

# Piercings and Tattoos

Johana Burciaga

Tattoos are popular with many people; now more people are getting many tattoos all over their body. They want to look special. They are looking for attention from their peers.

Society is more open to tattoos, but if you have a lot of tattoos, you could have some problems. For example, employers want their potential employees to have a good appearance; managers probably won't give a job to anyone who looks too different.

Piercings are another way that individuals try to get attention. One problem with piercings is that they can cause infection and damage the body. In

many parts of society, only ear piercings are acceptable.

In the past, society would discriminate against people who were too different. Tattoos and piercings were found on criminals, not on good citizens. Now young people are more open-minded, and they are pushing society to be more open as well. Conservative society must readjust its thinking to accept contemporary fashion.



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## Strange and Fun Facts

**In the 1890s**, it was fashionable for Victorian women to get their nipples pierced.

**Roman gladiators** would pierce the head of the penis and insert a ring so that the penis could be tied back during combat. They believed this would help them avoid injuries.

**About one quarter** of all Americans between the ages of 18 and 50 have at least one tattoo.

**In the 1990s**, the only retail ventures that were growing faster than tattoo parlors were the Internet, paging services, bagels, computers, and cellular phone service.

**People with Hepatitis C** are about three times more likely to have tattoos. (Note: this does not prove a causal relationship between Hepatitis C and tattoos. What does it show?)

**The oldest discovered mummified body** (Ötzi the Iceman, approx. 3300 BC) was found to have an ear piercing 7-11mm in diameter.

**In ancient Egypt** only the Pharaoh was allowed to have his navel pierced—anyone else who dared to do so could be executed!

**The tattoo ink** you are mostly likely to be allergic to is red. This is because red ink often includes metals, such as nickel.

