New York State Department of Health

Body Art Program

2013

Body Art: Tattooing and Body Piercing
a public health regulatory program
presented by the

Bureau of Community Environmental Health and Food Protection

Empire State Plaza
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Overview

- laws
- body art - yesterday and today
- equipment for the industry
- public health risks
- infection control practices
- current status of the regulations
Have you ever had a tattoo or body piercing?

Facts and Figures

- estimated 10 million in 1936 (6%)
- estimated 40 million in 2008 (15%)
- fastest growing retail business
- 20,000+ parlors in the United States

AAD Research Study 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36%</td>
<td>aged 18 to 29 with one or more tattoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24%</td>
<td>aged 18 to 50 with one or more tattoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21%</td>
<td>considering getting a tattoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59%</td>
<td>soft tissue piercing of the ear lobe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14%</td>
<td>one or more body piercing other than ear lobe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9%</td>
<td>considering getting a body piercing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology 2006
**Public Health Law**

**Article 4-A**

**Regulation of Body Piercing and Tattooing**

- Restrictions on Body Piercing Studios. (460-a)
- Permit required. (461)
- Application of article. (462)
- Denial of permit; notice of hearing. (463)
- Permits; display; renewal; duplicates. (464)
- Powers of the commissioner. (465)

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**Penal Law 260.21**

**Unlawfully dealing with a child in the second degree.**

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**460-a Restrictions on Body Piercing Studios**

**Prohibited under 18 years of age unless parental consent is obtained.**
Body Art is a form of body modification made on or with the human body

- permanent or semi-permanent
- decorative
- deliberate
- enhancement
- non-medical

Body art is a form of self expression.
Tattoo
...a mark on the body made with indelible ink or pigment injected beneath the outer layer of the skin.

Body Piercing
...the piercing of any part of the body, except the ear.

Body Art
is the earliest form of artistic expression known to humankind
• cultural, social & spiritual ranking
• ritualistic practices & ceremonies
• prestige & affiliation of trust and loyalty
• protection against evil and disease
• aesthetic & expression of individuality
Pacific and Polynesian Designs
- Polynesian “ta”
- Tahitian “tatau”
- Hawaiian “kakau”
  - intricate
  - linear
  - geometric

Celtic and Tribal Patterns
- interlacing
- spiral lines
- knotwork
- “woad”

Aztec and Mayan Symbols
- tattooing & piercing
- priests & shamans
- complex patterns
- symbols to honor the gods
African Traditions

Scarification
- cutting & rubbing
- stages of life
- appearance

Piercing
- religious
- rite of passage
- ornamental

Tattooing has been around for a long time.

Body Piercing has been around for a long time too.
Why is body art a public health concern?

Types of Body Art

• Tattooing
  – Traditional Tattooing
  – Cosmetic Tattooing
• Body Piercing
  – Soft Tissue Piercing
  – Cartilage Piercing
  – Surface Piercing

Scarification
Branding

Burning

Electrocautery
Electric Tattoo Machine

Tattoo Machine Needles
- individually packaged
- sterile
- single-use

Tubes, Tips and Grips
- reusable
- disposable
Tattoo Ink

Other Tattooing Tools
- Native American
- Polynesian
- Japanese
- Asian

Cosmetic Tattooing
Cosmetic Tattooing Pen

Cosmetic Tattooing Equipment
- reusable
- disposable

Body Piercing
Body Piercing Tools
- sharps
- dermal punch
- piercing gun

Disposable Tools

A typical set of tapers in American gauge sizes
More Piercing Tools

Soft Tissue Piercings

• penetrates the tissue
• protrudes out the opposite side of the skin.

Risks Associated with Tongue Piercing

• Infection of the tongue
• Formation of scar tissue
• Chipped and broken teeth
• Hepatitis C
• Tetanus
• Toxic Shock Syndrome
• Brain Abscesses
• Trigeminal neuralgia (“suicide disease”)
• Facial paralysis
• Death

Center for Disease Control and the American Medical Association
Cartilage Piercings

- penetrate the connective tissue of the nose and ear

Surface Piercings

- least common
- longest healing time
- complications
A biopunch is used for what type of piercing?

A. Soft Tissue Piercing
B. Cartilage Piercing
C. Surface Piercing

Piercing or Implant

• needle
• scalpel
• dermal punch

Other Piercing Supplies
Gloves and Barrier Film
and other personal protective equipment

Regulated Waste
and Other Potentially Infectious Materials

Cleaning and Sterilizing
Ultrasonic Cleaner and Autoclave
Sterile Packaging for reusable tools and instruments

Where to get a tattoo?

and a body piercing
Exposure

- Virus Exposure
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- HIV and AIDS
- Tetanus
- Tuberculosis

Skin Conditions

- Itching
- Rash
- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling
- Raised Bumps
- Keloid Scarring

Skin Infections

- bacteria exposure
- staph
- MRSA
- fascititis
Complications from existing Medical Conditions

- compromised immune system
- diabetes
- heart murmur
- hemophilia

Complications from Medications

- Accutane
- blood thinning medications
- organ transplant anti-rejection medication

Other Complications

- airway obstruction - jewelry
- allergies - latex, jewelry, pigment
- physical damage - blood vessels, nerves, tissue, gums, hair follicles and teeth
Epidemiological Model

ENVIRONMENT
- equipment
- barrier film
- autoclave
- hand hygiene
- work area
- PPE

HOST
- tattoo artist
- piercer
- client

INFECTIONS
- MRSA

AGENT
- ink or needle

Strategies for Infection Control
- Engineering
- Enforcement
- Education

Regulations for Body Art
- FDA
- CDC
- OSHA
- NIOSH
- Counties
- Municipalities
NYCRR Title 10, Subpart 72-2
Body Art: Tattooing and Body Piercing

• Statutory Authority:
  Public Health Law
  Article 4-A

Body Art Program Components

• restrictions on body piercing
  – under 18 years of age
  – written consent
  – retain for 12 months
  – effective October 28, 2012

Body Art Program Components

• permits
  – body piercing specialist
  – body piercing studio
  – tattooist
  – tattoo studio
### Body Art Program Components

- **Complaint Investigations**
  - working without a permit
  - unsanitary conditions

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### Body Art Program Components

- **Injury and Illness Investigations**
  - blood infections
  - skin infections
  - other complications

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### Body Art Program Components

- **Inspections**
  - prior to issuing a shop permit
  - operational standards
  - sanitation procedures
  - additional as necessary for enforcement
NYSDOH
Body Art
http://www.health.ny.gov/community/body_art/