



Digital Evidence Survey

Attention all grantees – next week (May 9) you will receive an email about a survey regarding BWC footage. Your answers will help us to provide technical assistance to you. Please take 10 minutes to respond to the questions. Thank you!

Body-worn Cameras (BWCs) and Officer Behavior

Would your behavior change if you knew you were on camera? This important question has become increasingly relevant for many policing agencies across the US, as they continue to outfit officers/deputies with BWCs. Understanding the impact of BWCs on officer behavior can be very valuable for both individual agencies and the communities that they serve. It can provide a unique perspective into police encounters that can help promote better transparency and reinforce community trust.

Critics of BWC technology have argued that BWCs may lead to de-policing or officer passivity due to the increased surveillance of police officer behavior. In recent years, researchers assessed these claims and examined if, and how, BWCs impact officer behavior. To date, however, results are mixed. In a recent study examining whether BWCs reduce the quality and/or quantity of self-initiated police work (e.g., foot patrols and traffic stops), results showed that the number of foot patrols and traffic stops conducted by officers did not vary based on whether officers were wearing a BWC. ([Click here for more information](#)).

On an individual level, results from an experiment in the Phoenix Police Department (AZ) showed that officers who volunteered to wear BWCs were more likely to initiate contacts and carry out arrests compared to those who were mandated to wear them. Additionally, officers who volunteered to wear BWCs were less likely to use force and/or receive a complaint. These findings suggest that with the implementation of BWC programs, it can be important to

consider potential hurdles at the individual level and the broader administrative level, since officer buy-in plays a powerful role in the overall effectiveness of BWCs. This points to the importance of the positive impact of a receptive and supportive work environment within agencies, highlighting the importance of humanizing technological advancements in an industry that aims to serve people. BWCs are only as effective as their policies and operators for a successful BWC program.

As BWCs become more common in day-to-day police activity, it is important to understand how this technology may impact officer performance and the way they interact with the communities they serve. Although current findings are mixed, research continues to expand in this area to examine the evolving role of BWCs in the field. ([Click here for more information](#)).

Reimbursements

Please submit the complete invoice from your vendors with the number of cameras purchased through your grant portal. We will work with you to complete the request forms and to disburse your grants funds as soon as possible. If you need help, email us at info@SRTBWC.com



Small Rural Tribal
BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM



This newsletter was supported by Grant No. 2020-BC-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to Justice & Security Strategies, Inc. (JSS). BJA is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. Points of view or opinions contained herein do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.