



SEPSIS FACT SHEET

Sepsis is the body's overwhelming response to infection or injury, which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, amputations, and death.

WHO GETS SEPSIS?

While sepsis is more likely to affect very young children, older adults, people with chronic illnesses, and those with weakened immune systems, sepsis is an equal-opportunity killer, affecting people of all ages and levels of health.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

While sepsis is more likely to affect very young children, older adults, people with chronic illnesses, and those with weakened immune systems, sepsis is an equal-opportunity killer, affecting people of all ages and levels of health.

- T** **Temperature:** Higher or lower than normal
- I** **Infection:** May have signs and symptoms of an infection
- M** **Mental Decline:** Confused, sleepy, difficult to rouse
- E** **Extremely Ill:** "I feel like I might die," severe pain or discomfort

If you see a combination of these symptoms, especially if there is a recent history of a cut, surgery, invasive procedure, or infection, call 911 or go to a hospital with an advocate and say, **"I am concerned about sepsis."**

WHAT CAUSES SEPSIS?

Sepsis is caused by an infection. The infection can be viral, bacterial, fungal, or parasitic. It can be an infection that started in a paper cut or bug bite, or a larger infection, like pneumonia or meningitis. Sometimes, doctors never learn what the infection was.

SEPSIS PREVENTION?

Sepsis can't always be prevented, but the risk drops when you take steps to prevent or treat infections as quickly as possible. You can do this by staying current with vaccinations, practicing good hygiene, and seeking medical help when you suspect you have an infection.

CRITICAL FACTS ABOUT SEPSIS

- Sepsis is the leading cause of death in hospitals.¹
- 19% of people hospitalized with sepsis are readmitted within 30 days.²
- As many as 87% of sepsis cases start in the community.³
- The risk of dying from sepsis increases by as much as 8% for every hour treatment is delayed.⁴
- Sepsis affects over more than 30 million people worldwide each year and is the most common killer of children, taking more than 3 million each year.^{5,6,7}
- More than 1.7 million people in the U.S. are diagnosed with sepsis each year, that is 1 every 20 seconds.³
- 270,000 people die from sepsis each year in the U.S., one every 2 minutes; that is more than from prostate cancer, breast cancer, and AIDS combined.^{3,8,9}
- More than 75,000 children develop severe sepsis each year in the U.S., and 6,800 die – more than from pediatric cancers.¹⁰
- Sepsis causes at least 261,000 maternal deaths each year world-wide and is a driver of increasing pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S.^{11,12}
- Every day in the U.S., an average of 38 amputations are required because of sepsis.¹³
- Up to 50% of sepsis survivors are left with long-term physical and/or psychological effects.^{14,15,16}

THERE IS ALSO AN ECONOMIC COST TO SEPSIS

- 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
- Despite all this, more than 34% of American adults have NEVER heard of sepsis.²²

SOURCES

For references, please visit www.sepsis.org/references.

SEPSIS IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY.

IF YOU SUSPECT SEPSIS, CALL 9-1-1 OR GO TO A HOSPITAL RIGHT AWAY.

To learn more about sepsis, or to read tributes and survivor stories, visit us online at Sepsis.org



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