Sepsis Awareness Month

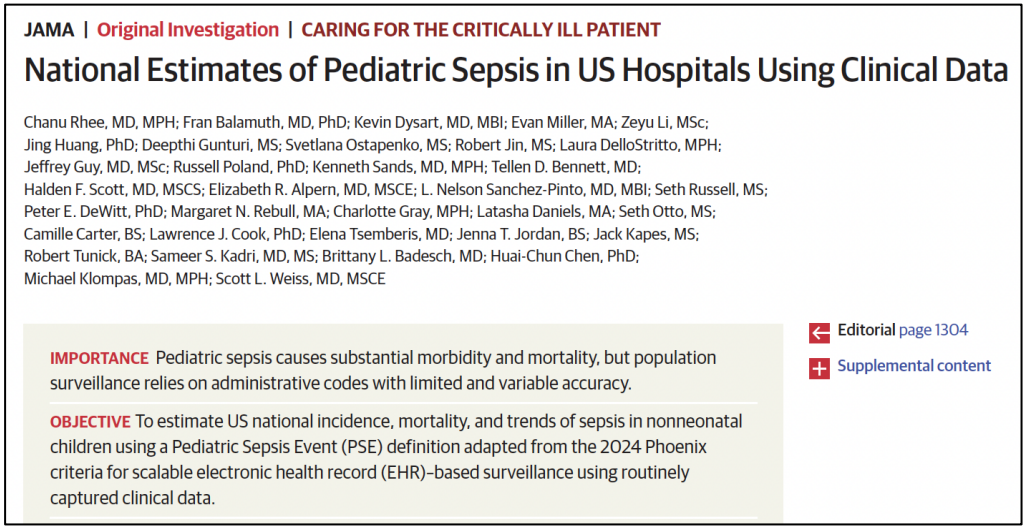
Partner Call

August 19, 2026

Updates in Sepsis Surveillance and Quality Measurement

Raymund Dantes, MD MPH
Medical Advisor
Surveillance Branch
Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion

Pediatric Sepsis National Estimates



JAMA | Original Investigation | CARING FOR THE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT

National Estimates of Pediatric Sepsis in US Hospitals Using Clinical Data

Chanu Rhee, MD, MPH; Fran Balamuth, MD, PhD; Kevin Dysart, MD, MBI; Evan Miller, MA; Zeyu Li, MSc; Jing Huang, PhD; Deepthi Gunturi, MS; Svetlana Ostapenko, MS; Robert Jin, MS; Laura DelloStritto, MPH; Jeffrey Guy, MD, MSc; Russell Poland, PhD; Kenneth Sands, MD, MPH; Tellen D. Bennett, MD; Halden F. Scott, MD, MSCS; Elizabeth R. Alpern, MD, MSCE; L. Nelson Sanchez-Pinto, MD, MBI; Seth Russell, MS; Peter E. DeWitt, PhD; Margaret N. Rebull, MA; Charlotte Gray, MPH; Latasha Daniels, MA; Seth Otto, MS; Camille Carter, BS; Lawrence J. Cook, PhD; Elena Tsemberis, MD; Jenna T. Jordan, BS; Jack Kapes, MS; Robert Tunick, BA; Sameer S. Kadri, MD, MS; Brittany L. Badesch, MD; Huai-Chun Chen, PhD; Michael Klompas, MD, MPH; Scott L. Weiss, MD, MSCE

IMPORTANCE Pediatric sepsis causes substantial morbidity and mortality, but population surveillance relies on administrative codes with limited and variable accuracy.

OBJECTIVE To estimate US national incidence, mortality, and trends of sepsis in nonneonatal children using a Pediatric Sepsis Event (PSE) definition adapted from the 2024 Phoenix criteria for scalable electronic health record (EHR)–based surveillance using routinely captured clinical data.

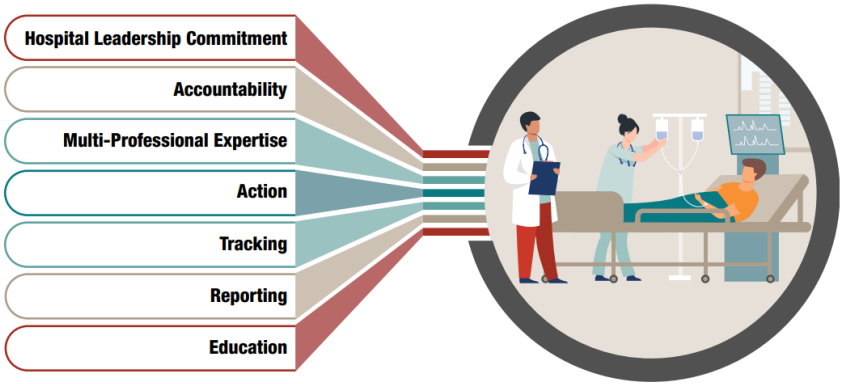
Editorial page 1304

Supplemental content

- Sepsis in 1.3% of hospitalizations
- 10.1% in-hospital mortality
- More than 18,000 sepsis cases per year
- At least 1,800 deaths per year

Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements

- Provide framework for optimizing and monitoring hospital sepsis programs and management
- Complement existing sepsis guidelines and facilitate implementation of recommended practices



Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements (continued)

Hospital Leadership Commitment

Dedicating the necessary human, financial, and information technology resources.

Accountability

Appointing a leader or co-leaders responsible for program goals and outcomes.

Multi-Professional Expertise

Engaging key partners throughout the hospital and healthcare system.

Action

Implementing structures and processes to improve the identification of, management of, and recovery from sepsis.

Tracking

Measuring sepsis epidemiology, management, and outcomes to assess the impact of sepsis initiatives and progress toward program goals.

Reporting

Providing information on sepsis management and outcomes to relevant partners.

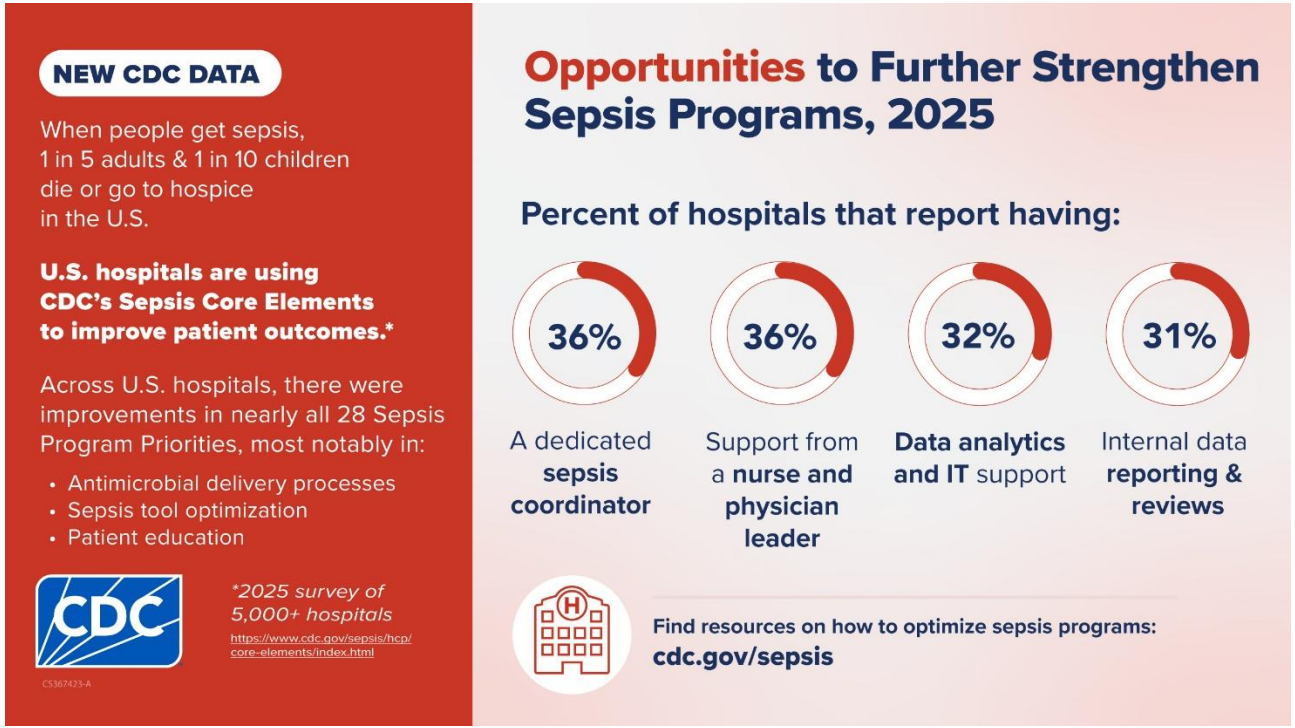
Education

Providing sepsis education to healthcare professionals, patients, and family/caregivers.

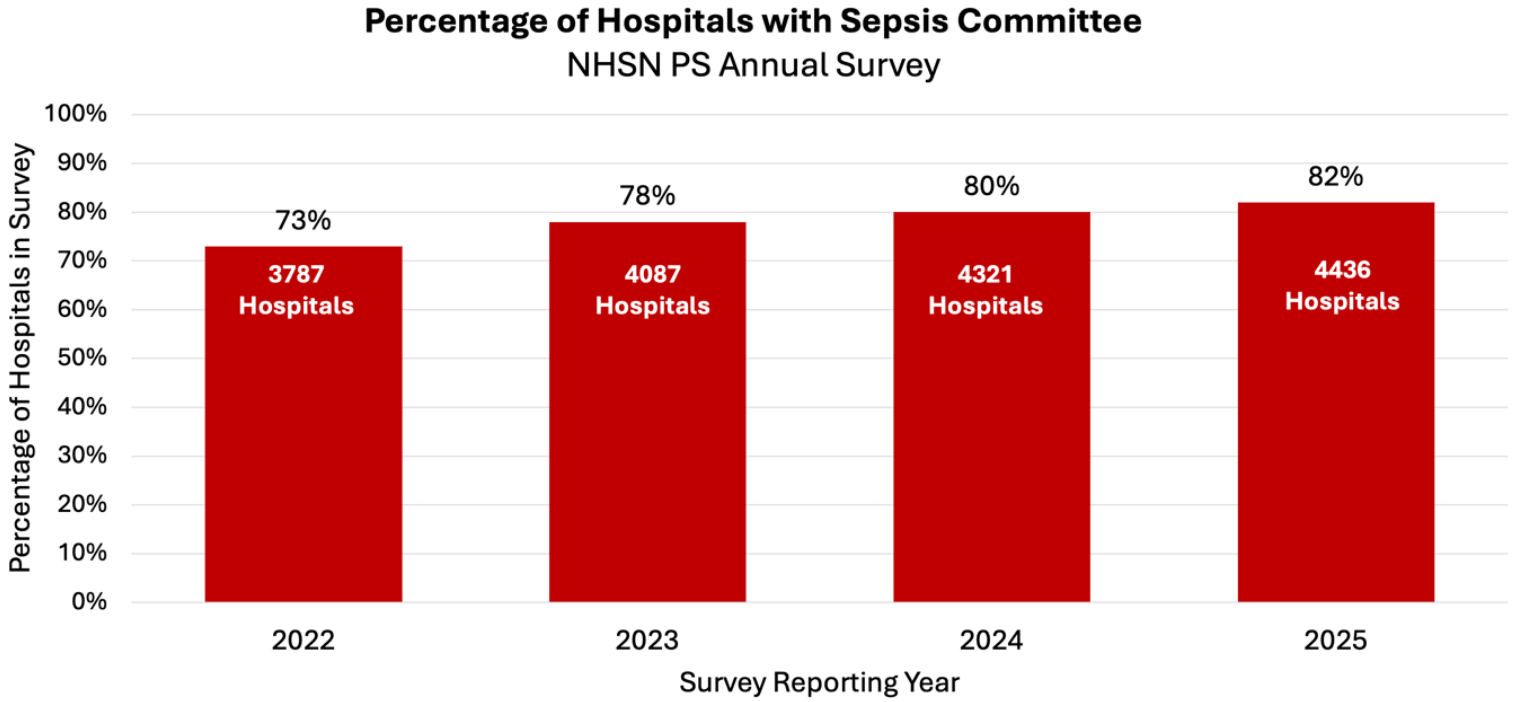
2025 NHSN Annual Survey: What's New?

- National Sepsis Core Elements **uptake is measured through CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Patient Safety Component Annual Hospital Survey**.
- This year's survey was **analyzed thematically by 28 Sepsis Program Priorities**, which make up the Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements Score.
- Sepsis coordinators can check with their NHSN Facility Administrator to access **their hospital's score**.

2025 NHSN Survey Results: Progress & Opportunities



Hospital Sepsis Committees Increasingly Common



Overall Gains

- Increased uptake of 24 of 28 Sepsis Program Priorities from 2024 to 2025

Sepsis Program Priority	2024 Uptake % (n=5,337)†	2025 Uptake % (n=	Absolute % difference
Leadership 1	48	51	3
Leadership 2	71	72	1
Leadership 3	61	62	1
Leadership 4	57	59	2
Leadership 5	73	75	2
Accountability 1	80	82	2
Accountability 2	75	77	2
Accountability 3	65	67	2
Accountability 4	58	60	2
Accountability 5	33	36	3
Expertise 1	33	36	3
Expertise 2	63	65	2
Expertise 3	64	65	1
Expertise 4	29	32	3
Action 1	93	93	0
Action 2	73	75	2
Action 3	87	87	0
Action 4	72	76	4
Action 5	58	60	2
Tracking 1	51	54	3
Tracking 2	79	79	0
Tracking 3	73	74	1
Tracking 4	38	42	4
Tracking 5	69	70	1
Reporting 1	28	31	3
Education 1	39	42	3
Education 2	65	65	0
Education 3	52	56	4

† Data based on ACH (Acute Care Hospital) and CAH (Critical Acces Hospitals) 2024 survey frozen on June 1, 2025, including 5377 hospitals completed the survey among 5524 National Healthcare Safety Network-enrolled and active hospitals (97% completion rate).

‡ Data based on ACH (Acute Care Hospital) and CAH (Critical Acces Hospitals) 2025 survey frozen on June 1, 2026, including 5,430 hospitals completed the survey among 5,571 National Healthcare Safety Network-enrolled and active hospitals (97% completion rate).

Overall Gains (continued)

- Increased uptake of 24 of 28 Sepsis Program Priorities from 2024 to 2025

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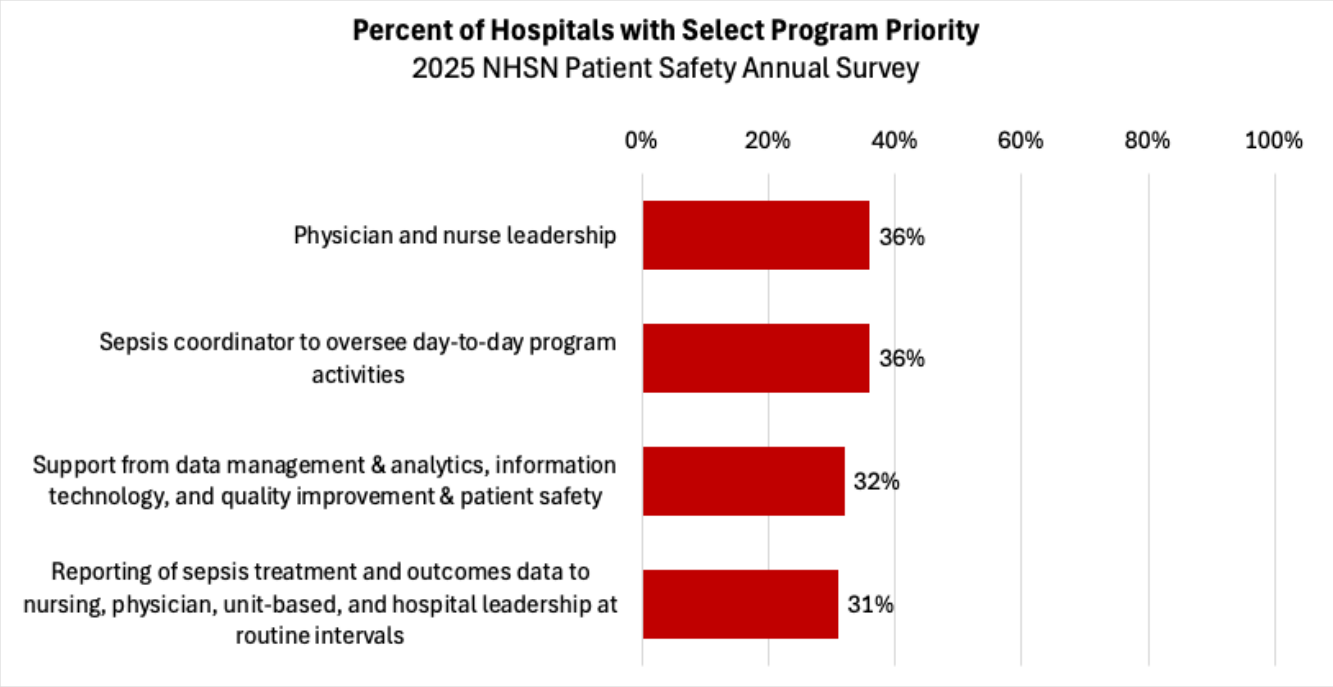
Largest Gains in Sepsis Programs

Sepsis Program Priority	Description	2024 Uptake % (n=5,337)†	2025 Uptake % (n= 5,430)‡	Absolute % difference
Action 4	Our hospital has structures and processes in place to facilitate prompt delivery of antimicrobials.	72	76	4
Tracking 4	Our hospital assesses use, usability, and impact of hospital sepsis tools to inform their ongoing improvement, such as use of sepsis order sets.	38	42	4
Education 3	Our hospital provides written and verbal sepsis education to patients, families, and/or caregivers prior to discharge.	52	56	4

Notable Opportunities for Improvement



Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements Structural Measure

- Assesses uptake of evidence-based sepsis program best practices described in the CDC Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements
- Facilities receive points based on their responses to the corresponding Annual Survey questions to produce a score out of 28
- Available now in NHSN Application

Adult Community-onset Sepsis Standardized Mortality Ratio Outcome Measure

- Provides hospitals with a nationally benchmarked metric of adult community-onset sepsis mortality outcomes, which can be used to measure their progress to improving the care of patients with sepsis
- Event determination, exclusions, and risk adjustment based on a combination of EHR data and Claims data
- In data pipeline testing with NHSN CoLab partners, early adopter enrollment to follow

Addressing Sepsis in Other Populations and Settings

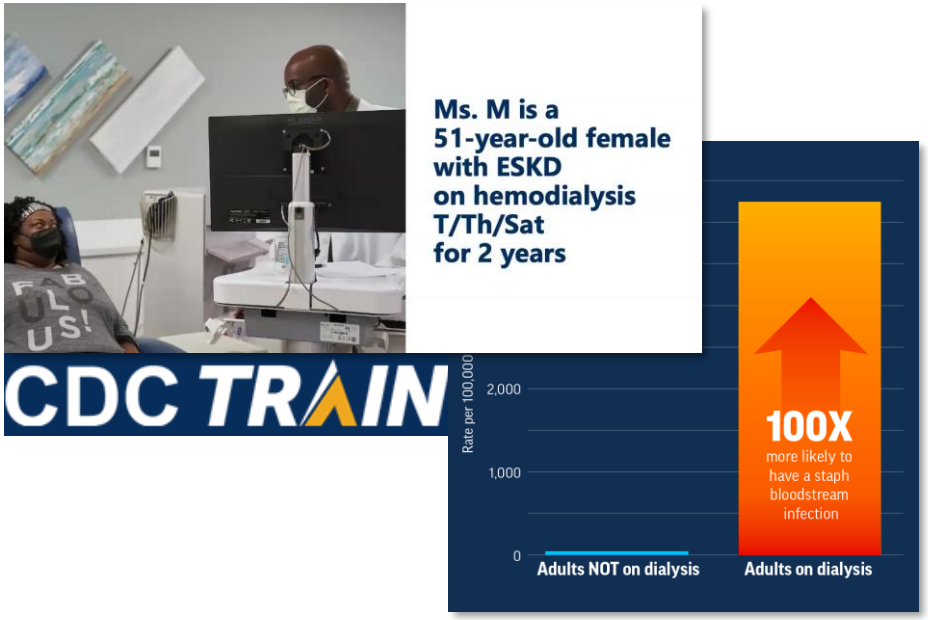
David T. Kuhar, MD
Director, Office of Healthcare Worker Safety
Team lead, Hospital Infection Prevention Team
Prevention and Response Branch
Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion

CDC's Newest Focus Areas

- Dialysis
- Long-Term Care
- Maternal Sepsis

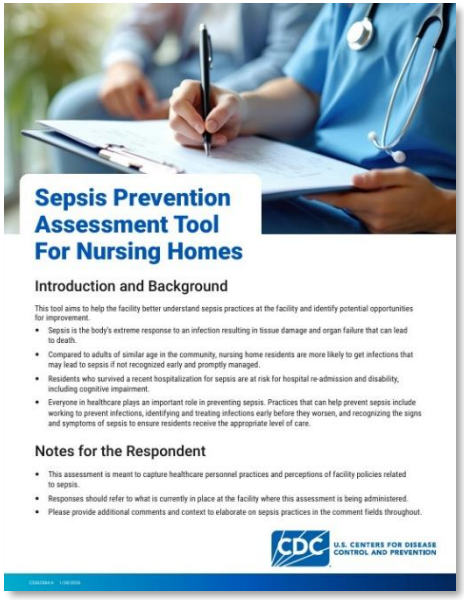
Protecting Patients on Dialysis

- In outpatient dialysis clinics, completed a **scoping review** reporting current practices, and any associated gaps regarding sepsis prevention, recognition, and escalation for patients receiving maintenance dialysis
- Provided a CDC TRAIN [webinar on sepsis](#) recognition, risks, and response in partnership with Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)



Protecting Residents in Long-Term Care

- Sepsis Prevention Assessment Tool (SPAT) launched
  - **Identifies gaps** in sepsis policies, training, and practices in Nursing Homes that can be targeted to improve infection prevention practices, sepsis recognition, and resident outcomes
  - Currently working with partners on use and refinement of the tool



Sepsis Prevention Assessment Tool

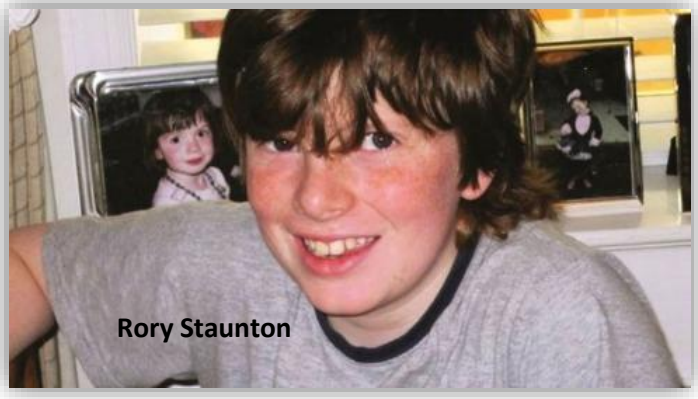
Protecting Pregnant and Postpartum Women

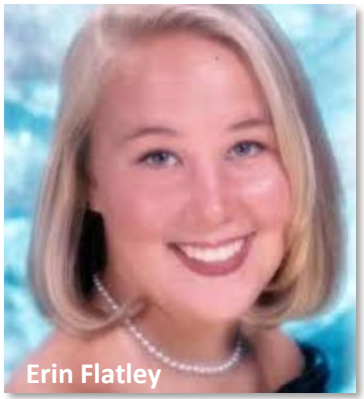
- Developed and completing validation of **surveillance definition of maternal sepsis** with plans to publish
- Exploring appropriate **data sources** for estimating national maternal sepsis burden using validated definition

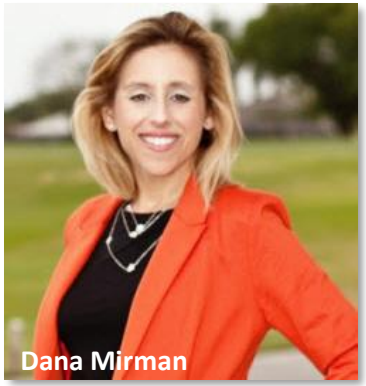
Get Ahead of Sepsis Campaign Update

Nicole Gladden
Health Communication Specialist
Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion

Protecting Patients is What Matters Most







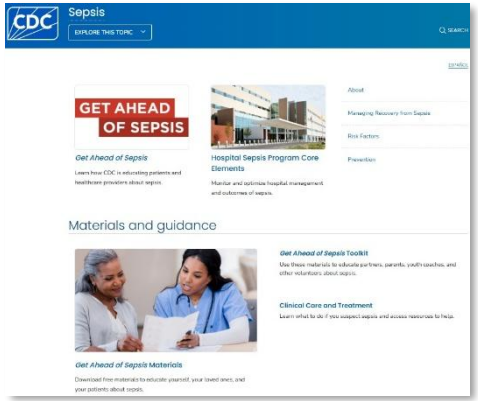
CDC's *Get Ahead of Sepsis* Campaign Increases Sepsis Awareness

- **Goals**
  - **Prevent and reduce infections** that can lead to sepsis
  - **Optimize healthcare quality and patient safety** by raising awareness, knowledge, and motivating behavior change related to sepsis early recognition and appropriate treatment among consumer and healthcare professional (HCP) priority audiences.
- **Priority audiences**
  - Healthcare professionals (HCPs)
  - Patients and families
- **Alignment with cross-agency efforts**
  - *Be Antibiotics Aware* and *C. diff* Campaigns

Get Ahead of Sepsis Campaign Activities

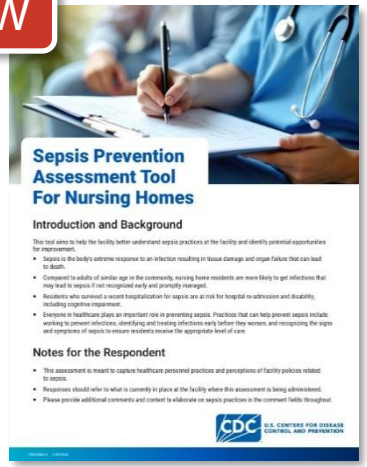
- Materials
- Website
- Emails
- Social media
- Earned media
- Partner & Policy Coordination

GET AHEAD OF SEPSIS



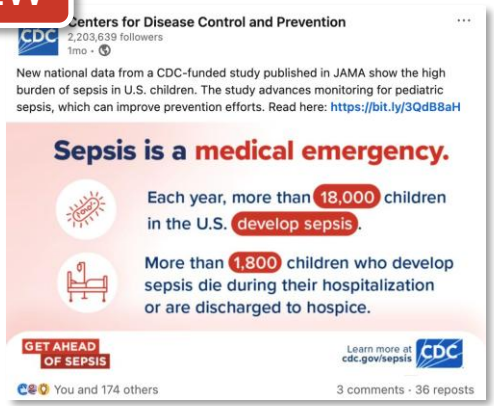
Website

NEW



Materials

NEW

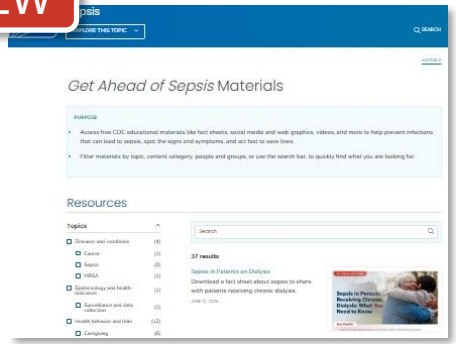


Social media

Sepsis Awareness Month 2026 Activities

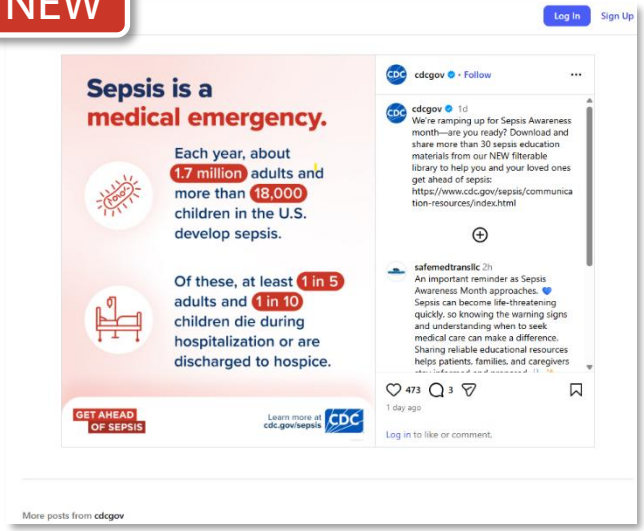
- Web updates
- Social media
- Adobe Campaign emails
- Direct partner outreach
- Earned and free media
- Policy engagement
- Partner events

NEW



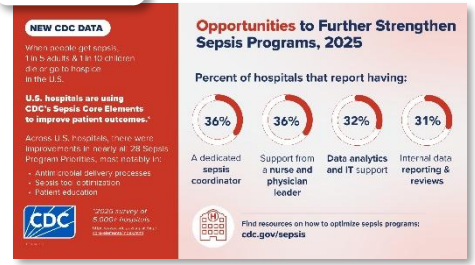
Web Updates

NEW



Social media

NEW



Adobe Campaign emails

…and more!

Other New Communications Activities

CHILDREN


JAMA

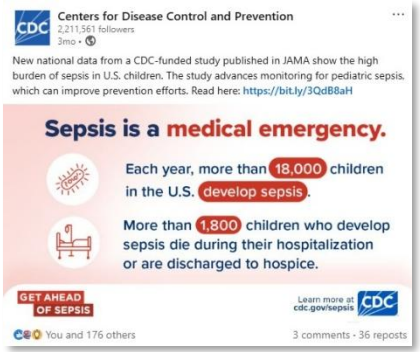
Original Investigation | Caring for the Critically Ill Patient

National Estimates of Pediatric Sepsis in US Hospitals Using Clinical Data

Chanu Rhee, MD, MPH[1,2]; Fran Balamuth, MD, PhD[3]; Kevin Dysart, MD, MBI[3]; et al

Author Affiliations | Article Information


Hospital Toolkit for Pediatric Sepsis Event Surveillance


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2,211,561 followers
3mo •

New national data from a CDC-funded study published in JAMA show the high burden of sepsis in U.S. children. The study advances monitoring for pediatric sepsis, which can improve prevention efforts. Read here: https://bit.ly/3QdB8aH

Sepsis is a medical emergency.

Each year, more than 18,000 children in the U.S. develop sepsis.

More than 1,800 children who develop sepsis die during their hospitalization or are discharged to hospice.

GET AHEAD OF SEPSIS

Learn more at cdc.gov/sepsis

You and 176 others

3 comments • 36 reposts

[Pediatric sepsis burden & toolkit / *JAMA* paper]

NURSING HOMES


Sepsis Prevention Assessment Tool For Nursing Homes

Introduction and Background

This tool aims to help the facility better understand sepsis practices at the facility and identify potential opportunities for improvement.

- Sepsis is the body's extreme response to an infection resulting in tissue damage and organ failure that can lead to death.
- Compared to adults of similar age in the community, nursing home residents are more likely to get infections that may lead to sepsis if not recognized early and promptly managed.
- Residents who survived a recent hospitalization for sepsis are at risk for hospital re-admission and disability, including cognitive impairment.
- Everyone in healthcare plays an important role in preventing sepsis. Practices that can help prevent sepsis include working to prevent infections, identifying and treating infections early before they worsen, and recognizing the signs and symptoms of sepsis to ensure residents receive the appropriate level of care.

Notes for the Respondent

- This assessment is meant to capture healthcare personnel practices and perceptions of facility policies related to sepsis.
- Responses should refer to what is currently in place at the facility where this assessment is being administered.
- Please provide additional comments and context to elaborate on sepsis practices in the comment fields throughout.

CDC U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

[Sepsis Prevention Assessment Tool]

HOSPITALS

Sepsis Core Elements Materials

COMING SOON


Sepsis Impacts the U.S. and Our Hospital

Each year, about 1.7 million adults and more than 18,000 children in America develop sepsis.[2,3]

At least 350,000 adults and more than 1,800 children who develop sepsis die during their hospitalization or are discharged to hospice.[2,3]

In 2018, the total cost of hospital stays and follow-up nursing care for all Medicare patients with sepsis (including fee-for-service and Medicare Advantage) reached $41.5 billion.[4]

Our Hospital

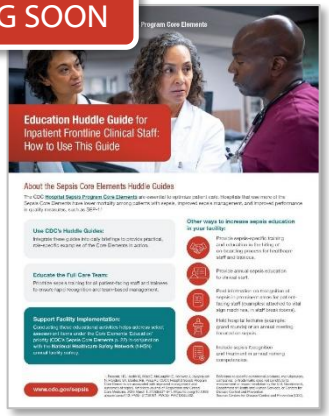
XX admissions with sepsis each year | XX principal diagnosis | $XX total cost

Hospitals that use more of the Sepsis Core Elements have:[1]

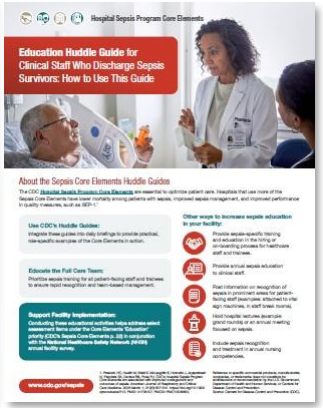
- Lower mortality among patients with sepsis
- Improved sepsis management
- Improved performance in quality measures, such as SEP-1

Hospital Leadership PPT

COMING SOON


Education Huddle Guide for Inpatient Frontline Clinical Staff: How to Use This Guide

About the Sepsis Core Elements Huddle Guides


Education Huddle Guide for Clinical Staff Who Discharge Sepsis Survivors: How to Use This Guide

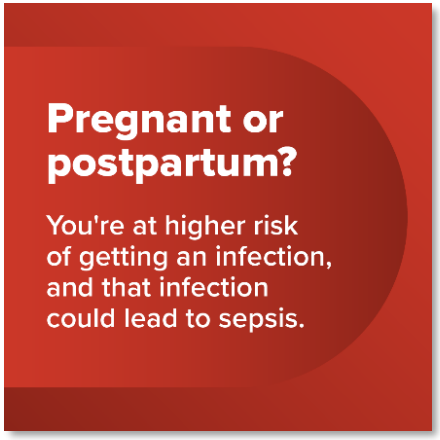
About the Sepsis Core Elements Huddle Guides

Huddle Guides

New *GAOS* Materials

MATERNAL SEPSIS

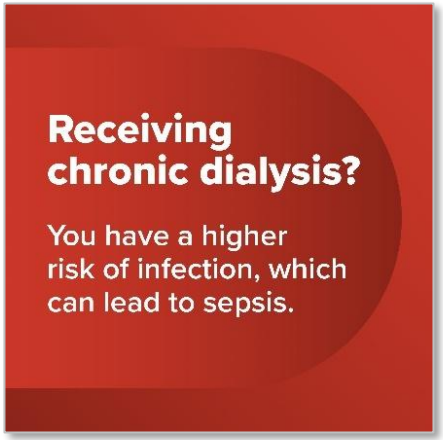
COMING SOON



Social Media GIF

DIALYSIS

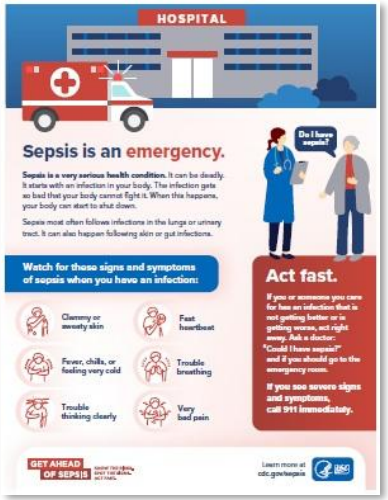
COMING SOON



Social Media Carousel

LOW LITERACY

COMING SOON



Fact Sheet

PEDIATRIC HCPs

COMING SOON

Fact Sheet

Visit our New ***Get Ahead of Sepsis*** **Materials Collection**

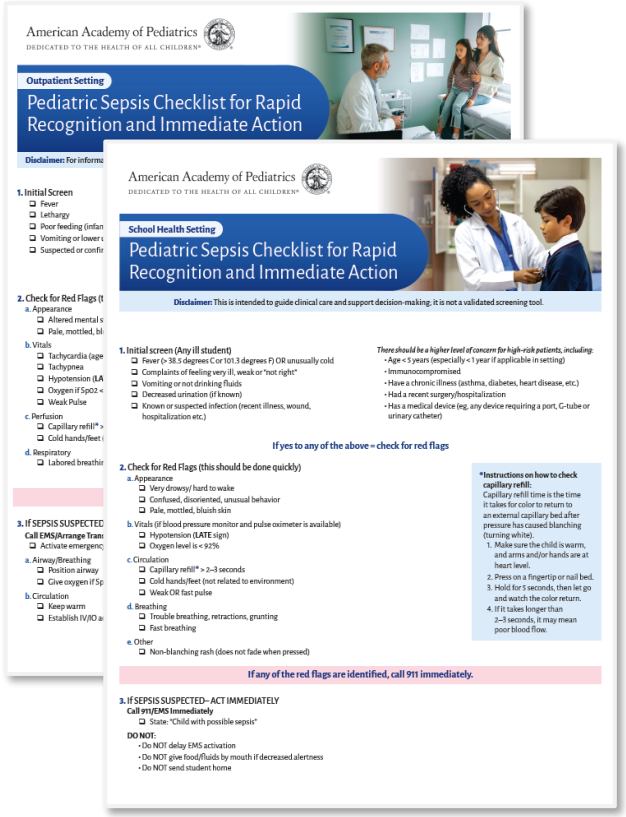
Get Ahead of Sepsis Continues to Make an Impact

Get Ahead of Sepsis Campaign Results	
Metrics	**2025-2026**
Website (Pageviews)	May 1, 2025 – June 10, 2026: **492,315**
File & Materials (Downloads)	September 1, 2025 – August 10, 2026: **135.9K+**
Organic Social Media	September 1, 2025 – May 2026: **23K+ impressions** **510 engagements** **2.01% average engagement rate** **8 posts total**
Adobe Campaign Emails (Unique Clicks)	2026: **1,165** **1 email**

Partnership in Action: AAP

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

- Partnering to strengthen recognition and management of pediatric sepsis in schools, communities, and youth camp settings.
- AAP's Extension for Community Healthcare (ECHO) Program trains school nurses and primary care providers on sepsis prevention, identification, treatment, and return to school after care.

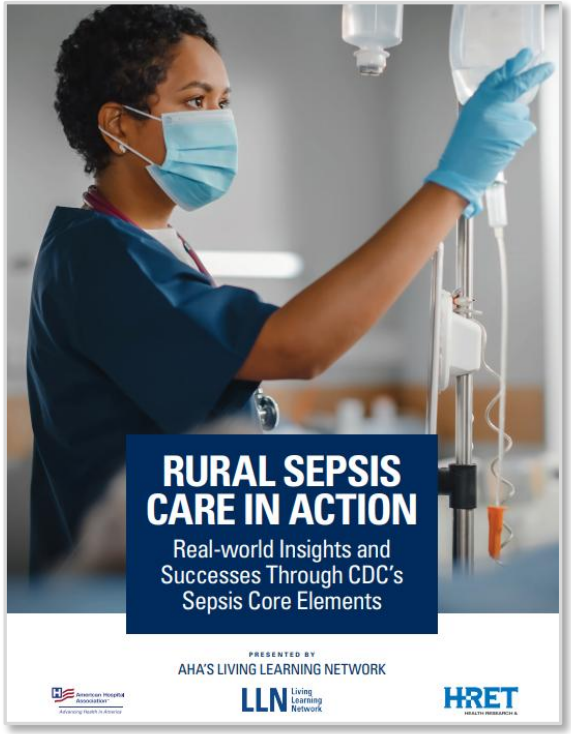


Fact Sheets

Project ECHO®

Project ECHO is a telementoring program for communities of health care providers, fostering an "all learn, all teach" approach.

Partnership in Action: HRET



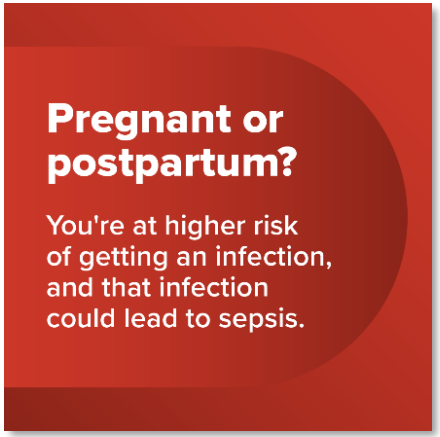
[Guide for Rural Healthcare Organizations]

American Hospital Association (AHA)/Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET)

- Partnering to educate health systems on the Sepsis Core Elements through the Living Learning Network (LLN), a dynamic virtual community of members dedicated to advancing health care and public health.
- Members explore challenges and opportunities in patient safety, quality improvement, infection prevention and control, emergency preparedness, rural health and more to strengthen systems and improve outcomes across the health care landscape.

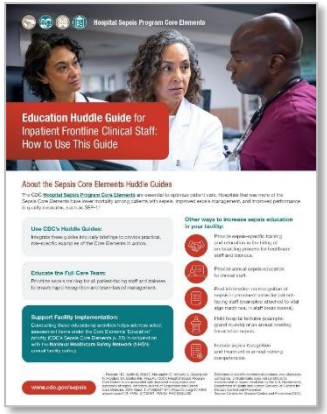
We Need Your Help!

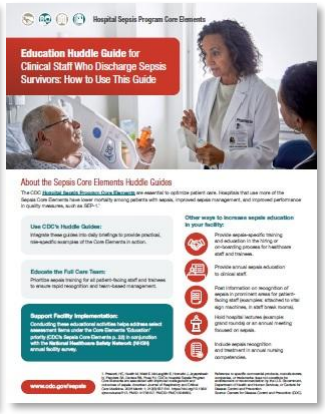
- Help disseminate CDC's new resources on your communication channels, including:
  - New data
  - Fact sheets
  - Social media
  - HCP training materials
- Share your stories!
- Send us feedback.



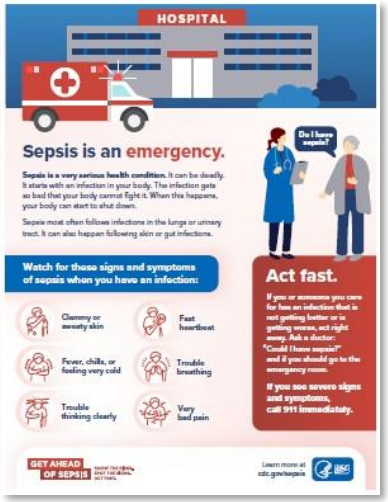
Social Media Assets

New Data





HCP Training Materials



Fact Sheets

Questions?

Sepsis Awareness Month: Round Robin Updates

All Partners

Thank You!

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 cdc.gov