

What Is Public Health's Role in Cardiac Arrest?

The public health community can implement strategies to prevent and control cardiac arrest. Making progress will require engagement and collaboration between CDC and key partners, including national partners, state programs, researchers, and many others.

Public Health Strategies:

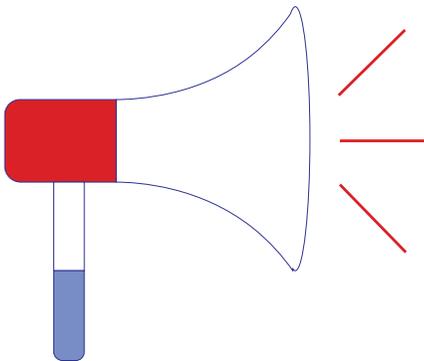


Improved Surveillance

Directing effective cardiac arrest programs requires monitoring of trends over time and across environmental conditions. Improved surveillance could enhance our ability to identify and compare incidence rates, effective treatments, and groups at elevated risk.

Proposed or promising approaches include the following:

- ⚡ Develop and implement unique diagnostic codes for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) and in-hospital cardiac arrest (IHCA).
- ⚡ Classify OHCA and its outcomes as reportable events.
- ⚡ Support a national registry.



Increasing Public Awareness of Cardiac Arrest, CPR, and AED

Advocacy groups have called for a "culture of action" surrounding cardiac arrest that would require widespread public awareness.

Proposed or promising approaches include the following:

- ⚡ Raise awareness about the difference between cardiac arrest and heart attack.
- ⚡ Educate the community on CPR and AED use.
- ⚡ Dispell common myths that cause bystanders to delay intervening in sudden cardiac arrest.



Encouraging Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Policies that Promote Effective Use of AEDs

Efforts are needed to improve the availability of AEDs, public awareness of their locations, and access to them.

Proposed or promising approaches for AED placement include the following:

- ⚡ Schools
- ⚡ Casinos
- ⚡ Sports facilities
- ⚡ Airports
- ⚡ Churches