

Additional Information

Placing AEDs — Where and How Many?

Local officials, management and physicians providing oversight are best able to determine an organization's need for AEDs and where they should be placed. An efficient PAD program optimally achieves a 3-minute response time from collapse of patient to on-scene arrival of the AED with a trained lay rescuer. When making these decisions, use this 3-minute response time as a guideline to help you determine where and how many AEDs to place in your location. The following points may help you decide where to place AEDs:

Response Time

Address locations at which defibrillation can't be administered in a timely manner. The AHA notes that for every minute that defibrillation is delayed, the chance for survival decreases by about 10 percent. An efficient PAD program would optimally be able to achieve a 3-minute response time from collapse of patient to arrival on-scene of the AED with a trained rescuer.

Incidence Rate

Based upon historical data, identifying locations at which the incidence of cardiac arrest is high, or higher, is important in identifying AED placement sites. Companies should determine if there are locations within the site where the incidence may be higher (such as corporate health clubs). Other areas to consider include those with a high population density such as cafeterias.

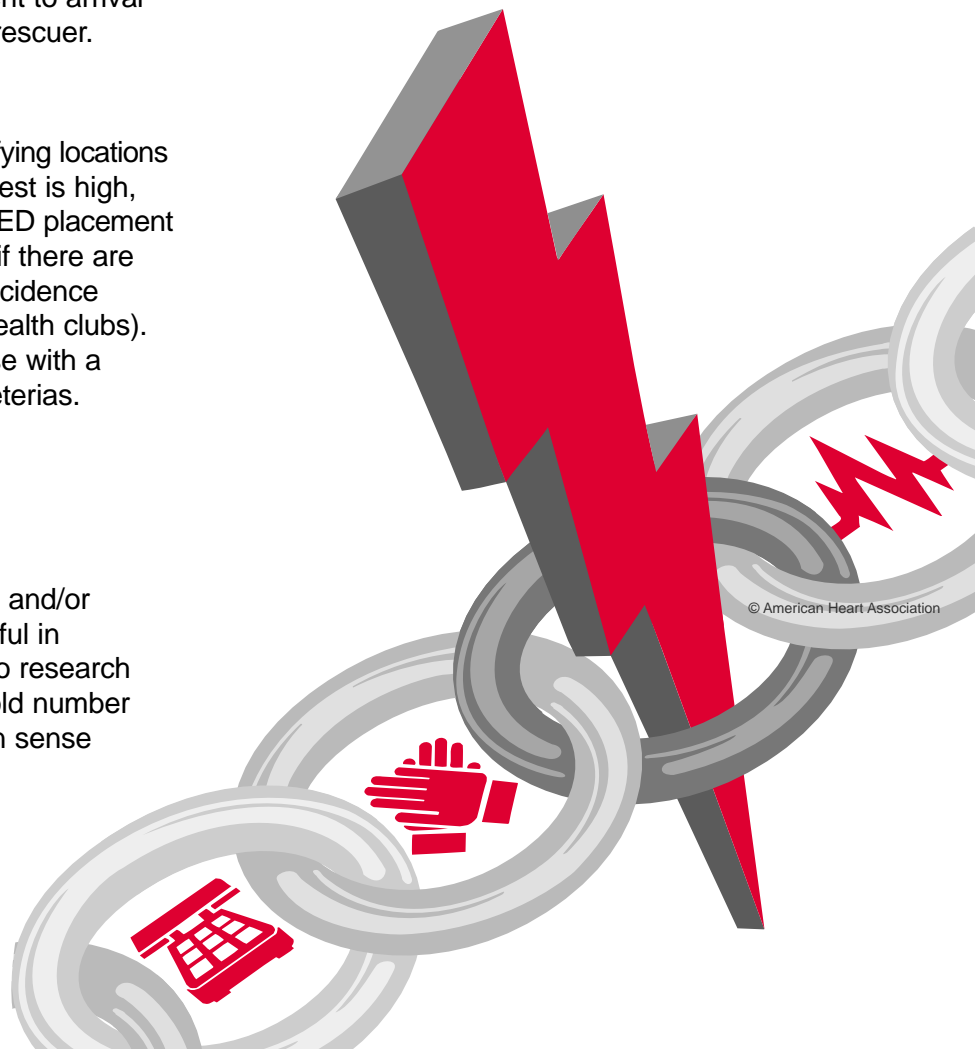
Volume and Risk of Visitors/Employees

Identifying the number of visitors and/or employees at a location can be helpful in determining the need for an AED. No research is yet available that shows a threshold number for placing AEDs. However, common sense

indicates that locations with large numbers of employees, visitors or both have a greater need for an AED than locations with lower numbers. Additionally, determining whether a location needs an AED based upon the "high risk" of visitors/employees should also be considered.

High-Risk Activity

Assessing the "high risk" activity at a location can be helpful in determining the need for an AED. Obviously, a health/exercise facility with an aging population has a higher risk for incidence than a location with minimal physical activity.



Vertical Response Time

Response time should be calculated based upon how long it takes to reach a potential victim, not the time it takes medical help to reach a particular street location. Large office complexes or high-rise buildings present often-challenging obstacles to providing early defibrillation. The presence and location of AEDs in these settings can greatly impact survival rates.

Multiple Placements in Large Areas or High-Traffic Locations

Consider placing more than one AED at a location that covers a large area, has multiple buildings or floors or has a significantly high number of employees or visitors. Each location should determine whether one AED will be able to provide timely and early defibrillation. Currently there's no research that indicates a recommended coverage area for an AED, however achieving a 3-minute response time should be the primary guide to making placement decisions.

Physical Placement

Give heavy consideration to the actual location of the AED at the facility to ensure that the AED is accessible to trained rescuers if it's needed. Determine a location where the AED is both secure and accessible. Be sure a nearby phone can be used to call the EMS system and that it has easy access to an outside line. All trained users should know of this location and be assured access upon need. Potential locations may include security posts, first aid stations, the main receptionist area and fitness/exercise rooms.

Other Placement Considerations

Be sure to take into consideration the potential need for defibrillation capability at off-site business meetings, conferences and special events such as company social gatherings. Making an AED accessible for traveling executives may also be a consideration.

With survival rates decreasing 7–10 percent for every minute defibrillation is delayed, having an AED at your location with trained rescuers can significantly impact the lives of your employees if this intervention is needed.

