

**Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency**

**July 14, 2014**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Body Crafting: Choose Safety First!**

**(COLDWATER, MI)** – Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph Counties have several businesses who specialize in tattoos, cosmetic tattoos (permanent cosmetics) and body piercing. Body crafting is becoming a mainstream art form, with one out of every four persons from ages 18-25 in the United States having a tattoo or body piercing. With the increase in popularity of body art, it's important to keep yourself free from disease. Be sure to only use state licensed body art facilities for tattoos and/or body piercing procedures.

Body art procedures are invasive processes that can be associated with serious health risks including transmission of blood-borne diseases such as Hepatitis B (HBV), Hepatitis C (HCV), and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). These procedures also carry the risk of skin infections such as Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA).

In 2010, the State of Michigan passed a law that requires on-site facility inspections of body art facilities. Public Act 375, along with the state health department's Body Art Licensing Program, requires licensed body art facilities to adhere to a uniform set of standards to protect the health and safety of body art practitioners, their customers and the general public.

To learn more about the Body Art Licensing Program, body art procedure risks, body art facility licensing requirements, or to find a list of local state-licensed body art facilities, you can visit the Michigan Department of Community Health's website at [www.michigan.gov/bodyart](http://www.michigan.gov/bodyart). The Michigan Department of Community Health has also

issued new public service announcements about body art safety. To view these announcements, please visit the MDCH YouTube page at [www.youtube.com/michigandch](http://www.youtube.com/michigandch).

To learn more about the on-site body art inspection process, you can also contact your local county's health department office or visit our website at [www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org).

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