

# Sepsis Alliance Press Kit



[Sepsis.org](https://sepsis.org) | [SepsisInstitute.org](https://sepsisinstitute.org) | [SepsisVoices.org](https://sepsisvoices.org)



**SEPSIS**  
ALLIANCE

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## Medical Disclaimer

The information in this toolkit is for educational purposes only. Sepsis Alliance does not represent or guarantee that information in this toolkit is applicable to any specific patient's care or treatment. The educational content in this toolkit does not constitute medical advice from a physician and is not to be used as a substitute for treatment or advice from a practicing physician or other healthcare professional. Sepsis Alliance recommends users consult their physician or healthcare provider regarding any questions about whether the information in this toolkit might apply to their individual treatment or care.

# Sepsis and Sepsis Alliance

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**Sepsis** is a life-threatening emergency that happens when your body's response to an infection damages vital organs and, often, causes death.

[Click here to learn more about sepsis.](#)

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**Sepsis Alliance Mission:** Save lives and reduce suffering by educating the public and leading an alliance of patients, healthcare professionals, and partners committed to preventing and curing sepsis.

**Sepsis Alliance Vision:** A world in which nobody is harmed by sepsis.

[Click here to learn more about our mission.](#)

**Sepsis Alliance**, the first and leading sepsis organization in the U.S., seeks to save lives and reduce suffering by improving sepsis awareness and care. Sepsis is the leading cost of care and cause of death in U.S. hospitals: more than 1.7 million Americans are diagnosed with sepsis each year, and more than 350,000 U.S. adults die from the condition annually. Over 50% of sepsis survivors experience lingering complications, which can include amputations and post-sepsis syndrome.

At Sepsis Alliance's founding in 2003, only 19% of U.S. adults were aware of the term "sepsis." After over ten years of educational efforts for the general public and healthcare professionals through Sepsis.org, Sepsis Alliance Institute, and Sepsis Alliance Voices, awareness is at 63%. Over 30,000 healthcare professionals across the country have attended sepsis webinars and courses to elevate their practice.

[Click here to read more of our story.](#)

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**Faces of Sepsis™** allows those affected by sepsis to share their experiences of illness, treatment, recovery, and loss. The collected stories aim to capture the diversity of people impacted by sepsis.

[Click here to read Faces of Sepsis.](#)

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**Sepsis Alliance is a national 501(c)3 organization and a GuideStar Platinum rated charity.**

# Key Players

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## **Thomas Heymann, MBA | President and CEO**

Tom has been part of Sepsis Alliance since 2007, serving as President and CEO since 2013. He has led Sepsis Alliance to consecutive years of growth including the organization's drive to increase sepsis awareness from 19% - 65%.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## **Savannah Stark | Vice President, Development and Operations**

Savannah has been with Sepsis Alliance since 2013, developing and implementing many Sepsis Alliance initiatives including the fundraising and events program.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## **Steven Q. Simpson, MD | Chair, Board of Directors**

Dr. Simpson is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Kansas in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine. He also served as President of the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST).

[Click here for more information.](#)



## **Cindy Hou, DO, MA, MBA, CIC, CPHQ, FACOI, FACP, FIDSA | Chief Medical Officer**

Dr. Hou is the Infection Control Officer and Medical Director of Research at Jefferson Health – New Jersey and the physician lead for Jefferson Health – New Jersey's Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee, Infection Control Committee, Infection Prevention Task Force, and Sepsis on the Floors Task Force.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## **Carl Flatley, DDS, MSD | Founder**

On April 30, 2002, Carl Flatley's life changed. It was the day his daughter Erin died from septic shock, something he had never heard of. Dr. Flatley went on to start Sepsis Alliance in memory of his daughter.

[Click here for more information.](#)

**\*\*Sepsis Alliance also has interview access to sepsis survivors and caregivers, and additional medical professionals from across the continuum of care.**

# Sepsis Alliance Brand

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You are permitted to include most Sepsis Alliance graphics, without crops or edits, in your media. Please contact Alex Colvin at [acolvin@sepsis.org](mailto:acolvin@sepsis.org) with any requests.

When it comes to sepsis, remember **IT'S ABOUT TIME™**. Watch for:

**T** **I** **M** **E**™

**TEMPERATURE**  
higher or lower than normal

**INFECTION**  
may have signs and symptoms of an infection

**MENTAL DECLINE**  
confused, sleepy, difficult to rouse

**EXTREMELY ILL**  
severe pain, discomfort, shortness of breath

If you experience a combination of these symptoms: seek urgent medical care, call 911, or go to the hospital with an advocate. Ask: "Could it be sepsis?"

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**TIME™** es un acrónimo fácil de recordar de los síntomas y signos claves de la septicemia:

**T** **I** **M** **E**™

**TEMPERATURA**  
Mas alta o baja de lo normal

**INFECCIÓN**  
Síntomas o signos de infección

**MENTAL**  
Deterioro mental, confusión, somnolencia o dificultad de despertarse

**EXTREMADAMENTE ENFERMO**  
Dolor intenso, molestias, falta de aliento

Si tiene más de uno de estos síntomas, sospeche sepsis. Busque atención médica inmediata, llame al 911 o vaya al hospital y diga: "Creo que tengo sepsis."

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[For more infographics and posters, click here.](#)

**SEPSIS** **SEPTEMBER** **SAY SEPSIS SAVE LIVES**

SepsisAwarenessMonth.org

[For Sepsis Awareness Month graphics, click here.](#)

**THEIR EVOLUTION**

**COULD END OURS**

Superbugs are growing in number, but the power to defeat them is up to us. See how stopping the spread and protecting yourself and loved ones starts with you.

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[For more graphics from our #EndSuperbugs campaign, click here.](#)

Any time Sepsis Alliance materials or information is used, we ask that you include a citation and link to Sepsis.org. Sepsis Alliance should be referred to as "Sepsis Alliance" not "The Sepsis Alliance" or "The Alliance".

As a note, Global Sepsis Alliance and the UK Sepsis Trust are two separate entities from Sepsis Alliance.

## Usage Regulations

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- The Sepsis: It's About TIME™ logo cannot be reproduced and used without the approval of Sepsis Alliance

# Key Sepsis Facts

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Sepsis is a public health crisis. You can use the facts below in your work. For additional facts, and their citations, please download the full fact sheets by clicking the titles below.

- More than **1.7 million people** in the U.S. are diagnosed with sepsis each year.
- In the United States, sepsis takes a life **every two minutes**.
- **350,000 adults die** from sepsis every year in the U.S. This is more than opioid overdoses, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined.
- More than **75,000 children** develop severe sepsis each year in the U.S. and **6,800 of these children die**, more than from pediatric cancers.
- Sepsis is the number one cause of hospital readmissions, costing more than **\$3.5 billion** each year.
- Black individuals bear nearly **twice the burden** of sepsis deaths, relative to the size of the Black population, as compared to white individuals.
- Black women are **3.3 times more likely** to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women in the U.S. Native American and Native Alaskan women are **2.5 times more likely** to die than white women.

Want to learn more?

Access the entire library of Sepsis Alliance fact sheets by [clicking here](#).

Fact Sheets Include:

- General Sepsis Fact Sheet
- Maternal Sepsis
- Sepsis and Children
- Life After Sepsis
- Sepsis and Aging
- Sepsis and Equity
- Sepsis and Cancer
- Sepsis in California
- Emergency Medical Services



# The Impact of Sepsis



## Beauden's Sepsis Story

At three years old, Beauden developed sepsis after scraping his knee while on vacation. He is now a bilateral amputee and his family is determined to educate others about sepsis. Watch his parents share Beauden's sepsis story by [clicking here](#).



## Matt's Sepsis Story

After developing sepsis in 2018, Matt Scott worked to get back on the court and won gold at the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo in Men's Basketball. He was selected to serve as Team USA's Closing Ceremony flag-bearer at those games. Matt spoke with Sepsis Alliance about his sepsis experience. [Watch the video here](#).



## Katy's Sepsis Story

In September 2018, Katy Grainger was a healthy and active 52-year-old mother of two living on the island of Kauai. She had no idea that a small purple blister on the side of her thumb would be the precursor to a week fighting for her life in the ICU with septic shock, ARDS, multiple organ failure, and DIC. Watch Katy tell her story, [by clicking here](#).



## Tiffany's Sepsis Story

WNBA player Tiffany Mitchell has joined Sepsis Alliance as a Sepsis Alliance Ambassador to raise awareness about sepsis and its devastating impact. As a recent sepsis survivor, Tiffany is determined to help others understand this life-threatening condition and prevent future tragedies. She brings her passion, determination, and influence both on and off the court to advocate for sepsis awareness. Learn more about Tiffany's story and her work [by clicking here](#).

"When I gave birth to a healthy baby boy in July 2020 it never occurred to me that I could develop a life-threatening infection. In my mind infections after childbirth were a thing of the past not something that could happen to a healthy woman like me who has a routine delivery at a New York City hospital." [Read Laura's experience by clicking here](#).

"What started as a blackhead turned into an extremely painful chest cavity abscess the size of half a baseball! I thought I was on the mend after my Urgent Care visit to get the sucker removed. Little did I know, this would be the start of a very painful and scary experience – in the middle of a pandemic!" [Read Christopher's experience by clicking here](#).

# Press Coverage

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**Ashley Park reveals she was hospitalized after her tonsillitis led to 'critical septic shock'**

**Today.com**

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

**'Doctors warn of a sepsis crisis that's killing one American every 90 seconds - and hospitals are missing it'**

**Daily Mail**

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

**Early treatment for sepsis is the most important way to heal**

**CBS News Colorado**

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

**Oti Mabuse had undetected sepsis during her pregnancy**

**Women's Health**

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

**Woman's strep infection leads to sepsis, 'mummified' hands and feet, amputation**

**Today.com**

[Click here to read the full story.](#)



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## Other Helpful Links

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**Annual Awareness Survey** - Sepsis Alliance performs an annual sepsis awareness survey in the United States. View all previous survey reports [here](#).

**Antimicrobial Resistance and Sepsis** - In 2021, Sepsis Alliance launched the #EndSuperbugs campaign to raise awareness of antimicrobial resistance as a major public health crisis. Learn more at [EndSuperbugs.org](https://EndSuperbugs.org).

**Sepsis Alliance Institute** – An online platform to deliver free expert content on sepsis-relevant topics for the healthcare professional community. Learn more at [SepsisInstitute.org](https://SepsisInstitute.org).

**Sepsis Alliance Voices** – In 2019, Sepsis Alliance began expanding into advocacy and policy work, with the understanding that saving lives and reducing suffering from sepsis requires members of the public to speak out in their communities and in halls of power. Learn more at [SepsisVoices.org](https://SepsisVoices.org).

**Sepsis Alliance Connect** – The newest offering from Sepsis Alliance provides survivors, caregivers, patients, and others with a vested interest in sepsis a platform to connect and share resources about life with and after sepsis. Learn more at [SepsisAllianceConnect.org](https://SepsisAllianceConnect.org).