis are less obvious, such as memory loss, anxiety, or depression.

Symptoms: When it comes to sepsis, remember **It's About TIME™**:

T – Temperature – higher or lower than normal

I – Infection – may have signs or symptoms of infection

M – Mental Decline – confused, sleepy, difficult to rouse

E – Extremely ill – “I feel like I might die,” severe pain or discomfort

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 87% of sepsis cases originate in the community.³
- Mortality from sepsis increases by as much as 8% for every hour that treatment is delayed. As many as 80% of sepsis deaths could be prevented with rapid diagnosis and treatment.⁴
- Approximately 6% of all hospitalizations are due to sepsis and 35% of all deaths in-hospital are due to sepsis.³

Human Cost:

- Sepsis affects more than 30 million people worldwide each year and takes 8 million lives including more than 3 million children each year.^{5,6,7}
- More than 1.7 million people in the U.S. are diagnosed with sepsis each year – one every 20 seconds and the incidence is rising 8% every year.^{3,8,9}
- 270,000 people die from sepsis every year in the U.S. – one every 2 minutes; more than from prostate cancer, breast cancer and AIDS combined.^{3,10}
- Approximately 6% of sepsis patients are transferred to hospice following hospitalization.³
- More than 75,000 children develop severe sepsis each year in the U.S. and 6,800 of these children die, more than from pediatric cancers.¹¹
- Sepsis causes at least 261,000 maternal deaths every year worldwide and is driving increases in pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S.^{12,13}
- Every day, there are an average of 38 amputations in the U.S. as the result of sepsis.¹⁴
- 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.^{15,16}

Economic Cost:

- Sepsis is the #1 cost of hospitalization in the U.S. consuming more than \$27 billion each year.^{17,18,19,20}
- The average cost per hospital stay for sepsis is \$18,600, double the average cost per stay across all other conditions.²¹
- Sepsis is the #1 cause for readmissions to the hospital costing more than \$2 billion each year.¹⁷

Awareness:

- More than 34% of U.S. adults have NEVER heard of sepsis.²²

To find out more please visit Sepsis.org

Sources:

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