Any decline in numbers compared to 2019 pre-pandemic data highlights the devastating impact of COVID-19 on our athletes and our global Programs. 2021 data also showcases the resilience of the global movement. Special Olympics worked to redirect programming and develop solutions to adapt to a virtual environment.
GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

NATIONAL & STATE PROGRAMS: 251 (2019-2021 change: 0%)
COUNTRIES & JURISDICTIONS: 201 (2019-2021 change: +1%)
LOCAL CLUBS / SUB-PROGRAMS: 19,991 (2019-2021 change: -29%)

DEFINITIONS:

UNIFIED SPORTS: Special Olympics Sports programming in which people with ID (Unified Athletes) and without ID (Unified Partners) train and compete together as teammates.

UNIFIED SCHOOLS: A school or university that conducts Unified Sports opportunities at least 2 times within a calendar year.

UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS®: A program for schools Pre-K through university that promotes meaningful social inclusion utilizing 3 interconnected components: Unified Sports®, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement.

YOUNG ATHLETES: A sport and play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities (ID), ages 2 to 7 years old.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES: A Special Olympics recognition program working to increase access to quality health care and effective prevention programming to improve the health of people with intellectual disabilities through activating public and private sector partners to adopt more inclusive practices, training and empowering athletes and caregivers to become vocal advocates.

PROGRAM: Qualified entity licensed and accredited by Special Olympics International to operate Special Olympics programming within their respective geographic territory (country, jurisdiction or U.S. state).

LOCAL CLUB / SUB-PROGRAM: An organized local unit/branch conducting Special Olympics activities in a community outside of a school setting.

MOTOR ACTIVITY TRAINING PROGRAM (MATP): A program designed for individuals with intellectual disabilities with severe limitations who do not yet possess the physical and/or behavioral skills necessary to participate in official Special Olympics sports.

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