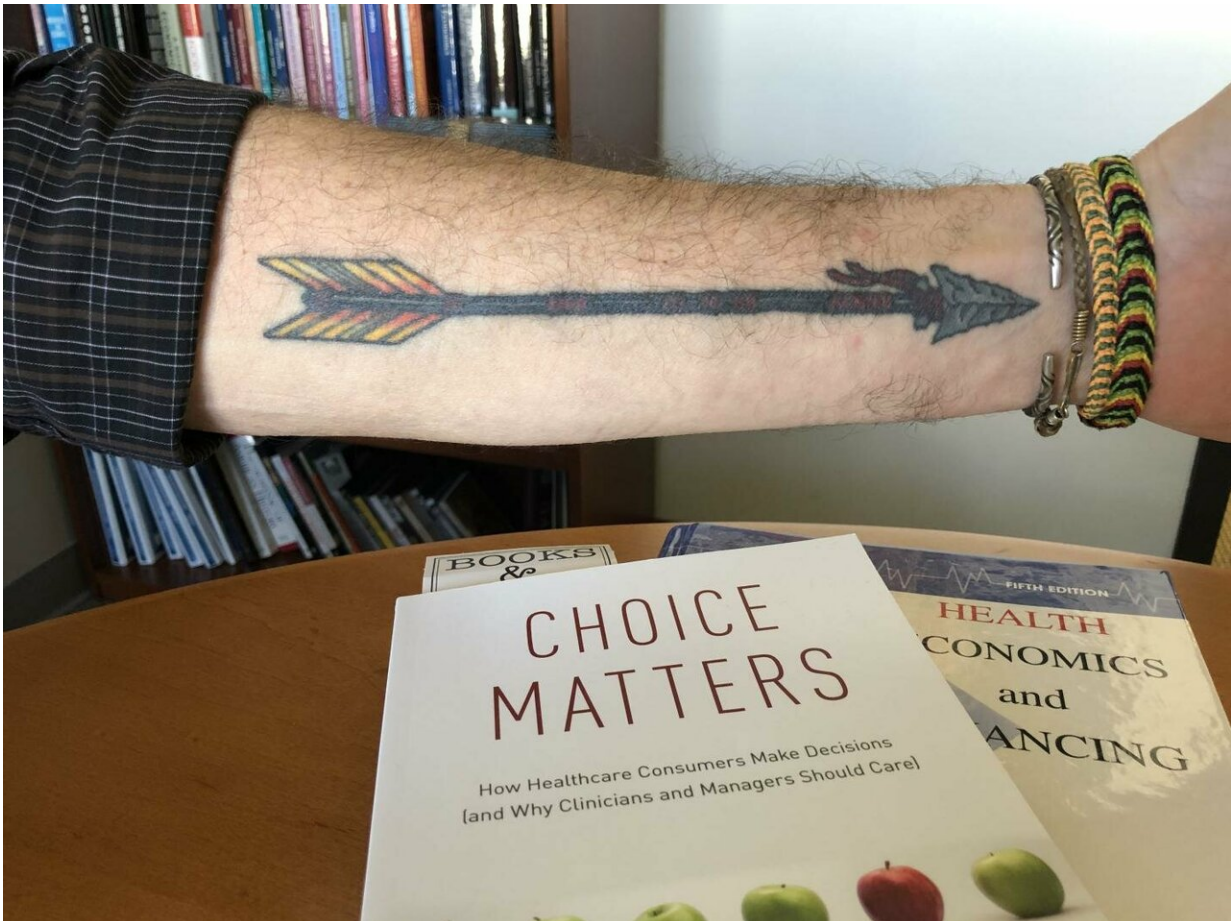


Are tattoos linked with individuals' health and risky behaviors?

January 24 2019



In a survey-based study published in the *International Journal of Dermatology*, having tattoos was not significantly related to overall health status, but individuals with tattoos were more likely to be diagnosed with a mental health issue and to report sleep problems. Credit: *International Journal of Dermatology*

In a survey-based study published in the *International Journal of Dermatology*, having tattoos was not significantly related to overall health status, but individuals with tattoos were more likely to be diagnosed with a mental health issue and to report sleep problems.

People who had tattoos were also more likely to be smokers, to have spent time in jail, and to have a higher number of sex partners in the past year.

The [survey](#) was conducted in July of 2016 and resulted in a sample of 2,008 adults residing in the United States.

"Previous research has established an association between having a [tattoo](#) and engaging in risky behaviors. In an era of increasing popularity of tattoos, even among [women](#) and working professionals, we find these relationships persist but are not associated with lower health status," said lead author Prof. Karoline Mortensen, of the University of Miami.

More information: *International Journal of Dermatology*, [DOI: 10.1111/ijd.14372](#) , [onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/13654632](#)

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Citation: Are tattoos linked with individuals' health and risky behaviors? (2019, January 24) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-01-tattoos-linked-individuals-health-risky.html>

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