



## SCA FAST FACTS

1. Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) 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. SCA victims usually collapse suddenly, without warning, and become unconscious. SCA leads to death if it is not treated immediately. SCA is not the same as a heart attack. Heart attack victims usually experience chest pain and are conscious.
3. On average, only 6% of sudden cardiac arrest victims in the United States survive. But, in some settings, 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 usually 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, *and to survive*.
7. Learning to use an AED is simple and intuitive. Formal training can take place in less than 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 with high risk of SCA.