Save Hearts in Arizona Registry and Education (SHARE)
Frequently Asked Questions
EMS Providers

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System, in collaboration with the University of Arizona AEMRC (Arizona Emergency Medicine Research Center), established the Save Hearts in Arizona Registry and Education (SHARE) Program, which collects and analyzes out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) data. SHARE promotes a comprehensive, standardized system of post-arrest care throughout the state, encompassing the entire chain of survival—bystanders, dispatchers, EMS providers, and hospitals (Cardiac Receiving/Cardiac Referral Centers). The ultimate goal of SHARE is to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest.

WHAT IS THE SHARE REGISTRY?
The SHARE registry is a collaborative effort involving the ADHS Bureau of EMS and Trauma System, the University of Arizona, EMS organizations and hospitals across the state, and public agencies. The SHARE registry is a comprehensive and confidential database to track data on adult and pediatric cardiac arrest as well as the use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) by laypersons in Arizona. The SHARE registry is designed to help local EMS administrators and medical directors identify who is affected, when and where cardiac arrest events occur, which elements of the system are functioning properly and which elements are not, and how changes can be made to improve cardiac arrest outcomes. SHARE utilizes a database system that tracks the event including treatments associated with First Responder and EMS response for cardiac arrest and patient outcomes with hospitals. Multiple reporting features can be generated and allow for internal benchmarking.

The purpose of this registry is to establish a reliable tracking system to:
1. Determine the incidence and survival for OHCA victims throughout Arizona
2. Determine key factors associated with cardiac arrest such as frequency and quality of bystander CPR and variations in EMS protocol requirements
3. Analyze where and how AEDs are being used in Arizona
4. Improve survival from OHCA by determining optimum treatment that may vary by arrest location

HOW WILL THE SHARE REGISTRY HELP YOUR AGENCY?

Participation in the SHARE Program will give your organization critical feedback on patient survival from cardiac arrest. Regular reports will be provided to your EMS agency that will help improve treatment of cardiac arrest patients. This information may assist Arizona EMS agencies in obtaining resources, AED equipment, and grants that will in turn improve overall cardiac arrest care by EMS providers throughout the state.

The data may be used for QA purposes by each agency and will be presented at the EMS Council Meetings in a de-identified format on a regular basis.

HOW CAN WE PARTICIPATE IN THE SHARE PROGRAM?

The SHARE team asks that each participating agency identify an EMS contact. This contact serves as the local SHARE administrator for the agency and will oversee SHARE participation. The EMS contact will work closely with the SHARE team to determine the most appropriate methods for starting data collection and program implementation, and will monitor data collection for the EMS agency and participating hospitals. We realize that this contact person may change; we simply ask that you inform us when changes are made.

Each participating EMS agency will be asked to submit a copy of each first care report for all victims of OHCA on whom resuscitation is initiated. The SHARE team will enter first care report information into the SHARE database. The data is maintained in a secure database located on the University of Arizona server.

HOW DOES SHARE COLLECT HOSPITAL OUTCOMES?

SHARE encourages participation from hospitals where the participating EMS agency transports cardiac arrest patients. A contact person has been identified at each hospital. The only requirement for a contact is that he/she has access to hospital records to obtain outcome data. Hospitals recognized as Cardiac Receiving or Cardiac Referral Centers are required to enter data in the SHARE database on each out-of-hospital cardiac arrest transported to their facility.

DOES SHARE USE IDENTIFIABLE PATIENT INFORMATION?

Yes, SHARE requires the use of a patients' name and date of birth to link the EMS record with the hospital outcomes.

IS THE INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL? HOW DOES HIPAA APPLY?

The disclosure and use of protected health information (PHI) in connection with SHARE is permissible under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) under the regulation issued at 45 C.F.R. § 164.512(b)(1)(i). The regulation authorizes a public health authority to collect or receive PHI, without individual patient authorization, for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability, including the conduct of public health surveillance. The CDC and organizations acting under the CDCs authority are considered public health authorities under the regulation. In January 2005 OHCA was designated a public health problem by the Arizona Department of Health Services and the SHARE program is the designated public health program addressing this problem, thus SHARE is exempt from HIPAA requirements. All information you provide will be kept confidential in a protected database. The Bureau of EMS & Trauma System and the University of Arizona will not share your identifying information with others. Your agency's data will not be shared with any other organization or agency without your permission. All data is used for quality assurance and de-identified according to HIPAA standards.

DOES SHARE TRACK INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE?

No. SHARE is prohibited from utilizing any data for assessment or analysis of individual personnel or department performance. After data is entered into the secure SHARE database maintained outside of ADHS, all submitted EMS encounter forms are destroyed and the data is aggregated so that individual provider information is not available. The data maintained for the SHARE Program has been identified as confidential data pursuant to A.R.S. 36-2220 and is not available to the public.

WHO HAS ACCESS TO THE DATA?

The participating EMS agency has access to all of the EMS and hospital data for their patients. EMS agencies do not have access to data from other participating agencies. The SHARE team has access to all EMS and hospital data for monitoring and de-identification purposes.

HOW DO I OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SHARE?

Please visit www.azshare.gov to read more about the SHARE Program. If you have any questions or need assistance please contact Julia Vinton at Julia.Vinton@azdhs.gov or 480-599-4145.