

A PARTNERSHIP

Special Olympics is a trusted partner of the **U.S. Government**, delivering cost-effective, front-line healthcare to citizens with intellectual disabilities who experience enormous disparities in their health status and their access to quality care.



INCLUSIVE HEALTHCARE FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES LEADS TO IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVING INCLUSIVE HEALTHCARE

Despite severe need and higher health risks, people with intellectual disabilities are denied health services, have limited access to community health interventions, and experience a lack of targeted health interventions and programs.

World Health Organization, 2011

Levels of disease and preventable health conditions are significantly higher for those with intellectual disabilities

Untreated Tooth Decay	25%
Mouth Pain	12%
Failed Hearing Tests	28%
Low Bone Density	25%
Eye Disease	16%
Need New/Different Eyeglasses	43%
Urgent Dental Referral Required	9%

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

Despite all the evidence to the contrary, the public believes that people with intellectual disabilities have better health care than the general population, compounding the problem.

Special Olympics, 2013

THE SUCCESS

Under the Special Olympics Health Program, Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® is a model public-private partnership that provides examinations and referrals for all athletes participating in Special Olympics games and competitions in seven disciplines (the disciplines covered are podiatry, physical therapy, better health and well-being, audiology, sports physical exams, vision, and dentistry).

In response, the Special Olympics Health Program provides an average of 52,304 examinations to athletes in all 50 states at 365 events each year. The Special Olympics Health Program provides health examinations, education, treatment, and referrals that athletes might not otherwise receive.

The U.S. Government is a critical partner in providing critical healthcare for Special Olympics athletes in the United States. It provides essential resources that complement private support and the contributions of 15,000 dedicated volunteers each year. This support makes life changing care possible.