













## Evidence of harm

Of the 628 who reported having had a piercing in the previous two years, 215 (34%) reported having had a skin infection following the piercing. Infections were reported across all age groups. Forty-one of the 215 people (19%) reporting a skin infection stated that they had contacted a health service about the infection. Ten reported attending hospital. Twenty-nine percent (28/96 individuals) of those aged less than 16 years reported an infection, compared to 35% of those 16 years or older (187/532).

## Proof of age

From table 1 it can be seen that clients under the age of 18, and under 16 in particular, are adding years to their true age to pass themselves off as older. Requiring the practitioner to check proof of age is necessary to overcome this issue.

**Table 1: Difference in self-reported age<sup>1</sup> and true age<sup>2</sup> in 387 clients attending a piercing/tattoo studio under investigation in Exercise Seren by age at time of procedure<sup>3</sup>**

	Reported age greater than true age			Exact age match	Reported age less than true age		
	>2 years	1-2 years	<1 year		<1 year	1-2 years	> 2 years
<13	0%	6%	38%	56%	0%	0%	0%
13	10%	10%	10%	70%	0%	0%	0%
14	13%	33%	8%	38%	4%	0%	4%
15	6%	15%	48%	29%	2%	0%	0%
16	8%	6%	12%	73%	1%	0%	0%
17	0%	29%	16%	52%	0%	3%	0%
18-25	1%	0%	3%	96%	0%	0%	0%
>25	0%	0%	0%	97%	0%	0%	3%
Total	4%	12%	17%	65%	1%	1%	1%

<sup>1</sup> Age calculated by subtracting client date of birth from date of procedure. Both dates obtained from piercing studio client records

<sup>2</sup> Age calculated from dates of birth obtained by checking client's details against Welsh Demographics Service

<sup>3</sup> First known visit for piercing and/or tattoo. Clients reported more than one visit and multiple procedures on same visit)