Increasing cooperation with the police using Body Worn Cameras.

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Page Count: 37

Publisher: US: Sage Publications

ISSN: 1098-6111 (Print) 1652-740X (Electronic)

Language: English

Keywords: Body Worn Cameras, hotspots, cooperation, accountability, utility

Abstract: What can change the willingness of people to report crimes? 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. 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. 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. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Document Type: Journal Article


PsycINFO Classification: Police & Legal Personnel (4290)

Population: Human

Age Group: Adulthood (18 yrs & older)

Methodology: Empirical Study; Quantitative Study

Format Covered: Electronic

Publication Type: Journal, Peer Reviewed Journal

Release Date: 20160908

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Digital Object Identifier: http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/109861116653723

Accession Number: 2016-38734-004
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