

Reasons to give

African-American donors



American Red Cross

1-800-GIVE-LIFE | redcrossmichigan.org

- Many **African-Americans** have **Types O and B blood**.
- Types **O and B blood** are in high demand, and subject to frequent **blood shortages**.
- Nearly **20 percent** of all African-Americans have **Type B blood**, compared to 11 percent of Caucasian-Americans. **Fifty-one percent** of Blacks have **Type O blood**, compared to 45 percent of Caucasians.
- Blacks make up **13 percent of the U.S. population**, but less than **2 percent of America's blood donors**.
- The African-American **population is growing faster** than the Caucasian population. As that population grows, so does the need for more Blacks to donate blood.
- **Blood type**, like eye color, **is an inherited trait**. Some African-Americans have rare blood types that are unique to the Black community. Because of that, blood from African-American donors may be the only hope some patients have to live.
- The most **compatible blood** for transfusion to some critically ill patients is most likely to come from someone with the **same ethnic, racial and genetic background** as the patient.
- **Sickle Cell Disease** is a blood disorder that primarily affects individuals of African descent. African-American patients with Sickle Cell Disease are less likely to have physical reactions to blood donated by other African-Americans.
- The trait for Sickle Cell Disease is carried by **one in 12 African-Americans**. About **8 percent** of African-Americans have the disease.
- African-Americans are at **greater risk** than Caucasians for **cancer, heart disease and mother/infant complications** during childbirth--all of which may require treatment with blood products.
- The American Red Cross believes **you have the right to receive blood** whenever you need it. With that right comes the **responsibility to give your blood** to people who are sick, injured and need blood--if you can.



The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood.™