

O negative – the universal donor

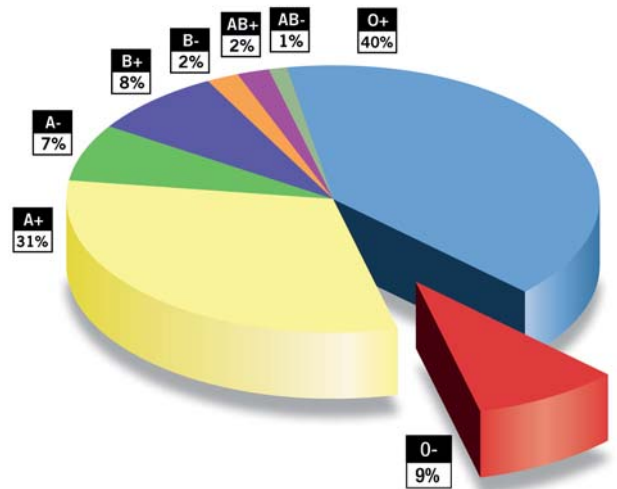
Being **O negative** means you're really special



Meet Jim. Jim is a regular blood donor who has given over 50 donations. Because he is O negative he feels satisfied knowing he can help anyone that needs blood no matter what type they are.

See just how special you really are

Only 9% of the Australian population has O negative blood, so you really are special.



 **Australian Red Cross
BLOOD SERVICE**

For further information call **13 14 95**
or visit donateblood.com.au

If you're O negative you're just our type

When it comes to blood donors, O negative donors are very special.

Your blood is the only type that can safely be given to everyone no matter what their blood type is. That's why O negative donors are called 'universal donors'.

Only 9% of the Australian population has O negative blood, so you really are special.

Meet Marianne.

Marianne has Thalassaemia Major. This means she has to have a transfusion every 3 weeks to survive.



Why is O negative so important?

Having O negative type blood means there is demand for your donations all the time.

Your blood donation can be very important in saving someone's life in a crisis when it's not always possible to check for an exact match. O negative blood can buy vital minutes in an urgent situation such as emergency surgery. It can mean the difference between life and death.

As it can sometimes be difficult to provide newborns with blood that is exactly matched, O negative donations can also help babies who need immediate transfusions. Your donation can be crucial in saving a newborn or a baby in the womb.

How you can help us to help others

While donations of all blood types are needed all year round to save lives, O negative donations are especially important. As your donation can help so many people, please consider becoming a regular donor.

O negative blood tends to run in families, so encourage your brothers, sisters, parents and children to become regular donors. Make donating your family's gift to others.

And if you change your address, home telephone number or work details, please let us know so we can stay in touch with you.

Remember, there aren't many special O negative people out there, so we need you. Each of your donations can help save 3 lives.