

Blood Supply & Facts

Facts

- Someone needs blood every two seconds.
- 4.5 million Americans could die each year without life-saving blood transfusions.
- Red blood cells are perishable after 42 days. Platelets must be used within five days.
- Platelets help blood clot and can help give cancer, transplant and trauma patients a chance to live.
- Most donors don't know they can donate quarterly. Currently, 60% of blood donors only donate once a year.

Blood Usage & Collections

- Approximately 200 whole blood and platelet donations are needed for our service area on a daily basis.
- We collect approximately 60,000 whole blood and 7,500 apheresis platelet donations annually.
- Each year, we host approximately 1,300 mobile blood drives at businesses, churches and other groups. These drives provide more than 58% of The Blood Center's annual donations.
- Blood drives held at high schools and colleges supply approximately 20% of The Blood Center's donations each year.
- We are the exclusive provider and guardian of the community blood supply for more than 37 medical facilities in a ten-county service area of Central Texas.

Every day, Central Texans need transfusions to battle a variety of life-threatening injuries and diseases, including:

Condition	Average Blood Usage*
Cancer	8 units/week
Aplastic Anemia	1 unit/week
Sickle Cell Anemia	1 unit/week
Car Accident Injuries	50 units
Heart Surgery	25 units
Bleeding Ulcer	30 units
Hip Replacement Surgery	5 units

*According to America's Blood Centers.

Did you know?

- A unit of blood is roughly the equivalent of one pint.
- The average adult has ten pints of blood in his or her body.
- A newborn baby has about one cup of blood in his or her body.
- O negative is the universal donor.
- The actual blood donation itself usually takes less than ten minutes. The entire process, from when you sign in to the time you leave, takes about 45 minutes.
- Giving blood will not decrease your strength.
- You cannot get AIDS or any other infectious disease by donating blood.
- Red blood cells carry oxygen to the body's organs and tissue.
- Platelets help blood to clot, giving those patients with leukemia and other cancers a chance to live.
- People who have been in car accidents and suffered massive blood loss may need transfusions of 50 or more units of red blood cells.
- Sickle cell disease affects more than 80,000 people in the U.S., 98% of whom are of African descent.
- Some patients with complications from severe sickle cell disease receive monthly blood transfusions of up to four pints.
- There is no substitution for human blood.