



Legislative Background:

New York City Local Law No. 91 of 2023, also known as the Harihareswara Expand Access to Rapid Treatment (HEART) Act directs the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) to produce a biannual report detailing locations and quantities of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in public locations throughout the five boroughs. The intent of this law is to enhance public safety by ensuring availability of and access to AEDs during cardiac emergencies.

Per LL 91 of 2023, the NYC Health Department must identify: (1) location data for each such device; (2) location names; (3) location addresses; and (4) where practicable, placement of each device at a location, such as the floor, room, or stairwell. Additionally, the law directs the NYC Health Department to specify “whether each such automated external defibrillator is equipped with pediatric-attenuated pads or otherwise equipped with child-appropriate functionality.”

LL 91 of 2023 builds upon New York City Local Law No. 20 (2005) which requires placement of AEDs in specified public places, including nursing homes, senior centers, selected city-operated parks, city-owned and operated ferry terminals over a certain capacity, publicly accessible portions of buildings maintained by the Department of Citywide Administrative Service’s Division of Facilities Management and Construction, and golf courses, stadiums, and arenas.

New York State Public Health Law § 3000-b further specifies large health clubs as a required reporting entity and more broadly requires training for and registration of publicly available AED devices with a designated regional council. In New York City, this council is the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City, Inc (REMSCO-NYC).

Process and Findings:

Through collaboration with the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City (REMSCO-NYC) and NYC Open Data, the Department has created a transparent public resource that addresses potential life-saving equipment gaps. Those data are publicly available in raw data and mapped form.

Dataset: <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/d/2er2-jqsx>

Map: <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Health/NYC-Automated-External-Defibrillator-AED-Map/2ync-kihj>

As discussed in the Health Department’s inaugural report, the State law governing REMSCO-NYC specifies that covered entities resubmit registration of devices every two years. While covered entities are encouraged to report any changes to their building registry as they occur, no enforcement mechanism exists to ensure that these updates are submitted between any two-year period. The Department will continue to communicate with REMSCO-NYC to identify any new updates as they are received but expects very little change due to inconsistent updating mechanisms.