



Tattoo Regulations:

Permanent Regulations Get Inked in Buffalo, Wyoming

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Purpose:

- To establish tattoo regulations in Buffalo, Wyoming to protect public health and establish safety standards to reduce the risk of blood borne pathogen transmission.

Background:

- The city of Buffalo is the seat of Johnson County with a population of 4,638 of the 8,573 inhabitants of the county.
- Johnson County is one of many Wyoming Counties with no health or sanitation regulations for tattooing.
- Two new tattoo parlors have opened in the last four months.
- Tattooing is an invasive procedure that increases risk to public health via local and systemic infections.
- Documented cases of HCV, HIV, bacterial, viral and inflammatory reactions.
- Infections are negligible when tattooing is conducted under appropriate hygienic and sterile conditions.

Methods:

- Community conversation and development indicated a need for exploration.
- Evidence based literature indicates appropriate regulations play a vital role in the management and reduction of the associated health risks from tattooing.
- Community partners such as the Mayor, City Council members and Public Health Officer were acquired via outreach and offered support and backing for the project.



Results:

- Establish guidelines to normalize health regulations within Johnson County.
- Standard of care is provided to all consumers.
- Identification of all tattoo establishments.
- Launched via a variety of community education presentations; a radio announcement, speech at the city council meeting, and the distribution of literature review report to community partners; the Mayor and City Council members.



Discussion:

- With the Mayor of Buffalo and its City Council members support the next step is dissemination of tattoo regulations to the county.
- Tremendous support for regulations from the Buffalo community and tattoo business owners.
- Implementing county wide regulations on tattooing is effective way to regulate public health standards with regards to tattooing practices Buffalo and to begin the motion for statewide implementation of tattoo regulations.