

# Know the Facts – Save a Life

## What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is an irregular rhythm or “quivering” of the heart. A heart experiencing an chaotic rhythm is unproductive and cannot sustain life. The only treatment for this condition is an electrical shock to the heart.

SCA is the leading cause of death in America. More than 400,000 people die each year of SCA; many of whom would survive if they had received an electrical shock from an automated external defibrillator (AED).

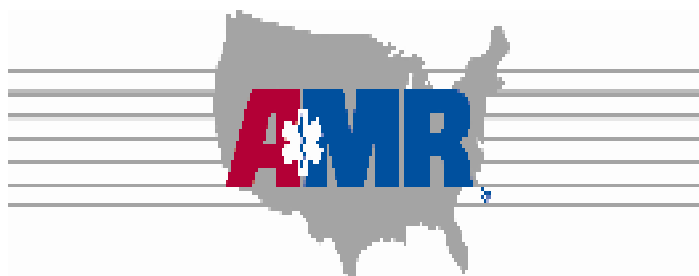
## What is an AED?

An automated external defibrillator is a device that delivers an electric shock to the heart. The AED examines the patient’s heart rhythm and determines whether the heart is in a “shockable” rhythm. If in a shockable rhythm, the machine will advise and can deliver a shock. The machine determines whether the electric treatment is needed or not, not the user.

Anyone able to follow the machine’s simple instructions can use the AED successfully.

## What are the chances of survival?

Without the use of an AED, the survival rate of Sudden Cardiac Arrest is nationally reported to be *5% or less*. Use of an AED has shown survival rate improvement up to 75%. With every minute that passes without an electrical shock, the victim’s chance of survival decreases by 7% to 10%.



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## What is Public Access Defibrillation?

With so many deaths attributed to SCA and with recovery so dependent on the fastest possible time to shock; AEDs were invented. Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) is the effort to place these life-saving devices in public places for anyone to use. The goal of PAD programs is for a lay responder to deliver an electric shock in the first 3 minutes of SCA.

This information was provided by:

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