

LCQ13: Blood donation services of the Hong Kong Red Cross

Following is a question by Reverend Canon the Hon Peter Douglas Koon and a written reply by the Secretary for Health, Professor Lo Chung-mau, in the Legislative Council today (July 17):

Question:

It is learnt that the blood inventories of the Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service have from time to time been depleted to very low levels in recent years. There are views that with the continued ageing of the population in Hong Kong, the demand for blood supply is expected to be on a continuous rise given the substantial healthcare needs. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council if it knows:

- (1) the total blood collection and the total quantities of blood used by various public and private hospitals across the territory in each of the past five years;
- (2) the respective total number of blood donors, percentage of the total number of blood donors in the population within the blood donation age bracket in Hong Kong, and percentage of the total number of regular donors in the population within the blood donation age bracket in Hong Kong in each of the past five years (with a breakdown by age group and gender);
- (3) the respective total number of blood donors, total number of first-time blood donors, and total number of blood donors who had donated blood twice or more at various donor centres in each month of the past five years (with a breakdown by age group and gender);
- (4) the total number of visits made by the Hong Kong Red Cross to (a) secondary schools and (b) tertiary institutions under the School Blood Donation Campaign in each of the past five years and, in such visits, the respective total numbers of (i) first-time blood donors and (ii) non-first-time blood donors; and
- (5) the total number of visits made by the mobile blood donation vehicles of the Hong Kong Red Cross to different locations across the territory in each of the past five years and, in such visits, the respective total numbers of first-time blood donors and non-first-time blood donors?

Reply:

President,

The Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (BTS) began to promote voluntary blood donation in Hong Kong since 1952. Under the management of the Hospital Authority (HA) since 1991, the BTS provides blood to all hospitals in Hong Kong for use by patients, and continues to be the only institution

supplying blood in Hong Kong.

As the population ages and the demand for healthcare services continues to rise, the demand for blood is also increasing. However, blood collection efforts are intermittently affected by unforeseen factors, such as the COVID-19 epidemic in recent years, occasional bad weather and changes in travel habits of the public, all of which reduce the public's willingness to donate blood. In view of the above, the BTS actively encourages the public to join the league of blood donors on all fronts and through various initiatives, including introducing a range of medals and certificates to commend supportive donors who have participated in blood donation drives; designing a variety of practical souvenirs based on the mascot Captain Blood; encouraging private enterprises to arrange for their employees to participate in blood donation drives during working hours when mobile blood donation teams (MBDT) or mobile blood donation vehicles (MBDV) visit; and continuously developing more communication channels to strengthen ties with blood donors and the general public.

The Government and the HA will continue to support the work of the BTS and also call on members of the public, enterprises and organisations to fully support and participate in blood donation drives and donate blood regularly. Endeavoured to provide a stable and safe blood supply to hospitals, the BTS has set up blood donor centres (BDC) across the city and dispatches MBDT and MBDV to visit various districts in the city, offering convenience to the public to donate blood.

In consultation with the HA, the consolidated reply to the question raised by Reverend Canon the Hon Peter Douglas Koon is as follows:

(1) The annual total blood collection in Hong Kong in the past five years is set out in the table below, with over 90 per cent of the blood collected being used in public hospitals:

	Total blood collection in Hong Kong (Unit)
2019	227 334
2020	204 808
2021	210 863
2022	204 573
2023	210 103

(2) Over the past five years, the respective total number of blood donors, percentage of the total number of blood donors among Hong Kong's population within the blood donation age bracket, percentage of the total number of regular donors among Hong Kong's population within the blood donation age bracket, and number of blood donations (with a breakdown by gender and age group) are set out below:

	No. of blood donors	Hong Kong's population within the blood donation age bracket (Note 1)	Total no. of blood donors among Hong Kong's population within the blood donation age bracket (%)	Total no. of regular blood donors among Hong Kong's population within the blood donation age bracket (%)
2019	146 200	6 099 700	2.40%	1.90%
2020	121 740	6 022 800	2.02%	1.71%
2021	121 222	6 002 400	2.02%	1.68%
2022	119 967	6 067 200	1.98%	1.64%
2023	124 503	6 070 300	2.05%	1.69%

Number of blood donations (by gender)

	No. of blood donations by male (%)	No. of blood donations by female (%)
2019	119 781 (52.69%)	107 553 (47.31%)
2020	108 623 (53.04%)	96 185 (46.96%)
2021	111 233 (52.75%)	99 630 (47.25%)
2022	109 273 (53.42%)	95 300 (46.58%)
2023	112 984 (53.78%)	97 118 (46.22%)

Number of blood donations (by age group)

	No. of blood donations by aged 16-20 (%)	No. of blood donations by aged 21-30 (%)	No. of blood donations by aged 31-40 (%)	No. of blood donations by aged 41-50 (%)	No. of blood donations by aged 51-60 (%)	No. of blood donations by aged 61-70 (%)	No. of blood donations by aged >70 (%)
2019	22 239 (9.78%)	48 587 (21.37%)	53 222 (23.41%)	54 430 (23.94%)	39 049 (17.18%)	9 692 (4.26%)	115 (0.05%)

2020	10 266 (5.01%)	37 845 (18.48%)	50 593 (24.70%)	55 021 (26.86%)	39 825 (19.45%)	11 078 (5.41%)	180 (0.09%)
2021	10 113 (4.80%)	34 320 (16.28%)	49 037 (23.26%)	58 436 (27.71%)	44 536 (21.12%)	14 134 (6.70%)	287 (0.14%)
2022	8 896 (4.35%)	29 878 (14.61%)	45 442 (22.21%)	58 610 (28.65%)	46 839 (22.90%)	14 605 (7.14%)	303 (0.15%)
2023	11 098 (5.28%)	29 155 (13.88%)	45 474 (21.64%)	60 441 (28.77%)	48 502 (23.08%)	15 053 (7.16%)	379 (0.18%)

(3) In the past five years, the total monthly blood donations by first-time blood donors and the blood donors who have given blood twice or more, which at the respective BDC, MBDT and MBDV are set out in the following tables:

2019	No. of blood donations by first-time blood donors			No. of blood donations by blood donors who have given blood twice or more (Note 2)		
	BDC	MBDT	MBDV	BDC	MBDT	MBDV
January	864	1 941	38	12 632	2 162	327
February	1 226	1 292	24	14 305	1 947	148
March	1 140	1 356	16	14 405	2 921	95
April	843	880	76	13 065	2 483	284
May	1 015	983	49	13 590	2 752	168
June	998	622	92	13 578	2 957	294
July	946	660	60	12 408	2 808	344
August	1 131	1 129	99	13 612	2 979	478
September	796	1 493	132	12 601	3 181	588
October	908	2 685	135	13 226	3 141	379
November	2 096	1 862	71	15 460	2 024	262
December	782	1 462	135	13 053	1 964	676

2020	No. of blood donations by first-time blood donors			No. of blood donations by blood donors who have given blood twice or more (Note 2)		
	BDC	MBDT	MBDV	BDC	MBDT	MBDV
January	819	1 365	96	11 958	1 678	522
February	1 381	124	75	16 617	426	622
March	974	252	107	12 902	883	623
April	843	107	87	13 091	556	595

May	1 229	225	177	15 652	1 019	661
June	1 378	431	109	15 995	1 575	564
July	888	149	59	10 826	932	365
August	1 615	32	103	16 342	179	841
September	725	151	105	12 235	723	543
October	779	834	70	13 834	1 457	513
November	896	1 443	92	14 181	1 247	350
December	917	226	120	13 967	881	470

2021	No. of blood donations by first-time blood donors			No. of blood donations by blood donors who have given blood twice or more (Note 2)		
	BDC	MBDT	MBDV	BDC	MBDT	MBDV
January	889	84	107	14 149	439	493
February	1 728	246	110	18 456	1 480	675
March	1 131	402	65	14 147	1 313	344
April	808	169	119	12 229	1 193	490
May	839	400	99	13 121	1 117	406
June	1 133	360	136	15 490	1 442	502
July	986	280	78	12 685	1 501	297
August	928	393	90	13 683	1 772	369
September	935	630	101	13 814	1 864	552
October	1 094	1 386	223	13 014	1 681	311
November	948	1 410	195	13 345	1 249	345
December	909	1 066	116	14 369	1 477	456

2022	No. of blood donations by first-time blood donors			No. of blood donations by blood donors who have given blood twice or more (Note 2)		
	BDC	MBDT	MBDV	BDC	MBDT	MBDV
January	905	358	111	12 853	1 046	478
February	1 709	241	86	14 857	959	496
March	756	97	108	11 421	549	635
April	1 050	106	165	15 861	633	714
May	1 091	392	123	13 897	1 394	551
June	1 135	475	115	13 643	1 875	515

July	1 029	343	141	13 424	1 443	415
August	907	488	57	12 146	1 853	436
September	824	611	168	13 605	1 261	363
October	1 100	1 066	251	15 042	1 701	404
November	730	974	188	10 731	843	412
December	1 371	856	124	16 233	1 135	498

2023	No. of blood donations by first-time blood donors			No. of blood donations by blood donors who have given blood twice or more (Note 2)		
	BDC	MBDT	MBDV	BDC	MBDT	MBDV
January	1 237	645	162	13 628	1 034	463
February	1 420	1 052	131	14 445	921	507
March	1 123	1 042	244	13 820	1 369	381
April	649	607	86	12 274	1 440	406
May	1 447	792	123	15 927	1 513	500
June	977	438	103	13 868	1 984	456
July	921	537	104	12 664	1 861	500
August	816	418	118	12 865	1 948	531
September	801	472	131	13 938	1 872	406
October	769	884	209	13 521	1 220	374
November	728	1 014	225	12 919	1 407	335
December	839	610	167	15 048	1 217	499

For information on the age group and gender of blood donors, please refer to the reply to part (2) of the question above.

(4) In the past five years, the total number of visits to secondary schools and tertiary institutions under the School Blood Donation Campaign, as well as the total number of donations during these visits by first-time blood donors and blood donors who have given blood twice or more are listed as follows:

Secondary Schools

	No. of visits by MBDT or MBDV of the BTS	No. of registrations	No. of successful blood donations	No. of blood donations by first-time blood donors	No. of blood donations by blood donors who have given blood twice or more
2019	286	17 898	13 414	7 273	6 141
2020	110 (Note 3)	5 742	4 442	2 237	2 205
2021	131 (Note 3)	5 942	4 744	2 482	2 262
2022	112 (Note 3)	4 688	3 756	2 048	1 708
2023	171	7 588	5 803	3 722	2 081

Tertiary Institutions

	No. of visits by MBDT or MBDV of the BTS	No. of registrations	No. of successful blood donations	No. of blood donations by first-time blood donors	No. of blood donations by blood donors who have given blood twice or more
2019	60	4 042	2 887	1 009	1 878
2020	9 (Note 3)	439	318	81	237
2021	38 (Note 3)	2 067	1 664	657	1 007
2022	46 (Note 3)	2 407	1 977	1 143	834
2023	73	3 580	2 821	1 349	1 472

(5) In the past five years, the annual total number of visits by the MBDV of the BTS to different locations as well as the number of donations by first-time blood donors and blood donors who have given blood twice or more during these visits are tabulated below:

	No. of days of visits	Parking points	No. of blood donations by first-time blood donors	No. of blood donations by blood donors who have given blood twice or more

2019	157 (Note 4)	32	927	4 043
2020	314	30	1 200	6 669
2021	303	58	1 439	5 240
2022	327	62	1 637	5 917
2023	317	95	1 803	5 358

Note 1: The BTS accepts blood donations from people aged 16-75. This population data in this part is extracted from the information of the Census and Statistics Department.

Note 2: Donors who have donated blood twice or more include donors of apheresis donation. Donors of apheresis donation may donate blood more than once a month, so the figures in the table are the number of blood donations.

Note 3: The number of visits by MBDT and MBDV to secondary schools and tertiary institutions decreased due to the suspension of classes during the COVID-19 epidemic.

Note 4: In April 2019, the BTS introduced a new MBDV to increase the quantity of blood collection.