



SEPSIS
ALLIANCE

Sepsis in California

Sepsis is the body's overwhelming response to infection that can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death. Nationally, sepsis affects more than 1.7 million Americans annually and many survivors are left with long-term disabilities due to amputations and lingering effects such as impaired cognition.^{1,2} Sepsis kills approximately 270,000 Americans each year, making it the third leading cause of death in the U.S.^{1,3}

According to the Hospital Quality Institute and analyses from the California (CA) Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), nearly 20% of Californians received hospital care in 2018.⁴ In 2018, there were 270,596 sepsis hospitalizations, representing 7.7% of all hospitalizations in CA.⁴ There were 38,809 deaths among hospitalized sepsis patients in CA in 2018, making sepsis the 3rd leading cause of death in CA after heart disease and cancer.^{4,6}

Sepsis in California (CA) statistics:

- The incidence of sepsis in California was 7.7% for all hospitalizations in 2018.⁴
- In 2018, there were 270,596 sepsis hospitalizations and 38,809 deaths among hospitalized sepsis patients in CA.⁴
- Most (86%) of sepsis cases in CA develop outside of the hospital and are diagnosed upon admission.⁷
- The in-hospital mortality rate for sepsis in CA was 14.3% in 2018.⁴
- Sepsis is the 3rd leading cause of death in CA after heart disease and cancer (with 62,797 and 59, 516 deaths, respectively in 2017).^{4,6}

Costs, length of stay, discharges

- The average length of stay for a severe sepsis hospitalization in CA was 11 days in 2016, down from 14 days in 2010.⁵
- The median charge per day for a severe sepsis hospitalization in CA was \$16,105 in 2016, an increase of 16.2% since 2010.⁵
- Medicare covered 63.5 % of all severe sepsis hospitalizations, more than any other payor (including Medi-Cal, private coverage, and uninsured).⁵
- In 2016, hospice care was the most common discharge category for severe sepsis patients, followed by skilled nursing care.⁸
- Since hospice care was included as a discharge category in 2015, it has been the most common category for patients who died 30 days following hospital discharge.⁸

Trends

- The mortality rate for sepsis in CA has declined 4-9% each year between 2010 and 2018, with a 4% decrease from 2017-2018.^{4,9}
- The sepsis mortality rate in CA was 24.4% in 2010 and 14.3% in 2018. The current sepsis mortality rate in CA is 42.8% lower than the national sepsis mortality rate of 25.0%.⁴
- The percentage of all hospitalizations that were sepsis related increased 7-14% each year between 2010 and 2018. This increase may be related in part to changes in insurance coding practices and the implementation of the CMS SEP-1 process measures.⁴
- Overall, the percentage of severe sepsis in-hospital deaths has decreased, while the number of severe sepsis cases has increased over the period from 2010 to 2018.^{4,9}
- The number of hospital-acquired sepsis cases has remained constant over this time period.^{4,9}

Summary

The state of California has made good progress in decreasing the mortality rate from sepsis during a period of increasing sepsis incidence. However, the burden of sepsis remains high in the state due to the large number of sepsis cases and the significant cost of sepsis hospitalization. Improvements in sepsis prevention and treatment in California can save many lives and reduce the health costs associated with sepsis.

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