

Vital signs: epidemiology of sepsis: prevalence of health care factors and opportunities for prevention.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/vital-signs-epidemiology-sepsis-prevalence-health-care-factors-and-opportunities-prevention>

[Sepsis](#) has been a significant focus of [quality improvement initiatives](#). In this retrospective review, researchers sought to identify patient characteristics, risk factors, and infections that might inform sepsis diagnosis, treatment, and prevention efforts. The medical records of a random sample of 246 adult and 79 pediatric patients with codes for severe sepsis or septic shock across 4 New York hospitals were reviewed. Investigators found that 72% of patients had exposure to at least one health care factor during the 30 days prior to being admitted for sepsis or a medical condition requiring frequent health care contact. [Pneumonia](#) was the most frequently documented infection causing sepsis. They concluded that reducing sepsis will require an ongoing focus on [infection prevention](#).