

WHY CARES MATTERS



THE CARDIAC ARREST REGISTRY TO ENHANCE SURVIVAL (CARES)

Each year, over 250,000 Americans experience sudden cardiac arrest outside the hospital. Survival depends on a rapid, coordinated response—from the first 911 call to EMS arrival and hospital care.



A NATIONAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Founded in 2004 by the **CDC** and **Emory University**, CARES is the only U.S. registry that links data from 911 dispatch, EMS, and hospitals into a single record for every out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA).

- Covers 186 million people across 37 states and growing
- Includes data from 2,600+ EMS agencies and 2,200+ hospitals
- Over 1.3 million events tracked to date

CARES enables local, state, and national leaders to identify what's working—and where targeted improvements can save more lives.



DRIVING CHANGE AT EVERY LEVEL

What makes CARES different is its direct connection to action. The data isn't just collected—it's used.

- **State and local partners** identify neighborhoods where CPR rates are low and provide targeted training
- **First responder systems** use CARES to improve dispatch-assisted CPR and early defibrillation
- **Hospitals** use CARES data to enhance post-resuscitation care and track outcomes
- **Researchers** use CARES to study trends, system performance, and long-term outcomes
- **Partners** like the [American Heart Association](#) and [American Red Cross](#) rely on CARES to shape national campaigns and advocacy efforts

LOOKING AHEAD: CARES 2.0

Fueled by a \$24 million CDC grant made possible by the **CAROL Act**, CARES is entering a new era of national impact:

- Expansion to all 50 states
- A modernized, user-friendly software platform
- Interactive maps to guide local intervention
- Deeper integration with the [Resuscitation Academy](#), [CPR LifeLinks](#), and other national response efforts

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Every second counts—and every link in the chain of survival matters.

CARES strengthens each step:



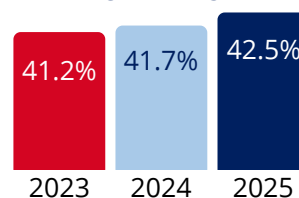
CARES helps communities measure, improve care, and save lives.

REAL PROGRESS, REAL IMPACT

CARES is driving measurable improvement nationally.

- **Chicago, IL** — launched a collaborative effort in 2011 combining prehospital and 911 dispatcher interventions, community engagement, and data-driven mapping. Bystander CPR rates increased from 15.5% in 2014 to 54.2% by 2024.
- **Detroit, MI** — used CARES data to rebuild its EMS system after bankruptcy. Survival tripled, and bystander CPR increased from 13% to 36%.
- **Hawaii** — used CARES insights to scale high-performance CPR across the state, training everyone from lifeguards to hospital teams.
- **Montana** — became the first state with automated statewide reporting, using CARES to drive AED access, CPR training, and 911 improvements in rural areas.
- **North Carolina** — launched the RACE-CARS trial, using CARES data to guide one of the largest randomized cardiac arrest system interventions in the U.S.

NATIONAL BYSTANDER CPR RATES



NATIONAL OVERALL SURVIVAL RATE

