

# Sepsis and Children

Sepsis is a leading cause of death of children in the U.S., taking more young lives than childhood cancers.

In the United States:

More than 20% of childhood sepsis survivors are readmitted to the hospital within 3 months<sup>4</sup>

More children die of sepsis than of childhood cancers<sup>1,2</sup>

75,000 children are diagnosed with sepsis each year – that is 200 per day<sup>1</sup>

1 in 3 pediatric sepsis survivors show a decline in their functional status 28 days after being released from the hospital<sup>3</sup>

Infants from lower income families are 20% more likely to die from sepsis<sup>5</sup>

Preterm infants who are black are 13 times more likely to develop sepsis and 15 times more likely to die than non-black infants<sup>6</sup>

## Can you spot sepsis in children?

The signs of sepsis in children include:

1. Skin abnormally cold to touch
2. Mottled, bluish, or very pale skin
3. Rash that does not fade when you press it
4. Very fast or rapid breathing
5. Seizures
6. Lethargy or difficult to wake up

Additionally, for children under 5 years:

1. Not drinking or feeding
2. Repeated vomiting
3. 12 hours without urinating

If you suspect your child has sepsis, seek emergency care immediately and remember to say, **“I suspect sepsis.”**

**To learn more about sepsis in children, visit [sepsis.org](https://sepsis.org)**



1. Hartman ME, et al. *Pediatr Crit Care Med*. 2013;14(7):686-693. 2. National Cancer Institute - Childhood Cancers. Retrieved March 13, 2019 3. Farris RW, et al. *Pediatr Crit Care Med*. 2013;14(9):835-842. 4. Prout, AJ et al. *Hosp Pediatr*. 2019;9(4):249-255. 5. Bohanon FJ, et al. *Pediatr Infect Dis J*. 2017. 6. Weston EJ, et al. *Pediatr Infect Dis J*. 2011;30(11):937-941.