



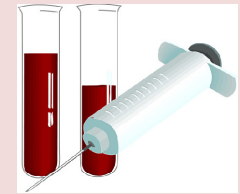
Have You Saved A Life Today? Donating Blood in Western Oklahoma

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Introduction

Every semester, Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) sponsors blood drives and relies on college students to donate blood. This is important, because millions of people require blood transfusions due to accidents, surgeries, and treatments for ailments such as heart disease, sickle cell anemia, and cancer (Mathew *et al.*, 2007). However, Nilsson & Sojka (2003) reported, "Each year the demand for blood rises by 2 to 3% and it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit new blood donors."

If blood is so important to save lives, then why don't more people donate? Schreiber *et al.* (2006) reported people do not give blood due to a fear of needles, abhorrence to the sight of blood, and the anxiety as how their bodies might react to donating blood. They found others to classify donating blood as "inconvenient." Therefore, the objectives of this survey were to determine what proportion of college students and current residents of Weatherford, OK, who were not students have given blood, and factors affecting their donation habits.

Aim of Study

The following research questions were tested in this study:

1. To determine the likelihood to donate blood based on gender, ethnicity, and age.
2. To determine the likelihood to donate blood based on type of subject (SWOSU students versus current residents of Weatherford, OK, who were not students).
3. To determine places of blood donation.
4. To determine the reasons why subjects have donated blood.
5. To determine the reasons why subjects have not donated blood.

Materials and Methods

This project was done to meet the course requirements of ALHLT 3043 Health Statistics in Spring 2010.

The following steps were followed:

- > Received approval from the SWOSU Protection of Humans Subjects Committee.
- > Conducted survey using convenience sampling of SWOSU students at the campus Wellness Center and current residents of Weatherford, OK, at the local Walmart on April 21, 2010.
- > Due to unequal numbers of college students and residents, we randomly chose 25 males and 25 females from each group to represent each category.
- > Data were input and organized using Microsoft Excel®.
- > Data were analyzed via Chi Square analysis using PASW® Statistics 17.0 software.

Results

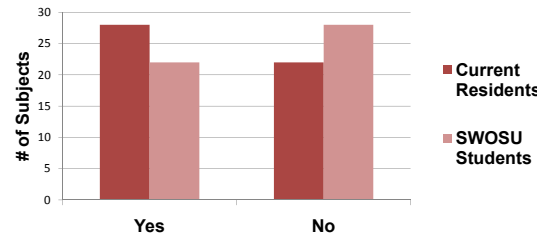


Figure 1. Response to the question "Have you ever donated blood?"

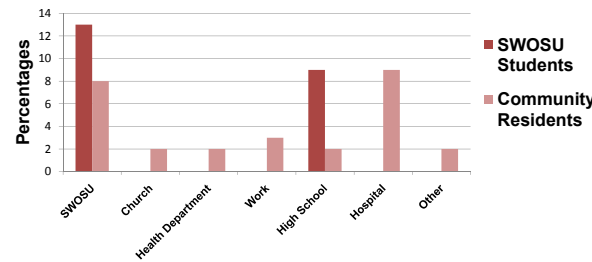


Figure 2. Response to the question "Where do you donate blood?"

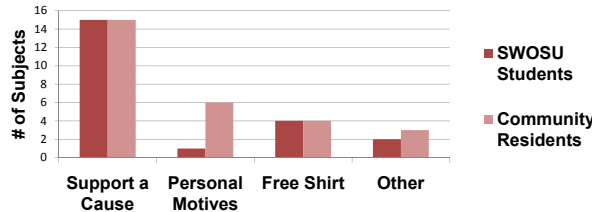


Figure 3. Reasons why subjects have donated blood.

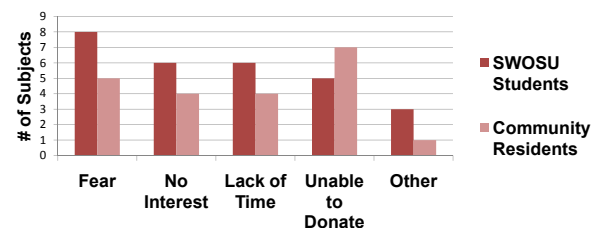


Figure 4. Reasons why subjects have not donated blood.

Conclusions

- > Gender, ethnicity, and age did not influence whether or not a person was a blood donor ($P > 0.05$).
- > There was a trend ($P = 0.23$) for more community members who were not students (56%) to have donated blood as compared to SWOSU students (44%) (Figure 1).
- > We found a significant interaction ($P < 0.05$) between place of donation and type of subject. Weatherford residents reported to donate blood in a variety of areas, whereas SWOSU students have only donated in high school or college settings (Figure 2).
- > We found no significant difference ($P > 0.05$) between type of subject as to reasons why they have or have not donated blood.
 - * The main reason both SWOSU students and community residents donated blood was to support a cause (Figure 3).
 - * The main reason SWOSU students did not donate blood was due to a fear, while the main reason community residents did not donate was due to the inability to donate (Figure 4).
- > Other findings include:
 - * 61% of SWOSU students and community residents had first become aware of blood donation sites by the means of schools and parents.
 - * 67% of all subjects did not know their specific blood type, regardless of whether or not they donated blood.
- > We faced challenges in recruiting community members to take our survey; however, finding differences in the blood donation habits between college students and community members suggest more focused education efforts and donation venues could be made to increase this life-saving practice.

Literature Cited

- Mathew, S., King, M., Glynn, S., Dietz, S., Caswell, S., & Schreiber, G. (2007). Opinions about donating blood among those who never gave and those who stopped: a focus group assessment. *Transfusion*, 47(4), 729-735. Retrieved January 22, 2010, from Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition database.
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- Schreiber, G., Schlumpf, K., Glynn, S., Wright, D., Yongling, T., & King, M. (2006). Convenience, the bane of our existence, and other barriers to donating. *Transfusion*, 46(4), 545-553. Retrieved January 22, 2010, from Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition database.

