

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Register (**OHCAR**) is the national registry of Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrests (OHCA) attended by statutory ambulance services where resuscitation is attempted in Ireland. The purpose of OHCAR is to establish the percentage of OHCA survival, identify factors that contribute towards survival, identify what could be done differently to increase survival and to provide regular feedback to service providers. Since 2012, OHCAR has collected data nationally on incidences of OHCA.

OHCAR is hosted by the Department of Public Health Medicine in the HSE West (North West region) and is funded by the National Ambulance Service.

Full legal Name

Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Register.

Year of commencement

OHCAR was established in June 2007. Since 2012, OHCAR has collected national data.

Contact Details

The OHCAR Manager can be contacted at 074 9104636 / 087 708 9807, or at OHCAR@hse.ie

Name of Managing Organisation

OHCAR is managed by the National Ambulance Service (HSE).

Target Population

OHCAR includes data on all patients who suffer a witnessed or un-witnessed out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in Ireland which is confirmed and attended by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and where resuscitation is attempted.

A resuscitation attempt is defined as performance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and/or attempted defibrillation where there is evidence of a cardiac arrest rhythm.

Aims and objectives (function and purpose)

The overall function and purpose of OHCAR is to facilitate improved outcomes from OHCA in Ireland by:

- Collecting information on the population who suffer OHCA and the circumstances of the arrest
- Collecting information on the pre-hospital treatment of OHCA patients
- Registering the survival of OHCA patients
- Establishing a sufficiently large patient database to enable identification of the best treatment methods for OHCA and organisation of services
- Providing regular feedback to service providers
- Facilitating research nationally and internationally using OHCAR data

List of Data providers

The primary source of OHCAR data are ambulance Patient Care Reports (PCRs) and ambulance dispatch data from the two statutory ambulance services, the National Ambulance Service and the Dublin Fire Brigade.

OHCAR has data sharing agreements with other organisations including the Dublin Airport Authority, Red Cross, Civil Defence and Irish Coastguard and Order of Malta, but presently almost all data is provided from statutory services.

OHCAR has a data sharing agreement with all hospitals who receive OHCA patients with the exception of Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin. Collection of data from hospitals is facilitated by a range of hospital staff, including administrators, resuscitation officers, clinical nurse managers and consultants.

Legal basis

OHCAR was established in response to a recommendation in the "Report of the Task Force on Sudden Cardiac Death"¹. The need for OHCAR has been reinforced in the policy document "Changing Cardiovascular Health"² and the "Emergency Medicine Programme Strategy"³.

Source of Funding:

The OHCAR project is funded by the National Ambulance Service.

Governance and Management Structure

The OHCAR Steering Group is responsible for ensuring that the aims of OHCAR are fulfilled and for advising on its organisation and direction. The Steering Group includes representatives from all four supporting organisations. The Steering Group meet on quarterly basis to discuss on the project progress and current issues. The Steering Group membership as of September 2022 consists of:

- Professor Conor Deasy, Professor of Emergency Medicine, University College Cork and Consultant in Emergency Medicine, Cork University Hospital (OHCAR Chair)
- Professor Gerard Bury, Director, UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science
- Dr. John Dowling, General Practitioner, North West Immediate Care Programme
- Mr. Joe Fahy, Resuscitation Officer, Portiuncula University Hospital
- Dr. Joseph Galvin, Consultant Cardiologist, Mater Hospital
- Mr. David Hennelly, Clinical Development Manager, National Ambulance Service
- Ms. Siobhán Masterson PhD, National Project Manager, Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy, National Ambulance Service Lead for Clinical Strategy & Evaluation & Honorary Research Senior Lecturer, University of Galway
- Dr. David Menzies, Chair, CFR Ireland & Consultant in Emergency Medicine, St Vincent's University Hospital & Clinical Lead, Emergency Medical Science, UCD, Centre for Emergency Medical Science
- Professor Andrew Murphy, Foundation Professor, Discipline of General Practice, University of Galway
- Professor Cathal O'Donnell, Clinical Director, National Ambulance Service
- Mr. Michael O'Reilly, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Dublin Fire Brigade
- Mr. Martin O'Reilly, District Officer, EMS Support Officer, Dublin Fire Brigade
- Ms. Bridget Clarke, National Ambulance Service Lead for Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy & Associated Programmes
- Mr. Martin Quinn, OHCAR Manager, National Ambulance Service.

The OHCAR Manager reports directly to the OHCAR Chair and is accommodated in the Department of Public Health Medicine, HSE North West. The OHCAR Manager is guided in his work by the Steering Group and also receives academic support from the Discipline of General Practice, University of Galway.

National and International Legislation and Standards Adhered in Data Collection:

OHCAR, as the data processor, processes data on behalf of the data controllers (The National Ambulance Service / Dublin Fire Brigade), to provide quality improvement reports to NAS and DFB. OHCAR stores the data securely on the HSE server in the North West. All communication regarding data is encrypted and password protected. OHCAR has data sharing agreements in place with NAS, DFB and the participating Hospitals.

Document version number: 2

Date it is effective from: 20th September 2022

Signatures of all parties responsible:



References

1. Department of Health and Children. Reducing the Risk: A Strategic Approach. The Report of the Task Force on Sudden Cardiac Death. 2006.
2. Department of Health and Children. Changing Cardiovascular Health: National Cardiovascular Health Policy 2010-20192010.
3. Irish Association for Emergency Medicine, College of Emergency Medicine. The National Emergency Medicine Programme: A Strategy to improve Safety, Quality Access and Value in Emergency Medicine Ireland.2012.