



SEPSIS FACT SHEET

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

WHO GETS SEPSIS?

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?

- 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:** Severe pain, discomfort, shortness of breath

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, or fungal, or caused by a parasite. 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.

CAN SEPSIS BE PREVENTED?

You can't always prevent sepsis, 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% (19 out of 100) of people hospitalized with sepsis are readmitted within 30 days.²
- As many as 87% (87 out of 100) 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 nearly 49 million people worldwide each year and is the most common killer of children, taking more than 3.4 million each year.⁵
- 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., 1 every 2 minutes; this is more than from prostate cancer, breast cancer, and opioid overdoses combined.^{3,6,7}
- More than 75,000 children develop severe sepsis each year in the U.S., and 6,800 die – more than from pediatric cancers.^{8,9}
- Sepsis causes at least 261,000 maternal deaths each year world-wide and is a cause of increasing pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S.^{10,11}
- In 2012, there were more than 13,700 sepsis-related amputations in the U.S. This works out to an average of 38 amputations per day.¹²
- Up to 50% of sepsis survivors are left with long-term physical and/or psychological effects.^{13,14,15}

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

THERE IS ALSO AN ECONOMIC COST TO SEPSIS

- Sepsis is the #1 cost of hospitalization in the U.S. Costs for acute sepsis hospitalization and skilled nursing are estimated to be \$62 billion annually.^{16,17}
- The average cost per hospital stay for sepsis is double the average cost per stay across all other conditions.¹⁸
- Sepsis is the #1 cause for hospital readmissions to the hospital, costing more than \$3.5 billion each year.^{16,19}
- Despite all this, more than 34% of American adults have NEVER heard of sepsis.²⁰



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SOURCES

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