

# Reasons to give

## Who needs blood?



**American Red Cross**

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

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 U.S. need an average of **38,000 units of blood**. That's about 15 million donations--or nearly 30 million blood products--transfused to 5 million patients a year.

- **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 who 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
Prostate cancer surgery	2-4 units of red blood cells
Abdominal aortic aneurysm	4-6 units of red blood cells
Bone marrow transplant	1-2 units of red blood cells every other day for 2-4 weeks 6-8 units of platelets daily for 4-6 weeks
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
Sickle Cell disease	10-15 units of red blood cells for severe complications
Premature newborn	1-4 units of red blood cells while in Intensive Care

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