

Infectious Risks of Blood Transfusion in the United States

Infectious agent	Estimated risk per unit transfused
Virus	
HIV-1 and -2	1:1,467,000
HTLV-I and -II	1:2,993,000
HAV	1:1,000,000
HBV	1:280,000
HCV	1:1,149,000
B19 Parvovirus	1:20,000 - 1:50,000
Bacteria	
RBCs	1:1,000 with septic reaction in 1:500,000
Pheresis platelets (with early aerobic culture)	1:1,000 – 1:3,000 with septic reaction in 1:75,000
Parasites	
Babesia and malaria	<1:4,000,000
Trypanosoma cruzi	Unknown

Note: West Nile Virus is not included in this table because of regional, temporal and testing (e.g. mini-pool versus individual donation testing) variation, and decreasing rates of infection.

Selected estimates of non-infectious risk of transfusion

Acute hemolytic transfusion reaction due to ABO incompatibility	1:38,000 – 1:70,000
Transfusion related acute lung injury	1:1,200 – 1:190,000
Anaphylaxis	1:20,000 – 1:50,000
Circulatory Overload	<1%

AABB Technical Manual, 17th ed, 2011.

For perspective some selected comparative mortality odds ratios are provided