



Conducting a needs assessment for a community AED program

To maximize SCA survival rates, it's important to evaluate and strengthen each individual link in the Chain of Survival. If you can answer "yes" to each question, your community is well-prepared. If any of your answers are "no," there's room for improvement.

Assessing the Early Access link

- ☐ Does the area have enhanced 9-1-1?
- ☐ Is the public educated about recognizing cardiac emergencies and the importance of calling 9-1-1 immediately?
- ☐ Do dispatchers have Emergency Medical Dispatch training?
- ☐ Are dispatchers prepared to provide CPR and AED pre-arrival instructions?
- ☐ If there is an on-site AED program, is a notification plan in place?

Assessing the Early CPR link

- ☐ Are all area emergency medical and public safety responders up to date with CPR training?
- ☐ Do all area students learn CPR before high school graduation?
- ☐ Is at least half the local adult population trained in CPR?
- ☐ Is CPR training readily available?

Assessing the Early Defibrillation link

- ☐ Do state and local laws and regulations permit emergency personnel and trained laypersons to use defibrillators?
- ☐ Are all first-responding emergency personnel trained and equipped to defibrillate?
- ☐ Are these personnel trained to deliver the first shock within 60 seconds of their arrival?
- ☐ Is the average "call-to-shock" time five minutes or less in at least 90 percent of cases?
- ☐ Are on-site AED programs in place, where indicated, to ensure the call-to-shock interval does not exceed five minutes?

Assessing the Early Advanced Care link

- ☐ Does your community have an EMS system that provides Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)?
- ☐ Is the hospital emergency department prepared to provide state of the art emergency cardiac care including reperfusion therapy?
- ☐ Is quality follow-up care available, including evaluation by an electrophysiologist to determine whether implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) therapy is appropriate?