



Global Blood Safety and Availability

Key facts and figures, 2010¹

Blood Supply

- Around **93 million blood donations** are donated annually by all types of blood donors (based on reports from 173 countries);
- **50%** of all blood donations are collected in developed countries, home to **16%** of the world's population.
- The average **donation rate** in developed countries is **45.4 donations per 1000 population**. This compares with **10.1 per 1000 population** in transitional countries and **3.6** donations in developing countries.
- Some **8000** blood centres report collecting, on average, 10,000 blood donations per centre (range from 20 to 499 212). The average annual collection per blood centre is **30 000** in developed countries, **7500** in transitional countries and **3700** in developing countries.
- If **1%** of a country's population donates blood, it would be sufficient to meet the country's basic requirements for blood for transfusion. But **donation rates are still less than 1% of the population** in **77 countries**. All are developing and transitional countries.

Blood Donors

- **62 countries** reported collecting **100%**, or nearly 100% (more than 99%), of their blood supplies from **voluntary unpaid donors, as compared to 57 countries in 2007**. Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Malaysia and Zambia are the latest to join this list.
- **56 countries** reported more than a 10% increase in voluntary unpaid blood donations, as compared to the figures from previous years. Among them, 52 are developing and transitional countries.
- **15 countries** reported more than a 10% decrease in voluntary unpaid blood donations as compared to figures from previous years. All are developing and transitional countries.

¹ Based on data from the WHO Global Database on Blood Safety, 2008. Data for 2007 were used from 49 countries.

- An estimated **38%** of blood donations are collected from **donors under the age of 25**.
- Donors who give blood voluntarily and for altruistic reasons have a **lower prevalence of HIV, hepatitis viruses and other blood-borne infections** than people who donate for family members or for payment.
- **45 countries collected less than 25% of their blood supplies from voluntary unpaid blood donors**. A significant proportion of the blood supply in these countries is still dependent on family/replacement and paid blood donors.
- **37%** of all donations in developing countries, **26%** in transitional countries, and **2%** in developed countries are collected from family/replacement and paid blood donors.
- **30** countries still report collecting paid donations in 2008, almost **1 million donations** in total.

Blood Screening and Component Preparation

- **42 countries** are not able to screen all blood donations for one or more of the four transfusion-transmissible infections (HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and syphilis) for which WHO recommends screening as being mandatory.
- Only **47% of blood donations** in developing countries are screened following basic quality assurance procedures.
- **97%** of the blood collected in developed countries, **63%** in transitional countries and **28%** in developing countries is separated into blood components.

Blood Usage

- 130 countries report that a total of **46 700** hospitals perform blood transfusion, serving a population of around **4 billion**.
- Only **41% of hospitals** performing transfusion in developing countries and **52% of hospitals** in transitional countries have systems for reporting adverse transfusion events, including transfusion reactions, as compared to **93% of hospitals** in developed countries.

For media enquiries, contact:

Joel Schaefer

+41 22 791 14473

schaeferj@who.int

Blood Transfusion Safety
 Department of Essential Health Technologies
 World Health Organization
 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

www.who.int/bloodsafety

www.who.int/worldblooddonorday

E-mail: bloodsafety@who.int

