

Blood Facts



**American
Red Cross**

Community responsibility is based on the tradition of neighbor helping neighbor. The American Red Cross asks healthy people to give blood regularly to help meet the need for blood throughout the year. As a preparedness organization, we support this approach because it is an active rather than a reactive way to maintain an adequate blood supply for America.

- Blood is a perishable product and the American Red Cross only accepts blood from volunteer blood donors.
- Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion.
- Your whole blood donation may help save as many as three lives.
- One out of 10 people admitted to the hospital needs blood.
- Nearly 5 million people need blood transfusions each year.
- Blood is needed by cancer patients, people with blood disorders or diseases, premature babies, transplant recipients, trauma and accident victims, and to treat people with other serious diseases and conditions.
- People 69 years or older account for 10 percent of the population, but use about 50 percent of all whole blood and red cells transfused.
- The American Red Cross collects about 6.5 million units a year—or about half the blood needed each year in the United States.
- All donated blood is tested for transmitted diseases. You cannot contract HIV or any other infectious disease by giving blood.
- Individuals who are at least 17 years old (16 with parental permission in some states), meet height and weight requirements (at least 110 pounds based on height), and are in general good health may be eligible to donate blood.

The strength of the American Red Cross Blood Services lies in the active involvement of people who voluntarily donate blood to meet demands in their community and around the country. Without volunteer blood donors, there would be no American Red Cross Blood Services. Make and keep your appointment to help save a life today!



redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767