

The 2021 Nonhumanity & Body Modification/Decoration Survey Results Breakdown

Who-is-Page 8/28/2021

This survey was open from February 2021 to June 2021. It was advertised on Tumblr, Twitter, Therian Guide, Therian Amino, Therian Community Amino, Kinmunnity, the OtherConnect Discord Server, and the Alterhuman Advocacy Forums.

The Google Form description went as follows:

This survey is interested in rates of body modification and decoration within the various nonhuman communities, the connection these have to the expression of nonhuman identities, and of current perspectives regarding such. While this survey is largely geared towards those who are legally able to modify or decorate their body without needing outside permission or consent, all nonhumans are welcome and encouraged to take this survey!

The raw data for this survey can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eioThqFq1xeZHPImOcuYkFKLrBx7f6adWdOnl6l2LMs/viewanalytics>

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Body Modification Section

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If cost, social stigma, and other outside factors that would make you hesitate in getting a body modification (ex. phobias, pain tolerances, etc.) were not an issue, what body modifications would you want to get in the future? Check all that apply.

'Yes, I Have Body Modifications' Question Section

What kind of body modifications do you currently have? Check all that apply.

What additional body modifications do you want to get in the future? Check all that apply.

If you have body modifications, are any of these body modifications related to your nonhumanity?

If yes to the previous question, why did you choose to get body modifications related to your nonhumanity? Check all that apply and/or skip to the text box below this question for a long-form answer.

If you have body modifications, and if you experience species dysphoria, how do your body modifications interact with your species dysphoria?

'No, I Do Not Have Body Modifications' Question Section

If you do not have body modifications, do you plan on getting body modifications in future?

If no, why?

If you plan on getting body modifications in the future, what types do you want? Check all that apply.

If you plan on getting body modifications in the future, will any be related to your nonhumanity?

If yes to the previous question, why do you want to get body modifications related to your nonhumanity? Check all that apply and/or skip to the text box below this question for a long-form answer.

If you plan on getting nonhuman-related body modifications in the future, and you experience species dysphoria, how are you expecting that they will interact with your species dysphoria?

Body Decoration Section

Do you engage in body decoration related to your nonhumanity?

If yes, what kinds of nonhuman-related body decoration do you wear? Check all that apply.

What kinds of nonhuman-related body decoration would you wear if cost and social stigma were not factors? Check all that apply.

What is your opinion of nonhuman-related body decoration?

If you engage in nonhuman-related body decoration, why? Check all that apply and/or skip to the text box below this question for a long-form answer.

If you engage in nonhuman-related body decoration, and if you experience species dysphoria, how does your body decoration interact with your species dysphoria?

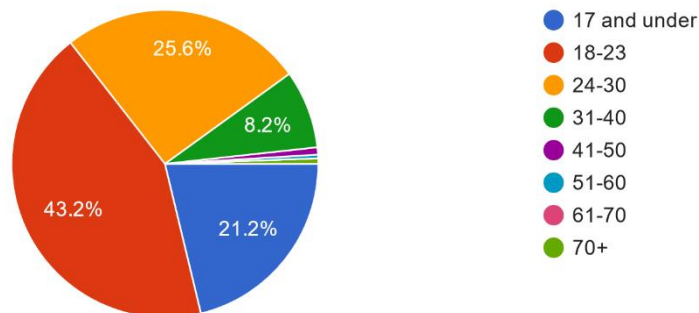
[If you do not currently engage in nonhuman-related body decoration, do you plan to in the future?](#)

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General Questions

What is your age group?

523 responses



Question & Results:

What is your age group?

- 17 and under: 111 (21.2%)
- 18-23: 226 (43.2%)
- 24-30: 134 (25.6%)
- 31-40: 43 (8.2%)
- 41-50: 4 (0.8%)
- 51-60: 2 (0.4%)
- 61-70: 0 (0.0%)
- 70+: 3 (0.6%)

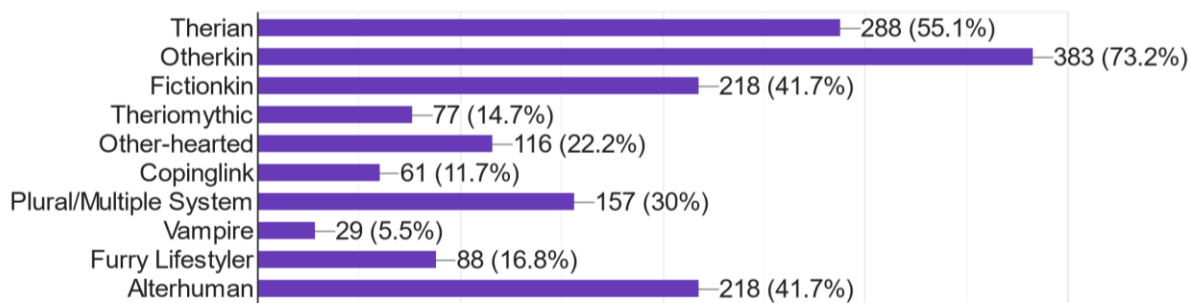
Summary:

Within these results, 78.8% of the participants of this survey were at or above the most common legal age of majority, and are widely considered to be adults on the global stage. Nearly half of the participants were young adults, in their late teens to mid-twenties.

The results may possibly be representative of the larger alterhuman community's various age ranges, as this survey was advertised across a wide variety of platforms. *However*, the focus of this survey—body modification and decoration—may also naturally skew towards the interest of an adult audience, given that adults will on average have more avenue for engagement and exposure to regarding such.

What nonhuman communities are you a part of/consider yourself to be a part of? Click all that apply.

523 responses



Question & Results:

What nonhuman communities are you a part of/consider yourself a part of? Click all that apply.

- Therian: 288 (55.11%)
- Otherkin: 383 (73.2%)
- Fictionkin: 218 (41.7%)
- Theriomorphic: 77 (14.7%)
- Other-hearted: 116 (22.2%)
- Copinglink: 61 (11.7%)
- Plural/Multiple System: 157 (30%)
- Vampire: 29 (5.5%)
- Furry Lifestyler: 88 (16.8%)
- Alterhuman: 218 (41.7%)
- Other, write-in: 36 (7.2%)

Summary:

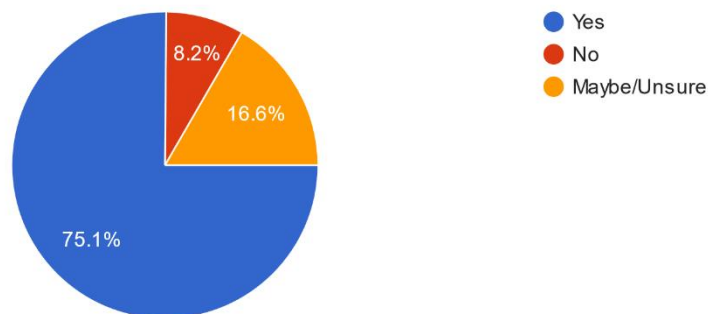
Interestingly, the most commonly picked combination of communities were as follows:

- Therian, with 39.
- Otherkin, with 33.
- Otherkin and Fictionkin, with 25.
- Otherkin and Therian, with 23.
- Otherkin and Alterhuman, with 15.

Self-identified therians self-identified as therian and a part of no other community more often than self-identified otherkin or fictionkin did. 8.6% of all otherkin identified as singularly otherkin and 0.6% of all fictionkin identified as singularly fictionkin, while 13.5% of all therians identified as singularly therian. 1.3% of all alterhumans self-identified as alterhuman and a part of no other community as well.

Do you experience species dysphoria?

523 responses



Question & Results:

Do you experience species dysphoria?

- Yes: 393 (75.1%)
- No: 43 (16.6%)
- Maybe/Unsure: 87 (8.2%)

Summary:

Before participants were asked this question, they were presented with this definition of species dysphoria:

Species dysphoria describes a type of bodily dysphoria (i.e. anxiety, distress, dissatisfaction) arising from the perception that one's body is of the wrong species.

(Page 10. Bricker, Nat. Life Stories of Therianthropes: An Analysis of Nonhuman Identity in a Narrative Identity Model, Lake Forest College, April 2016.)

Interestingly, these results seem to largely follow the trend showcased in both The Feelings Surrounding the Words "Species Dysphoria" & "Transspecies" Survey¹, in which 77.6% of survey participants claimed to experience species dysphoria, 13.9% claimed they were unsure if they experience species dysphoria, and 8.6% claimed to not experience species dysphoria, as well as the Therianthropy and Gender Survey² where 89.5% of survey participants claimed to experience species dysphoria while only 10.5% claimed not to.

¹ House of Chimeras, "The Feelings Surrounding the Words "Species Dysphoria" & "Transspecies" Survey," Google Forms, 13 August 2021.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1W8V90uefmY6_Tbvw4w9p_2ALRMc4WeuUDiAyW6DpAU0/viewanalytics

² PinkDolphin. "Therianthropy and Gender Experience," Google Forms, 31 May 2020.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Eamup4muY5irH1Zv9kxG18yM2yoezh_z0sZP6agAtdk/viewanalytics

If you answered yes to the previous question, how would you rate the average severity of your species dysphoria?

447 responses



Question & Results:

If you answered yes to the previous question, how would you rate the average severity of your species dysphoria?

- Very Mild - Barely noticeable: 43 (9.6%)
- Tolerable - Noticeable, but you have largely adapted to it to the point where do not notice it most of the time: 210 (47%)
- Distressing - Noticeable, and your attempts to adapt to it have only helped partially. You feel it frequently and cannot always completely "shake it off": 146 (32.7%)
- Constant, and you are unable to adapt to it. You notice it at all times: 32 (7.2%)
- Excruciating/Unbearable - Constant, and impairing your ability to function on some level. You may find yourself unable to engage in "normal" activities: 16 (3.6%)

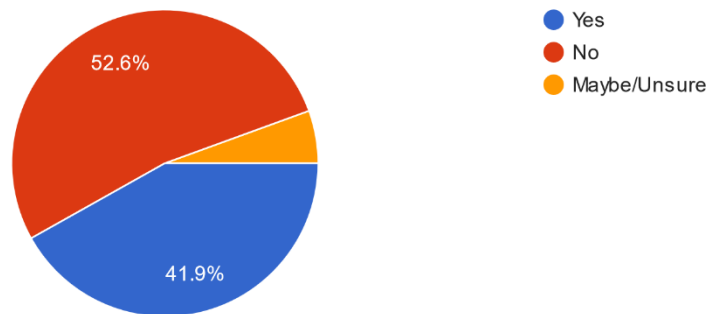
Summary:

It wasn't all that surprising to see that over 90% of participants who experience species dysphoria find it noticeable in their everyday lives, though it was fairly surprising that almost 50% of those who experience species dysphoria find it anywhere from distressing to outright debilitating.

Body Modification Section

Do you have any body modifications?

523 responses



Question & Results:

Do you have any body modifications?

- Yes: 219 (41.9%)
- No: 275 (52.6%)
- Maybe/Unsure: 29 (5.5%)

Summary:

Before participants were asked this question, they were presented with this definition of body modification:

Body modification is the intentional altering of human anatomy or human physical appearance. Examples of body modification include piercings, tattoos, subdermal implants (most commonly associated with horns), tongue cutting, ear shaping, tooth sharpening, hair removal, [and] genital modification.

The commonality of ear piercings and tattoos in many large English-speaking countries (with one oft-cited but now lost 2018 survey going so far as to say over 80% of American adults have pierced ears³) is well-known. In addition to that, the alterhuman communities often seem to have a larger percentage of transgender individuals than many other subcultures and groups: recent

³ The Academy of Responsible Tattooing, "Statistics on Americans and body piercing." 2018. Retrieved from <http://www.tattooschool-art.com/blog/statistics-on-americans-and-body-piercing>, now defunct.

surveys have recorded anywhere from 30%⁴ to 60%⁵ of the larger alterhuman communities and specific subsets of it identify as transgender, implying a higher percentage of genital modification and secondary sex characteristic modification were more likely to be found within the community. Because of those factors, it was somewhat surprising that a majority of participants did *not* have any form of body modification.

What is your opinion on body modification as a concept?

523 responses



Question & Results:

What is your opinion on body modification as a concept?

- I enjoy body modification: 351 (67.1%)
- I think body modification is only appropriate under certain circumstances: 38 (5.4%)
- I have no strong opinions on body modification: 120 (22.9%)
- I dislike body modification: 6 (1.1%)
- Other, write-in: 8 (3.5%)

Summary:

⁴ PinkDolphin. "Species Dysphoria Within Alterhumans (therian/otherkin/kith etc)," 2020.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XMvXz-F_ks3sajr6ADYOfx4S6LE_btu2FHqBdN-grFo/viewanalytics?fbclid=IwAR08GSq_KwSJYUJJbvXT9z6a5d0kpxL0hDcH0uKF8S4IPv_W1jF409Fe0z0

⁵ House of Chimeras, "The Feelings Surrounding the Words "Species Dysphoria" & "Transspecies" Survey," Google Forms, 13 August 2021.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1W8V90uefmY6_Tbwv4w9p_2ALRMc4WeuUDiAyW6DpAU0/viewanalytics;

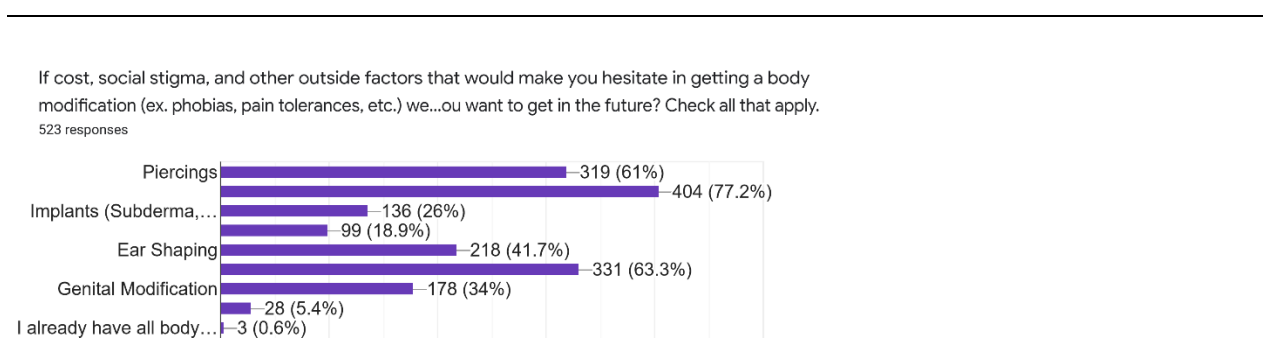
Scaled-Silence. "Otherkin and Gender," Google Forms, 4 June 2021.

https://www.reddit.com/r/otherkin/comments/nsgr07/poll_results/

Several of the write-ins cited different reasons for not supporting body modifications. One participant wrote, “I enjoy modification, but think some forms of it are more acceptable than others, regardless of circumstance.” Another said that their opinion on body modification varied person-to-person, dependent on “the amount of modifications and how obvious [the modifications are].” Pain or risk was also a frequently mentioned factor on the write-in: several participants cited concern for others or a fear of body modifications in theoretical application to themselves, with one person saying they “should be done with caution” and another saying that they were wary of body modifications “that cause extreme damage or risk of pain.”

The longform write-ins almost entirely centered around narratives of body autonomy primarily, with many individuals talking about how people should have the functional choice to modify their body. As one participant put it, “Morphological Freedom is something that really means a lot to me. Simply put, I believe everyone should have the right to change their appearance to however they see fit with informed consent.” Only one individual within the 68 responses particularly advocated against body modification as a whole, saying that body modifications “will only further alienate you from the rest of society and your peers, making you feel more alone in the process. We’re all in human bodies, and humans are social creatures, so making yourself terrifying to other humans, while it may offer some temporary relief, will ultimately cause harm.”

Perhaps my personal favorite statements from within the longform answers were “Body mods are a reclamation of one’s own bodily autonomy from a society demanding conformity,” “[Body modification] is a way of reclaiming your body and asserting ownership,” and “I see it as a tool for liberation, expression, ad subversion.” These, in connection with the many assertions of body modification as a human right and the several occasions of individuals decrying the stigma against body modification, reveal an interesting perspective of body modification as a form of radical reclamation and ownership of both a physical body and a non-physical societal body of existence, performance, and perception.



Question & Results:

If cost, social stigma, and other outside factors that would make you hesitate in getting a body modification (ex. phobias, pain tolerances, etc.) were not an issue, what body modifications would you want to get in the future? Check all that apply.

- Piercings: 319 (61%)
- Tattoos: 404 (77.2%)
- Implants (Subdermal, Microdermal, & Transdermal): 136 (26%)
- Tongue Splitting: 99 (18.9%)
- Ear Shaping: 218 (41.7%)
- Tooth Sharpening: 331 (63.3%)
- Genital Modification: 178 (34%)
- I would not get body modifications: 28 (5.4%)
- I already have all the body modifications I desire: 3 (0.6%)
- Other, write-in: 61 (11.7%)

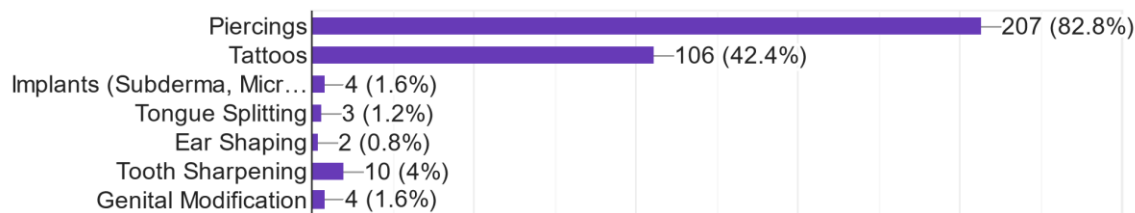
Summary:

Many of the write-ins included animalistic features such as claws, wings, antlers, tails, and animal ears (to no surprise), with several others also detailing desires for full-body nonhuman transitions in an ideal world. The write-ins seemed to largely be divided between body modifications that are most often associated with transgender and nonbinary transitions, and body modifications which are animal-related.

‘Yes, I Have Body Modifications’ Question Section

What kind of body modifications do you currently have? Check all that apply.

250 responses



Question & Results:

What kind of body modifications do you currently have? Check all that apply.

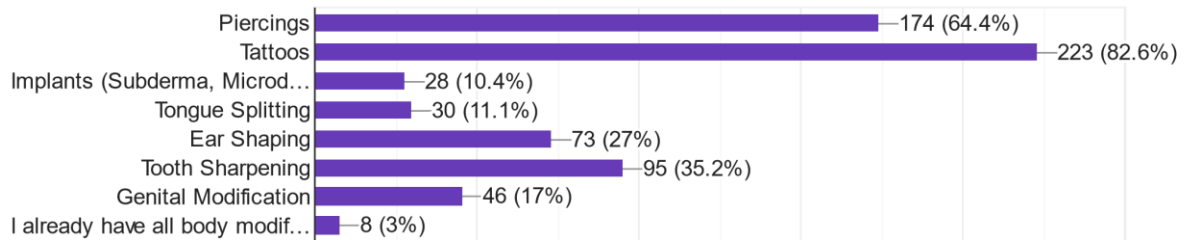
- Piercings: 207 (82.8%)
- Tattoos: 106 (42.4%)
- Implants (Subdermal, Microdermal, & Transdermal): 4 (1.6%)
- Tongue Splitting: 3 (1.2%)
- Ear Shaping: 2 (0.8%)
- Tooth Sharpening: 10 (4%)
- Genital Modification: 4 (1.6%)
- Other, write-in: 18 (7.2%)

Summary:

A majority of the write-ins were HRT and breast removal or reduction, which isn't surprising given the large percentage of transgender and nonbinary nonhumans and alterhumans which have been recorded in past surveys.

What additional body modifications do you want to get in the future? Check all that apply.

270 responses



Question & Results:

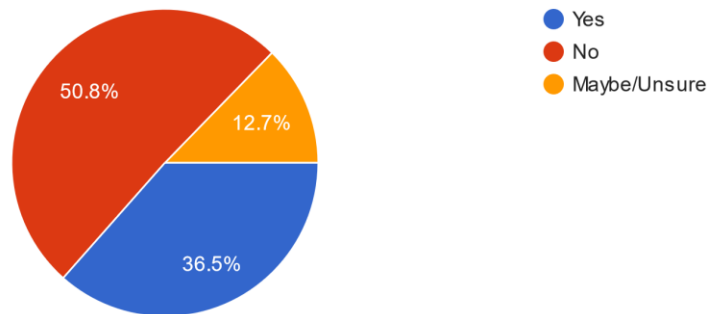
What additional body modifications do you want to get in the future? Check all that apply.

- Piercings: 174 (64.4%)
- Tattoos: 223 (82.6%)
- Implants (Subdermal, Microdermal, & Transdermal): 28 (10.4%)
- Tongue Splitting: 30 (11.1%)
- Ear Shaping: 73 (27%)
- Tooth Sharpening: 95 (35.2%)
- Genital Modification: 178 (34%)
- I would not get body modifications: 46 (17%)
- I already have all the body modifications I desire: 8 (3%)
- Other, write-in: 14 (5.6%)

Summary:

Repeating past question patterns, several of the answers were breast removal/top surgery. Scarification was also mentioned multiple times, as well as animal-related modifications: fangs and tails most notably.

If you have body modifications, are any of these body modifications related to your nonhumanity?
260 responses



Question & Results:

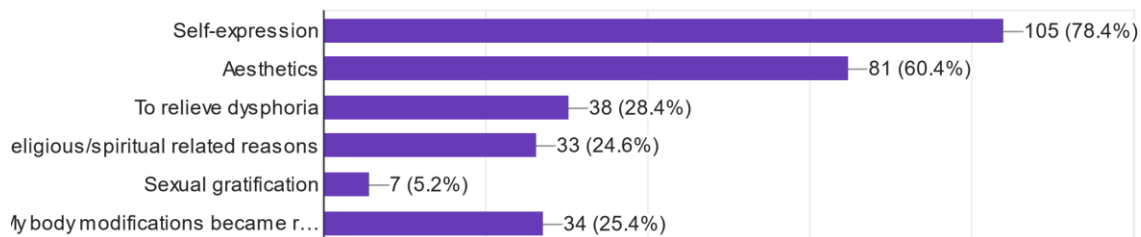
If you have any body modifications, are any of these body modifications related to your nonhumanity?

- Yes: 95 (36.5%)
- No: 132 (50.8%)
- Maybe/Unsure: 33 (12.7%)

Summary:

It was predicted that there would be a greater relationship between participants' nonhumanity and their body modifications.

If yes to the previous question, why did you choose to get body modifications related to your nonhumanity? Check all that apply and/or skip to text box below this question for a long-form answer.
134 responses



Question & Results:

If yes to the previous question, why did you choose to get body modifications related to your nonhumanity? Check all that apply and/or skip to the text box below this question for a long-form answer.

- Self-expression: 105 (78.4%)
- Aesthetics: 81 (60.4%)
- To relieve dysphoria: 38 (28.4%)
- Religious/spiritual related reasons: 33 (24.6%)
- Sexual gratification: 7 (5.2%)
- My body modifications became relevant to my nonhumanity later on, and were not originally obtained with my nonhuman identity in mind: 34 (25.4%)
- Other, write-in: 3 (2.1%)

Summary:

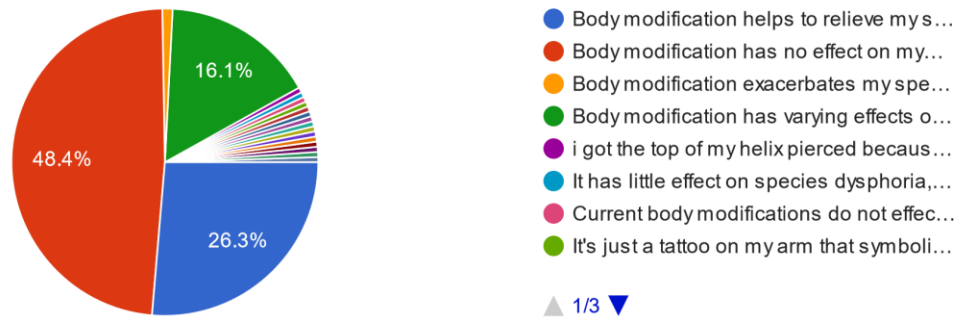
It was expected that, given the commonality of species dysphoria, body modifications obtained in part to help relieve dysphoria would be more common. With that said, it's also very interesting to note how many participants also found their body modifications relevant to their nonhumanity later on.

A lot of the write-ins talk about utilizing body modification for comfort, and both personal assertion of identity and expression of identity to others. The long form answers individuals have given often leave off with something of a "making a house into a home" theme, and even personal mythological narrative relevancy, even if that may not be immediate: one individual writes that they have a tattoo of a cat skeleton, both in relation to their skeleton-linked nonhumanity and their passion of working with animals; another person asserts that their lip piercings gave them a sense not only of elevated self-worth, but also of ownership of their body; another stated that body modifications helps them feel more in-control of how they feel in their own body; another individual talks about utilizing "pagan / occult grimoire traditions that have ritual shapeshifting" in their body modifications in order to "live more fully in [their] animality"; and another person said that they have a tattoo of a were-raccoon, to signify the meshing of human and animal, in a kokopeli pose so as to incorporate masculinity to relate to their transgender identity and experiences. In many ways, it parallels some of the narratives around

body modification I've seen in my time in the queer community, which makes sense given the prevalence of queer and LGBT+ identities within the nonhuman and alterhuman communities.

If you have body modifications, and if you experience species dysphoria, how do your body modifications interact with your species dysphoria?

186 responses



Question & Results:

If you have body modifications, and if you experience species dysphoria, how do your body modifications interact with your species dysphoria?

- Body modification helps to relieve my species dysphoria: 49 (26.3%)
- Body modification has no effect on my species dysphoria: 90 (48.4%)
- Body modification exacerbates my species dysphoria: 2 (1.1%)
- Body modification has varying effects on my species dysphoria: 30 (16.1%)
- Other, write-in: 15 (8.1%)

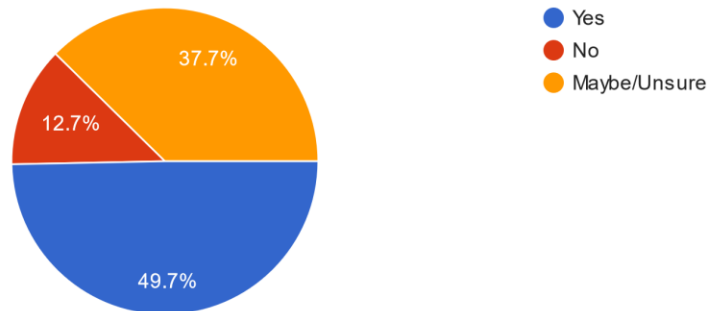
Summary:

A majority of the writings fit into the main four options, are individuals who are unsure, or are people who misread the question. In future iterations, this question will not have a write-in option.

‘No, I Do Not Have Body Modifications’ Question Section

If you do not have body modifications, do you plan on getting body modifications in future?

316 responses



Question & Results:

If you do not have body modifications, do you plan on getting body modifications in the future?

- Yes: 157 (49.7%)
- No: 40 (12.7%)
- Maybe/Unsure: 119 (37.7%)

Summary:

It's no surprise that so many people are unsure if they want body modifications in the future; it was actually expected that Maybe/Unsure would be a more popular choice than "Yes" due to elements of anxiety, both personal and societal, related to body modifications.

Interestingly, but also to no surprise, this section leans towards young adults and minors: 43.6% of participants in this section were in the 18-23 bracket, and 28.9% were in the 17 and under bracket.

If no, why?
154 responses



Question & Results:

If no, why?

- Cost: 111 (72.1%)
- Social stigma: 68 (44.2%)
- Fear of pain: 84 (54.5%)
- No body modifications on the market currently appeal to me: 50 (32.5%)
- Other, write-in: 40 (24%)

Summary:

Given that statistical analysis in the past has shown that queer and LGBT+ individuals are often in lower socioeconomic ladders, and that the nonhuman/alterhuman communities seem be majority queer/LGBT+ as shown by previous surveys⁶, I wonder if cost is an especially notable obstacle for nonhumans and alterhumans because they are statistically in those same lower socioeconomic ladders.

⁶ House of Chimeras, "The Feelings Surrounding the Words "Species Dysphoria" & "Transspecies" Survey," Google Forms, 13 August 2021.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1W8V90uefmY6_Tbvw4w9p_2ALRMc4WeuUDiAyW6DpAU0/viewanalytics;

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https://www.reddit.com/r/otherkin/comments/nsgro7/poll_results/;

PinkDolphin. "Species Dysphoria Within Alterhumans (therian/otherkin/kith etc)," 2020.

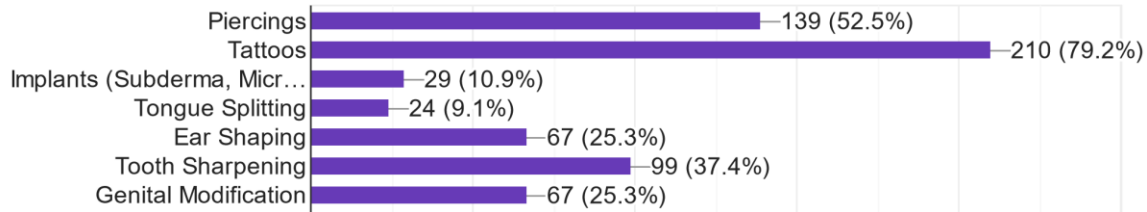
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XMvXz-F_ks3saJr6ADYOfx4S6LE_btu2FHqBdN-grFo/viewanalytics?fbclid=IwAR08GSq_KwSJYUJJbvXT9z6a5d0kpxL0hDcH0uKF8S4IPv_W1jF409Fe0z0;

Shiro. "2016 Otherkin Community Survey Results," Kinumity.com,

<https://www.kinmunity.com/surveys/results/2016/>. Link now defunct, but PDF copies of the survey list only 18.03% of the 366 participants as identifying as heterosexual and 46.72% as identifying as cisgender.

If you plan on getting body modifications in the future, what types do you want? Check all that apply.

265 responses



Question & Results:

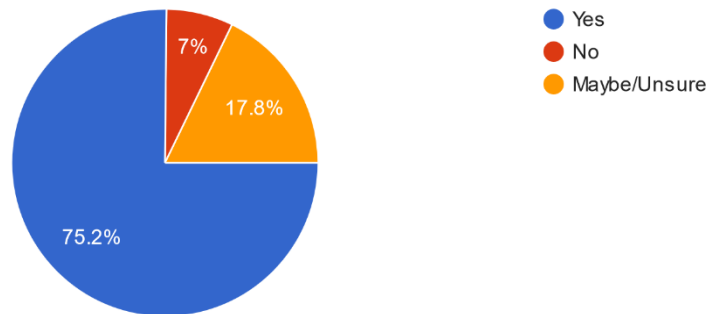
If you plan on getting body modifications in the future, what types do you want? Check all that apply.

- Piercings: 139 (52.5%)
- Tattoos: 210 (82.6%)
- Implants (Subdermal, Microdermal, & Transdermal): 29 (10.9%)
- Tongue Splitting: 24 (9.1%)
- Ear Shaping: 67 (25.3%)
- Tooth Sharpening: 99 (37.4%)
- Genital Modification: 67 (25.3%)
- Other, write-in: 26 (10.4%)

Summary:

The write-ins, like previous questions, fall into the main categories of animal-based (fangs, tails, antlers, wings, digitigrade legs and paws, etc.) and top survey-related. Some outliers include one individual who added in plans to get scarification, and two individuals who cite desires for cybernetic parts.

If you plan on getting body modifications in the future, will any be related to your nonhumanity?
298 responses



Question & Results:

If you plan on getting body modifications in the future, will any be related to your nonhumanity?

- Yes: 224 (75.2%)
- No: 21 (7%)
- Maybe/Unsure: 53 (17.8%)

Summary:

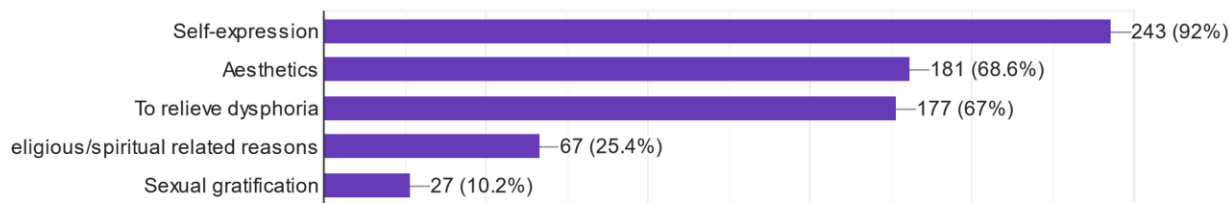
It's interesting to see such a majority of participants without body modifications have plans to get body modifications in direct relation to their nonhumanity, when the participants in this survey who already have body modifications largely do *not* find them relevant to their nonhumanity.

Young adults dominated the 'Yes' answer of this question by far, making up 46.4% of all the answers.

I wonder if this is because of more modern societal movements towards acceptance of more common forms of body modification, such as tattoos and piercings?

If yes to the previous question, why do you want to get body modifications related to your nonhumanity? Check all that apply and/or skip to the text box below this question for a long-form answer.

264 responses



Question & Results:

If yes to the previous question, why do you want to get body modifications related to your nonhumanity? Check all that apply and/or skip to the text box below this question for a long-form answer.

- Self-expression: 243 (92%)
- Aesthetics: 181 (68.6%)
- To relieve dysphoria: 177 (67%)
- Religious/spiritual related reasons: 67 (25.4%)
- Sexual gratification: 27 (10.2%)
- Other, write-in: 4 (1.6%)

Summary:

In comparison to participants who already have body modifications, participants with future plans to obtain body modification have a much higher focus on dysphoria relief. 38 participants, 28.4% of participants who already have nonhuman-related body modifications, claim that they were obtained at least in part to relieve dysphoria, in comparison to the 177 participants, or 67% of participants without body modifications and with plans for future nonhuman-related body modifications, cite dysphoria as a driving factor.

The write-ins focused significantly on bodily comfort and body reclamation: one participant outright said they wanted nonhuman-related body mods so that they could “finally feel comfortable in this body”; another said that they don’t recognize themselves in the mirror, and don’t identify with the body they are in at all, and just “want to be comfortable in [their] own skin”; another person outright said “to make me feel a little more like me”; yet another said they “want

to feel like [they] belong in this body”; and one person outright stated that “modifying his body makes it feel more like it belongs to us and less like we’ve just been thrown into it.” Many also admit to body modifications being additionally aesthetically pleasing and otherwise a confidence boost, both in relation to a strengthened association with their nonhumanity and because of the visual expression it offers—as one individual put it, “my skin is a canvas, and I want to show people selected experiences I had.”

If you plan on getting nonhuman-related body modifications in the future, and you experience species dysphoria, how are you expecting that they will interact with your species dysphoria?
267 responses



Question & Results:

If you plan on getting nonhuman-related body modifications in the future, and you experience species dysphoria, how are you expecting that they will interact with your species dysphoria?

- I expect it will help relieve my dysphoria: 160 (59.9%)
- I expect it will not affect my dysphoria: 32 (12%)
- I expect it will worsen my dysphoria: 4 (1.5%)
- I have no expectations: 59 (22.1%)
- Other, write-in: 12 (4.5%)

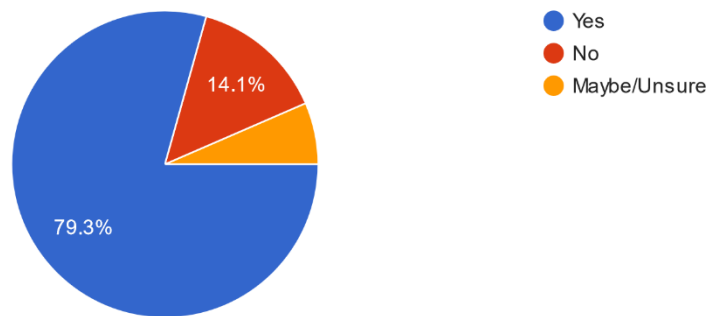
Summary:

Several of the write-ins listed themselves as unsure of how their future body modifications may interact with their species dysphoria. One person cited it as closer to a coping mechanism than something to help their dysphoria, and another said that they were more expecting it to help with their gender dysphoria than their species dysphoria.

Body Decoration Section

Do you engage in body decoration related to your nonhumanity?

523 responses



Question & Results:

Do you engage in body decoration related to your nonhumanity?

- Yes: 415 (79.3%)
- No: 74 (14.1%)
- Maybe/Unsure: 34 (6.6%)

Summary:

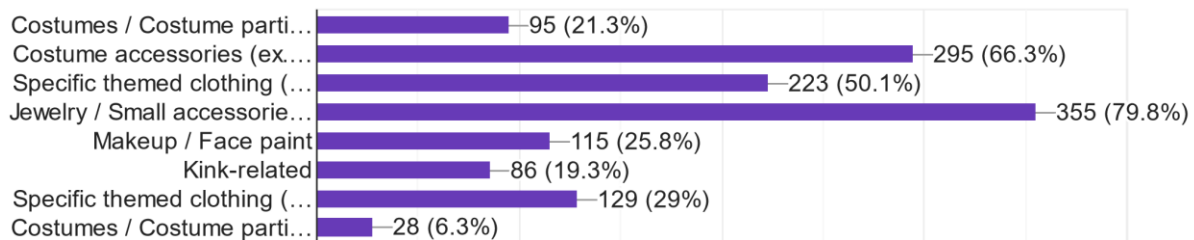
Before participants were asked this question and other questions in this section, they were presented with this definition of body decoration:

Within this survey, body decoration is defined as the intentional altering of outward appearances in non-permanent ways without altering human anatomy. Body decoration is temporary and does not alter the physical human body at any point.

Examples of body decoration include temporary tattoos, jewelry, costumes and costume accessories (tails, claws, ears, etc.), and clothing.

Given the prevalence of species dysphoria within participants, and the rising popularity of “therian gear,” these results are altogether expected. Individuals in the 31-40 age bracket and above more often chose that they did not participate in body decoration, while those in the younger age brackets tended more towards participation in body decoration.

If yes, what kinds of nonhuman-related body decoration do you wear? Check all that apply.
445 responses



Question & Results:

If yes, what kinds of nonhuman-related body decoration do you wear? Check all that apply.

- Costumes / Costume partials (ex. fursuits, fursuit partials or "poodling", extensive outfits with fantastical elements such as armor/weaponry, cosplays): 123 (27.6%)
- Costume accessories (ex. ears, clip-on tails, scalemail gauntlets): 295 (66.3%)
- Specific themed clothing (ex. socks or gloves with paws on the bottom of them, a shirt with a howling wolf on it, a onesie designed to look like a Pikachu): 352 (79.1%)
- Jewelry / Small accessories (ex. necklaces, bracelets, earrings, cufflinks): 335 (79.8%)
- Makeup / Face paint: 115 (25.8%)
- Kink-related: 86 (19.3%)
- Other, write-in: 19 (3.8%)

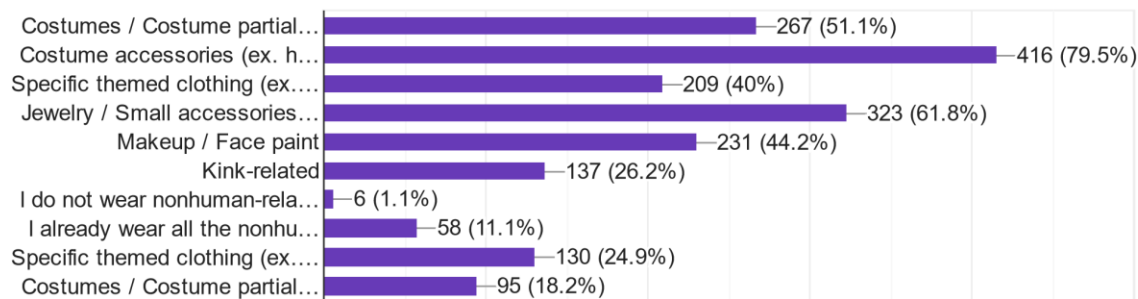
Summary:

There was an issue where, instead of correcting typos, Google Forms does not formulate the previously-acquired data into the fixed option, and instead creates a new, entirely separate result in its place. Adding these results together in the above results section fixes this problem, but that is where the seemingly duplicate items in the featured graph come from.

Jewelry and small, themed clothing items dominated this category by far, likely due to their accessibility and expense. Kink gear and costume gear, which can be notoriously expensive and not always accessible, were predictably the smallest section. The write-ins were significantly spread out, with two individuals citing swimtails (arguably a costume partial element), several other mentions of nail polish, growth, or other forms of decoration, and one person mentioning temporary tattoos.

What kinds of nonhuman-related body decoration would you wear if cost and social stigma were not factors? Check all that apply.

523 responses



Question & Results:

What kinds of nonhuman-related body decoration would you wear if cost and social stigma were not factors? Check all that apply.

- Costumes / Costume partials (ex. fursuits, fursuit partials or "poodling", extensive outfits with fantastical elements such as armor/weaponry, cosplays): 362 (69.3%)
- Costume accessories (ex. ears, clip-on tails, scalemail gauntlets): 416 (79.5%)
- Specific themed clothing (ex. socks or gloves with paws on the bottom of them, a shirt with a howling wolf on it, a onesie designed to look like a Pikachu): 304 (48.2%)
- Jewelry / Small accessories (ex. necklaces, bracelets, earrings, cufflinks): 323 (61.8%)
- Makeup / Face paint: 231 (44.2%)
- Kink-related: 137 (26.2%)
- I do not wear nonhuman related body decoration: 6 (1.1%)
- I already wear all the nonhuman-related body decoration I desire: 58 (11.1%)
- Other, write-in: 14 (2.8%)

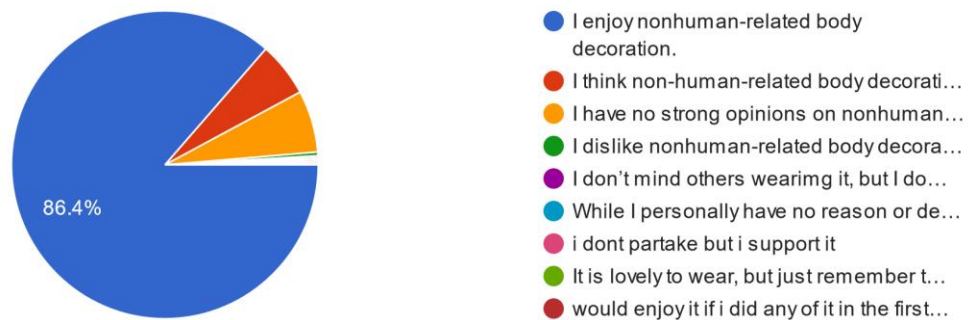
Summary:

There was an issue where, instead of correcting typos, Google Forms does not formulate the previously-acquired data into the fixed option, and instead creates a new, entirely separate result in its place. Adding these results together in the above results section fixes this problem, but that is where the seemingly duplicate items in the featured graph come from.

Costumes / Costume partials and Costume accessories were the dominant categories in this question. I believe this is because of their transformative capabilities; quad-suits and fursuits enable more animalistic nonhumans an outward display of self that is almost entirely impossible otherwise, and costume accessories make for an excellent midway point, for those who find themselves relating to humanoids or who have human-like or human-related senses of personal identity.

What is your opinion of nonhuman-related body decoration?

523 responses



Question & Results:

What is your opinion of nonhuman-related body decoration?

- I enjoy non-human-related body decoration: 452 (86.4%)
- I think non-human-related body decoration is only appropriate under certain circumstances: 30 (5.7%)
- I have no strong opinions on nonhuman-related body decoration: 34 (6.5%)

- I dislike nonhuman-related body decoration: 2 (0.4%)
- Other, write-in: 5 (1%)

Summary:

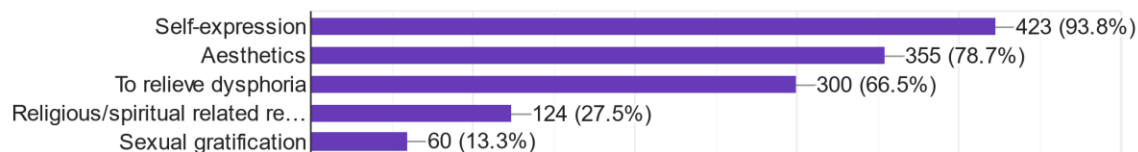
More participants enjoy body decoration than body modification (86.4% in comparison to 67.1%), and a number of write-ins spoke of support without participation.

Notably, however, the longform write-in section which followed this question was more divided than the body modification section was. While mentions of bodily autonomy and a desire to destigmatize body decoration are present and majority, this section contains significantly more opposition to the idea of an unlimited personal freedom regarding the idea of body decoration than the body modification section did: criticisms ranged from one individual's thoughts that "it's important to wear [body decoration] where appropriate and to recognize that if you're publicly asserting membership to a group, your behavior and appearance represent everyone in that group"; multiple opinions that "you should still follow basic dress code in certain places or situations" and that "in society there are certain expectations for appearance in different settings [sic]. Dress codes still apply"; another's concerns regarding the origin of certain forms of body decoration, stating "Pup gear is a no for public spaces, since it is kink-related"; and one person's succinctly put "don't go so crazy with it that it's egregiously cringe." Another person merely said "there's a time and place for any kind of clothing, and that includes this."

There were also brief mentions of how body decoration is connected to non-serious, younger nonhumans: one individual claimed that "Therian 'gear' as means of expressing therianthropy most often seems to be used by younger 'therians' who are most likely going through a phase and treat therianthropy [sic] as a subculture similar to goth, fandoms, etc." Another individual also described frustration with the term "therian gear."

If you engage in nonhuman-related body decoration, why? Check all that apply and/or skip to the text box below this question for a long-form answer.

451 responses



Question & Results:

If you engage in nonhuman-related body decoration, why? Check all that apply and/or skip to the text box below this question for a long-form answer.

- Self-expression: 423 (93.8%)
- Aesthetics: 355 (78.7%)
- To relieve dysphoria: 300 (66.5%)
- Religious/spiritual related reasons: 124 (27.5%)
- Sexual gratification: 60 (13.3%)
- Other, write-in: 11 (2.4%)

Summary:

Self-expression and aesthetics were the biggest reasons by far in this. The write-ins also expressed similar reasons, with one person simply stating “because cute” and another explaining “to be myself.” There were to mentions of a focus on euphoria within the write-ins as well, separate from notions of dysphoria entirely, and one individual also cited a desire to express themselves and allow other nonhumans and plurals to potentially see them.

The optional longform write-up connected to this question has a wide berth of differing experiences, which I genuinely encourage individuals to check out in the raw data.

If you engage in nonhuman-related body decoration, and if you experience species dysphoria, how does your body decoration interact with your species dysphoria?

404 responses



Question & Results:

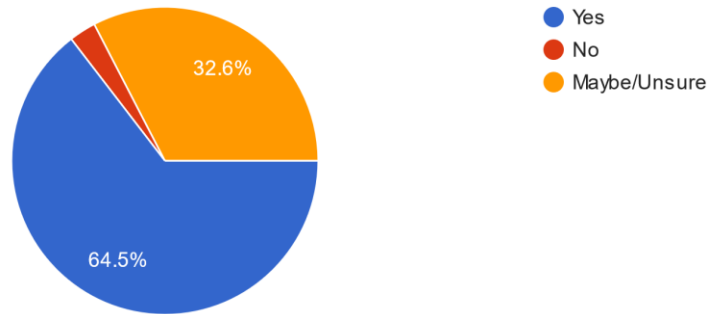
If you engage in nonhuman-related body decoration, and if you experience species dysphoria, how does your body decoration interact with your species dysphoria?

- Body decoration helps to relieve my species dysphoria: 256 (63.4%)
- Body decoration has no effect on my species dysphoria: 43 (10.6%)
- Body decoration exacerbates my species dysphoria: 3 (0.7%)
- Body decoration has various effects on my species dysphoria: 97 (24%)
- Other, write-in: 5 (1%)

Summary:

It was actually expected that nonhuman-related body decoration as relieving dysphoria would be closer to a 70-75%. The write-ins largely fit into the other categories, with some notable differences: one person was not sure how their body decoration affects their species dysphoria.

If you do not currently engage in nonhuman-related body decoration, do you plan to in the future?
141 responses



Question & Results:

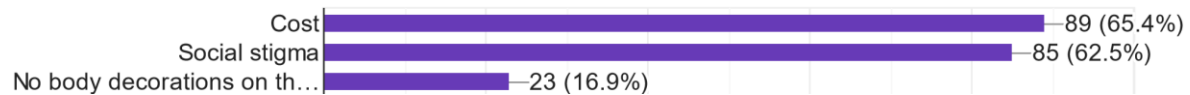
If you do not currently engage in nonhuman-related body decoration, do you plan to in the future?

- Yes: 91 (64.5%)
- No: 4 (2.8%)
- Maybe/Unsure: 46 (32.6%)

Summary:

Like the previous question, it was assumed that more participants would lean towards 'Yes'.

If you do not engage in non-human related body decoration, why?
136 responses



Question & Results:

If you do not engage in nonhuman-related body decoration, why?

- Cost: 89 (65.4%)
- Social stigma: 85 (62.5%)

- No body decorations on the market currently appeal to me: 23 (16.9%)
- Other, write-in: 30 (21%)

Summary:

The most common write-in reasons were, by far, either related to parents/family or larger social stigma/obstacles. There were also mentions of inertia in obtaining and sensitivity towards body decoration that makes them unfavorable.

Social stigma was a much more significant factor for participants who decided not to get nonhuman-related body decorations than for those who decided not to get body modifications (with 62.5% in comparison to 44.2%, respectively), ironically, reflecting a pattern from earlier longform write-ins.