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## HeartSafe Initiative

Author (s)

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**Goal-** To increase cardiac survival rates in Dutchess County through the implementation of the Heart Safe Initiative

**Background-** According to the American Heart Association less than five percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims survive because a vast majority witnessing the arrest do not know CPR or the “chain of survival.” The AHA states that knowledge and execution of these steps can increase the survival rate by 20 percent or more.

Dutchess County Department of Health working with community organizations in Dutchess County have adopted The Heart Safe Initiative to address policies associated with early cardiac arrest care.

**Objectives-** The Heart Safe Initiative created criteria that all organizations applying would have to meet in order to be considered Heart Safe

The criteria included orientation of enhanced 911, developing a emergency response plan, CRP training, Automated External Defibrillator (AED) readily available and accessible to site with signage and Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) notice of intent completed

**Duties-** Create an application packet for community organizations to complete

Following the completion period a committee would review the application, conduct a site visit, and designate the organizations gold, silver or bronze Heart Safe community..

**Results-** Intern worked with committee members to research and develop the Dutchess County Initiative and completed the HeartSafe application packet ready to be presented to the County Executive.

The internship ended before we got to the designation stage

**Note:** In September 2007, the Initiative was launched. And in February 2008, 16 organizations were granted the HeartSafe designation.