



**American  
Red Cross**

American Red Cross  
Michigan Blood Services  
[www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org)

*News Release*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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**American Red Cross urges donors to give**  
*— Summer shortage persists; supplies of high-demand blood types drop —*

**LANSING, MICH.—August 20, 2007—**The American Red Cross Blood Services in Michigan continues its call to donors to help rebuild a blood supply ravaged by a summer shortage.

The shortage is not confined to Michigan, report Red Cross officials. Both Michigan and Ohio continue to struggle as inventories of critical blood types dip below safe and adequate levels.

**“There’s no question. You’re needed,”** says Sharon Jaksa, CEO of the Great Lakes Region, which serves 65 counties in Michigan. **“Blood supplies have been extremely low for about a month now. We simply need more people to volunteer to give blood—especially with a major travel holiday on the horizon.”**

Statewide blood inventory levels plunged below a 24-hour supply, with Type O hovering at 12 hours or less. A three-day — or 72-hour supply — is considered safe and adequate for meeting the needs of hospital patients.

**“Shortages of Type O can be very dangerous,”** says Jaksa. **“Type O-negative is the blood transfused in the majority of emergency situations when a person’s blood type isn’t known. In many instances, those transfusions make the difference between life and death.”**

A minimum of about 275 units of O-negative is necessary to treat the state’s hospital patients every day. The Great Lakes Region reports close to 160 units of Type O-negative available statewide.

The Red Cross is asking all eligible blood donors to give in the next two weeks. The American Red Cross needs to collect nearly 1,600 blood donations each day in Michigan to maintain the blood supply for patients in 127 state hospitals.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good general health. For information on a blood drive near you, call **1-800-GIVE LIFE** or visit [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org).

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