



Special  
Olympics  
**Healthy  
Athletes®**



Health Promotion  
Fit Feet  
FUNfitness  
Healthy Hearing  
Opening Eyes  
Special Smiles  
MedFest

Due to a myriad of variables, including active discrimination, isolation, fear and irrational cultural beliefs, individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) are routinely denied access to quality health care. Those with ID are put at an increased risk for suffering needlessly from chronic pain and disease, blindness, hearing loss, premature deaths and numerous other easily preventable health conditions.

Adults with  
intellectual  
disabilities are  
more than

2x

as likely to  
be obese  
compared to  
adults without  
intellectual  
disabilities.

The public believes that  
people with intellectual  
disabilities have better  
health care than the general  
population...

...but levels of disease  
and preventable  
health conditions are  
significantly higher for  
those with intellectual  
disabilities.

Need New/Different Eyeglasses 30%

Failed Hearing Tests 30%

Untreated Tooth Decay 31%

Low Bone Density 27%

Urgent Dental Referral Required 10%

(Data from Special Olympics Pennsylvania Healthy Athletes, 2016 - 2019)

**Special Olympics Pennsylvania's Role:**

Special Olympics is the **largest global public health organization** dedicated to serving people with ID. Our impact, in some cases, saves lives by discovering unknown health issues or providing health care that otherwise would not be available.

**Solutions and Benefits:**

- From 2011 to 2019, Special Olympics PA has conducted over 7,100 screenings, including nearly 2,000 at 5 events in 2019!
- For some, these screenings are the first time they have ever seen a doctor.
- Special Olympics "Healthy Communities" programs build on the success of Healthy Athletes to further improve the health status and increase access to community health resources for athletes with ID.

For more information, contact Director, Program Initiatives at [chammell@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:chammell@specialolympicspa.org) or call 610-630-9450 ext. 233.