

UNIT SIX

Law Enforcement Study on Use of Body Cameras





6.0 First of it's kind Body Worn Camera Study

A. The use of force and police behavior continues to be a prominent topic in the media.

B. Several recent high-profile incidents involving police use of deadly force have resulted in increased scrutiny of officer behavior and police-community relations by the media, policy-makers

6.0 First of it's kind Body Worn Camera Study – Cont'd:

civil rights groups, and academics, leading to nationwide interest in police-worn body cameras to increase transparency and accountability.

C. While the use of body-worn cameras on police to address these issues has been endorsed by the media, government, social activists,

6.0 First of it's kind Body Worn Camera Study – Cont'd:

policy makers alike, there is scant scientific evidence to support or refute the perceived benefits or drawbacks.

D. A first-of-its-kind study by researchers from **Florida Atlantic University** and collaborators, measured law enforcement leadership, attitude

6.0 First of it's kind Body Worn Camera Study – Cont'd:

toward **police wearing body** cameras, and published results of their study in the current issue of the *American Journal of Criminal Justice*.



6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that:

- 1. **Fifty percent** support the use of body-worn cameras in their agencies.
- 2. Only _____ **percent** agree or strongly agree that **body-worn cameras would affect officer behavior** while on duty;
- 3. more than _____ **percent** were not

6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

- 4. **One-third** believe body-worn cameras would improve police officer behavior during interactions with citizens;
- 5. _____ **percent** are neutral
- 6. Nearly _____ **percent** agree that **body-worn cameras** will impact

6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

- officers' decision to use force in encounters with citizens
- 7. Nearly _____ **percent** believe that body-worn cameras will improve citizen behavior during interactions with police.
 - 8. Almost _____ **percent** agree or

6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

agree that the media will use data from body cameras to embarrass or persecute police

9. More than ____ **percent** agree or strongly agree that pressure to implement body-worn cameras comes from the media.

6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

10. Two-thirds agree or strongly agree that use of body-worn cameras is supported by the public because society does not trust police.

11. ____ **percent** agree or strongly agree that body-worn cameras will result in an increase in guilty pleas from people charged with crimes.

6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

12. Nearly ____ **percent** do not believe that body-worn cameras are an invasion of a **police officer's** privacy, but are evenly **split on whether they are an invasion of citizens' privacy.**

6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

13. Almost half agree or strongly agree that **body-worn cameras could be used by supervisors to 'fish' for evidence used to discipline officers**



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6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

14. **Fifty percent** believe that the maintenance and upkeep of body cameras will take time away from normal duties.

15. "While the general public might be enthusiastic about the potential benefits of police body-worn cameras, until this study, it was unknown how leadership in law enforcement felt...."

6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

about these cameras," "We found the **lack of empirical research** on this subject to be very intriguing, and that's what motivated us to pursue this important study."

16. The study was conducted in Sunshine County, a large southern county with 27 local law enforcement agencies, a number of state & federal

6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

enforcement agencies, and a population of approximately 1.3 million.

17. Participants were in leadership positions such as **chief, deputy chief, sheriff, major, colonel, and captain.**

18. Twenty-nine items were used to measure their perceptions.

6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

a. questions were divided into **eight perceptual domains** — **officer behavior, officer effectiveness, evidentiary impact, privacy, safety, use of force, impact on citizens, and public/media interest.**

b. Most of the departments/agencies that participated in the study **were not currently using cameras,**

6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

however, multiple departments - agencies were either planning on or considering using them.

E. A survey in 2013 by the **Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)** of 500 law enforcement agencies throughout the United States; of

6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

the 254 departments that responded to the survey, showed that only _____ **percent** reported that they used body-worn cameras at that time.


F. Those who caution against the use of these cameras are concerned with a number of _____ for both police officers and citizens.

6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

G. Open records laws in many jurisdictions such as Florida, further compound this issue.

1. _____ **still persist as to who will have access to the video** footage captured by the cameras &
2. **the policies and guidelines related to public release of videos**

6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

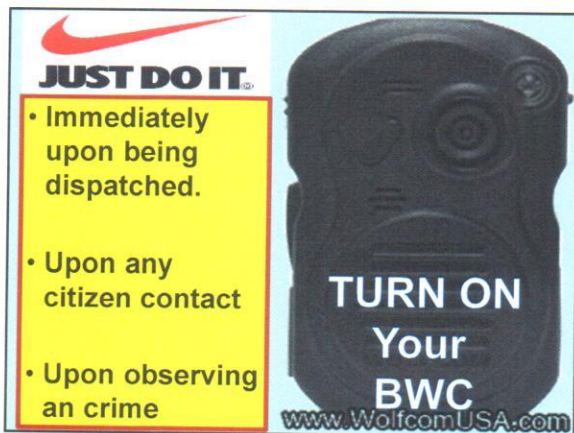
H. As of May 18, 2015 10 states (Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah, , Vermont, and **TEXAS**), **enacted laws related to body-worn cameras**, several of which directly address public disclosure and privacy issues.

6.1 Key findings from the study reveal that: - Cont'd:

I. "The _____ of law enforcement leadership are vital because it could **either make** the possible transition to body-worn cameras **less disruptive** or **situate departments/agencies in climates that are less than** _____ for something that may be inevitable.

6.3 RESEARCHERS - SOURCE

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