Global Blood Safety and Availability

Key facts and figures, 2010

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.

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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.

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.

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