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U.S. Blood Donation Statistics and Public Messaging Guide

America's Blood Centers (ABC) and ADRP: The Association for Blood Donor Professionals, thank the following groups for their support and involvement in developing this guide:

ADRP Marketing Resources Committee

ABC Scientific, Medical, and Technical Committee

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Look for the graphic downloads throughout the guide. If you see this symbol, there are graphics for this statistic available for free. See Appendix A for a guide to all available graphics.

Table of Contents

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Disclaimers

- The statistics quoted are based on published research that include a representative portion of the blood community (i.e., blood centers of different sizes and geographic locations).
- These statistics are intended to be a guide to increase consistency and accuracy in information disseminated by blood centers to both internal and external audiences.
- Blood centers may choose to quote their own data that is equivalent to these selected statistics, which may differ from industry totals.
- All data, unless otherwise noted, are specific to the United States (U.S.).

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General Information about Blood and Blood Donation

Q1.1: How do blood donations help patients in need?

- Blood donations can save and/or improve patients' lives.
- Each donation can help people who have acute blood loss due to trauma, childbirth complications and major surgery, or people with chronic conditions such as sickle cell disease, thalassemia, or leukemia.

Q1.2: How many patients can each donation help?

- Every donation can help two or more patients in need. Whole blood can be separated into more than one blood component , including red blood cells, plasma, cryoprecipitated antihemophilic factor (i.e., cryo), and platelets.
- Other types of donations, called apheresis, result in two or three of the same type of product, which creates additional transfusions for patients (e.g., double red blood cells, apheresis plasma, or apheresis platelets).

Q1.3: How many blood centers are there in the U.S. and how much do they collect?

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Blood Establishment Registration database[1], there are 53 community blood centers and 115 hospital-based blood centers in the U.S. Community blood centers collect approximately 60 percent of the nation's blood supply[2], and the American Red Cross collects approximately 40 percent[3].

Q1.4: How often can individuals donate blood and platelets in the U.S.?

Individuals can donate whole blood no more than once in eight weeks and may donate double red blood cells by apheresis collection procedures every 16 weeks[4]. Individuals can donate platelets (apheresis donation) as much as twice in a 7-day period (with a two-day interval between) or up to 24 times in a rolling 12-month period.[5] Individual blood centers may apply additional policies.

Q1.5: How many pints of blood do people have in their body?

The exact blood volume depends on several factors such as age, sex, and body mass. The range for a typical adult is 8 – 12 pints, and it accounts for approximately 7-8% of an adult's body weight.[6]

Q1.6: What is the prevalence of each blood type among the U.S. population?

The approximate distribution of blood types in the U.S. blood donor population is as follows (distribution may be different for specific ethnic groups and in different parts of the country[7]):

Blood Type	Prevalence	How common is your blood?
O Rh-positive	40%	1 in 2.5
O Rh-negative	7%	1 in 14
A Rh-positive	32%	1 in 3.1
A Rh-negative	6%	1 in 17
B Rh-positive	11%	1 in 11
B Rh-negative	2%	1 in 50
AB Rh-positive	4%	1 in 25
AB Rh-negative	1%	1 in 100

Percentages do not add up to 100% because of rounding.

Q1.7: What is the prevalence of each blood type by ethnicity among the U.S. population?

The approximate distribution by percentage of ABO phenotypes by race or ethnicity in the U.S. population is as follows[8]:

Race / Ethnicity	O Pos	O Neg	A Pos	A Neg	B Pos	B Neg	AB Pos	AB Neg
White non-Hispanic	37%	8%	33%	7%	9%	2%	3%	1%
Hispanic	53%	4%	29%	2%	9%	1%	2%	0.2%
Black non-Hispanic	47%	4%	24%	2%	18%	1%	4%	0.3%
Asian	39%	1%	27%	1%	25%	0.4%	7%	0.1%
Native American	50%	5%	31%	4%	7%	1%	2%	0.3%

Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding. Original source includes additional information on ethnicities.

Collections Information

Q2.1: What percentage of the eligible U.S. population donates blood each year?

Approximately 3 percent of donors old enough to donate blood in the U.S. donate blood each year[9].

Q2.2: How many individuals donate blood annually in the U.S.?

There were approximately 6.54 million donors in 2023*[10]. This is a slight drop of 0.1% from 2021 which had approximately 6.545 million donors.

**Excludes directed and autologous donors and only includes donors from whom blood products were successfully collected.*

Q2.3: How many units of blood products are collected annually in the U.S.?

In 2023, there were an estimated 11,586,000 total whole blood and apheresis red blood cell units collected*. This represents a 1.7% decrease from collections in 2021. Additionally, 2,618,000 platelet units were distributed (single, double, and triple collections and whole blood derived platelets) in 2023[11]. This represents a 3.6% increase from 2021. Of those platelet units collected, 98% were apheresis collections, and only 2% were whole blood derived platelets. Compared to 2021, the distribution of whole blood derived platelets declined by 43%. In 2023 plasma distribution declined by 2.6% and cryoprecipitated AHF declined by 1.7%[12]

**Includes autologous, directed, and allogenic, non-directed collections.*

Q2.4: How many units of blood are collected ***worldwide*** each year?

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 118.5 million blood donations are collected worldwide[13].

Q2.5: What is the average donation frequency annually in the U.S.?

On average, individuals donate 1.8 times per year.*

**Inferred from questions 2.2 and 2.3. Represents whole blood, red blood cell, and apheresis platelet donors.*

Donor Demographics

Q3.1: What is the breakdown of blood donors by gender in the U.S.?

In 2023, of all U.S. blood donors, 50.1% were male and 49.9% were female. This marked a shift from 2021 when there were 45.9% male and 54.1% female blood donors in the U.S[14].*

**For whole blood and apheresis red blood cell collections.*

Q3.2: What is the breakdown of blood donors by race/ethnicity in the U.S.?

Of all successful whole blood and apheresis red blood cell donations, there was a 37.6% increase in Black or African American donors, an 8.5% increase among Hispanic or Latino donors, and a 7.8% increase for Asian donors from 2021[15].

Race / Ethnicity	Percent of total blood donations
White	80.2%
Black or African American	3.8%
Hispanic or Latino	6.6%
Asian	3.4%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.2%
Native American or Alaska Native	0.5%

Q3.3: What percentage of all whole blood donations in the U.S. are from first-time donors versus repeat donors each year?

In 2023, first-time donors were responsible for 26.3% (1,721,000) of U.S. successfully collected whole blood donations and repeat donors accounted for 73.8 (4,826,000)[16]. The numbers remained virtually the same from the 2021 data.

Q3.4: What is the breakdown of total blood donations (whole blood and apheresis RBCs) in the U.S. by age[17]?

Age range	Percent of total blood donations in 2023	Percent of total blood donations in 2021
16-18 years old	7.3%	4.2%
19-24 years old	5.7%	5.6%
25-64 years old	63.5%	68.8%
≥65 years old	22.7%	21.7%

Q3.5 How has the percentage of total blood donations by age changed over time in the U.S.?

From 2021 to 2023, there was a 66.0% increase in donations from individuals 16-18 years old. This increase may be due to the efforts of blood centers focusing on recruiting younger donors to help replace the aging donor population and the increase of school-based blood drives following the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. From 2021 to 2023, there was a 2.0% decrease in donations from individuals 19-24 years old. From 2021 to 2023, there was a 11.6% decrease in donations from individuals 25-64 years old. From 2021 to 2023, there was virtually no change (.04% increase) in donations from individuals 65 and older[18].

Donor Eligibility and Safety

Q4.1: What percentage of the U.S. population is eligible to donate?

Of the total U.S. population, 62% is old enough to donate blood, that is approximately 212 million eligible donors[19].

Q4.2: Nationally, what percentage of individuals presenting to donate are deferred in the U.S.?

In 2023, the total deferral rate was 14.2% which was lower than the rate in 2021 (16.3%)[20]. The most common reason for deferral among blood donors in 2023 was low hemoglobin or hematocrit (48.2%) levels[21]. Female donors accounted for 65.9% of all deferrals for any reason in 2023. This is slightly down by 10.7% when compared to 2021. Other reasons for deferral included tattoo/piercing deferrals (deferral only applies in states that do not regulate tattoos/piercing) up 276.1% from 2021 (1300 in 2021 compared to 4900 in 2023), and travel to/residence of a malaria risk region was up 161.8% from 2021 (2700 in 2021 compared to 7100 in 2023). Deferrals for high-risk behavior (restricted to MSM) were down 26.1% from 2021[22].

Blood Safety and Testing Information

Q5.1: What is the shelf life of blood products in the U.S.?

- RBCs must be transfused within 21 to 42 days of collection depending on the type of bag used to collect the unit[23].
- Frozen plasma products for transfusion and must be transfused within one (1) year from the date of collection[24].
- Platelets must be transfused within five (5) to seven (7) days of collection depending on the method of processing and bag storage instructions[25].

Q5.2: What infectious diseases do U.S. blood centers test for?

TABLE: TESTS USED IN THE U.S. TO SCREEN DONATED BLOOD[26].

Infectious Disease Pathogen	Laboratory Tests Used	Frequency of Tests
Hepatitis B virus (HBV)	Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) detection Hepatitis B core antibody (anti-HBc) detection Nucleic acid amplification testing (NAT) for HBV	Every donation
Hepatitis C virus (HCV)	Hepatitis C virus antibody (anti-HCV) detection NAT for HCV	Every donation
Human Immunodeficiency virus Types 1 and 2 (HIV)	HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibody (anti-HIV-1 and anti-HIV-2) detection NAT for HIV-1	Every donation
Human T-Lymphotropic Virus Types I and II (HTLV)	HTLV-I and HTLV-II antibody (anti-HTLV-I and anti-HTLV-II) detection	Every donation
Treponema pallidum (syphilis)	Anti-treponemal antibody detection	Every donation
West Nile virus (WNV)	NAT for WNV	Every donation
Bacterial Contamination	Bacterial culture	Every platelet donation[27]
Babesia	NAT for *B. microti*	Performed on donations in Babesia-endemic regions
Trypanosoma cruzi (Chagas disease)	*T. cruzi* antibody detection	All first-time donors tested
Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	CMV antibody detection	Performed on some donations for immunocompromised recipients[28]

Q5.3: What is the risk of acquiring an infectious disease through blood transfusion?

TABLE: RESIDUAL RISK OF TRANSMISSION[29].

Infectious Disease Pathogen	Residual Risk of Transmission
HBV	1 in 1,500,000
HCV	1 in 2,600,000
HIV- Types 1 and 2	1 in 2,000,000

Blood Utilization

Q6.1: How often does someone need a blood transfusion in the U.S.?

A blood transfusion occurs in the U.S. every 2 seconds.

Q6.2: How many blood products are distributed to U.S. hospitals each year?

Blood centers in the U.S. provided 10,975,000 red blood cell units to hospitals in 2023. U.S. blood centers also provided 2,618,000 total units of platelets (both apheresis and whole blood derived* to hospitals in 2023. Blood centers in the U.S. provided hospitals with 3,032,000 units of plasma in 2023[30].

**Whole-blood-derived platelets are expressed as apheresis equivalents.*

Q6.3: How common are blood transfusions in the U.S.?

- About 8.4% of hospitalizations involved transfusions, with red blood cells being the most common at 5.2% of all hospitalizations[31].
- In patients over the age of 64, transfusion of blood and blood products ranks as the second most common procedure performed in U.S. hospitals. For patients between the ages of 45-64, it is the 5th most common procedure. [32]

Q6.4: How many transfusions of blood products occur each year in the U.S.?

In 2023, there were 10,328,000 RBC transfusions, 2,220,000 platelet transfusions, 1,882,000 plasma, and 1,171,000 cryoprecipitate AHF transfused[33].

Q6.5: On average, how many blood products are transfused each day in the U.S.?

- More than 14 million red blood cells, platelets, and plasma were transfused in 2023[34], averaging nearly 41,000 blood products used by patients daily.
- Nearly 30,000 units of whole blood and red blood cells are transfused each day[35].
- More than 6,000 units of platelets are transfused every day[36].
- Nearly 5,200 units of plasma are transfused daily[37].

Q6.6: How many U.S. patients require red blood cell transfusions each year?

In 2023, there were 3,651,000 total recipients of red blood cells. This is a decline of 5.7% when compared to 2021[38].

Q6.7: On average, how many units does each red blood cell transfusion recipient require in the U.S.?

The average U.S. red blood cell transfusion is 2.8 units (calculated from total transfusions (10.26M) and total transfused patients (3.7M)[39].

Q6.8: How are red blood cells used by patients in need in the U.S.?

TABLE OF RED BLOOD CELL USAGE[40].

Area	Number of units transfused (in thousands)	Percent of supply (%)
Inpatient medicine (including hematology/oncology)	3642	31.4
Critical care	1661	14.3
Outpatient/non acute inpatient settings	1334	11.5
All surgery	1222	10.5
Emergency department	1418	12.2
Obstetrics/gynecology	215	1.9
Pediatrics	181	1.6
Neonates	116	1.0

Q6.9: How are platelets used by patients in need in the U.S.?

TABLE OF PLATELET USAGE [41].

Area	Number of units transfused (in thousands)	Percent of supply (%)
Inpatient medicine (including hematology/oncology)	800	36.0
Outpatient/ non acute inpatient settings	380	17.1
Critical care	400	18.0
All surgery	318	14.3
Emergency department	107	4.8
Pediatrics	107	4.8
Neonates	38	1.7
Obstetrics/gynecology	16	.72

Patient Populations and Blood Transfusion

7.1 Cancer

- More than a quarter of the U.S. blood supply is used by patients battling cancer[42].
- More than 2 million people are diagnosed with a new cancer each year; many of them will need blood during their course of treatment[43].
- Individuals with cancer may need blood transfusions due to anemia and/or thrombocytopenia caused directly by the disease or because of treatments such as chemotherapy and/or radiation, and/or blood loss during surgery[44].
- Approximately 40% of platelet transfusion recipients have a type of cancer that affects the blood, bone marrow, and/or lymph nodes. This includes various types of leukemia (acute lymphocytic (ALL), chronic lymphocytic (CLL), acute myeloid (AML), chronic myeloid (CML), myeloma, and lymphoma (Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's (NHL))[45].

7.2 Maternity

- In high resource countries, the percent of women who require blood transfusions as a result of postpartum hemorrhage can range from 0.2% to 3% (2 to 30 women per 1000 deliveries) [46].
- The incidence of postpartum hemorrhage in the U.S. requiring blood transfusions has quadrupled in the past 20 years[47].

7.3 Pediatric and Neonatal

- In 2023, pediatric patients in the U.S. were transfused with 181,000 units of red blood cells and 107,000 units of platelet. This was an increase for both products compared to 2021 when 164,000 red blood cells and 92,000 platelets were transfused[48].
- In 2023 there was a slight decrease for transfusions in the neonatal patient population. Neonatal patients were transfused 116,000 red blood cells (137,000 in 2021) and 38,000 platelets (40,000 in 2021) in 2023[49].

7.4 Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)[50]:

- SCD affects approximately 100,000 Americans.
- SCD occurs among about 1 out of every 365 Black or African American births.
- SCD occurs among about 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic American births.
- About 1 in 13 Black or African American babies are born with sickle cell trait (SCT) .

According to the American Society for Hematology[51]:

- Eight to ten percent of Black or African American individuals have the sickle cell trait.
- More than 100 million people worldwide have the sickle cell trait.

Other:

- One in three Black or African American blood donors are a match for a sickle cell patient[52].

7.5 Trauma

- In the U.S., hemorrhage is the most common cause of death within the first hour of arrival to a trauma center[53].
- More than 80 percent of deaths in the operating room and nearly 50 percent of deaths in the first 24 hours after injury are due to severe blood loss[54].
- Three percent of civilian trauma patients will receive a massive transfusion (>10 units of red blood cells in 24 hours). These patients consume 70 percent of all blood transfused at a trauma center[55].
- Gunshot victims are approximately five times more likely to require blood transfusions. They require 10 times more blood units and are 14 times more likely to die than people seriously injured by motor vehicles, non-gun assaults, falls, or stabs[56].

7.6 Prehospital Blood Transfusions

- Research studies suggest that every minute delay in transfusing a unit of whole blood is associated with a 2% increase in odds of 24-hour and in-hospital mortality among hemorrhaging trauma patients[57].
- Prehospital blood transfusions in traumatically injured patients offer the potential to improve 24-hour survival for thousands of patients annually[58].
- Many barriers (i.e., lack of funding, reimbursement, variations in scope of practice, etc.) in establishing a prehospital program still exist. It is estimated that only 2% of emergency medical services (EMS) in the U.S. have established such a program[59].

Regulation

Q8.1: How are U.S. blood centers regulated?

Blood centers in the U.S. are regulated and licensed by the FDA. The Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) within FDA is specifically responsible for oversight of the U.S. blood supply[60]. Many blood centers are also voluntarily accredited by other organizations.

Q8.2: How often are blood centers in the U.S. inspected?

Blood establishments are inspected by FDA at least every two years, and "problem" facilities are inspected more often[61].

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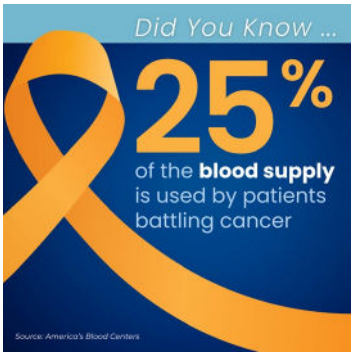
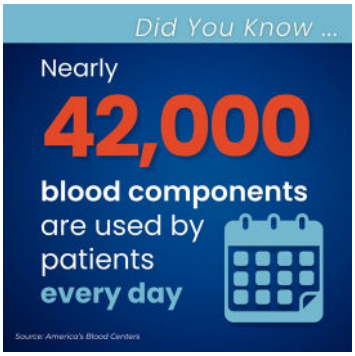
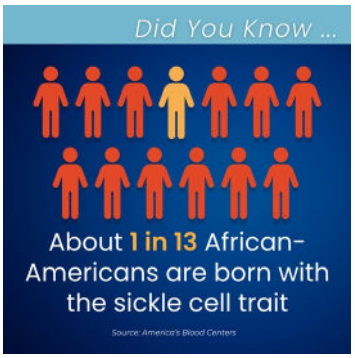
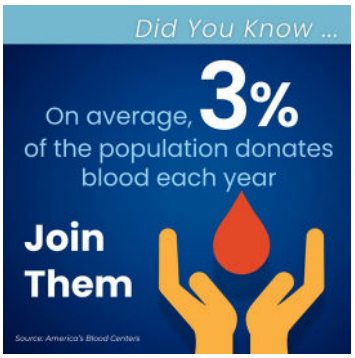
Appendix A: Graphics for Social Media

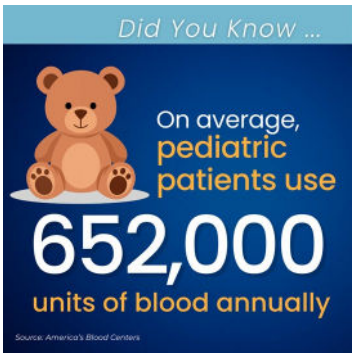
Each graphic below is 1080 x 1080 pixels.
To download any of the graphics, visit americasblood.org/statistics.











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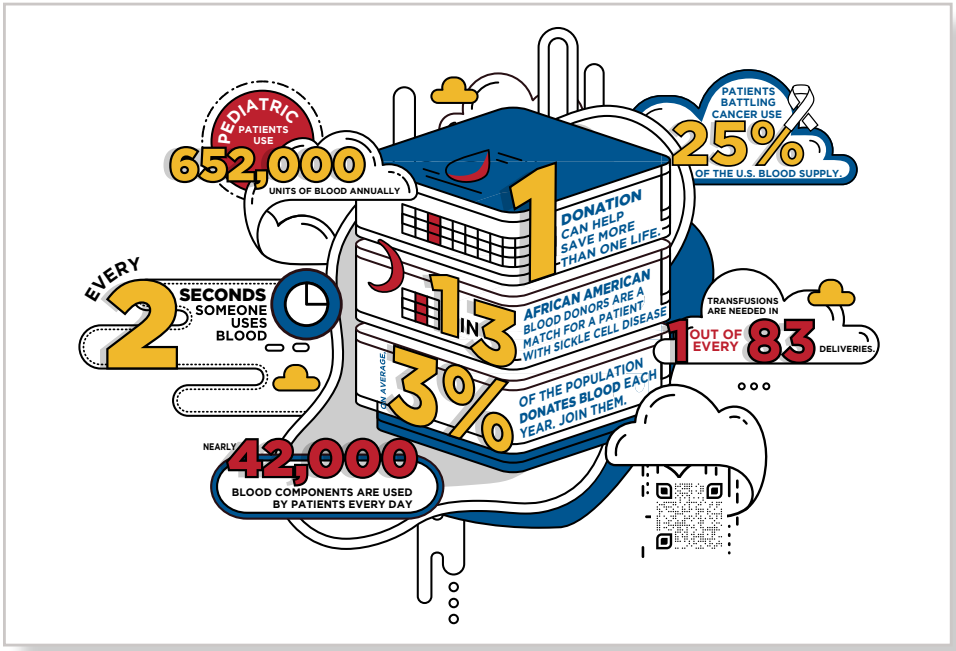
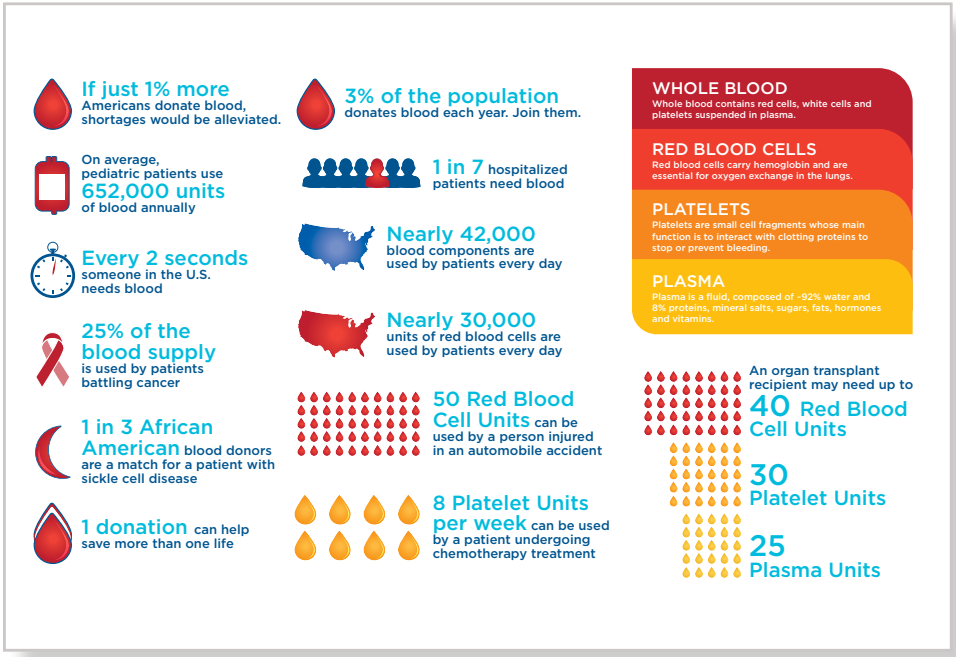
Appendix B: Graphics for Printing

The two graphics below are vector and can be printed at any size.
Click here to download the PDF file with both posters.





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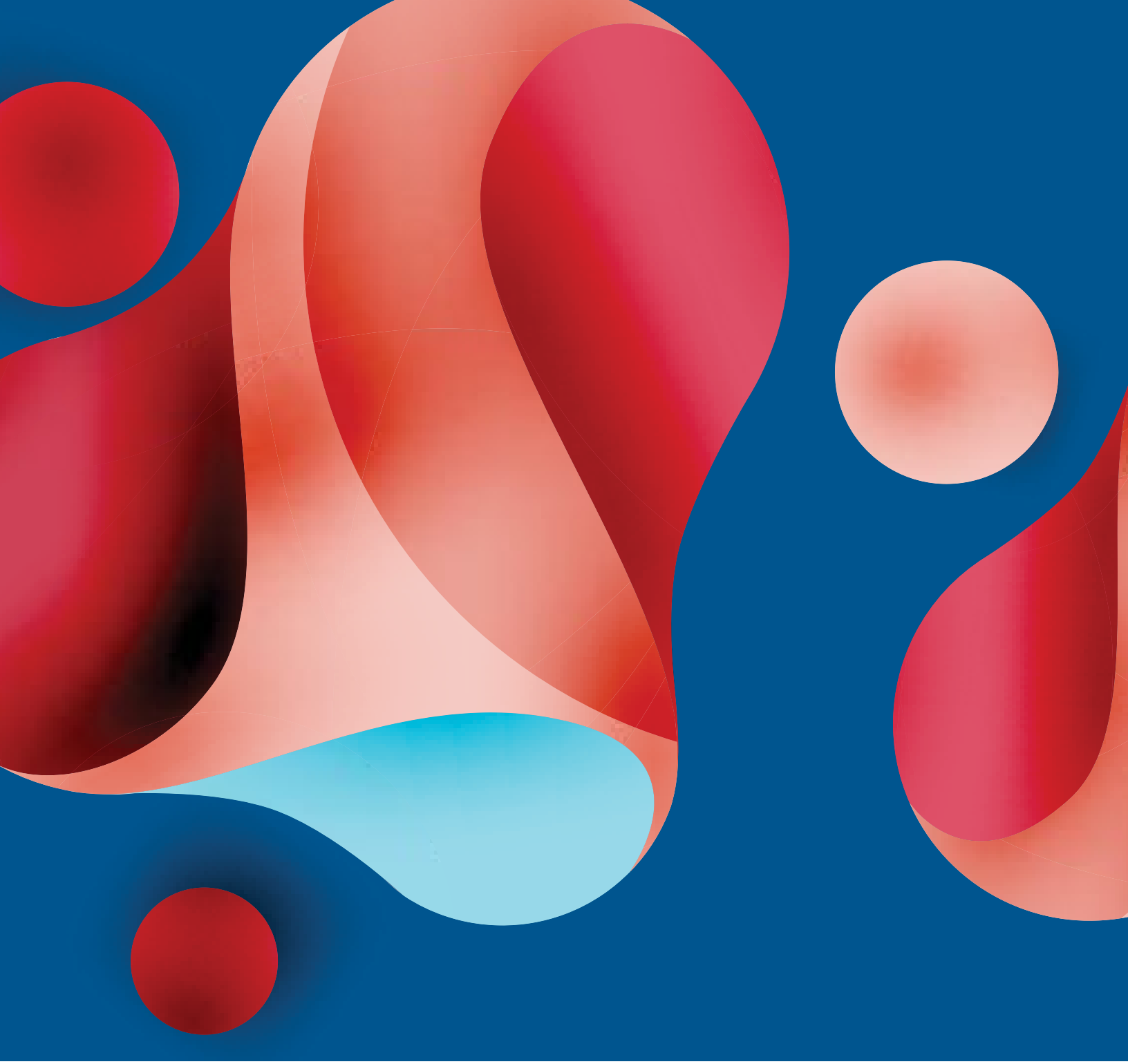

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