The UK Blood Donor Survey
OVERVIEW 2015

Prepared by the UK Blood Donor Survey Team
- on behalf of the Steering Group, June 2015

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Background

2011 review of UK donor selection criteria related to sexual behaviours

Compliance with ALL donor selection criteria important factor in risk-reduction

Long established surveillance systems for donors with markers of infection

BUT little known about behaviours in ‘healthy’ donors

Opportunity to ask donors about behavioural risks but also understanding of donor selection guidelines and whether they fully disclose information
Questionnaire - online, unlinked & anonymous

Demographics

Health & well-being

Lifestyle

Infection risk

Understanding of blood donation policy
Survey

Development
• Focus group
• Pilots in 4 UK blood services

Live survey
• November 2013
• Invited via email with URL to questionnaire + 2 reminders

Information for donors
• PHE website
• donorsurvey@phe.gov.uk

Information for staff
• Blood services
• Public Health agencies
Sampling

Each month for one year, all eligible new and an equal number repeat donors from UK blood centres

Eligible

- whole blood donation within previous month
- email address
- donation made at non-static site
- NOT reactive on testing

Estimated 60,000 participants (2011)

- fewer new donors  3 x repeat donor sampling (NHSBT)
Good participation

225,091
UK donors sent anonymous online survey
Nov 2013-Oct 2014

1 in 3
responded
90% completed whole survey

65,051
Responders from range of subgroups

Repeat donors
- 30,205 males
- 17,280 females
- Total: 47,485

New donors
- 12,558 males
- 5,496 females
- Total: 18,054

65,051 responders

All donors
9%
Males, older, repeat donors
underrepresented

96% white
Donors disclosed behaviours of a personal nature

Sex
Responses - 63,311 (96.7%)
- 7 in 10 sex in last year more common in males and young donors aged 17-24
- 2 in 10 >= 1 new partner in the last year
- 1 in 10 history of a sexually transmitted infection

Drugs
Responses – 62,157 (95.5%)
- 25 IDU
- 950 intranasal (most 25-34y)
Compliance with the donor selection guidelines was very good

Example – lifestyle deferrals

- exceeded 99% in each category
- small but significant difference between new and repeat donors in some cases
- lower rates of compliance among responders who did not understand the eligibility criteria or did not agree with the rationale for the selection criteria.
MSM

22,065 males who have had sex

1% MSM 🏳️‍🌈

74 were non-compliant (70 <12m)
- 99.7% of all males COMPLIANT
Compliance with lifestyle deferrals
Other aspects of compliance and donor health

Piercings & acupuncture
- Compliance > 99%

19,000 adverse events
- >80% bruises
- 2% delayed faint
- most not reported

2 in 3 travelled outside the UK < 12 months
- Compliance >99.7%

Other stuff:
- Illness/medication/medical appointments
- Smoking/drinking
- 1 in 2 keep pets!
Summary and next steps

Information of behaviour & lifestyle of > 65,000 donors

Compliance with donor selection guidelines was generally very high

Among those who did not comply, understanding & poor perception of own risk

Findings are limited to responding population – and there is reporting bias

Data about donor well-being still to be reviewed and compared with general population data

Due to report findings to UK Department of Health Expert Committee
• Key areas of interest – sex & drug use

Data will be fed back to each of the UK blood services to be used to support and develop blood donation policies
FLYING IN THE FACE OF RISK: Do UK donors comply with travel deferrals for malaria?

C Reynolds, K Davison, N Andrews, S R Brailsford on behalf of the UK donor survey steering group
NHS Blood and Transplant / Public Health England

UK BLOOD DONOR ADVERSE EVENTS 2013/14

C Reynolds, K Davison, N Andrews, S R Brailsford on behalf of the UK donor survey steering group
NHS Blood and Transplant / Public Health England

Getting personal with UK blood donors—the findings of a large scale anonymous behavioural survey to assess understanding of, and compliance with, donor selection guidelines

K Davison, C Reynolds, N Andrews and S Brailsford on behalf of The UK Blood Donor Survey Steering Group

“Highlights on donors’ nightlives” – findings on sexual behaviours from the UK blood donor survey

K Davison, C Reynolds, N Andrews and S Brailsford on behalf of The UK Blood Donor Survey Steering Group

ADD AFFILIATIONS
Acknowledgements

Survey Team; Su Brailsford – Principal Investigator (NHSBT/PHE), Katy Davison & Claire Reynolds - Survey co-ordinators (NHSBT/PHE), Nick Andrews – Statistician (PHE)

Steering Group: Harpreet Kohli – Chair (SABTO until November 2014), Gail Miflin NHSBT, Crispin Wickenden NHSBT, Felicity Hay (past NHSBT), Joanne Allan WBS, Stephen Field WBS, Moira Carter SNBTS, Kathryn Maguire NIBTS, John Ratchford PHE

Others: Andrew Reid SNBTS, David Moore NIBTS, Rhian Roberts WBS, Nicola Thomas WBS

Also Clive Seed, Australian Red Cross, for helpful guidance on the questionnaire

Teleperformance for distribution of the email invites from NHSBT AND THE DONORS!!
Final thought from a donor…

“if eligibility issues were sorted out beforehand then the session experience would be more motivational, about donating blood rather than reasons not to”