



Indiana State
Department of Health

INFECTION PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

ISDH Infection Prevention Newsletter
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In Today's Issue:

- Sepsis Awareness Month

2015 | **SEPTEMBER**
SEPSIS SAY SEPSIS
SAVE LIVES
SEPSISAWARENESSMONTH.ORG

September - Sepsis Awareness Month

Sepsis is the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection which can lead to tissue damage and death. The body's immune system releases chemicals into the blood to fight infections but the chemicals may cause inflammation, which can lead to blood clots and organ damage. In severe cases, sepsis can weaken the heart, shut down other organs, and may lead to death. It is difficult to predict, diagnose, and treat. Patients who develop sepsis have an increased risk of complications and death.

There are approximately 750,000 new sepsis cases each year in the US, with at least 210,000 fatalities. The number of cases of sepsis each year has been going up in the United States. This could be because of the following reasons:

- The population is aging
- People have more chronic illnesses
- People are getting more invasive procedures, immunosuppressive drugs, chemotherapy, and organ transplants
- Increasing antibiotic resistance
- Increasing awareness and tracking of sepsis

Early recognition of individuals with possible sepsis is critical for preventing severe outcomes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working to educate the public, healthcare providers, and healthcare facilities about the risks of sepsis. To assist in providing education on sepsis, CDC has published a fact sheet: [Learn more about sepsis facts.](#)

Working to raise awareness, improve early detection and prevent sepsis, the CDC recognizes September as Sepsis Awareness Month. In addition, September 13, 2015 is World Sepsis Day.

The following organizations have additional information on Sepsis and Sepsis Awareness Month:

[CDC - Kick-off](#)

[CDC - Basic Information and Patient Fact Sheets](#)

[CDC - Sepsis](#)

[Institute for Healthcare Improvement: Sepsis](#)

[National Institutes of Health MedlinePlus Topic: Sepsis](#)

[Rory Staunton Foundation](#)

[Sepsis Alliance: Resources](#)

[Sepsis Awareness Month](#)

[Surviving Sepsis Campaign](#)

[World Sepsis Day](#)