

POWER  
TO SAVE  
A LIFE



COMMUNITY  
DEFIBRILLATION  
PROGRAMS

save lives





# What is sudden cardiac arrest?

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- Condition in which heart stops abruptly
- Usually caused by ventricular fibrillation (abnormality in heart's electrical system)
- Not the same as heart attack
- Results in death if not treated immediately



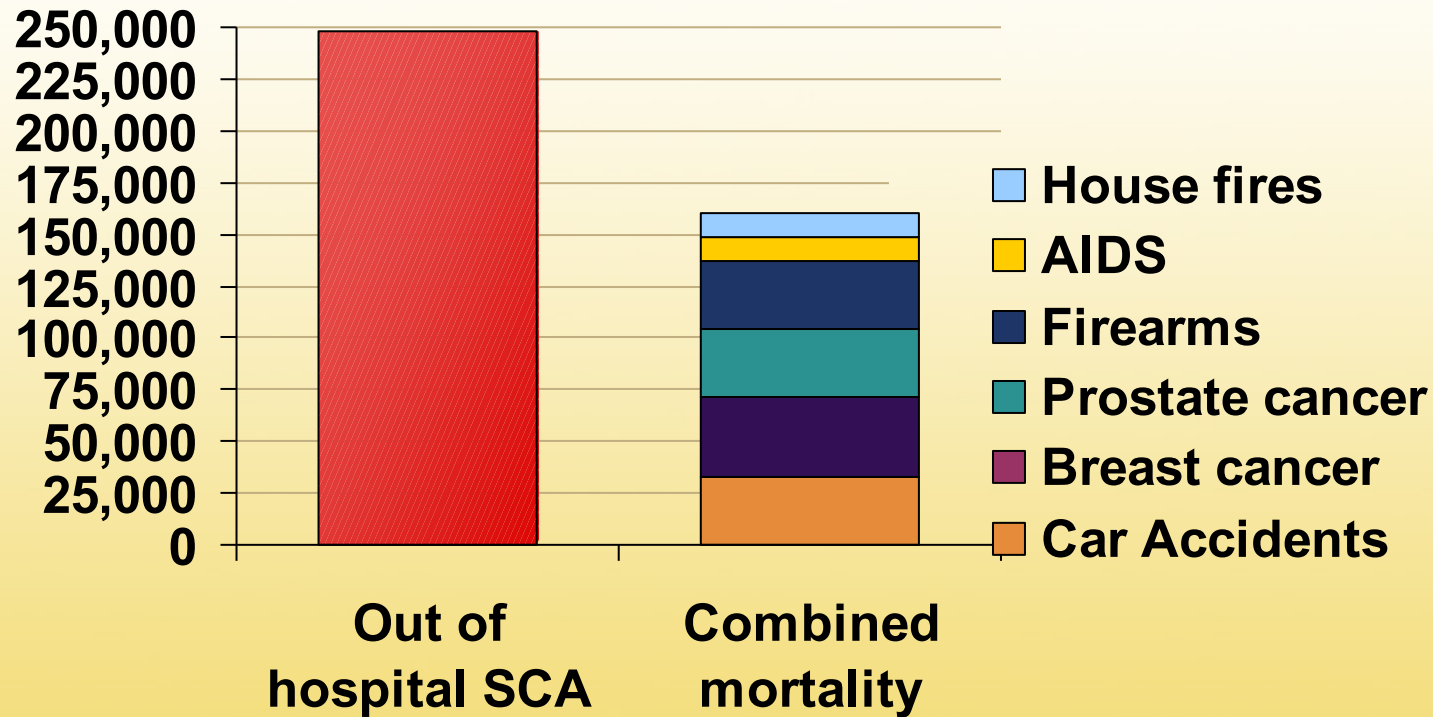


# Sudden Cardiac Arrest

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*A Leading Cause of Death*

## Comparison of mortality figures for SCA vs. other leading causes of death



American Heart Association and [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)





# Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)

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*More Common Than You May Think*

## Annual SCA Events - U.S.\*

**>600** patients each day  
(25 more will die in the next hour)

**75%** out-of-hospital

**20%** without prior symptoms

**95%** die without *timely*  
treatment

**< 5% survive**

Total Deaths  
250,000

\* American Heart Association

\* National Center for Early Defibrillation





# How can SCA be treated?

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- Early CPR to keep heart viable until defibrillator arrives
- Early defibrillation (delivery of electrical shocks with defibrillator)

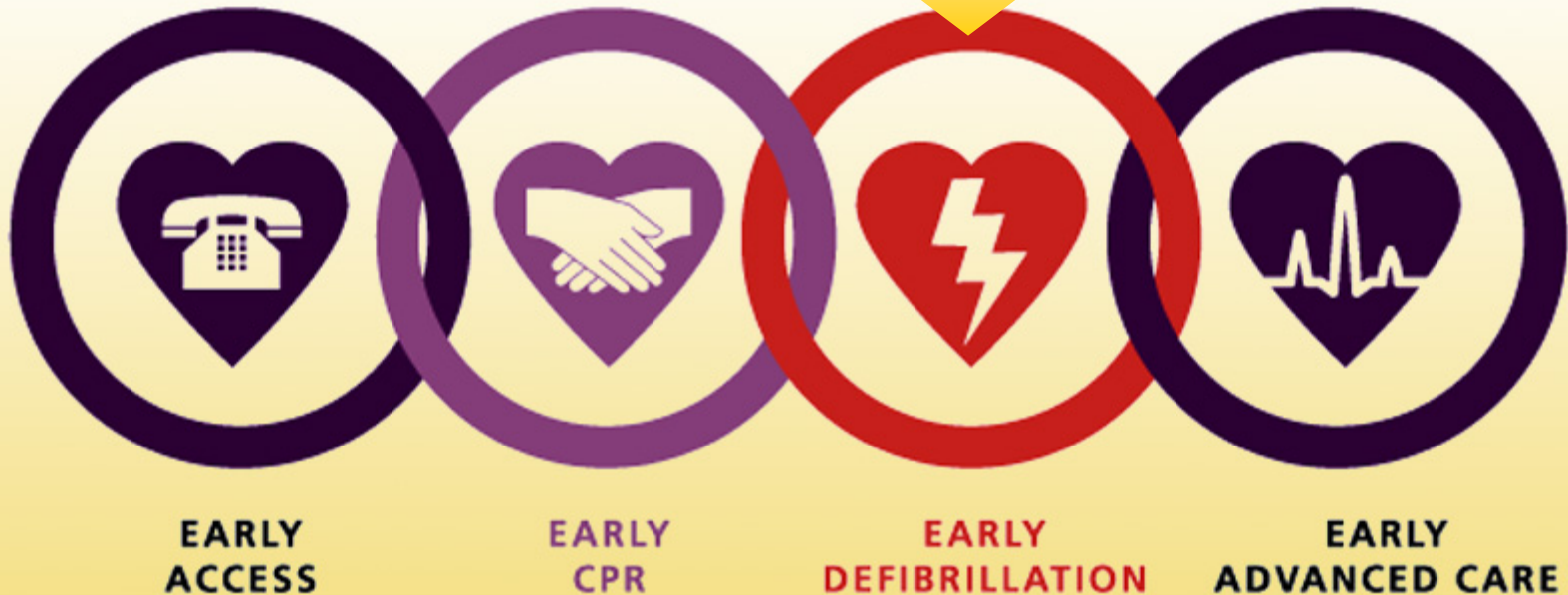




# Chain of Survival

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Defibrillation an **EARLY** priority



Adapted from the American Heart Association







# EMS Response

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*It's About Time!*

## Best Case Scenario

Identify emergency/ Activate emergency response plan	30 seconds
911 call	1 minute
Alert ambulance and rescue squads (dispatch)	30 seconds
Responders to their units	30 seconds
Travel time to location	5 minutes*
Unload equipment/ Distance to patient	2 minutes
Assess patient/ Apply defibrillator/ Deliver shock	1.1 minutes**

**TOTAL 10.6 minutes**

\*Travel time varies depending on weather, traffic, distance (vertical and horizontal), and ambulance (with defibrillator capability) availability.

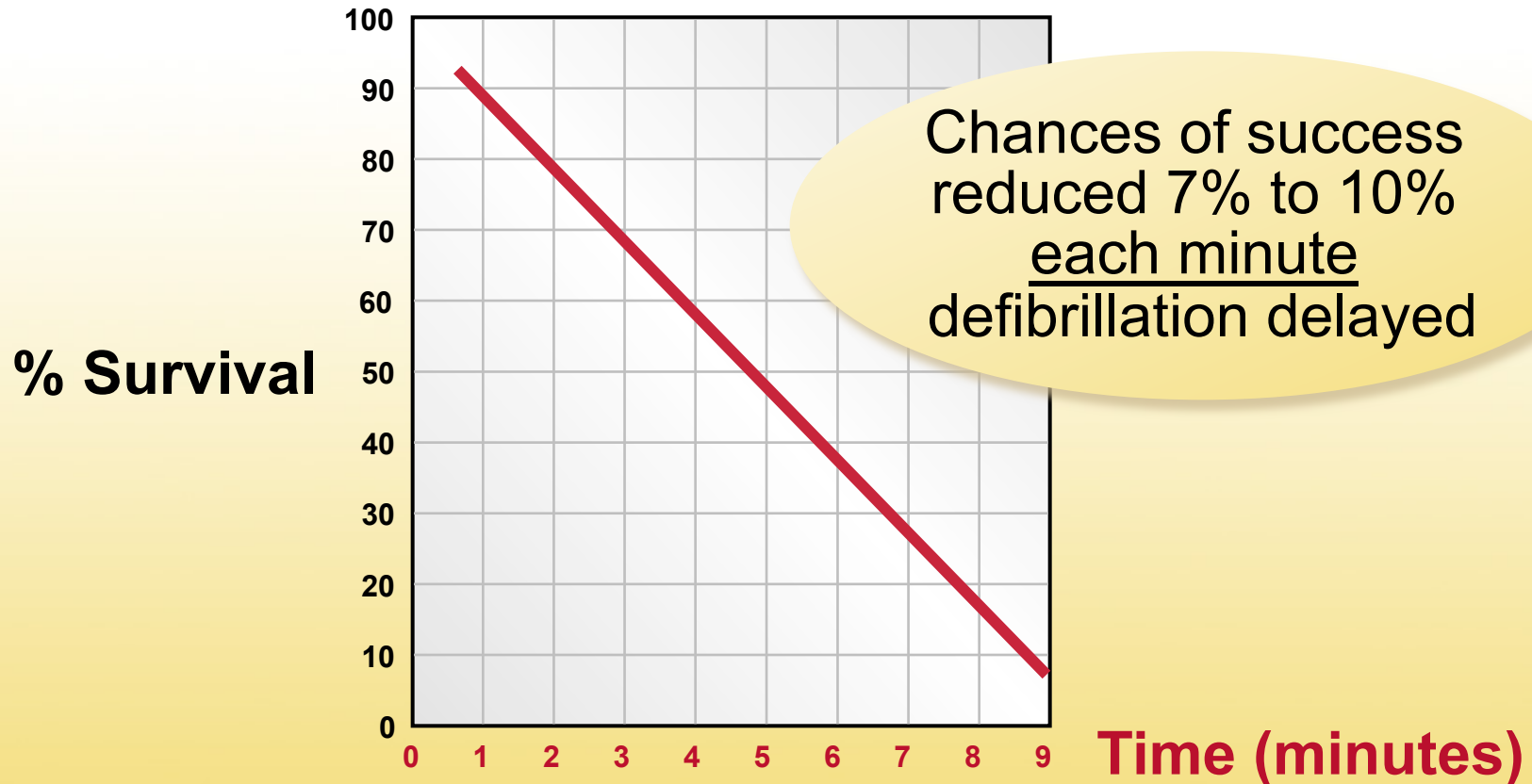
\*\*Cummins RO, et.al. Automatic external defibrillators used by emergency medical technicians: a controlled clinical trial. JAMA. 1987; 257:1605-10





# The Case for *Early* Defibrillation

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Cummins RO, et al. Guidelines 2000 for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC), *Circulation (Suppl)* 2001;102:8, August 22







# Who supports increased access to defibrillation?

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- American College of Emergency Physicians
- American Heart Association
- American Public Health Association
- American Red Cross
- Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians
- Citizen CPR Foundation
- Emergency Care Research Institute
- Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation
- National Association of EMS Physicians
- National Association of State EMS Directors
- National Association of State EMS Training Coordinators, Inc.
- National Center for Early Defibrillation
- National Heart Lung and Blood Institute
- National Safety Council
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration





# Something to Think About...

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*“Public Access Defibrillation has the potential to be the single greatest advancement in the treatment of pre-hospital SCA death since the development of CPR.”*

AHA Guidelines 2000 for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care, Page I-60.





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For the  
**Ordinary**  
Person  
in the  
**Extraordinary**  
Moment

