

# Reasons to give

## Type O blood



**American Red Cross**

1-800-GIVE-LIFE | [redcrossmichigan.org](http://redcrossmichigan.org)

- People with **Type O** blood are often called **universal donors** since their blood is the only type that can be transfused to patients with other blood types such as A, B and AB.
- **Type O-negative** blood can be transfused to most anyone with any blood type.
- **Type O-positive** blood can be transfused to patients with **positive blood types**--or about 84 out of 100 people.
- Patients with **Type O** blood **must receive Type O**.
- Hospitals use **Type O-negative** blood in most **emergency trauma cases** when there is not enough time to determine a patient's blood type.
- Almost **40 percent** of the population has **Type O-positive** blood.
- Just **7 percent** of all people have **Type O-negative** blood.
- Close to **half of all blood** ordered by and **supplied to hospitals** is Type O.
- **Critically low supplies of Type O** blood have become the norm across the state and nation. In recent years, supplies of Type O-negative rarely edge above a day, while supplies of Type O-positive fluctuate between 1 and 2 days.
- The American Red Cross considers a **three-day supply of blood safe and adequate** for meeting the needs of hospital patients, with five to seven days optimal for emergency preparedness.



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