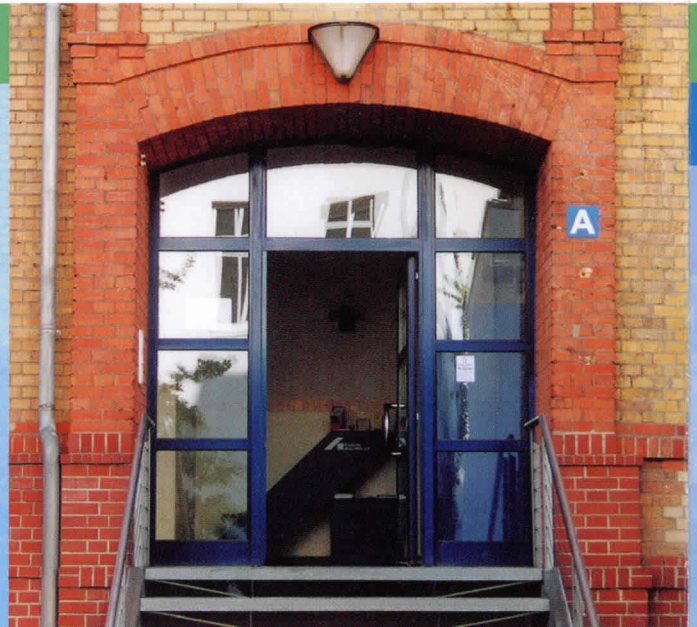
At the national level, the Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe is member of the umbrella organizations DPWV (social/welfare work) and BAGH (disabled persons) and partner of the "Aktionsbündnis gegen AIDS", a national campaign against AIDS, formed by organizations which also work at the international level.

At the European and international level, we cooperate with networks like the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO), AIDS and Mobility or the European Association of Nurses in HIV/AIDS Care (EANAC) as well as with institutions like the World Health Organization (WHO) or the European Union.

Our partners



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Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe e.V.

The nationwide non-governmental German AIDS organization **Prevention Selfhelp Care**

Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe e.V.

The Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe e.V. (DAH)

The Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe e.V. (DAH) was founded in September 1983 in Berlin by a group of gay men and a (female) nurse in order to provide information and education, to support those who were infected and affected by the disease and to prevent restrictive measures against gays and their ways of life.

In 1985 the Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe was installed as the umbrella organization for the local AIDS service organizations (at present 120).

Successful cooperation between NGO and government

Up to now, the AIDS prevention strategy in Germany is implemented at the national level by the Federal Center for Health Education (BZgA) and the Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe. In this successful model of shared responsibility between the governmental and non-governmental sector, the BZgA provides general information and campaigns for the general public, whereas the DAH focuses on educational materials, counseling and other forms of face-to-face-communication (e.g. outreach/street work) for those groups and communities at a high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and other sexually transmitted diseases (e.g. men who have sex with men, drug users, women at risk, prostitutes, migrants from high prevalence regions).

Since 1986, our work has been financed primarily through public funding (Federal Health Department/BZgA), because the DAH as the organization of those most affected by the epidemic was and is an ideal partner in prevention.

Our concept: „structural prevention"

In accordance with the WHO Ottawa-Charta for Health Promotion of 1986, the work of the Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe is based on a concept called „structural prevention": We do not solely focus on the individual's health and risk behavior, but also on the larger context and the structures in which it occurs, for behavior is always the result of individual and situational as well as of political, social, and cultural factors. Therefore the DAH aligns its health-promoting activities with the individuals and groups it works for and with the realities of their daily life. We foster self-help and self-organization, call for action, wherever politics and society hinder health-promotion, and develop and promote patient-orientated medical and psychosocial services.

What we do

The following tasks are performed by the national office of the DAH:

- planning for prevention and education initiatives
- developing, producing and distributing educational materials (e.g. booklets, leaflets, postcards, posters, advertisements, books), which align to our target groups in terms of subject, style, level, and layout
- initiating and supporting self-help, self-organizing and networking of people living with HIV/AIDS and their significant others. Since 1990, the DAH organizes the Federal Conference of People Living with HIV/AIDS (Bundespositivenversammlung/BPV)
- providing in-service training and continuing education for volunteer and professional staff of the local AIDS service organizations
- organizing the dialogue between those infected and affected – the „experts for their own matters" – on the one hand, and scientists as well as physicians on the other hand
- representing the interests of those infected and affected at the level of politics and administration
- performing public relations work.

The tasks of the local AIDS service organizations include

- information and counseling for the general public as well as for people from the target groups (e.g. gay men, iv drug users, sex workers), in person or via telephone/e-mail
- outreach work/street work in places frequented by people from the target groups
- self-help and discussion groups for people living with HIV/AIDS and their significant others
- caring for people with HIV/AIDS at home, in hospitals, in prison, and in drug rehabilitation centers
- prevention and education for various groups
- local public relations work.