

## Key Topics

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# Drug Prevention

## **Drug prevention makes a central contribution to improving the health of the population**

Every year, at least 110,000 people in Germany die prematurely as a consequence of smoking and another 40,000 of the consequences of harmful alcohol consumption, while roughly 1,300 deaths per year are the result of abusing illicit drugs. Target-oriented drug prevention, based on scientific findings, can make a significant contribution to improving the health of the population, reducing the cost to society and enhancing the quality of life.

In order to reduce the harm that goes hand-in-hand with substance abuse, addiction prevention must be a central element of a comprehensive addiction and drug policy, alongside addiction therapy and repression. Consequently, drug prevention was defined as an important element of comprehensive addiction work in Germany in the 1990 National Programme on Drug Abuse Control and in the Action Plan on Drugs and Addiction adopted in 2003.

### **Key objectives of modern drug prevention**

In order to reduce the incidence of premature deaths, diseases and other problem situations (e.g. violence) in connection with harmful drug use, the

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- [› drugcom.de](#)
- [› spielen-mit-  
verantwortung.de](#)
- [› check-dein-spiel.de](#)
- [› bist-du-staerker-als-  
alkohol.de](#)
- [› kenn-dein-limit.de](#)
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