



BLOOD BANK OF ALASKA

Helping Alaska patients in need.

Fact Sheet



An average adult has 10 pints of blood in their body

One unit of blood is roughly equivalent to ONE PINT

Blood makes up 7% of your body weight

A newborn baby has about one cup of blood in their body

Why donate blood?

Every two seconds someone needs blood.

One out of every 7 people entering a hospital needs blood.

Red blood cells carry oxygen to the body's organs and tissues.

Red blood cells live approximately 120 days, your body continuously reproduces them.

Donated red blood cells must be used within 42 days of collection, the need is constant.

After donation, your body replaces red blood cells in three to four weeks.

There is no substitute for human blood.

You can make a difference and help others.

Who needs blood?

People who have been in car accidents and have suffered massive blood loss can need transfusions of 50 pints or more of red blood cells.

Cancer, transplant and trauma patients and patients undergoing open-heart surgery can require platelet transfusions to survive.

Severe burn victims can need 20 units of platelets during their treatment.

Children being treated for cancer, premature infants, and children having heart surgery can need blood and platelets from donors of all types.

Anemic patients can need blood transfusions to increase their iron levels.

It could be you, your family, your neighbor, your friend—you just never know.

Main Center: 4000 Laurel Street Anchorage, AK 99508

Anchorage: (907) 222-5630

www.bloodbankofalaska.org

Call for an Appointment: Fairbanks (907) 456-5645