

# Police-Worn Body Cameras

Cody Covert, Mid America Nazarene University



## Introduction

Police worn body cameras have become a well talked about topic on social media sites and news stations. Public outcry for officers to be required to wear body cameras comes to the surface whenever police force is used against a member of the public. Whether that force results the death of a subject or not, the outcry is still present.

When any form of police force is used, the public has questions. Those questions include, why aren't officers required to wear cameras or why isn't the camera footage available to the public? Those questions and the question of privacy come up whenever body cameras are talked about or when an incident with any kind of police force is used. Like any new equipment, there will be advantages and disadvantages to having body cameras.

## Advantages

Like any new piece of technology there are the advantages and disadvantages. Some of the advantages include:

- Lower use of force
- Lower officer complaints
- Helps keeps people honest
- Helps with witness testimony
- Records statements or events for evidence

## Disadvantage

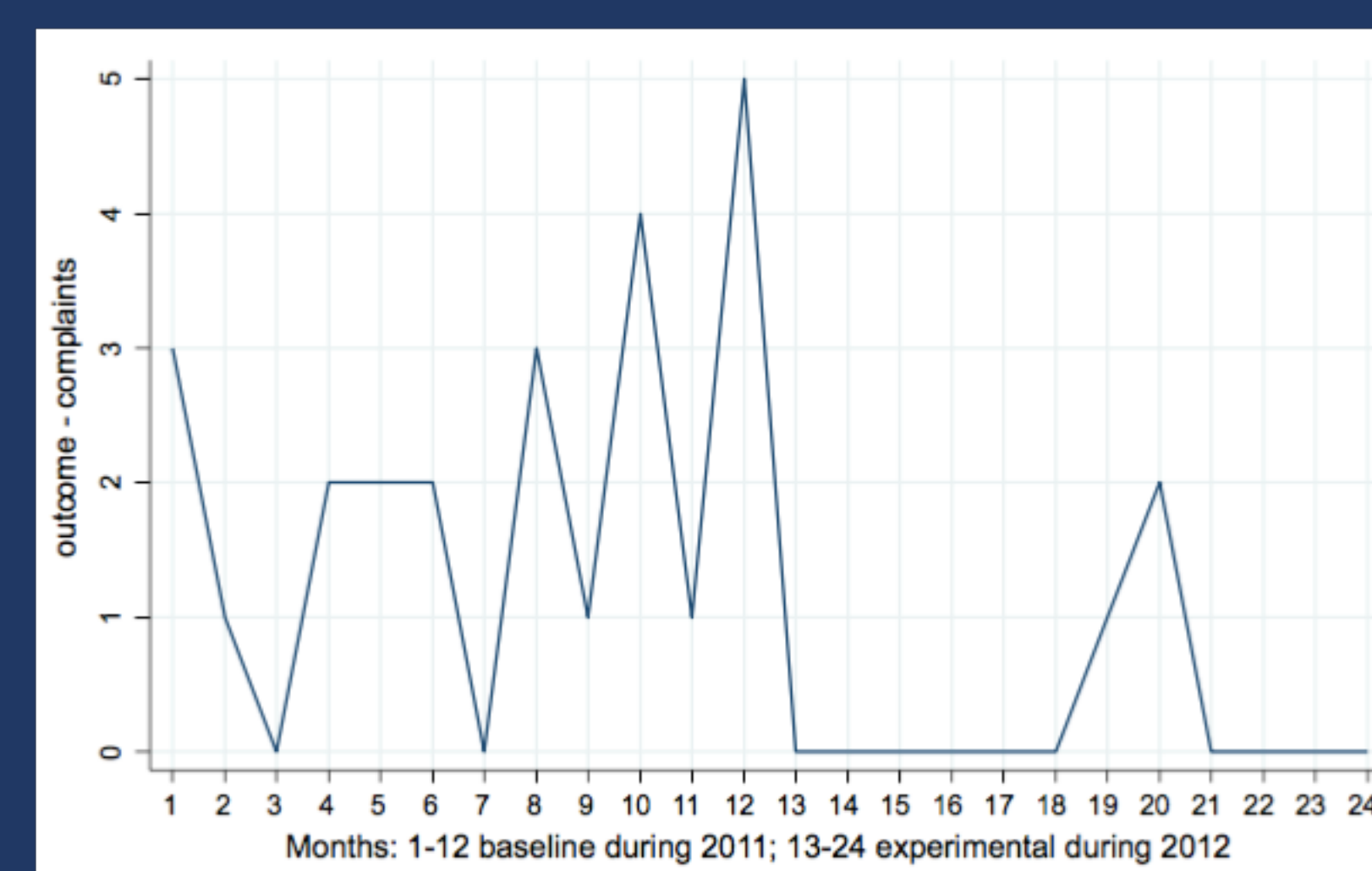
With any piece of new technology there are the advantages and the disadvantages. The disadvantages include:

- Officer privacy concerns
- Public privacy concerns
- Video can be misread when watched without all the facts
- Cost of the equipment
- Time its takes to train officers to use the equipment
- Equipment fails to work

## Camera Cost

Body cameras can be expensive when you have to buy enough for every officer. Along with the camera also comes the cost of the equipment needed for data storage and maintenance. In 2014, while Obama was president, President Obama had to request 263 million dollars to buy 50,000 cameras (Pagliarella, 2016).

## Community Complaints Decrease



## Use of Force Decrease

The use of body cameras can be a deterrent when talking about use of force on the public. Officers know they are being watched and know that their actions are being recorded. Knowing your actions are being recorded can help officers make the right decisions in certain situations.

A study in California shows that the use of force from officers was cut by 50% once body cameras were introduced. Does this mean that officers were doing something wrong? Not necessarily, but it does mean it is helping keeping them accountable.

## References

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