

How Do You Prevent Blood Poisoning? Hire Miss Sepsis!

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Forty percent of Americans have never heard of sepsis—a condition that kills more people than breast cancer, stroke, AIDS, and opioid overdoses combined.¹ Sepsis, put simply, occurs when the body’s immune system goes into overdrive, backfires, and attacks its own organs, and it takes the lives of 270,000 Americans each year.¹ The only two diseases that kill more Americans are heart failure and cancer.

Even more troubling is how easy the condition is to get. A common misconception, even among clinicians, is that sepsis only occurs in the hospital. But the truth is that 8 out of 10 cases are community-acquired,¹ and sepsis can stem from almost any infection, even those seemingly benign like strep throat, a splinter, or a scraped knee.

The symptoms are nonspecific and include one or a combination of six signs—high fever or chills, confusion, elevated heart rate, shortness of breath, sweaty or clammy skin, and extreme pain or discomfort²—with many survivors reporting they felt like they were “going to die” or believed they had a bad case of the flu.

The good news? As difficult as sepsis can be to detect, it can almost as easily be prevented. The best way to do that is by making sepsis top of mind—for someone who has quickly become sick for no apparent reason to assume that it may be sepsis and seek immediate medical attention.

Enter Miss Sepsis, a fictional young girl who contracted sepsis after she scraped her knee and her parents missed the signs—and the focal point of the Patient Safety Authority’s new awareness campaign. She recounts her tale and reminds everyone “Don’t Miss Sepsis.” The concept was to create a character whom viewers would see as their own child, spurring a protective instinct to prevent a similar fate. Thankfully, Miss Sepsis survived, but she also provides statistics to inform that many are not so lucky.

References:

1. sepsis.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Sepsis-Fact-Sheet-2018.pdf
2. [cdc.gov/sepsis/what-is-sepsis.html](https://www.cdc.gov/sepsis/what-is-sepsis.html)

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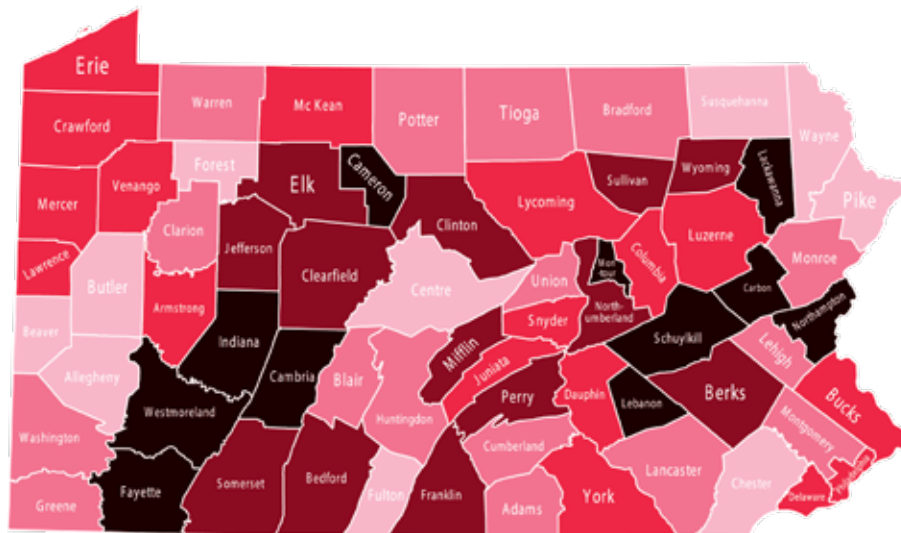


Sepsis Hospitalizations in Pennsylvania by County (July 2017 - June 2018)

County	Total Number of Sepsis Hospitalizations, FY 2018	Hospitalization Rate Per 10,000 Residents, FY 2018	County	Total Number of Sepsis Hospitalizations, FY 2018	Hospitalization Rate Per 10,000 Residents, FY 2018
Forest	43	65.1	Centre	812	61.2
Cameron	65	171.3	Somerset	828	135.2
Fulton	65	55.7	Clearfield	912	139.7
Sullivan	66	122.6	Mercer	918	102.5
Potter	116	86.6	Blair	927	94.7
Pike	181	39.8	Indiana	1,007	147.6
Susquehanna	214	64.0	Northumberland	1,035	139.5
Montour	218	148.8	Lycoming	1,066	118.2
Juniata	226	118.2	Beaver	1,068	79.8
Greene	248	84.0	Butler	1,089	73.2
Clarion	266	86.1	Monroe	1,196	89.2
Wyoming	271	123.3	Washington	1,375	82.6
Tioga	276	84.7	Lebanon	1,571	145.5
Warren	293	91.3	Fayette	1,587	149.1
Union	296	82.5	Franklin	1,617	134.6
Elk	299	122.2	Schuylkill	1,795	155.8
Huntingdon	319	86.6	Cumberland	1,820	92.0
Snyder	332	104.9	Cambria	1,867	174.3
Wayne	334	78.0	Erie	2,146	100.1
McKean	362	109.5	Lehigh	2,337	82.5
Clinton	371	121.2	Dauphin	2,568	119.7
Venango	418	100.2	Lackawanna	2,617	156.3
Bradford	434	91.0	Luzerne	2,905	114.0
Mifflin	443	122.6	Chester	2,992	74.8
Perry	443	121.7	Northampton	3,523	145.9
Jefferson	447	129.2	Lancaster	3,824	92.4
Bedford	510	130.2	York	3,860	110.9
Armstrong	558	104.9	Berks	4,272	132.2
Columbia	633	119.3	Delaware	4,578	104.3
Lawrence	702	100.8	Westmoreland	4,307	149.6
Crawford	706	104.0	Montgomery	5,520	85.1
Adams	773	95.0	Bucks	5,533	110.6
Carbon	791	153.0	Allegheny	7,665	77.5

Data provided by the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, August 2019

Sepsis Hospitalizations per 100,000 Residents (July 2017-June 2018)



Hospitalization Rate Per 10,000 Residents, July 2017 - June 2018

