

## SEPSIS IN KENTUCKY

**Sepsis is the body’s overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure and death.** In the U.S. alone, sepsis affects 1.7 million people and takes 270,000 lives every year. However, as many as 80% of sepsis deaths could be prevented with rapid diagnosis and treatment. Costs to treat sepsis is \$20.3 billion annually in the U.S.

Sepsis happens when an infection you already have —in your skin, lungs, urinary tract, or somewhere else—triggers a chain reaction throughout your body. Without timely treatment, sepsis can rapidly lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death. It’s important to look for a combination of the warning signs of sepsis. Spotting these symptoms early could prevent the body from developing septic shock and could save a life. Symptoms of sepsis include fever, difficulty breathing, low blood pressure, fast heart and mental confusion. Other symptoms may include chills, dizziness, low body temperature, shivering, delirium, organ dysfunction and skin discoloration.

### SEPSIS IN KENTUCKY HOSPITALS:

— 2016 Total Sepsis Inpatient Discharges =	<b>28,159</b>	.....	Total Charges	<b>\$1,299,548,936</b>
— 2017 Total Sepsis Inpatient Discharges =	<b>31,950</b>	.....	Total Charges	<b>\$1,471,677,945</b>
— 2018 Total Sepsis Inpatient Discharges =	<b>34,212</b>	.....	Total Charges	<b>\$1,632,382,667</b>
— 2019 Total Sepsis Inpatient Discharges =	<b>35,218</b>	.....	Total Charges	<b>\$1,746,296,008</b>

**Sepsis Unspecified Organism Primary diagnosis ranks the highest in the number of inpatient discharges and first in total charges in 2019.**

### NUMBER OF 2019 INPATIENT DAYS FOR SEPSIS PATIENTS:

Average Sepsis Inpatient Length of Stay .... **6.11 days**

Average Inpatient length of Stay ..... **5.32 days**

Total Number of Days ..... **215,281**

### 2019 RACE OF SEPSIS PATIENTS:

Caucasian ..... **92%**

African American ..... **6.7%**

Other Races ..... **1.1%**

### 2019 PAYER DISTRIBUTION:

Commercial ..... **4,942 (14.03%)**

Medicare ..... **22,353 (63.47%)**

Other ..... **605 (1.72%)**

Medicaid ..... **6,780 (19.25%)**  
(including Medicaid Managed Care)

Self Pay/Charity ..... **538 (1.53%)**

### 2019 GENDER OF SEPSIS PATIENTS:

Women ..... **18,705**

Men ..... **16,513**

## 2019 AGE RANGE OF SEPSIS PATIENTS:

Age 0-5 ..... 111	Age 18-24 ..... 626	Age 35-44 .... 2,572	Age 55-64 .... 6,825	Age 75-84 .... 7,027
Age 6-17 ..... 92	Age 25-34 .... 1,696	Age 45-54 .... 3,942	Age 65-74 .... 8,206	Age 85 + ..... 4,121

Data Source: *KHA InfoSuite*

While sepsis predominately affects older adults, 55% age 65 +, it also affects younger adults and children. Sepsis can have devastating consequences for children. Each year, approximately 75,000 children develop sepsis in the United States alone. That’s more than 200 children per day. More children die of sepsis than pediatric cancer according to Sepsis Alliance.

According to CDC, in 2018 Kentucky ranks as the fourth highest state for Septicemia Mortality at an age adjusted death rate of 16.7 (the number of deaths per 100,000 total population) with a total of 899 deaths.



**It is time to raise awareness of sepsis and the urgent need to seek treatment when symptoms are recognized. Early detection is the best hope for survival and limitation of disabilities when sepsis is present.**

**The Sepsis Kentucky Consortium is working with Kentucky hospitals statewide to reduce the morbidity and mortality caused by sepsis.** The consortium will focus on improving sepsis outcomes through collaborative learning to achieve appropriate, timely and reliable implementation of evidence-based interventions.

**In early 2020, the Kentucky State Senate unanimously passed Dayo’s Resolution**, named after a two-time sepsis survivor. This Resolution recognizes and supports Kentucky Hospital Association’s creation of a statewide Sepsis Consortium with the goal of reducing the incidence of and harm from sepsis through education and quality improvement for Kentucky hospitals and their communities. The Resolution was passed as a solution to improve patient outcomes and avoid legislative mandates in the hospital. Every hospital CEO is urged to sign the attached Sepsis Consortium Letter of Commitment as we want every hospital to participate in this great program.

For more information about the **Sepsis Kentucky Consortium** and **KHA Data Center**, contact:

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