**Embargoed until 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET, Thursday, May 20, 2021**

A peer-reviewed study to be published in **JAHA**, (Arrhythmia Risk During the 2016 United States Presidential Election: The Cost of Stressful Politics – Lindsey Rosman et al.), is the first to investigate whether a stressful election can trigger potentially life-threatening heart rhythms ([cardiac arrhythmias](https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/arrhythmia/about-arrhythmia)) in people with [implanted cardiac devices](https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/arrhythmia/prevention--treatment-of-arrhythmia/devices-for-arrhythmia) who have a higher risk of these events.

**GRAPHIC TEXT:**

1. **Occurrences of arrhythmias association with the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election – with text**

**2016 U.S. Presidential Election Associated with a Higher Risk of Cardiac Events**

Study of 2,436 adults with pre-existing heart disease demonstrated a 77% increase in the risk of cardiac arrhythmias during the 2016 U.S. Presidential election compared to multiple control periods. Both atrial arrhythmias (such as atrial fibrillation) and potentially fatal ventricular arrhythmias increased during the election

Researchers found:

* 366 occurrences of Atrial Arrhythmias in the Control Group
* 662 occurrences of Atrial Arrhythmias in the 2016 US Presidential Election Study Group
* 1157 Ventricular Arrhythmias I occurrences of Atrial Arrhythmias in the Control Group
* 1840 occurrences of Ventricular Arrhythmias in the 2016 US Presidential Election Study Group
* 1533 Total Cardiac Arrhythmias in the Control Group
* 2592 Total Cardiac Arrhythmias in the 2016 US Presidential Election Study Group

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