

# Sepsis at a Glance

Sepsis is “a life-threatening condition that arises when the body’s response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs” (Singer et al.). It can afflict anyone.

## IT CAUSES A LOT OF DEATHS

### 3rd Leading Cause of Death

1. Heart disease
2. Cancer
3. Sepsis

Sources: Elixhauser et al.; CDC.

Contributes to **1** in every **2 to 3** hospital deaths

Source: Liu et al.



## IT CAN PROGRESS QUICKLY



### Septic shock:

**7.6%** drop in chance of survival each hour until antimicrobials are begun

Source: Kumar et al.

## IT COSTS A LOT

### Most Expensive Condition Treated in U.S. Hospitals

1. Sepsis
2. Osteoarthritis
3. Liveborn infants
4. Complication of device, implant, or graft
5. Heart attack

Source: Torio and Moore.

Accounts for **6.2%** of hospital costs, or **\$24 billion**

## IT IS UNDERRECOGNIZED



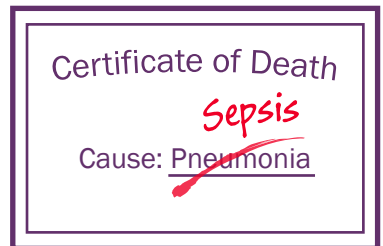
**44%**

U.S. adults who have heard of sepsis

Source: Harris Interactive.

Death usually attributed to underlying infection

Often not on death certificates



## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BEAT SEPSIS?

### Themes from *Healthcare Risk Control's* Conversation with Sepsis Experts

Vigilance throughout the organization	Clinician familiarity	Teams, champions, and specialists
Guidelines and tools	A swift, organized response	Coordination within and across settings
Community outreach and patient education	Quality improvement	Feedback to clinicians

#### Sources

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