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For Immediate Release

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association Frustrated By Sudden Cardiac Arrest Statistics

RESTON, VA, May 13, 2013—Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) kills nearly 300,000 Americans each year – more than breast cancer, lung cancer and HIV/AIDS combined. Not just an old person's disease, SCA also strikes children, athletes and others in seemingly good health.

Sadly, the survival rate of SCA has remained a low six percent for the past 30 years because most events are not witnessed, bystanders do not intervene with lifesaving CPR and AED usage, or emergency medical care does not arrive in adequate time. Frustrated with these alarming statistics, the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association is putting out a call to children and adults of all ages to become First Aid/CPR/AED certified during National CPR/AED Week, June 2-8.

"SCA is a major public health crisis that is not well understood by most Americans," said Bill Carney, Executive Director SCAA. "Awareness of SCA and bystander assistance is crucial to increasing survival."

The only way to survive SCA is through CPR and shocks administered from an AED. Bystanders knowing how to use CPR and an AED will make communities safer, and citizens will know how to recognize and respond to SCA and give their neighbors a fighting chance at survival.

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The Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association is the nation's largest public advocacy organization exclusively dedicated to sudden cardiac arrest awareness and prevention. For more information, please visit www.suddencardiacarrest.org.