



2019 Reach Report Overview

The 2019 Reach Report presents data primarily sourced from the Special Olympics annual census, as well as the Health, Legal and Sports departments. Unified Schools and Unified Champion Schools data are also provided through Special Olympics North America.

SPORT

Athletes: In 2019, Special Olympics expanded its reach to more than **6.7 million** athletes and Unified Sports partners, part of our continued and steady growth all decade long. This includes more than **5.7 million** athletes with intellectual disabilities (ID) and nearly **1 million** Unified partners (without ID).

Special Olympics Africa marked the largest percentage increase: thanks to a 12% rise, there are now more than **350,000** Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners enjoying the unifying power of sport. Strong growth has also been happening in the Middle East/North Africa, which hosted the Region's first-ever Special Olympics World Games in 2019. With a 6% surge, MENA's reach has widened to nearly a **quarter-million** athletes & Unified partners.

Impressive growth is also continuing in the Asia Pacific region, now home to a record-breaking **2.4 million** Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners!

Competitions: In addition to the week-long World Games in Abu Dhabi, there were nearly **115,000** Special Olympics sports competitions around the world in 2019, averaging 315 per day, 13 per hour.

This includes **31,367** Unified Sports competitions — a 19% jump in just a year!

Power of Unified: In 2019, Special Olympics Unified Sports hit a new milestone: nearly **1.9 million** people – with and without intellectual disabilities — are playing together and learning from each other through our inclusive sports, worldwide. This includes more than **909,000** athletes and **968,000** Unified partners.

As we know, the power of youth magnifies the power of unified—today and into the future. Our Unified Youth now number **690,000** teammates, all between the ages of 8-25. The empowering example of inclusion is also making an impact on our youngest athletes: in 2019, the Young Athletes program – for children ages 2-7, with and without ID – grew by **32%** around the globe.



Coaches: Our Sports programming is led by more than **524,000** coaches globally (an increase of 3% since 2018). In 2019, the number of certified coaches also grew – by 4% worldwide!

Partnerships: Our sports work is supported by **747** global partnerships around the world, including the Asian Football Confederation and Major League Soccer (MLS)

HEALTH

NOTE: Most health data were reported on an April 2019-April 2020 cycle. Any slight decrease is due to the impact of COVID-19 on accessing office records and in-person screenings.

Healthy Athletes Screenings: In 2019, Special Olympics Health conducted more than **157,000** free Healthy Athletes screenings around the globe during this time.

Healthy Communities: During this time, Special Olympics Health achieved the goal of 100 Special Olympics Programs worldwide participating in Healthy Communities! This year, we can also count **45** Programs that have achieved Healthy Community recognition status.

Health Professionals Trained: In 2019, more than **36,000** professionals were trained in best ways to work and communicate with people with ID – a crucial part of our #InclusiveHealth campaign.

Community Engagement: This year also saw a major increase in the number of families, caregivers and athlete leaders activated to be health advocates—now numbering more than 7,000. That marks a more than 200% jump from the previous year!

EDUCATION

Youth & Schools: This year, we added over **2,000** new Unified Schools globally (+2%) and more than **1,600** Unified Champion Schools (+19%). The Special Olympics movement is now powered by young people in more than 100,000 Unified Schools and over 10,000 Unified Champion Schools, worldwide.

NOTE: A Unified School is a school or university that conducts Unified Sports opportunities at least 2 times within a calendar year.

A Unified Champion School promotes meaningful social inclusion utilizing 3 interconnected components: Unified Sports®, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement.



LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY

Leadership: To build an inclusive world, we must lead the way by developing strong, inspiring leaders. We now have over **58,000** athlete leaders worldwide—a 24% increase since 2018. Building on the power of our youth, our movement is also engaging and empowering nearly **100,000** youth leaders ages 8-25. That's a 33% rise over the previous year.

Volunteers: In 2019, more than **1.19 million** people donated their time and expertise to support Special Olympics and our athletes. This includes more than **427,000** youth volunteers ages 8-25. In addition, we are now connected to more than **866,000** family members worldwide.

GLOBAL REACH

Snapshot: The Special Olympics movement consists of **250** accredited Programs operating in **200** countries and jurisdictions. There are also more than 28,000 local community sub-programs and clubs (a 2% increase from 2018).