



**American Red Cross**

Blood Services  
Great Lakes Region



# WHO NEEDS BLOOD?

[FIND A BLOOD DRIVE](#)

A three year old has cancer. Leukemia strikes a high schooler preparing for college. A young mother has unexpected complications after giving birth. Every day patients across the United States need an average of 38,000 units of blood. That's about 15 million donations - or nearly 40 million blood products transfused to 5 million patients a year.

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- Red cells are used for patients who require surgery, lose blood in accidents or trauma, or have anemia, or for the intensive care of premature or newborn infants.
- Plasma is used to treat burn and shock victims.
- Platelets can control bleeding in patients with leukemia or undergoing chemotherapy
- Plasma derivatives are used to treat individuals who are missing a factor in their blood that prevents excessive bleeding, who cannot fight infections, or have experienced a significant loss of fluid as a result of a burn or injury.

Condition:	Blood Product Needs:
Liver Transplant	6-10 units of red blood cells 20 units of plasma 1 unit of platelets
Kidney Transplant	1-2 units of red blood cells
Heart Transplant	4-6 units of red blood cells
Adult Open Heart Surgery	2-6 units of red blood cells 2-4 units of plasma 1-10 units of platelets
Newborn Open Heart Surgery	1-4 units of red blood cells 1-2 units of plasma 1-4 units of platelets
Automobile Accident	4-40 units of red blood cells
Leukemia	2-6 units of red blood cells 6-8 units of platelets daily for 2-4 weeks