



**American  
Red Cross**

Blood Services  
Great Lakes Region



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## Blood Facts

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- Volunteer blood donors are the **only** source of blood products for hospital patients.
- About 20 percent of the blood used in the United States is donated by students.
- **One blood donor could save as many as three lives with a single donation.**
- Each unit of blood is divided into its component parts: platelets, plasma and red cells.
- All donated blood is tested for transmitted diseases.
- You cannot contract the HIV virus or any other infectious disease by donating blood.
- Four million people need blood every year. **That's one patient every 12 seconds.**
- Patients in Michigan hospitals use about 2,000 units of blood products daily . . . that's about one unit every 43 seconds.
- The average blood transfusion is 3.4 units (or pints) of blood.
- The average adult has 10 to 12 units of blood in his or her body. A new baby has one cup.
- People are eligible to donate blood every eight weeks.
- **Nearly 97 percent of the U.S. population will have received a blood transfusion by age 75** , but only 5 percent of the population donates blood.
- Close to 22 percent of patients are over 65 years old. They use about 52 percent of the blood transfused.
- Patients who suffer from sickle cell anemia, cancer, heart disease, leukemia and other major illnesses may need blood transfusions to survive.
- Blood donors must be at least 17 years old, in good general health and weigh at least 110 pounds.

[Click Here](#) for a list of donation centers.