

SCA FAST FACTS

1. Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in the United States, claiming more than 325,000 lives each year (about 1,000 people a day).
2. Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is not the same as a heart attack. Heart attack victims usually experience chest pain and are conscious. SCA victims usually collapse suddenly, without warning, and become unconscious. SCA leads to death if it is not treated immediately.
3. On average, only 6% of sudden cardiac arrest victims in the United States survive. In some settings a survival rates of 20 percent have been achieved. If the chain of survival were properly implemented in our communities, more than 68,000 additional lives could be saved each year.
4. The rationale for widespread deployment of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) is this: electrical therapy must be delivered immediately (ideally within five minutes of collapse) for it to be effective. Even the best emergency medical services (EMS) systems do not always get to the scene this quickly.
5. Sudden cardiac arrest occurs most often in the home.
6. Victims of sudden cardiac arrest who collapse in public places are more likely than those who collapse at home to receive CPR and defibrillation.
7. Learning to use an AED is simple and intuitive. Formal training can take place in as little as one hour. Untrained laypersons have been able to use AEDs successfully in actual emergencies.
8. The median age for victims of sudden cardiac arrest is 65, but many victims are much younger. Even teens have become victims.
9. Some AEDs cost less than \$1,500.
10. More than 300,000 Americans now have implanted cardiac defibrillators (ICDs) which provide 24/7 protection and therapy for patients at a risk of SCA.

The Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association's mission is to prevent loss of life from sudden cardiac arrest. We seek to increase awareness, encourage training for immediate bystander action, increase public access to defibrillation and promote the use of available medical devices and therapies, principally, implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICD). SCAA members are the beneficiaries of improved science and medical technology, coupled with the wisdom and caring of thousands of physicians. For more information, please visit us at www.suddencardiacarrest.org