



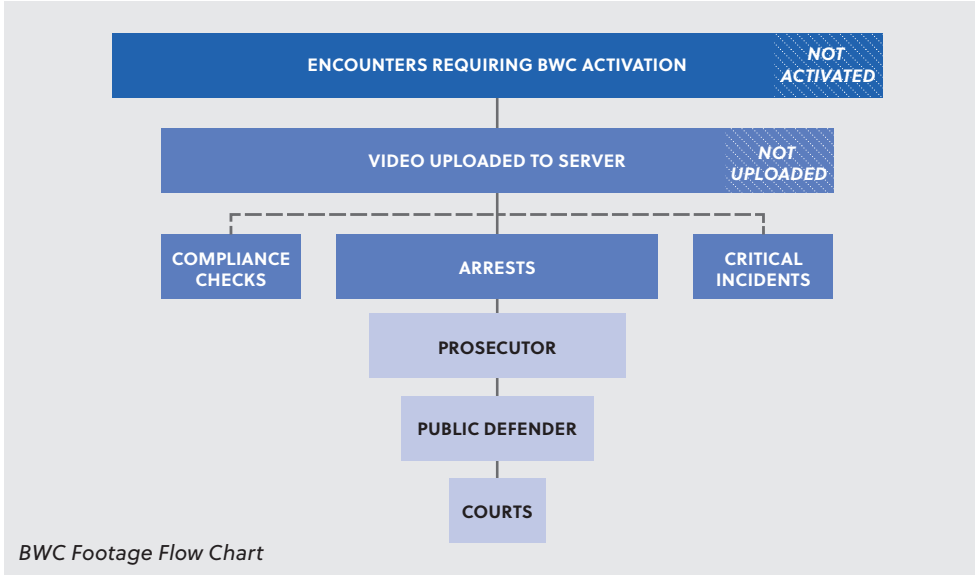
# INSIGHTS

THE SMALL RURAL TRIBAL BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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## Digital Evidence: How do we manage BWC footage?

Body-worn cameras have proliferated across the United States. With the increase in cameras, policing agencies are also seeing exponential growth in the amount of the video footage and storage space, and are seeing the need for more personnel and resources to manage BWCs.

A recent study of seven sites tracked the flow of BWC footage from an officer's upload through the prosecutor's office. Ultimately, the report found that BWC footage is interconnected throughout the entire criminal justice system. That is, footage is a unique piece of evidence that is used for internal purposes within a policing agency and for specific evidentiary purposes for prosecutors, public defenders, and the courts.

Importantly, BWCs and footage require more resources than criminal justice agencies initially realized. Police and sheriff offices are now aware that they need resources for maintenance, upgrades of cameras, software needs, and

the fast-paced evolution of technology to manage BWCs. In the rest of the criminal justice system, agencies are not equipped to manage the digital evidence onslaught.

Lastly, while the release of video footage to the public is an important component of transparency and accountability, many agencies have different rules, policies, and state laws that govern that release.

Managing digital evidence is an important concern for all agencies. In addition to BWCs, police are now compiling in-car, phone, and surveillance videos, digitized documents, photos, and other material for incidents, arrests, critical events, and other activities. Planning, organizing, and using this information are important steps that should accompany the purchase of BWCs.

For more information about digital evidence management, read the highlights [here](#). The full report is also available [here](#).

## Performance Measures: What are they and why do we need them?

*What are they?* The SRT micro-grant program requires agencies to provide information about the use of BWCs. Some of these measures include: number of cameras purchased, number of officers using them, number of officers trained, number of complaints and uses of force, and whether footage has been released to the public.

*Why do we need them?* Collecting these measures provide BJA and the SRT Team with insights about the implementation of your program. They provide a picture of how cameras and footage are used. By the end of the grant period the team will know how well individual micro-grantees have performed. In addition, with information from over 260 agencies, BJA and the SRT team will have more knowledge about how BWCs are used across the country.

## UPCOMING SRT WEBINARS

**The Third 'P': Measuring Performance**  
April 27, 2022 at 11 am Pacific/ 1 pm Central / 2 pm Eastern



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