



## THE CHALLENGE

Due to a myriad of factors including isolation and inactivity, individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) experience significant health disparities. Those with ID are at increased risk for blindness, hearing loss, premature death and numerous other **preventable** health conditions.

Adults with ID  
are more than

**5x**

as likely to have  
diabetes  
compared to  
adults without ID



## OUR RESPONSE

Special Olympics is the world's largest public health organization for individuals with ID. Our Healthy Athletes program offers non-invasive health screening **at no cost** to athletes designed to improve their health and fitness and enhance their ability to train and compete.

Screenings are offered in 8 disciplines:

- Podiatry (Fit Feet)
- Dentistry (Special Smiles)
- Physical therapy (FUNfitness)
- Vision (Opening Eyes)
- Audiology (Healthy Hearing)
- Adaptive coping skills (Strong Minds)
- Sports physical exams (MedFest)
- General health/wellness (Health Promotion)

The public believes that people with ID receive better health care than the general population. But, levels of disease and preventable health conditions are significantly higher for individuals with ID.

Since screenings began in 2007, Special Olympics Pennsylvania has found:

- 80% Need New/Different Eyeglasses
- 28% Failed Hearing Tests
- 34% Untreated Tooth Decay
- 25% Low Bone Density
- 55% Urgent Dental Referral Required

- Since 2007, Special Olympics PA has conducted over 14,000 screenings!
- These screenings are the first time some athletes have ever seen a doctor.
- Our "Healthy Communities" program further improves access to community health resources for athletes with ID.