

## KEY FINDINGS: SPECIAL OLYMPICS HEALTH RESEARCH



84% of health care providers feel better prepared to treat people with ID as a result of volunteering with Healthy Athletes.<sup>12</sup>



52% of medical deans report that their students are "not competent" to treat people with ID.<sup>13</sup>



People with intellectual disabilities are much more likely to have **unidentified and/or untreated** health issues. For example, among Special Olympics athletes globally, 3 in 10 fail a hearing test.



95% of family members agreed or strongly agreed that they will make healthy lifestyle changes for their family as a result of participating in Family Health Forums.



Health care professionals reported **positive changes** in their perceptions of the abilities of people with ID after volunteering with Healthy Athletes. The greatest changes were around the abilities to 'describe their health to doctor' and 'act appropriately toward strangers'.<sup>14</sup>



As of 2015, more than **13,500 athletes** have been engaged in wellness opportunities through Special Olympics Programs recognized as Healthy Communities.



As of 2015, **1.6 million** health exams have been conducted, helping athletes and families understand their health needs.



Healthy Athletes helps athletes and parents identify health issues and get needed care. Among U.S. athletes who needed to see a dentist after Special Smiles, **66%** of those who returned to Special Smiles had **resolved their health issue**. Still, this means that 34% of those athletes who needed care did not receive it.

12 Bainbridge, D. (2008). The antecedents and impacts of participation in Special Olympics Healthy Athletes on the perceptions and professional practice of health care professionals: A preliminary investigation. Washington, DC: Special Olympics, Inc.

13 Holder, M. (2004). CAN project: Curriculum assessment of needs. Washington, DC: Special Olympics, Inc.

14 Bainbridge, D. (2008). The antecedents and impacts of participation in Special Olympics Healthy Athletes on the perceptions and professional practice of health care professionals: A preliminary investigation. Washington, DC: Special Olympics, Inc.