

# BONE MARROW AND BLOOD STEM CELL DONOR RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

**MISSION:** To save lives through bone marrow and blood stem cell donation through the initiatives of awareness, education, and advocacy.

**VISION:** We will inspire a culture where Hoosiers will lead the country in cultivating mainstream awareness and foster a general willingness to support and join the registry, giving all patients needing a life-saving match a chance at life.

## Did you know...



About 30% of patients have a family member who is a close enough match to donate.



The remaining 70% have to search the worldwide registry to find a suitable match.

Every year, 12,000 people are diagnosed with blood cancer or another blood disorder for which a blood stem cell transplant from an unrelated donor may be their best—or only—hope of a cure.

**How can you help? Register to join the national registry, today!**

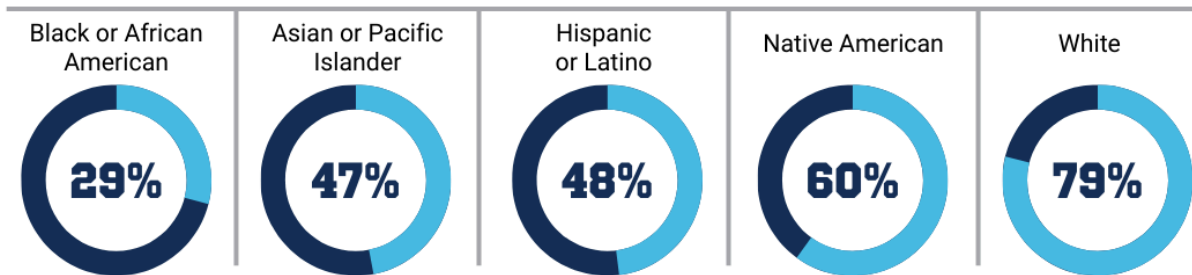
## Bone Marrow Registry and Ethnic Background

A patient's ethnic background is paramount in the likelihood of finding a match on the registry.

When searching for a blood stem cell donor, doctors look to match human leukocyte antigen (HLA) markers to find the best chance at a successful transplant. These HLA markers are inherited, and some ethnic groups have more complex tissue types than others. So, a person's best chance of finding a donor is often with someone from the same ethnic background.

There are 22 million donors on the bone marrow registry. However, the registry's ethnic diversity does not reflect the diverse population of patients relying on a life-saving transplant.

## ODDS OF **FINDING A MATCH** BASED ON ETHNIC BACKGROUND



Source: IT-Ideation Department, February 2021

**Multi-racial patients have a fractional chance of finding a match on the registry.**

## HOW TO JOIN THE REGISTRY



SAVING LIVES THROUGH  
**PROJECT 44**  
BLOOD STEM CELL DONATION

Project 44, an Indiana-based 501(c)(3) and official partner of the Indiana Department of Health, aims to save lives through awareness, education, and advocacy for NMDP, the nation's largest

bone marrow and blood stem cell registry. Joining the NMDP registry is quick, easy and painless.

## **ONE SIMPLE SWAB. THAT'S ALL IT TAKES TO BECOME A LIFESAVER.**



**REGISTER**



**SWAB**



**MATCH**



**DONATE**

### 1. Register

Follow [this link to register for NMDP through Project 44](#). Or text 'PROJECT44' to 61474. Answer simple questions about your age and medical history to make sure you meet health guidelines.

### 2. Swab

Your sample will be tested, and your genetic type will be added to the NMDP Registry<sup>SM</sup>.

### 3. Match

Because of the genetic complexity of matching donors to patients, it could be a few months or many years before you're matched to a patient.

### 4. Donate

Patients and their families are counting on you to keep your promise to donate, if needed. You could be someone's only hope for a cure.

## DONATION IN THE STATE OF INDIANA

A groundbreaking Indiana law could help thousands of patients with blood cancers or other life-threatening diseases by establishing a statewide recruitment program for bone marrow donors. [Senate Enrolled Act 398](#) went into effect July 2022.

*"Donating bone marrow is a relatively foreign concept to the average Hoosier, but the need for donors is significant and it's often difficult to find a match. To help save lives, we need more members of the public to learn about the process, because that familiarity will help incentivize others to donate."*

- State Rep. Ann Vermilion (R-Marion)

## NMDP INDIANA LOCATIONS

### **APHERESIS/COLLECTION CENTERS**

Franciscan Health – Indianapolis

Indiana University Health, Blood and Bone Marrow Stem Cell

### **TRANSPLANT CENTERS**

Franciscan Health – Indianapolis

Indiana University Health Blood and Bone Marrow Stem Cell

## THE IMPACT OF INDIANA DONORS

97,678 active Hoosiers on the registry

1,129 searching patients

442 transplants

220 donors

*\*Reflective of data collected between 2017-2021*

## HOOSIER SUCCESS STORY

For Indiana resident Michael Edwards, blood disease and blood cancer have been a part of life since 1995.

After being diagnosed with Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) at Mayo Clinic, Edwards was initially only given a 20 percent chance of survival, if his MDS developed into acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

Regular treatments kept his blood disease manageable until 2003, when his condition did result in him developing AML. Fortunately, bone marrow transplant research had advanced from the time of his original diagnosis.

“A treatment change made transplant possible for me,” Edwards said. “I took a chance and it has worked out well for me.”

Edwards received his life-saving bone marrow transplant at Indiana University in 2004. Once he recovered, he became a Be The Match [NMDP] Peer Connect volunteer to share his experience with patients just starting their cellular therapy journey.

# About Project 44

Launched in 2016, Project 44 was created in honor of the late Andrew Smith. Wearing the #44, Andrew was a beloved, standout member of Butler's two-time NCAA Finals basketball team. Having been a personal recipient of a bone marrow transplant in November of 2015, Andrew and his wife Samantha were blessed with an additional three months together to make and share memories that would last well beyond Andrew's final days on earth. On January 12, 2016, at the age of 25, Andrew passed away following a two-year battle with cancer.

Committed to carrying out Andrew's selfless work, Project 44's initial goal was to save 44 lives. Focused on education, awareness, and advocacy for the national bone marrow registry, Project 44 has been working since its inception to build mainstream awareness and willingness to support and join the registry, and cultivate a culture of "Yes!" where all patients needing a life-saving cure have an available match on the registry.

WATCH OUR [BRAND VIDEO](#) AND [SC FEATURE](#)

Learn more about Project 44 at [project44.org](http://project44.org) or [@joinproject44 on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/joinproject44)

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