Body Worn Cameras
what we know, what more we need to know

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Technology and Policing

- Mobile, radio, vehicle, communications
- Information and records management
- Crime analysis
- Forensics technologies
- Improved surveillance including CCTV or gun shot detection
- License Plate Readers, traffic scanners
- In-car and body worn cameras
Technology is filtered through police culture and organization

Agency culture and
Officer beliefs about policing
Organizational structure
Personnel and relationships
Management systems
Accountability systems
Discretion in daily routines
Everyday operations
Existing community relations

Koper, Lum and Willis, (2015) “Optimizing the Use of Technology in Policing” (National Institute of Justice)
Body Camera Use and Research

- 2013: Up to 1/3 of U.S. agencies or more using BWCs
- 2016: Likely much more prevalent
- Political and citizen pressures – concerns about police use of force
- Funding by USDOJ
- Good news: Much quicker and stronger research base than LPR
Body Worn Camera Issues
Body Camera Issues – Seven Areas

- Impacts on officer behavior
- Officer attitudes
- Impacts on citizen behavior
- Community attitudes
- Impacts on criminal and internal investigations
- Impacts on police organizations
- Trends in BWC adoption and uses
Body Camera Issues: Officers

- Impacts on officer behavior
- Studies of officer attitudes
Body Camera Issues: Citizens

- Impacts on citizen behavior
- Community attitudes
Body Camera Issues: Agencies

• Impacts on criminal and internal investigations

• Impacts on police organizations

• Trends in BWC adoption and uses
What do we know?
What do we know from completed studies?

- **BWCs reduce complaints against police**
  - Orlando, Phoenix, Rialto, London, Isle of Wight, Plymouth

- **HOWEVER**, not necessarily the intent of public push for BWCs

- **BWCs reduce police use of force**
  - Rialto, Orlando

- **HOWEVER**, may increase force when officers have more discretion on use.
What do we know from completed studies?

- BWCS improve evidence collection and case processing (e.g., domestic violence cases)
  - Phoenix, Orlando, Essex, Plymouth, London, Isle of Wight, Aberdeen, Renfrewshire

- HOWEVER, can also impact court costs, not affect outcomes, or reduce cost-benefits.

- Officer attitudes of BWCS positive or at least improve with use
  - Mesa, Orlando, Phoenix, Isle of Wight, other (unnamed)

- HOWEVER, compliance could be a concern
Research gaps: What we don’t know

(Priorities for research)

• How BWCs impact officer discretion
• How BWCs impact citizen-police relations with communities of color
• How BWCs impact citizens’ willingness to report crime and cooperate
• How BWCs impact police accountability
• How BWCs impact court processes, costs, and outcomes
Existing and Ongoing Body Worn Camera Research: Knowledge Gaps and Opportunities.

Crom, Koper, Merola, Scherer, and Reioux (2015)

http://cebcp.org/technology/body-cameras/
## Most Common Body Camera Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Studies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of officer-citizen interactions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police use of force</td>
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<tr>
<td>Officer attitudes about BWCs</td>
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<td>Citizen satisfaction with police encounters</td>
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<td>Suspect compliance</td>
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<td>Officer discretion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community attitudes about BWCs</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation practices/challenges</td>
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Based on completed and ongoing studies