



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 **43%**

Failed Hearing Tests **28%**

Untreated Tooth Decay **25%**

Low Bone Density **25%**

Urgent Dental Referral Required **9%**

(Data from representative Special Olympics Healthy Athletes clinic results in North America, 2007 – 2015)

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:

- To date, Special Olympics PA has screened over 2,800 athletes.
- 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.