

Special Olympics Health Programs

Special Olympics Health programs improve the health and quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities (ID), resulting in significantly lower healthcare usage and costs.



SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION

ON A TEAM OF 10 SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES:



7 are overweight or obese



5 have high blood pressure



3 require dental services to address untreated tooth decay



2 have low bone mineral density

OUR CHALLENGE

People with ID die ~20 years earlier than the U.S. general population, with increased risks of cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes.¹

Special Olympics' **PATH** approach focuses on the four areas of greatest need: **Prevention, Assessment, Training, and Health Systems Strengthening.**



OUR IMPACT:



1 million+ health screenings provided.



50,100 medical referrals since 2016*.



150,000+ healthcare professionals trained.



46,000+ pairs of corrective vision devices worth **\$12M** distributed since 2016*.



192 corrective hearing devices worth **\$1.6M** provided since 2022.

*In 2016, the CDC expanded its funding to Special Olympics Health programs.

▶ **46 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico currently receive federal funding** for Special Olympics Health programming.

▶ Children who participated in just two months of Young Athletes (an inclusive early childhood development program) **saw 7-9 months of motor skill improvement.**

▶ Young adults with ID who participate in Special Olympics are **49% less likely to be diagnosed with depression** and **15% less likely to be diagnosed with diabetes.**