

Your Blood. Their Hope.®



MILLER-KEYSTONE
BLOOD CENTER

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GIVEaPINT.org

FACT SHEET

Blood Donation and Utilization Statistics

- Miller-Keystone Blood Center (MKBC) needs to collect approximately **350 blood donations every day** – 7 days per week, 365 days per year – in order to meet the transfusion needs of patients in our regional hospitals.
- One donation can save as many as **three lives**.
- **Every two seconds**, someone in the United States is receiving a blood transfusion.
- **25% of the population** will receive a blood transfusion at some point in their life.
- MKBC partners with businesses, schools, churches, and other organizations in the community to host **more than 1,000 blood drives** annually.
- An individual can safely donate **whole blood every 56 days**, while platelets can be donated more frequently and **up to 24 times per year**.
- Each year, MKBC distributes **more than 100,000 transfusable blood products** to its hospital partners for patients in need.
- In the region served by Miller-Keystone Blood Center, **54% of blood donors are over the age of 55, while only 5% are between 16 and 24**.
- While 62% of the population is eligible to donate blood, **only 3% donate regularly**.
- Approximately **29,000 units of red blood cells** are needed daily in the United States.
- **Blood is perishable, and there is no substitute**. The only resource is the volunteer blood donor. Red blood cells have a usable lifespan of 42 days, while platelets must be transfused within seven days.
- Individuals with the O-negative blood type are considered “**universal blood donors**,” as O-negative blood can be transfused to anyone, regardless of blood type. Individuals with AB-positive or AB-negative blood types are considered “**universal plasma donors**,” as their plasma can be transfused to anyone, regardless of blood type. This is especially important in accident/trauma cases, when there may not be time to confirm a victim’s blood type.
- Approximately **12 laboratory tests** are performed on every unit of donated blood. Many of these tests are to screen for infectious diseases, and ensure the safety of our community blood supply.
- **The largest recipient group of blood transfusions is cancer patients**, who often require blood and platelet transfusions during the course of their care. Blood donations are also needed daily for lifesaving transfusion to accident and trauma victims, premature infants, burn victims, surgical and transplant patients, individuals with inherited blood disorders, and more.
- While anyone with a compatible blood type can be considered a match, blood donors of diverse backgrounds are always encouraged to give blood in an effort to diversify the national blood supply. **Diversification of the blood supply** is critical to ensuring that blood is available, even for the rarest recipient.
- According to FDA regulations, donations from individuals who have been paid to donate **cannot be used for lifesaving transfusion to humans** in the United States. Donations from individuals who have been paid are used for research purposes only.

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