

Sudden Cardiac Arrest & AED Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND: Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) kills every 1.7 minutes – even among active people without known or pre-existing heart conditions. Statistics below state that using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in SCA cases greatly increases likelihood for survival, and illustrate the need for quick accessibility of AEDs in public places such as schools, airports and sports facilities. Public access programs and legislation have made AEDs more available in some communities, but most public places are without them.

RELATED EDITORIAL TOPICS: Cardiac arrest; cardiac-related deaths; heart health; heart month/week; public safety; CPR

About Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) and Its Dangers

- Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) causes 350,000 deaths per year (approximately one every 1.7 minutes). *Source: American Heart Association (AHA)*
- SCA is the most frequent (#1) killer of adults in the U.S. and SCA deaths outnumber those from lung cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, house fires, hand guns, traffic accidents and AIDS combined. *Sources: National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Fire Administration, AHA*
- Seventy-five percent of SCA events occur in the home. Sixteen percent occur in community areas such as malls, sporting events and schools. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), AHA*

About Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

- Use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can increase the chance of surviving SCA by 70%. The chance of survival from SCA decreases 7-10% for every minute that passes for someone in SCA. *Sources: Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) Publications 3185, 3317; AHA*
- Widespread use of Automated External Defibrillators could save approximately 40,000 lives each year in the United States alone. *Sources: AHA, Philips*
- More than 60% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests have shockable rhythm that can be treated with an AED. *Source: AHA*
- Chicago's O'Hare Airport has 49 AEDs. In the first 10 months of the AEDs being present, they were used 14 times and saved nine lives. *Source: AHA*
- More than 17% of Fortune 1000 companies, eight out of 10 major airlines and four professional sports teams rely on Philips HeartStart® Defibrillators. *Source: Philips (www.philips.com/heartstart)*



How an AED Works

- AEDs are relatively simple to use and, being fully automated with voice commands, nearly eliminate user error. AEDs detect abnormal heart rhythms in the victim, and will administer a shock only if necessary.
- When the Philips HeartStart® AED does not recommend shock and CPR is needed, it will coach the bystander through the proper administration of CPR, even if that person is not trained in the technique.
- AEDs perform self-checks and are nearly maintenance-free.

ABOUT FLEX MED

Flex Med, established in 2002 in Lafayette, La., offers three distinct services: CPR certification for healthcare providers and bystanders; supplemental medical staffing for healthcare facilities; and now offers Philips HeartStart® defibrillators (AEDs).

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