



Problems Common in African Americans:

Sickle Cell Disease - Ninety percent of those with sickle cell are of African descent. The disease causes anemia, jaundice, damage to the lungs, kidney and spleen, acute pain,

and strokes. Sickle cell patients, especially very young children, may be easily, and often fatally, overwhelmed by infections. Although most patients will not be cured of sickle cell disease, medical care and large amounts of blood transfusions help manage and prevent the pain and the most serious complications.

Diabetes - Approximately 11 percent of all African Americans have diabetes. African Americans experience higher rates of at least three of the serious complications of diabetes: blindness, amputation and kidney failure. Large amounts of blood are needed to treat each of these diseases resulting from diabetes.

Prostate Cancer - African Americans have a 60 percent higher risk of developing prostate cancer and a 100 percent higher death rate from the disease than Caucasian Americans. Large amounts of blood are needed to treat prostate cancer.

Lupus occurs four times more often in African Americans than in whites. Here too, large amounts of blood are needed to treat lupus as it deteriorates the diseased body.

Bone Marrow Transplants - If you are an African American, the chances of finding a bone marrow match are slim. Out of 2.6 million people currently on the National Marrow Donor Registry, only eight percent are African Americans. Exact matches of blood type and blood traits are needed in this procedure.

LifeShare Donor Facilities:

333 East Bridge St., Elyria, Ohio 44035

Avon Lake Olde Firehouse, Rt. 83 & Lake Rd., Avon Lake, Ohio 44012

4274 Oberlin Ave., Lorain, Ohio 44053

Allen Community Medical Center, 508 Dickson St., Wellington, Ohio 44090

18100 Jefferson Park Rd., Suite 102, Middleburg Hts., Ohio 44130

1455 Harrison Ave. N.W., Suite 208, North Bldg., Canton, Ohio 44708
330.489.1076

267 McCauley Dr., Uhrichsville, Ohio 44683

Toll-free donor scheduling line:

1.866.644.5433 (Life)

Toll-free blood drive scheduling line:

1.888.543.3742

www.LifeShare.cc



LifeShare. It's About *Life*.



Help Diversify the Blood Supply



LifeShare

community blood services



A community blood supply should reflect the communities it serves; our Northeast Ohio communities are rich in cultural and ethnic diversity. Unfortunately, the

current blood donor base in the United States does not fully reflect our diverse populations. For example, of the 10 percent of healthy Americans who choose to donate blood, only one percent are African American.

As an ethnic blood donor, you may have the unique ability to help patients with special needs. Increasing blood collections from minority groups, especially African and Hispanic Americans, is crucial because rare blood types are often found in minority populations. Also, diseases that require repeated blood transfusions for treatment, such as sickle cell anemia, are prevalent in the African American community – affecting one in every 500 African Americans. Although hospital patients can receive blood transfusions from any population, it is very likely a donor within the same racial group will be a better match.



In addition to sickle cell, African-Americans have a relatively high incidence rate of other diseases and disorders, many of which require blood transfusions.

While A, B and O are the most common blood types, African Americans have some rare blood types such as U-Negative and Duffy Negative.

It logically follows that African American blood provides the best hope for a faster recovery and increased survival rate for African American patients with these blood type needs. However, the blood must first be available for the patient.

More African American blood donors means more hope for African American patients that need blood to live. An important fact to remember is that, if you wait to donate blood until it's an emergency, it may be too late.

In every country in the world and with every individual in the world, the most compatible blood transfusion is most likely to come from someone of the same ethnic, racial and genetic background as the patient.

Please help LifeShare diversify the blood supply in Northeast Ohio.

LifeShare at a Glance:

LifeShare is a charity that exists to provide a safe and adequate supply of blood and components to save the lives of the critically ill and injured across Northeast Ohio. LifeShare provides 100 percent of the blood needed at every hospital in Lorain County and is a primary source of blood to Cuyahoga and Stark counties.

Since 1948, LifeShare Community Blood Services has distinguished itself throughout the region with a community-focused mission; blood collected remains in the community from which it was drawn.



In addition to mobile blood drives held throughout the community, LifeShare has eight permanent collection facilities across the region. The Blood Center operates 24-hours a day year 'round to assure no Northeast Ohio life is ever lost for lack of blood.

LifeShare is also well known throughout the healthcare community for maintaining among the lowest cost-recovery fees in the Nation. The Blood Center saves Northeast Ohio hospitals and patients more than

\$4 million annually when compared with the alternative supplier.

LifeShare provides a wide variety of services to the region. In addition to conventional blood or component donation for the benefit of anyone in the community, LifeShare makes it possible to direct a gift of blood to a specific patient or to allow an individual to use their own blood for a scheduled procedure. LifeShare also accepts therapeutic donations from those whose physicians prescribe the methodology.

LifeShare is accredited by AABB and is licensed and inspected by the FDA. LifeShare is a member of America's Blood Centers, a national federation of the Nation's 74 nonprofit, community-focused blood providers.

