

Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission
Body-Worn Camera Committee
Studies and Reports

1. [Ariel, B. \(2016\). Increasing Cooperation with the Police Using Body Worn Cameras. Police Quarterly, 326-362.](#)
 - ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** A 6-month study in Denver investigated whether Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) can change crime reporting behavior, with treatment-officers wearing BWCs patrolling targeted street segments, while control officers patrolled the no-treatment areas without BWCs.
 - ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** Stratified street segments crime densities were used as the units of analysis in order to measure the effect on the number of emergency calls in target versus control street segments.
 - ❖ **Findings:** Repeated measures ANOVAs and subgroup analyses suggest that BWCs lead to greater willingness to report crimes to the police in low crime density level residential street segments, but no discernable differences emerge in hotspot street segments. Variations in reporting are interpreted in terms of accountability, legitimacy, or perceived utility caused by the use of BWCs. Situational characteristics of the street segments explain why low-level street segments are affected by BWCs, while in hotspots no effect was detected.
 - ❖ **Project Date:** July to December 2014

2. [Ariel, B., Farrar, W. A., & Sutherland, A. \(2015\). The Effect of Police-Worn Cameras on Use of Force and Citizens' Complaints Against the Police: A Randomized Controlled Trial. Journal of Quantitative Criminology, 509-535.](#)
 - ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** This 12-month study in Rialto, CA attempts to answer the question: do body-worn cameras reduce the prevalence of use-of-force and/or citizens' complaints against the police?
 - ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** Researchers empirically tested the use of body-worn-cameras by measuring the effect of videotaping police–public encounters on incidents of police use-of-force and complaints in randomized-controlled settings. Over 12 months, officers were randomly-assigned to “experimental-shifts” during which they were equipped with body-worn HD cameras that recorded all contacts with the public and to “control-shifts” without the cameras (n = 988). Researchers estimate the causal effect of the use of body-worn-videos on the two outcome variables using both between-group differences using a Poisson regression model as well as before-after estimates using interrupted time-series analyses.
 - ❖ **Findings:** The likelihood of force being used in control conditions were roughly twice those in experimental conditions. Similarly, a pre/post analysis of use-of force and complaints data also support this result: the number of complaints filed against officers dropped from 0.7 complaints per 1,000 contacts to 0.07 per 1,000 contacts.
 - ❖ **Project Date:** February 2012 to February 2013

3. [Ariel, B., Sutherland, A., Henstock, D., Young, J., Drover, P., Sykes, J., . . . Henderson, R. \(2016\). Report: increases in police use of force in the presence of body-worn cameras are driven by offender discretion: a protocol-bases subgroup analysis of ten randomized experiments. Journal of Experimental Criminology, 453-463.](#)

- ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** This multisite randomized controlled trial reported (in another research paper) that police body-worn cameras (BWCs) had, on average, no effect on recorded incidents of police use of force. In some sites, rates of use of force decreased and in others increased. In this article, researchers seek to understand these counter-intuitive findings and report pre-specified subgroup analyses related to officers' discretion on activating the BWCs.
- ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** Using pre-established criteria for experimental protocol breakdown in terms of treatment integrity, ten experimental sites were sub grouped into "high-compliance" (no officer discretion applied to when and where BWCs should be used; "no-compliance" (treatment integrity failure in both treatment and control conditions; and tests where officers applied discretion during treatment group but followed protocol in control conditions only.
- ❖ **Findings:** When officers complied with the experimental protocol and did not use discretion, use of force rates were 37 % lower; when officers did not comply with treatment protocol (i.e., officers chose when to turn cameras on/off), use of force rates were 71 % higher compared to control conditions. When full discretion (i.e., overall breakdown of protocol) was applied to both treatment and control conditions, null effects were registered compared to control conditions. Therefore, BWCs can reduce police use of force when the officers' discretion to turn cameras on or off is minimized—in terms of both case types as well as individual incidents. BWCs ought to be switched on and the recording announced to suspects at early stages of police–public interactions. Future BWCs tests should pay close attention to adherence to experimental protocols.
- ❖ **Project Date:** N/A

4. [Ariel, B., Sutherland, A., Henstock, D., Young, J., Drover, P., Sykes, J., . . . Henderson, R. \(2016\). Wearing body cameras increases assaults against officers and does not reduce police use of force: Results from a global multi-site experiment. *European Journal of Criminology*, 744-755.](#)

- ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** Police use of force is at the forefront of public awareness in many countries. Body-worn videos (BWVs) have been proposed as a new way of reducing police use of force, as well as assaults against officers. To date, only a handful of peer-reviewed randomized trials have looked at the effectiveness of BWVs, primarily focusing on use of force and complaints. Researchers sought to replicate these studies, adding assaults against police officers as an additional outcome.
- ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** Using a prospective meta-analysis of multi-site, multi-national randomized controlled trials from 10 discrete tests with a total population of over 2 million and 2.2 million police officer-hours, researchers assess the effect of BWVs on the rates of (1) police use of force and (2) assaults against officers.
- ❖ **Findings:** Averaged over 10 trials, BWVs had no effect on police use of force but led to an increased rate of assaults against officers wearing cameras. As there is evidence that cameras may increase the risk of assaults against officers, more attention should be paid to how these devices are implemented. Likewise, since other public-facing organizations are considering equipping their staff with BWVs (e.g. firefighters, private security, traffic wardens), the findings on risks associated with BWVs are transferrable to those occupations as well.
- ❖ **Project Date:** N/A

5. [Drover, P., & Ariel, B. \(2015\). Leading an Experiment in Police Body-Worn Video Cameras. International Criminal Justice Review, 80-97.](#)
 - ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** Body-worn video (BWV) is seen internationally as having the potential to reduce public complaints against police, police use of force, and attrition of prosecutions due to lack of physical evidence. Beyond the Cambridge trial in Rialto, California, however, no studies have tested the effects of BWV.
 - ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** The present study documents a police leaders' implementation of a randomized controlled trial of the use of BWV. The main objectives are to identify the challenges to implementing a trial and identify how they were overcome. The solutions to these challenges may provide key lessons for police leaders, not only as they undertake evidence-based testing, but also as they manage police operations and implement change.
 - ❖ **Findings:** The key lessons from this research are to plan, ensure the support of a skilled team, and have a communication style that can escalate from empathy, to persuasion, to direction. Within the team, an officer to manage the daily issues and training is paramount. The support of an analyst is vital to ensure that the trial lead is informed in an accurate manner to allow them to track the performance of the experiment and hold key personnel to account. Accountability can only occur where there is continuity of team Inspectors. Finally, a trial needs a leader who is visible and has the presence and attitude to ensure it can succeed in the face of resistance and apathy.
 - ❖ **Project Date:** March to August 2014

6. [Edmonton Police Service. \(June 2015\). Body Worn Video: Considering the Evidence: Final Report of the Edmonton Police Service Body Worn Video Pilot Project. Edmonton.](#)
 - ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** The three main goals of this project were to: (1) Assess BWV for operational effectiveness, evidentiary value, potential for reducing complaints and use of force, impact on the public, possible training benefits and costs; (2) Establish a BWV data management system that securely stores and retrieves data to preserve evidence and minimize human error; and (3) Develop policy and operational procedures as a foundation for best practices for BWV.
 - ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** The pilot used a professionally designed series of quantitative and qualitative measures to assess BWV for technical performance, legal considerations, and practical value to everyday policing.
 - ❖ **Findings:** Findings suggest that BWV has the potential for positive outcomes for police and prosecutors but this potential must be weighed against a number of other factors that give strong reason for pause.
 - ❖ **Project Date:** Fall 2011 to fall 2014

7. [Feeney, M. \(2015\). Watching the Watchmen: Best Practices for Police Body Cameras. Washington, D.C.: Cato Institute.](#)
 - ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** This paper examines the research on the costs and benefits of police body cameras, arguing that the devices can, if properly deployed and regulated, provide a valuable disincentive to police abuses as well as valuable evidence for punishing abuses when they occur.
 - ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** Literature review

- ❖ **Findings:** Police body cameras undoubtedly have potential to improve police accountability and assist police misconduct investigations. While police body cameras may play a larger role in police misconduct investigations, they are not a police misconduct panacea and should be thought of as the first in a series of necessary reforms.
 - ❖ **Project Date:** 2015
8. [Jennings, W. G., Fridell, L. A., & Lynch, M. D. \(2014\). Cops and Cameras: Officer Perceptions of the Use of Body-worn Cameras in Law Enforcement. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 549-556.](#)
- ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** Many people are enthusiastic about the potential benefits of police body-worn cameras (BWC). Despite this enthusiasm, however, there has been no research on law enforcement command staff perceptions of BWCs. Given the importance that law enforcement leadership plays in the decision to adopt and implement BWCs, it is necessary to assess their perceptions. This is the first study to measure law enforcement leadership attitudes toward BWCs.
 - ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** The study relies on data collected from surveys administered to command staff representing local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in a large southern county.
 - ❖ **Findings:** Among the major perceptual findings are that command staff believe BWCs will impact police officers' decisions to use force in encounters with citizens and police will be more reluctant to use necessary force in encounters with the public. Respondents also believe that use of BWCs is supported by the public because society does not trust police, media will use BWC data to embarrass police, and pressure to implement BWCs comes from the media. Perceptions of the impact of BWCs on safety, privacy, and police effectiveness are also discussed.
 - ❖ **Project Date:** March 2015
9. [Jennings, W. G., Lynch, M. D., & Fridell, L. A. \(2015\). Evaluating the impact of police officer body-worn cameras \(BWCs\) on response-to-resistance and serious external complaints: Evidence from the Orlando police department \(OPD\) experience utilizing a randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 480-486.](#)
- ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** The purpose of this experiment is to evaluate the effect of police body-worn cameras (BWCs) on officers' response-to-resistance (R2R) incidents and serious external complaints.
 - ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** A randomized experiment was used where 46 officers were randomly assigned to wear BWCs and 43 officers were randomly assigned to not wear BWCs. Pre- and post-BWC implementation outcome data was compared both between and within groups.
 - ❖ **Findings:** The results suggest that BWCs are an effective tool to reduce R2R incidents and serious external complaints. Specifically, the prevalence of R2R incidents and the prevalence and frequency of serious external complaints were significantly less for officers randomly assigned to wear BWCs. Pre–post comparisons within groups demonstrated that the reduction in the prevalence of R2R incidents (53.4% reduction) and external complaints (65.4% reduction) were statistically significant for the officers who wore the BWCs, and significant reductions in the frequency of these outcomes were detected as well. Overwhelming agreement was also found among officers who wore the BWCs for the utility of BWCs to improve evidence collection and report writing and improve their behavior and police work in general by having the opportunity to review their own BWC videos.
 - ❖ **Project Date:** March 2013 to February 2015

10. [Katz, C. M., Choate, D. E., Ready, J. R., & Nuno, L. \(2014\). Evaluating the Impact of Officer Body Worn Cameras in the Phoenix Police Department. Phoenix, AZ: Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety.](#)
 - ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** The present study examined the effect of the body worn camera technology in six principal areas: (1) officer camera activation compliance; (2) utility and use of body worn cameras; (3) impact on officers' job performance; (4) impact on public compliance and cooperation; (5) impact on officer accountability; and (6) impact on domestic violence case processing and outcomes.
 - ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** Analysis of data for the present study relied on a pre-post comparison between target and comparison groups
 - ❖ **Findings:** Our findings suggest that officer worn body cameras may increase officer productivity, reduce the number of complaints against officers, decrease the number of founded complaints against them, and increase the effectiveness in which criminal cases are processed in the courts. While our findings also suggested that there are a number of problems associated with the implementation of body cameras such as increased amount of time spent on paper work, increased IT needs, officer concerns about video files being used against them, and increased amount of time it takes to process criminal cases, our results combined with prior research suggest that the benefits of officer worn body cameras outweigh their weaknesses and limitations.
 - ❖ **Project Date:** January 2012 to July 2014
11. [Lum, C., Koper, C., Merola, L., Scherer, A., & Reioux, A. \(2015\). Existing and Ongoing Body Worn Camera Research: Knowledge Gaps and Opportunities. Report for the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. Fairfax, VA: Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy, George Mason University.](#)
 - ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** The GMU team reviewed two areas of research to examine the state of, and research questions explored in, existing and ongoing empirical studies related to BWCs.
 - ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** The research team conducted a systematic review of existing and ongoing research knowledge relevant to BWCs for both law enforcement and the courts
 - ❖ **Findings:** Most research has been and is being conducted in law enforcement agencies. However, given the likely impact of BWCs on court processes, we also examined the literature and existing projects related to BWCs in that arena as well. Despite the rapid diffusion of BWCs, we discovered significant gaps in our knowledge about their uses, as well as their intended and unintended consequences in both policing and court processes. Significant opportunities for future research projects are highlighted for each.
 - ❖ **Project Date:** 2015
12. [Miller, L., Toliver, J., & Police Executive Research Forum. \(2014\). Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program: Recommendations and Lessons Learned. Washington, D.C.: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.](#)
 - ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** Even as police departments are increasingly adopting body-worn cameras, many questions about this technology have yet to be answered. In an effort to address these questions and produce policy guidance to law enforcement agencies, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), with support from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), conducted research in 2013 on the use of body-worn cameras.

- ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** This research project consisted of three major components: an informal survey of 500 law enforcement agencies nationwide; interviews with police executives; and a conference in which police chiefs and other experts from across the country gathered to discuss the use of body-worn cameras.
 - ❖ **Findings:** Drawing upon feedback from the conference, the survey results, and information gathered from the interviews and policy reviews, PERF created this publication to provide law enforcement agencies with guidance on the use of body-worn cameras.
 - ❖ **Project Date:** 2013 to 2014
13. [Morrow, W. J., Katz, C. M., & Choate, D. E. \(2016\). Assessing the Impact of Police Body-Worn Cameras on Arresting, Prosecuting, and Convicting Suspects of Intimate Partner Violence. *Police Quarterly*, 303-325.](#)
- ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** The perceived benefits that generally accompany body-worn cameras (BWCs) include the ability to increase transparency and police legitimacy, improve behavior among both police officers and citizens, and reduce citizen complaints and police use of force. Less established in the literature, however, is the value of BWCs to aid in the arrest, prosecution, and conviction of intimate partner violence (IPV) offenders.
 - ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** Researchers attempt to fill that void by examining the effect of pre- and post-camera deployment on a number of outcomes related to arrest, prosecution, and conviction.
 - ❖ **Findings:** The findings provide initial evidence for the utility of BWCs in IPV cases. When compared with posttest non-camera cases, posttest camera cases were more likely to result in an arrest, have charges filed, have cases furthered, result in a guilty plea, and result in a guilty verdict at trial. These results have several implications for policing, prosecuting, and convicting IPV cases.
 - ❖ **Project Date:** January 2012 to July 2014
14. [Pelfrey, Jr., W. V., & Keener, S. \(2016\). Police Body Worn Cameras: A Mixed Method Approach Assessing Perceptions of Efficacy. *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management*, 491-506.](#)
- ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** The importance of body-worn cameras (BWC) in policing cannot be overstated. This is not a hyperbolic statement – use of force incidents in Ferguson and Baltimore, the ensuing riots, coupled with critical long term implications for police community relations demonstrate the need for BWC data. Few studies have been published on the use of BWCs and little is known about officer perceptions, administrator decision making, and agency use of BWC data. No published studies incorporate qualitative data, which lends important context and depth, in the interpretation of officer survey data. The paper aims to discuss these issues.
 - ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** The current study presents a mixed-method study of a large university police agency prior to full implementation of BWC. A survey of patrol officers and supervisors, using a census approach with near full participation, coupled with focus group interviews, produced data on perceptions, concerns, and expectations of full BWC implementation.
 - ❖ **Findings:** Findings point to officer concerns regarding the utilization of BWC data and administrative expectations regarding complaint reduction and officer assessment.
 - ❖ **Project Date:** 2015

15. [Ready, J. T., & Young, J. T. \(2015\). The Impact of On-Officer Video Cameras on Police-Citizen Contacts: Findings from a Controlled Experiment in Mesa, AZ. Journal of Experimental Criminology, 445-458.](#)
 - ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** On-officer video camera (OVC) technology in policing is developing at a rapid pace. Large agencies are beginning to adopt the technology on a limited basis, and a number of cities across the United States have required their police departments to adopt the technology for all first responders. However, researchers have just begun to examine the effects of OVC technology on citizen complaints, officers' attitudes, and police-citizen contacts.
 - ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** This study examines officer behavior and perceptions of camera technology among 100 line officers in the Mesa Police Department during police-citizen encounters over a 10-month period. Experimental data from 3698 field contact reports were analyzed to determine whether being assigned to wear an OVC influences officer behavior and perceptions of OVC technology.
 - ❖ **Findings:** Bivariate and multilevel logistic regression analyses indicate that officers assigned to wear a camera were less likely to perform stop-and-frisks and make arrests, but were more likely to give citations and initiate encounters. Officers were also more likely to report OVCs as being helpful if they wore a camera and in situations where they issued a warning or citation, performed a stop-and-frisk, and made an arrest.
 - ❖ **Project Date:** November 2012 to October 2013

16. [Smykla, J. O., Crow, M. S., Crichlow, V. J., & Snyder, J. A. \(2016\). Police Body-Worn Cameras: Perceptions of Law Enforcement Leadership. American Journal of Criminal Justice, 424-443.](#)
 - ❖ **Major Evaluation/Research Questions:** Many people are enthusiastic about the potential benefits of police body-worn cameras (BWC). Despite this enthusiasm, however, there has been no research on law enforcement command staff perceptions of BWCs. Given the importance that law enforcement leadership plays in the decision to adopt and implement BWCs, it is necessary to assess their perceptions. This is the first study to measure law enforcement leadership attitudes toward BWCs.
 - ❖ **Evaluation/Research Design:** The study relies on data collected from surveys administered to command staff representing local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in a large southern county.
 - ❖ **Findings:** Among the major perceptual findings are that command staff believe BWCs will impact police officers' decisions to use force in encounters with citizens and police will be more reluctant to use necessary force in encounters with the public. Respondents also believe that use of BWCs is supported by the public because society does not trust police, media will use BWC data to embarrass police, and pressure to implement BWCs comes from the media. Perceptions of the impact of BWCs on safety, privacy, and police effectiveness are also discussed.
 - ❖ **Project Date:** March 2015