



Public access defibrillation programmes

Public access defibrillation programmes increase the availability of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in the community. A person who experiences a cardiac arrest may be defibrillated before the emergency services arrive.

The Public Health (Availability of Defibrillators) Bill 2013 proposes that AEDs be installed in a range of public places.

43,000 premises may be affected



The Bill places a legal requirement on the owners of these premises to install a defibrillator, ensure that it is maintained and available for use, display signs on its location and provide training to employees on how to use it.

- It is estimated that 38,000 additional defibrillators would be needed in designated places.
- This will cost up to €105 million over the first five years.
- It will save approximately 10 additional lives annually.

Approx 50 lives over 5 years

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105 million over 5 years

- On average each defibrillator costs approximately €1,450 (not including maintenance and upkeep costs).
- On average defibrillators need to be replaced about every 8 years.
- It is estimated that there are already between 8,000 and 10,000 functioning defibrillators available.


>38,000 additional devices

Important factors for improving the effectiveness of public access defibrillation include:

Targeting the placement of AEDs in higher incidence locations.



Introducing a national register of defibrillators linked to emergency medical services.



Raising public awareness and training on the use of AEDs.

