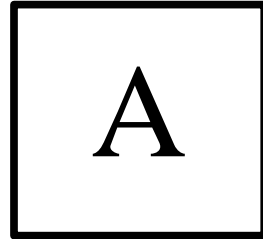
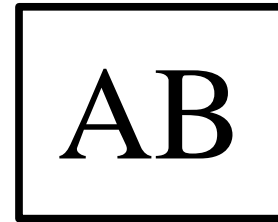


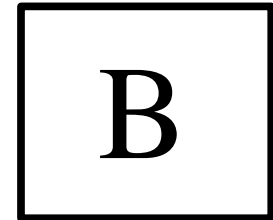
Type O can be used for emergency transfusions, since 85% of the population can safely receive O positive red blood cells, and 100% can receive O negative red blood cells (the universal blood donor). Because type O is also the most prevalent blood type (49%), it is used most frequently for routine transfusions.



Type A blood is used for routine transfusions to type A patients, which are the next most prevalent after type O patients. Approximately 34% of the population has A positive blood and 5% has A negative. The plasma from type A blood is particularly rich in clotting factors used to treat bleeding disorders such as hemophilia.



Type AB red blood cells are used by very few patients (about 4%). However, the plasma from type AB donors is very valuable, since it can be given safely to any patient for emergency transfusion needs, regardless of their blood type. Type AB plasma is also used for transfusions to newborn babies; a single donation may be divided among several infants.



Type B blood is needed for routine transfusions to type B patients, who represent approximately one-tenth of those transfused.



American Red Cross
Together, we can save a life