

## Red Cross Calls for Blood Donations

Written by Steve Frank  
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With half as many blood products currently in the Red Cross inventory as this time last year, The American Red Cross is issuing an emergency call for blood and platelet donors of all types. The release says that unseasonably early warm weather may be a contributing factor to the 50,000 donation shortfall in June as many regular donors got an early start on summer activities, and aren't taking time to give blood or platelets. But they say the need remains constant, with someone needing blood every two seconds in the United States.

Donors are needed now to help patients and replenish the blood supply. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment or for more information. A blood donor card or driver's license, or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.