# SEP\_AIN3148

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EVIDENCE BASED POLICIES AND APPLICATIONS	
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#### Introduction

Evidence-based policing (EBP) is commonly recognised as making the best use of accumulated evidence to inform, and challenge policing practices, policing policies and decisions. EBP refers to an approach towards making better tactical decisions for the benefit of police departments. This essay will focus on the application of body-worn cameras in collecting necessary evidence.

#### Discussing core ideas of evidence within the policing context

Evidence-Based Policing (EBP) refers to good and solid evidence to question and notify the policing strategies, decisions and practice. This approach is used by everyone in policing. The EBP approach is also recognised, supported and collaborated on by scholars and others. Researchers can construct a better understanding of the issue by discussing and describing the nature, range, and viable reasons for the questions and understanding the situations of the changes (College.police. UK 2023). Another alternative that a researcher can adopt is to understand the impact of the policing intervention. It can be ensured to evaluate the effect of "policing intervention" by understanding the impact of new capabilities in specific conditions or exploring the reasons for "changing in policing". A researcher needs to take certain careful measures regarding the conduct of the research, critical review, limitations and the way to the conclusion of the research. The evidence can be documented and gathered cautiously so that it can be used during the interrogation or implication of the evidence.

"Body-worn cameras" have been seen as one of the most important ways to understand and provide evidence to improve "law enforcement" practices more smoothly. This is an advanced technology that can be put in places like eyeglasses or as a button on shirts that help to provide original and real-time evidence for research (Nij.ojp.gov 2023). "Body-worn cameras" provide clear and transparent evidence that resolves the problem of lack of confidence and faith. It also provides a good level of public observation to the officers during the questioning and low complaints to be registered as opposed to "law enforcement". This approach may solve issues very fastly and conveniently related to the lawsuits that conduct serious problems of certain officers' criminality. The video seized by the cameras helped to provide proof of the facts and help in a faster outcome of the crime. Instances captured on cameras sometimes provide great evidence for an arrest. Advocates often proposed that the camera worn on the body helps to understand and instrumented the nature of crime and with that, it also decreases the time of the paperwork of the officers in a crime.

#### Criminological theories and their application

Criminology is related to the scientific study of crime related to *social*, *psychological*, *and biological factors*. It is also added by research work understanding and analysing the reason behind the crime with geographical references. It requires a deep knowledge of complicated criminal behaviour and a mind to understand. As opined by Piroozfar *et al.* (2019) the main work that a criminologist does is to understand and support the scenario of the crimes and suggest proper law that can be enforced.

"Functionalism theory", "Social learning theory", and "Conflict theory" are analysed as criminological theories. Functionalism is a "macro theoretical perspective" All of society requires a social need that needs to be completed within the subsequent time and place. Society is featured by the value agreement that is represented as the law that revolves around the opposing factors of social order and public interest factors. The presumption of the functionalist theory has been very useful and productive in the investigation of the behaviour of crime and the operational system of justice (Ojp.gov 2023). This theory is specifically used to understand criminal justice and law set up earlier by society. According to Wooditch et al. (2020) the use of "Body-worn cameras" gradually helps in capturing the evidence at the correct time and place, reducing the lack of knowledge of the proof. As opined by Shadmanfaat et al. (2020) social learning theory is mainly "microanalytic" in approach, it depends on the behaviours and model of the society. It depends on the individual reactions and natural impetus as the "arena determining behaviour". The theory mainly implies understanding the crime following the perspective of society. The recording and capturing features of the technology help to understand the actions and features of the victim. As opined by, Furchheim et al. (2020) conflict theory is often related to the condition as the reflection of the situations leads to materialistic views. Society depends on the interest and wants of the plurality of the society consisting of varied values and systems that are mainly dominated by certain laws. The mechanism used here is to understand the area of the crime occurred and its situation.

## Explanation of body-worn cameras as well as its purpose

#### Explanation of body-worn cameras

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) are generally small devices that are used to collect data associated with the interaction between community individuals like suspect victims as well as law-enforced errors. As per the views of Gaub *et al.* (2020), BWCs typically deliver video as well as audio recordings, which benefit the law-enforced officials to gain transparency as per the correspondent situations. Additionally, the BWS helps in delivering transparency to the

necessary statements, behaviours, observations and various other supportive documents. Based on the views of Malm, (2019), transparency concerning the correspondent situations helps in assessing inappropriate, unprofessional as well as illegal behaviour to easily identify the convict. The BWC technology consists of a camera that is typically worn on the lawenforced officials' uniform, which can also be placed optionally on sunglasses, hat or shoulder level. While assessing the mounting location of BWCs, the enforcement officer has to consider the uniform type which can vary depending on the winter or summer season.

#### Purpose of body-worn cameras

The key motive of BWCs is to acquire video and audio records of the corresponding events. Influenced by the ideas of Wright et al. (2021), the BWCs include a high-resolution camera quality which helps in delivering a crystal clear view of the correspondent event. The law-enforced authorities can get a real-time identification of the desired events concerning the viewpoint of the appointed officials. As opined by Glasbeek *et al.* (2020), the high-resolution camera quality helps to deliver an accurate view of events that supports law-enforced officials, besides supporting the process of identifying criminals with the help of facial recognition software. The microphone applied in the BWCs is also high-tech to induce the capability of audio concerning the targeted situation. The input of facial recognition software helps in the accurate identification of criminals.

# Discussing strengths, weaknesses and ethical limitations of body-worn cameras Strengths

The application of BWCs in assessing the targeted situation includes certain benefits that help in the identification of current events to assess victims. According to Vakhitova et al. (2023), one of the major benefits of the application of BWCs includes the minimized rate of complaints. Nowadays, the rate of public complaints against law-enforced officials had significantly reduction on account of the application of these cameras. The video recording of BWCs can be further presented in the court that provides strong necessary evidence. Moreover, BWCs help in the gathering of chunks of recorded data and also can be stored at the same time. The recorded data on account of BWCs help in delivering factual information about current events and can prove to be an effective training tool.

#### Weaknesses

The application of BWCs as an effective tool for gathering necessary data might include certain disadvantages. Based on the views of Asghar *et al.* (2019), law-enforced officials accessing BWCs might prove to be highly expensive as these individuals have to undergo budget allocation for cameras, ancillary equipment, data storage facilities, and proper

training. Additionally, the law enforced that officials also need to appoint officials for managing video data while requiring necessary maintenance costs. The majority of the law-enforced officials, priorly smaller departments tend to have relatively fewer budgets. As per the views of Salem et al. (2022), the working group might even suspend the application of body-worn cameras due to the rising cost of cameras and their maintenance costs. Hence, the rise of BWCs cost and maintenance costs can put impact on the budget allocated for investigation. Certain reports suggested that the law-enforced officials have stopped the use of BWCs in respective investigations due to the unreliability of the on-off buttons. Influenced by the ideas of Feng et al. (2022), the implementation of BWCs in assessing desired investigations might include poor integration with various other IT systems. This implies that it will be relatively hard to assess data fetch investigation-oriented data or in certain cases, the valuable evidence might just get destroyed. Hence, the investigation efforts to gather valuable data will completely go in vain.

#### **Ethical limitations**

Utilizing BWCs to gather accurate data that helps in better assessment of the overall investigation process has certain ethical limitations. As opined by Berridge et al. (2019), recording police encounters can negatively affect the social recognition of law-enforced officials in the eyes of the public due to public exposure. This states that recording police encounters and exposing them in public can let law enforcement authority's deal with tough situations that can harm social status. On the other hand, victims of domestic abuse or rape are much more likely to experience trauma due to the presentation of recordings in front of the court. Additionally, the witnesses of certain investigations might fear the consequences which the criminal might cause. Based on the views of Fallik et al. (2020), the convict may fear the damage caused on account of public exposure after being arrested. The fear includes getting fired from the job, a decrease in social status and many others.

#### Evaluating evidence in the respect of crime topic

#### Stop and Search

Stop and search (S&S) can be indicated as a specific power of police to protect an individual from crime. According to Kovera *et al.* (2019), it can act as an effective tool for law enforcement officials to keep the convict safe while dealing with criminal investigations. The use of BWCs can help in *exposing the immoral ethics* of a law-enforced individual in helping convicts. However, the application of this tool in the investigation can have certain implications for the efficiency of appointed officials while affecting the moral integrity of the enforced officials. As per the views of Rios *et al.* (2020), S&S can also help in getting hold of

those individuals possessing stolen goods, weapons and narcotics. This assists the lawenforced officials to analyze an individual based on certain assumptions without arresting the convict.

#### Anti-social behaviour

Antisocial behaviour is often defined as the toxic behaviour of an individual, who is much more likely to cause harassment, domestic violence and many more. Influenced by the views of Heap, (2021), antisocial behaviour can often be categorized into three distinct categories that are Personal antisocial behaviour (PAB), Environmental antisocial behaviour (EAB) and Nuisance antisocial behaviour (NAB). As per the views of Demetriou, (2019), PAB is determined as a particular situation when an individual targets a specific individual or group. EAB implies the situation when the actions of an individual have a wider impact on the societal environment. NAB states the situation when an individual causes trouble or a nuisance to an individual community. For such cases, the application of BWC can help in highlighting the individual with anti-social behaviour.

#### **Domestic Violence**

The rising crime in the field of domestic violence leads to exploring the positive impact of "Body-worn cameras" as the victims are affected by intimate and sexual violence occurring by the partners. This camera helps to understand the crime very clearly and helps in the professionalism of law enforcement that resulted in high levels of guilties and arrest (Pcar.org 2023). The technology helps to understand the situation transparently and helps to reduce the level of domestic violence.

#### **Street Crime**

Street crimes are one of the important crimes that are sometimes missed out even from under the nose of the police. According to Adams *et al.* (2020), to maintain law and order the use of wearable cameras are the best tools to detect crime. The police usually capture the behaviour and the crime that the culprit commits. This shows a non-verbal notification to the common people that the crimes are getting detected, which resulted in the lowering of the crimes.

#### Conclusion

It can be concluded that the use of BWCs for investigational purposes can increase the efficiency of assessing the current events to point out the actual victim. Therefore, the application of BWCs in the investigation has certain benefits as it makes the investigation process smoother. However, it also includes certain limitations which involve an increase in the investigational budget due to the use of high-quality cameras.

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