

Just how important are Defib Units...?



Some Facts & Figures Around The Importance Of Defib Units

Each year in Britain around 30,000 people are struck by sudden cardiac arrest outside of hospital environments. They can affect anyone at any time – from young children at school, to adults when they're at home, work or out in public places.

If victims aren't treated properly, more often than not, cardiac arrests are fatal. The British Heart Foundation's figures show that only one in ten victims survive. There are a couple of reasons for this sorry figure – namely the lack of accessible defibrillators and a distinct lack of education and training.

How many people actually die from cardiac arrest in the UK each year?

The figures below really underline the horrific impact cardiac arrests have on victims, especially the families of young children who suffer an attack.

- 12 people under the age of 35 die each week from sudden cardiac arrest
- 270 children die from sudden cardiac arrest suffered on school premises

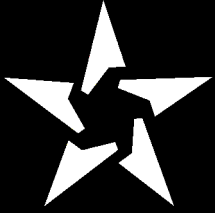
Of the 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrest alluded to at the start of the post, 80 per cent happen at home and another 20 per cent occur in public places where, due to a lack of proximity to defibrillators, the victim is at most risk of death.

Whenever cardiac arrest strikes, there is absolutely no time to lose. Every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces a victim's survival rate by 7 to 10 per cent. **They are that important!**

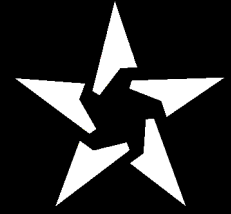
Without immediate treatment;

90-95 per cent of cardiac arrests prove fatal





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Defibrillators, which are usually mounted onto walls in the places they are most needed, allow users to provide high-energy, powerful electric shocks to the heart through pads which are placed on the chest near the heart.

It's the shock itself that's called defibrillation.

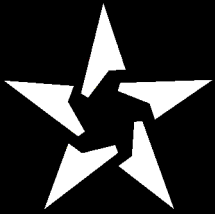
In an ideal world, defibrillators would be positioned in every public place and be available almost anywhere. That's not the case, though, despite there being pressure put on institutions such as schools for instance, to install them.

The figures below, though, back up why many people are lobbying for their widespread installation in public places across the UK. It makes perfect sense, but it's also about education.

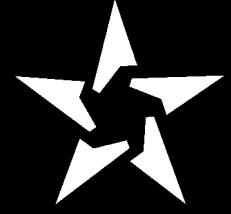
- ***Only 40 per cent of bystanders who witness a cardiac arrest perform CPR***

Research by the British Heart Foundation reveal that that only four in ten bystanders performed CPR, and that 62 per cent of British adults admitted to being worried about what to do if someone collapsed in front of them after suffering cardiac arrest.





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CPR must be learnt, but today's defibrillators are all easy-to-use models that walk its user through the whole process and clearly communicate what to do.

It makes you think, if they're that important to saving lives, why isn't it the law for them to be installed in every school, office or other busy public places?

- **If a defibrillator is used within 3-5 minutes of cardiac arrest, survival rates jump from 6 per cent to 74 per cent**

Again, the figures back up the fact that they make a huge difference. In fact, alongside effective CPR, they are, according to defibshop, the only effective treatment for a person who has suffered cardiac arrest.

The last two, frankly startling points should be compelling enough reason for people to take action and learn CPR and also for the widespread installation of defibrillators.

It's simple: defibrillators make all the difference

The answer is that defibrillators make *all* the difference following sudden cardiac arrest, but more still needs to be done to increase awareness.

