



# INSIGHTS

THE SMALL RURAL TRIBAL BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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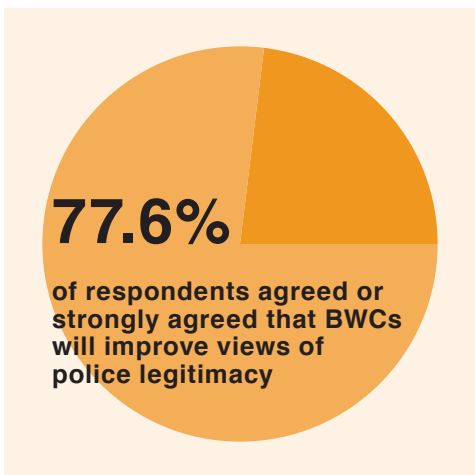
## Community Perceptions About Body-Worn Cameras

With the proliferation of body-worn cameras in numerous agencies across the country, what are the views of communities as these devices are being used? Two major studies in three different communities provide us with some answers.

Dr. Matthew Crow and his colleagues in Florida and Dr. Paige Thompson and her collaborators in Milwaukee conducted surveys of residents to determine their perceptions of the use of BWCs by law enforcement.

In Escambia and Palm Beach Counties, researchers conducted a random telephone survey of almost 800 residents.

Public perceptions were mostly positive. Specifically, 87.1% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that BWCs will improve police officer behavior, while 79.4% agreed or strongly agreed that BWCs will improve residents' behavior. Respondents also registered high levels of agreement that BWCs will improve views of police legitimacy (77.6%



agree/strongly agree) and that BWCs will assist in the collection of quality evidence (88.5% agree/strongly agree).

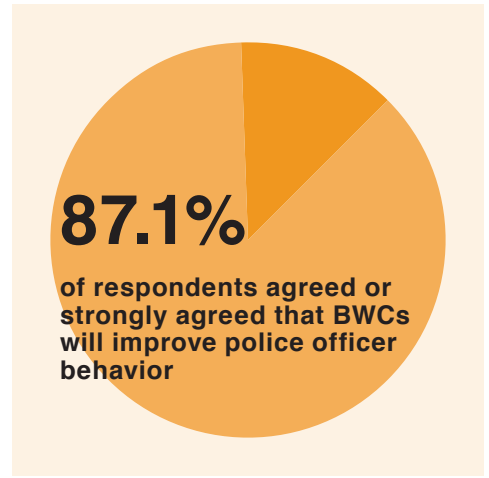
Community members expressed relatively little concern regarding potential invasions of privacy for either police officers or citizens related to the use of BWCs.

The main takeaway from the study was that those who already believed officers were doing a good job will see less need for, and thus less benefit of, BWCs.

Further, community members who expressed greater concern about crime would see more potential benefits associated with BWCs. Finally, community members who expressed concern about privacy issues related to BWCs would be less likely to see benefits to the use of the technology.

In Milwaukee, an online survey yielded responses from 1,527 people at two different time periods (Fall 2017 and Summer 2018).

In general, Milwaukee residents were supportive of the police department's program. But, members of the Black community were less supportive and had less positive views of procedural justice and legitimacy than White respondents. Researchers believed that two high-profile events in Milwaukee shaped these attitudes. The first was the killing of a Black man named Sylville Smith in August 2016 that led to criminal charges and a jury trial against the officer. Eventually the officer was acquitted. The second incident, the traffic stop of Sterling Brown of the Milwaukee Bucks created additional skepticism and less trust of the police. Brown was stopped for a parking violation, wrestled to the ground, and tased by officers. BWC footage was withheld for several months, but when it was released it occurred at the same time as the second wave of the survey.



## Grants Administration

Policy completion certificates are being sent to micro-grantees who have successfully completed the policy review process, submitted all of their paperwork, and who have an executed contract. Once you receive your policy completion certificates, you can submit invoices through the grants administration portal for payment. Payments will be processed via direct deposit. For those who have not successfully completed the policy review process or have outstanding paperwork, the SRT-BWC team will be contacting you. In addition, monthly reporting has also begun and reports were due on July 15th. If you have not done so, please submit your reports online in the grant administration portal.



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