



Community Reintegration Center

Milwaukee County

Chantell Jewell • Superintendent

Tattoo Removal CRC

Based on a snapshot of residents of the CRC from 01/01/2026 – 02/28/2026 and average of 3.1% of the resident population had face or related tattoos. This percentage reflected 42 residents out of an average daily population of 1334.2. This included 35 Male residents and 7 Female residents. If Neck Tattoos were added to the eligibility criteria the number and percentage would be significantly higher. In addition, this number reflects only those residents for whom tattoos were noted in ProPhoenix suite application CMS (Corrections Management System).

During the period measured the average length of stay was 122.19 days and 23.5% of the average daily population had release dates. This means that while many residents would be at the CRC long enough to have significant access to treatments, a high percentage of residents lacked release dates which could make planning the multiple treatment sessions needed challenging.

Date Range: 01/01/2026 – 02/28/2026

Source: CMS Name Search / Physical Descriptors (SMT) / Recent Detention Trends Dashboard

ADP CRC (Date Range)	Avg LOS (Date Range)	ADP Sentence with Release Date
1334.2	122.19	313.45

Listed (Face/Related Tattoos) as % of ADP
3.1%

Total Listed (Face/Related Tattoos)	Male Residents (Face/Related Tattoos)	Female Residents (Face/Related Tattoos)
42	35	7

Program Logistical Considerations and Costs:

Tattoo removal programs have unique space needs which vary based on type of program. Laser removal programs have the highest space and logistical needs while non-laser methods have the lowest space

Milwaukee County Community Reintegration Center, 8885 S. 68th Street, Franklin, WI 53132

and logistical needs. There is also a cost and timeline difference between program types. Most programs require adequate electrical access, secure storage, and a space approximately 10' X 10'. There is also a need for good lighting, adequate ventilation, facilities for handwashing, hygiene and a space that can be kept sanitary. There is also a need for secure equipment storage and appropriate privacy for treatments and security for safety.

Beyond space considerations and general costs there are equipment needs, multiple treatment sessions, aftercare that may be needed between sessions and relevant medical support if needed. This includes costs related to program implantation and set up, costs related to ongoing equipment and supply needs, personnel costs and costs related to the removal sessions.

In addition, there may be additional costs related to making sure that the spaces used meet the requirements of the guidelines of the state of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County and the City of Franklin as they relate to tattoo facilities (including removal.) This includes access to facilities for equipment sterilization as well as any other requirements unique to tattoo removal programs.

While removal costs with laser vs non-laser methods vary and location can impact cost it can “total up to thousands of dollars, laser tattoo removal costs on average \$401 for a single procedure at a private clinic, with an average of 7–10 treatments needed to fully remove a tattoo.”¹ This means that if tattoo removal were available, accessed and able to gain interest among residents it could be a valuable resource. The challenge could be engaging residents as well as the reality of CRC timelines and population turnover as well as ever changing space needs. In addition, there is the challenge of funding for the program over time and the reality of residents starting the process at the CRC and lacking the resources to complete the process should they be released prior to completion.

Other Notes

In addition to what might be available through a CRC based tattoo removal it should be noted that there are also resources available in the community to assist those who have been incarcerated with tattoo removal at free or reduced cost. These could be resources for residents who either are unable to access any future CRC based tattoo removal programming or who are unable to complete all needed treatments prior to release. In addition, some of these programs may be resources for those residents who are not eligible for future CRC based programming.

Another way that some institutions have navigated programs such as tattoo removal is to partner with medical schools – providing a learning opportunity for students specializing in dermatology, tattoo removal opportunities for those impacted by the justice system as well as a mutually beneficial partnership for all involved. The University of California – San Diego’s Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program² is an example of this. While these programs primarily serve those who have been released

¹ Huang S, Blissett G, Pei BA, et al. *A descriptive analysis of the epidemiology and motivations for laser tattoo removal in an underserved population.* J Community Health. 2022 Feb;47(1):127– 35.

² MC, Hebebrand. *Ink to Impact: A Laser-Focused Mission to Justice and Dermatology* Dermatology Times 19 June 2025.
<https://www.dermatologytimes.com/view/ink-to-impact-a-laser-focused-mission-in-justice-and-dermatology>

from incarceration this could be a creative way to bring Tattoo removal to the CRC and create a partnership that could expand into other areas of needed care for residents.

Examples of Community Programs

Program	Location	Criteria	Cost	Notes
Laserfied Tattoo Removal	Milwaukee 53215	Trafficking Survivors	\$0	Check with sites to make sure programs are still active and regarding changes in criteria
Urbaine Oasis Spa Boutique	Milwaukee 53202	Trafficking Survivors	\$0	Check with sites to make sure programs are still active and regarding changes in criteria
Removery - Bayview	Milwaukee 53207	Previously or currently incarcerated Trafficking Survivors, Hate symbols / racist tattoo Former gang member, Hands Neck. Face etc.	\$0	Check with site to make sure program still active and regarding changes in criteria https://removery.com/services/ink-initiative/ (Part of Recovery Initiative Program)
Milwaukee Laser & Body Aesthetics	Germantown 53022	Trafficking Survivors	\$0	Check with site to make sure program still active and regarding changes in criteria https://www.aslms.org/for-the-public/new-beginnings-tattoo-removal-program Part of the New Beginnings Tattoo Removal Program

Examples of Medical School Connected Programs

Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program	University of California San Diego	San Diego, CA	History of Incarceration	https://www.dermatologytimes.com/view/ink-to-impact-a-laser-focused-mission-in-justice-and-dermatology
Northwestern Medicine Tattoo Removal Program	Northwestern Medicine & Acclivus	Chicago, IL	Face, Neck or Hands or gang related	https://www.nm.org/healthbeat/healthy-tips/Tattoo-Removal-Program-Helps-Patients-Overcome-Barriers-and-Stigmas

Loma Linda University Tattoo Removal Program	Loma Linda University Medical School	Loma Linda CA	Gang related and/or hands, face, neck and human trafficking	https://news.llu.edu/community/llu%E2%80%99s-new-tattoo-removal-program-helps-inland-empire-patients-reset-aims-curb-violence
--	--	---------------	--	---