



# Edmontonians' poll station

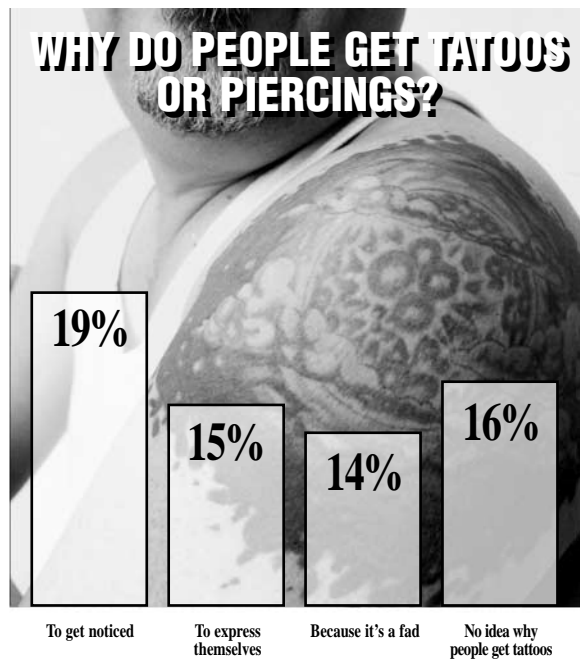
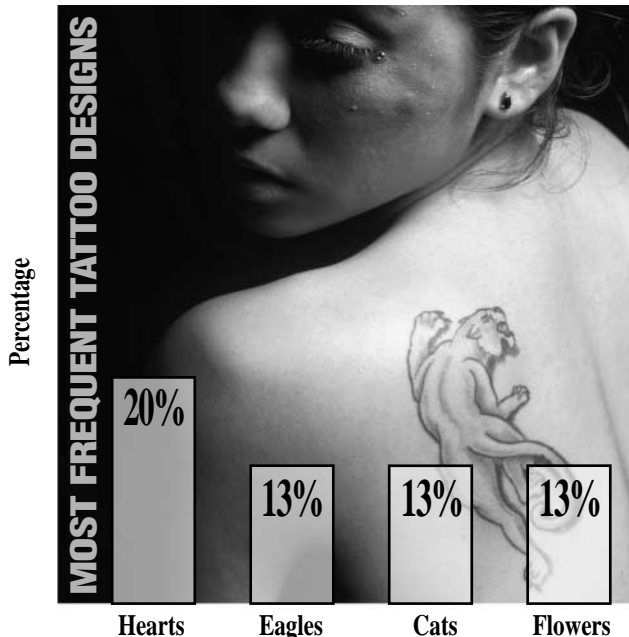
By Linda Banister

**M**ore and more emphasis is being placed on individuality in today's society. One of the more obvious forms of this expression is the increase in body adornment. This month the *Poll Station* asked Edmontonians their views about tattoos and piercings.

a piercing, with ears stated most frequently (94 percent), followed by tongues (six percent), and belly buttons (four percent). Over half (57 percent) of respondents did not favour a particular kind of piercing, but of the 41 percent that did have a favourite, ears (61 percent), belly buttons (20 percent) and noses (10 percent) were cited most often.

Of the 47 percent of respondents who indicated they do not have any piercings, 38 percent said they just didn't like them. Others gave more specific reasons (six percent each): piercings were not suitable for men, serve no purpose, were generally unattractive, are painful, and were inappropriate in their profession. Another six percent indicated they were too old to have a piercing.

## WHY DO PEOPLE GET TATOOS OR PIERCINGS?

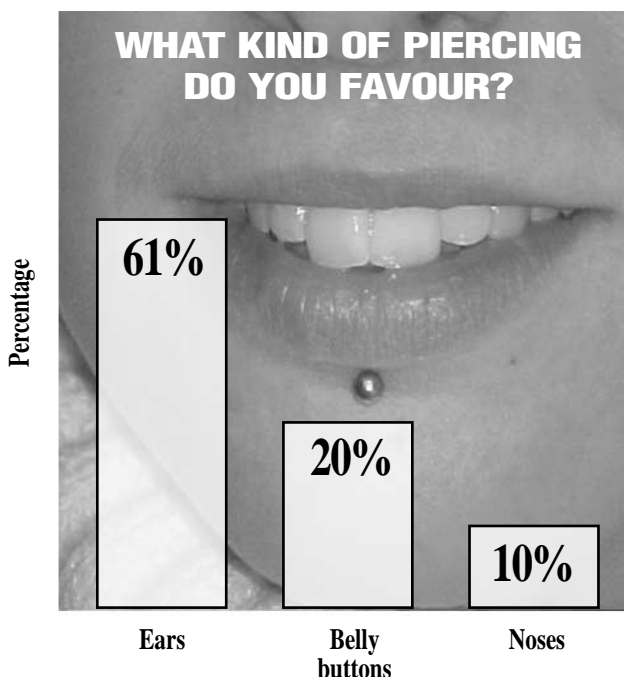


## DO YOU HAVE ANY TATOOS?

When respondents were asked if they have any tattoos, 15 percent stated they did, while the remaining 85 percent had none. The most frequent tattoo designs were hearts (20 percent), eagles (13 percent), cats (13 percent) and flowers (13 percent). Respondents without tattoos indicated they didn't like tattoos in general (29 percent), found them unattractive (13 percent), felt they were too old to have a tattoo (nine percent), and didn't want a permanent marking (nine percent). Whether they had a tattoo or not, 24 percent of respondents had a favourite design—eagles, flowers and symbols were the most commonly cited by 13 percent each.

Respondents generally felt people get tattoos or piercings to get noticed (19 percent), to express themselves (15 percent), or because it is a fad (14 percent). Sixteen percent of respondents had no idea why people get tattoos or piercings.

## DO YOU HAVE ANY PIERCINGS?



## SHOULD HAVING BODY ADORNMENTS AFFECT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

Finally, respondents were asked if they feel people with visible tattoos or piercings should be allowed to work in jobs dealing with the public. Just over half (56 percent) felt that having a tattoo or piercing should have no bearing on employment, 26 percent felt it depended on the job, and 12 percent felt it should curtail employment. Four percent indicated individuals should be required to cover-up/remove visible tattoos or piercings in the workplace.

The *Poll Station* surveyed 100 City of Edmonton residents on the topic and, while the results of the research are not statistically reliable, they do provide a qualitative indication of what Edmontonians are thinking. ✓

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Next, respondents were asked if they personally have any piercings. Just over half (53 percent) stated that they do have