

## Safety of External Defibrillators Examined

More than one in five external defibrillators, which are often placed in public places to revive heart attack victims in emergencies, were recalled because of potential malfunctions, new research shows.

The data, based on 10 years of U.S. Food and Drug Administration records, provide some of the first evidence on the safety and reliability of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). The findings were presented Thursday at the Heart Rhythm Society's annual meeting in Boston.

"AEDs provide automated heart rhythm analysis, voice commands, and shock delivery, and can be used by individuals with minimal training or experience," study author Dr. William H. Maisel, director of the Pacemaker and Device Service at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, said in a statement. "As a result, widespread installation of AEDs has occurred in recent years."

"Public places such as airports, sports arenas and casinos are now routinely outfitted with AEDs and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration [FDA] has approved certain AED models for home use," he said. "Unfortunately, as AED use has increased, so too has the number of recalled devices."

For the rest of this article, and for more information, please visit:

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_33724.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_33724.html)



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