



Special Olympics
New York



HEALTHY ATHLETES

With nearly 6 million athletes in 172 countries, Special Olympics serves as the world's largest health program for people with intellectual disabilities. Over the past 20 years, Special Olympics has grown its impact in the health of people with intellectual disabilities and the healthcare disparity these

KEY FACTS:

- People with intellectual disabilities are at increased risk for a number of preventable health conditions, and experience higher mortality rates.
- Of the 200 million people with intellectual disabilities, many are denied or do not have access to quality health services.
- The majority of healthcare practitioners feel inadequately prepared to care for the population.
- Special Olympic athletes frequently report difficulties in comprehending information provided to them by their physicians and other healthcare providers.

Through the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program, more than 240,000 healthcare professionals and students worldwide have been trained to treat people with intellectual disabilities. These healthcare professionals have since provided care to millions of individuals in the areas of overall health, vision and hearing, podiatry, nutrition, mental health, and more.

For every 10 athletes, on average:

- 6 will be overweight/obese and at risk for chronic health condition
- 5 will have significant problems with flexibility, and 4 with balance, placing them at risk for injuries
- 4 have untreated tooth decay and 1 needs an urgent referral to a dentist
- 4 need eyeglasses and 2 an eye disease
- 3 will fail a hearing test
- 2 will have low bone density

Since its launch in 2000, the Healthy Athletes Program has:

- Screened more than 18,000 athletes across New York
- Trained 32 clinicians to lead screenings
- Hosted nearly 400 screening events
- Engaged more than 350 health professional and student volunteers who are gaining experience in working with individuals with an intellectual disability

Special Olympics New York offers free health screenings, providing care when possible and making referrals to local practitioners when appropriate. We are looking for partners who are leaders in the healthcare industry so that we are able to dramatically expand our services.