

African-American Blood Facts to Know and Share



- Some African-Americans have rare blood types that are unique to the African-American community. Your blood type may be someone's only hope for survival.
- While African-Americans comprise nearly 13 percent of the United States population, they represent less than 1 percent of blood donors.
- You cannot catch infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS or hepatitis, from donating blood. The needle is sterile and the supplies are used only once and then discarded.
- If they are under control, neither high blood pressure nor diabetes prevents you from donating blood. The Red Cross will check your blood pressure to make sure it is at a safe level for you to donate.
- More African-American donors are needed to ensure that blood is available when needed, especially for patients with sickle cell disease.
- Sickle cell disease affects 70,000 African-Americans.
- African-Americans with diseases such as sickle cell anemia, cancer and leukemia or kidney disease are less likely to have physical reactions to blood donations from other African-Americans.
- Learn more about sickle cell disease and how you can get tested at sicklecelldisease.org.

African-Americans have rare blood types yet suffer the same medical emergencies that any other race suffers. As an African-American, I feel I have a responsibility to contribute to the future of our unique community.

“I learned about the lack of blood type matches available for African American people.”

Morgan
American Red Cross
Blood Donor



For more information about donating blood, call or visit
1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org

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