

Body Worn Camera Supplement (BWCS) to the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) Survey

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), in partnership with RTI International, is conducting a survey about the use of body-worn cameras. The Body Worn Camera Supplement (BWCS) to the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) Survey includes items that are relevant to all law enforcement agencies – regardless of whether your agency has acquired or has considered acquiring these cameras.

The BWCS seeks additional information that has not been fully captured by other recent surveys examining use of body-worn cameras by law enforcement agencies. The survey examines reasons for acquiring cameras (or not), alternate means of documenting officer-citizen interactions, policies and procedures about camera use and handling of the resulting video files, and obstacles to camera acquisition and use.

Please complete this survey even if your agency does not currently have body-worn cameras.

This survey should be filled out by your law enforcement agency’s chief executive or another individual who is most knowledgeable about your agency’s plans or experiences with body-worn cameras.

The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Agency Information

Please provide or update your agency’s information below, as necessary. Contact information will only be used if needed to follow-up on survey submission.

1. Agency name:

2. Agency 9-digit ORI number used for reporting purposes:

____ - ____ - ____ - ____ - ____ - ____ - ____ - ____ - ____

3. Type of Agency:

- Local Police
- County Police
- Sheriff’s Office
- Primary State
- Other (*please specify*):

4. Primary contact name:

5. Primary contact rank/title:

6. Primary contact email:

7. Primary contact phone:

____ - ____ - ____ - ____ - ____ - ____

8. Approximate number of full-time sworn officers with general arrest powers:

9. If you want to designate a new point of contact for future LEMAS surveys, please provide the following:

a. Updated contact name:

b. Updated contact rank/title:

c. Updated contact email:

d. Updated contact phone:

____ - ____ - ____ - ____ - ____ - ____

Burden Statement

Federal agencies may not conduct or sponsor an information collection, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information, unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate, or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 810 Seventh Street, NW, Washington, DC 20531. The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended (42 USC 3732), authorizes this information collection. Although this survey is voluntary, we urgently need your cooperation to make the results comprehensive, accurate, and timely. We greatly appreciate your assistance.

Officer/Citizen Interaction

Records of Officer/Citizen Interaction

First, we would like to know about how your agency collects information about officer-citizen interactions. If you are unsure of the correct response to any question, please provide your best guess or estimate.

10. Has your agency **acquired** any of the following tools to record officer-citizen interactions? Please check one response for each tool.

	Agency has acquired in any form (including testing)	Agency has not acquired
a. Body-worn cameras	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Car dashboard cameras	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Personal audio recorders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Other event-recording equipment (please specify): _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Body-worn Cameras



If your agency has **not** acquired body-worn cameras, go to #61

The next set of questions ask about your agency's experience with body-worn cameras. If you are unsure of the correct response to any question, please provide your best guess or estimate.

11. When did your agency first get body-worn cameras? Provide estimate if exact month and year are unknown.

Month: ____ Year: ____

12. About how many body-worn cameras are currently in service?

This number is an:

- Estimate
- Actual count of deployed devices

13. How would you describe the current state of body-worn camera deployment in your agency?

- Exploratory/pilot deployment
- Partial deployment
- Complete deployment for some assignments / partial deployment in others
- Full deployment to all intended personnel → Go to #15
- Unsure / Don't know → Go to #15

14. What has prevented a full deployment of body-worn cameras? Please check all that apply.

- Insufficient funding
- Lack of data storage capacity
- Lack of staff to handle video footage resulting from BWC
- Benefits remain unclear
- Lack of officer support
- Lack of union support
- Lack of supervisory or leadership support
- Insufficient time to complete deployment
- Inability to acquire sufficient hardware
- Currently vetting vendor offerings
- Technological challenges (e.g. limited upload bandwidth)
- Unresolved legal or policy issues
- Other (please specify): _____
- Unsure / Don't know

15. Do you plan to deploy additional body-worn cameras in the next 12 months?

- Yes – Please specify the anticipated number of BWCs that will be purchased:

- No
- Unsure / Don't know

16. Why did your agency get body-worn camera(s)?

Please check all that apply.

- Improve officer safety
- Improve training
- Improve officer professionalism
- Improve officer/agency accountability
- Improve evidence quality
- Improve community perceptions of the agency
- Reduce agency liability
- Reduce use of force incidents
- Reduce or more quickly resolve citizen complaints
- Simplify incident review
- Strengthen police leadership
- Make cases more prosecutable
- To receive funding that required purchase of body-worn cameras
- Response to external pressures (e.g. legislative, judicial or executive mandate from outside of the police agency)
- Conduct a pilot test to determine body-worn camera feasibility and utility
- Other (please specify):

- Unsure / Don't know

17. Which of these was the most important reason for acquiring body-worn cameras? Please check only one.

- Improve officer safety
- Improve training
- Improve officer professionalism
- Improve officer/agency accountability
- Improve evidence quality
- Improve community perceptions of the agency
- Reduce agency liability
- Reduce use of force incidents
- Reduce or more quickly resolve citizen complaints
- Simplify incident review
- Strengthen police leadership
- Make cases more prosecutable
- To receive funding that required purchase of body-worn cameras
- Response to external pressures (e.g. legislative, judicial or executive mandate from outside of the police agency)
- Conduct a pilot test to determine body-worn camera feasibility and utility
- Other (please specify):

- Unsure / Don't know

18. Does your agency use BWC footage to inform and/or develop in-service training?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure / Don't know

The next set of questions ask about your agency's policies surrounding the transfer, storage, and disposal of video files resulting from body-worn cameras. If you are unsure of the correct response to any question, please provide your best guess or estimate.

19. Does your agency have a formal policy on the use of body-worn cameras or the video footage recorded by those cameras?

- Yes
- Under development / Policy is in draft form
- No → *Go to #27*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #27*

20. Were any published guidelines from independent sources (such as the NIJ, BJA, PERF, IACP, CALEA, etc.) used in the formulation of policies and procedures regarding body-worn camera deployment, use, or video storage?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure / Don't know

21. Does your agency's body-worn camera (or related) policy cover what events to record?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #23*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #23*

22. In what situations are officers required to turn on their body-worn cameras? Please check all that apply.

- Responding to routine calls for service
- Traffic stops
- Officer-initiated citizen contact
- Firearms deployments
- Public order policing
- Policing public events
- Criminal investigations
- Special operations
- Executing arrest or search warrants
- Transporting offenders
- Other (please specify):

- Unsure / Don't know

23. Does your agency's body-worn camera (or related) policy cover transfer, storage, or disposal of video?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #26*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #26*

24. Per policy, how long must typical video files be retained?

- Files are not stored unless manually flagged
- 30 days or less
- 1 month up to one year
- More than 1 year and up to 5 years
- More than 5 years
- Indefinitely
- Other (*please specify*):

- Unsure / Don't know

25. Under what circumstances would video files be retained for a longer periods of time? *Please check all that apply.*

- Associated with officer use of force
- Associated with a citizen complaint
- Used as evidence in a legal proceeding
- Officer request
- At the request of supervisor or agency management
- FOIA or other public access request
- Other (*please specify*):

- Unsure / Don't know

26. Select all the topics covered by your agency's body-worn camera (or related) policy.

	Yes	No	Unsure
a. When/how to inform citizens they are being recorded	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Frequency of uploading or offloading video	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Officers are allowed to review footage before making a formal statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Periodic/routine supervisor review of footage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Public release of raw (unredacted) video footage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Content/objects that must be redacted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

27. Have body-worn cameras been deployed to officers in your agency?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #51*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #51*

28. Have body-worn cameras been deployed to officers assigned to traditional patrol / vehicle-based patrols?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #30*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #30*

29. What best describes the deployment of body-worn cameras for officers primarily engaged in traditional patrol / vehicle-based patrol?

- Exploratory/pilot deployment
- Partial deployment
- Complete deployment for some assignments / partial deployment in others
- Full deployment to all intended personnel
- Unsure / Don't know

30. Have body-worn cameras been deployed to officers assigned to primarily proactive / self-initiated public contacts?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #32*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #32*

31. What best describes the deployment of body-worn cameras for officers primarily engaged in primarily proactive / self-initiated public contacts?

- Exploratory/pilot deployment
- Partial deployment
- Complete deployment for some assignments / partial deployment in others
- Full deployment to all intended personnel
- Unsure / Don't know

32. Have body-worn cameras been deployed to officers assigned to foot patrols?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #34*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #34*

33. What best describes the deployment of body-worn cameras for officers primarily engaged in foot patrols?

- Exploratory/pilot deployment
- Partial deployment
- Complete deployment for some assignments / partial deployment in others
- Full deployment to all intended personnel
- Unsure / Don't know

34. Have body-worn cameras been deployed to officers assigned to bicycle patrols?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #36*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #36*

35. What best describes the deployment of body-worn cameras for officers primarily engaged in bicycle patrols?

- Exploratory/pilot deployment
- Partial deployment
- Complete deployment for some assignments / partial deployment in others
- Full deployment to all intended personnel
- Unsure / Don't know

36. Have body-worn cameras been deployed to officers assigned to motorcycle patrols?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #38*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #38*

37. What best describes the deployment of body-worn cameras for officers primarily engaged in motorcycle patrols?

- Exploratory/pilot deployment
- Partial deployment
- Complete deployment for some assignments / partial deployment in others
- Full deployment to all intended personnel
- Unsure / Don't know

38. Have body-worn cameras been deployed to officers assigned to traffic enforcement?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #40*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #40*

39. What best describes the deployment of body-worn cameras for officers primarily engaged in traffic enforcement?

- Exploratory/pilot deployment
- Partial deployment
- Complete deployment for some assignments / partial deployment in others
- Full deployment to all intended personnel
- Unsure / Don't know

40. Have body-worn cameras been deployed to officers assigned to warrant executions?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #42*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #42*

41. What best describes the deployment of body-worn cameras for officers primarily engaged in warrant executions?

- Exploratory/pilot deployment
- Partial deployment
- Complete deployment for some assignments / partial deployment in others
- Full deployment to all intended personnel
- Unsure / Don't know

42. Have body-worn cameras been deployed to officers assigned to criminal investigations?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #44*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #44*

43. What best describes the deployment of body-worn cameras for officers primarily engaged in criminal investigations?

- Exploratory/pilot deployment
- Partial deployment
- Complete deployment for some assignments / partial deployment in others
- Full deployment to all intended personnel
- Unsure / Don't know

44. Have body-worn cameras been deployed to officers assigned to drug enforcement?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #46*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #46*

45. What best describes the deployment of body-worn cameras for officers primarily engaged in drug enforcement?

- Exploratory/pilot deployment
- Partial deployment
- Complete deployment for some assignments / partial deployment in others
- Full deployment to all intended personnel
- Unsure / Don't know

46. Have body-worn cameras been deployed to officers assigned to detentions and transfers?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #48*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #48*

47. What best describes the deployment of body-worn cameras for officers primarily engaged in detentions and transfers?

- Exploratory/pilot deployment
- Partial deployment
- Complete deployment for some assignments / partial deployment in others
- Full deployment to all intended personnel
- Unsure / Don't know

48. Have body-worn cameras been deployed to officers assigned to SWAT operations?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #50*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #50*

49. What best describes the deployment of body-worn cameras for officers primarily engaged in SWAT operations?

- Exploratory/pilot deployment
- Partial deployment
- Complete deployment for some assignments / partial deployment in others
- Full deployment to all intended personnel
- Unsure / Don't know

50. Have body-worn cameras been deployed to officers assigned to any other duties not already mentioned in questions 28-49?

- Yes (*please specify*):

- No
- Unsure / Don't know

51. Select all the features present on your body-worn camera system? *Please check all that apply.*

- Time / date stamp
- Variable camera placement (e.g. eyewear, lapel, other part of uniform)
- Pre-event video buffer (e.g. the device continuously records video which is saved when the device is activated)
- Capable of recording in low light conditions
- Playback screen
- Minimum battery life
 ↳ Please specify hours: _____
- Global Positioning System (GPS) information
- Safeguards against inadvertent video file corruption, loss, or tampering
- Officer down alerts
- Officer event tagging
- Flexible placement (e.g. lapel mount, chest mount, glasses mount)
- Other (*please specify*):

- Unsure / Don't know

52. Indicate your degree of agreement with the following statements:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Too soon to know
a. BWC implementation was more expensive than anticipated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. BWC implementation required more staff time than anticipated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. BWCs provide reliable evidence of officer-citizen interactions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. BWCs have been useful in protecting officers from unwarranted complaints	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. BWCs have been a useful tool for supervising officers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. BWCs have improved professionalism of officers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. BWCs have helped identify instances of officer misconduct that might not have been identified without them	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. BWCs have improved relationships between the agency and the community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The next set of questions ask about your agency's experience and procedures around the use and dissemination of videos produced by body-worn cameras.

53. Does your agency keep a log of or otherwise track internal (i.e., law enforcement agency staff) access to video files?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure / Don't know

54. Who has direct access to view video files? In other words, who can access the files without filing a formal request? *Please check all that apply.*

- Chief executive of law enforcement agency
- Executive staff of law enforcement agency
- Internal affairs
- Head of information technology group in the law enforcement agency
- Other information technology staff in the law enforcement agency
- Officer that made the video recording
- Supervisor of officer that made the video recording
- Other sworn law enforcement agency staff
- Other non-sworn law enforcement agency staff
- District attorney's office
- Vendor staff
- Other (*please specify*):

- None of the above
- Unsure / Don't know

55. On average, how many times per month does the public request video generated by body-worn cameras?

- 0 requests → *Go to #59*
- 1 – 5 requests
- 6 – 10 requests
- 11 – 15 requests
- 16 or more requests
- Public has never requested video generated by BWC → *Go to #59*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #59*

56. On average, how much staff time does it take to produce a video requested by the public? This should be actual staff time needed to conduct retrieval, redaction, and dissemination, not necessarily the amount of time between video request and video dissemination.

- Less than 60 minutes
- 1-2 hours
- 3-4 hours
- 5-6 hours
- 7-8 hours
- More than 9 hours
- Public has never requested video generated by BWC
- Unsure / Don't know

57. Has your agency ever denied the public's access to body-worn camera footage?

- Yes
- No → *Go to #59*
- Public has never requested video generated by BWC → *Go to #59*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #59*

58. Under what conditions have video requests from the public been denied?

- The video was part of an ongoing investigation
- The video would have deprived a person of their right to a fair trial
- The video constituted an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- The video risked identifying confidential sources
- The video revealed techniques and procedures for investigations that could be used to circumvent the law
- The video would have endangered the life or safety of an individual
- Other (*please specify*):

- Unsure / Don't know

59. What obstacles have your agency encountered in using cameras or the associated video? Please check all that apply.

- Concerns about the security of the information contained in the videos
- Concerns about procedures surrounding storage of the videos
- Concerns about privacy
- Concerns about liability
- Costs were greater than anticipated
- Burden of replying to public/agency requests for video data
- Lack of public support
- Lack of officer support
- Lack of support from labor union or other group representing officers
- Cameras use has not benefitted the agency as expected
- Technical obstacles to implementation (e.g., poor video or sound quality)
- Other (*please specify*):

- Unsure / Don't know

60. Of these, which is the greatest obstacle you have encountered?

- Concerns about the security of the information contained in the videos
- Concerns about procedures surrounding storage of the videos
- Concerns about privacy
- Concerns about liability
- Costs were greater than anticipated
- Burden of replying to public/agency requests for video data
- Lack of public support
- Lack of officer support
- Lack of support from labor union or other group representing officers
- Cameras use has not benefitted the agency as expected
- Technical obstacles to implementation (e.g., poor video or sound quality)
- Other (*please specify*):

- Unsure / Don't know



Please skip to #67. Questions 61-66 are for agencies that have not acquired body-worn cameras.

Body-worn Cameras

We are interested in your agency's plans to acquire or experience considering body-worn cameras. If your agency has already acquired body-worn cameras, skip to #67.

61. What are the primary reasons that your agency has not acquired any body-worn cameras? Please check all that apply.

- No perceived need for the technology
- Lack of community support
- Lack of support from agency leadership
- Lack of support from patrol officers
- Cost of hardware
- Cost of training
- Cost of ongoing maintenance/support
- Costs of video storage and/or disposal
- Costs of managing public records request and/or video redaction
- Privacy concerns
- Liability concerns
- Likelihood of technical difficulties with camera operation
- Obstacles associated with transfer and storage of videos
- Other (*please specify*):

- Unsure / Don't know

62. What factors will determine whether you explore body-worn cameras in the next year? Please check all that apply.

- Public expectations
- Leadership directives
- Initial acquisition costs
- Ongoing maintenance costs
- Privacy concerns
- Liability concerns
- Support from agency leadership
- Support from patrol officers
- Communication or relationship with vendor(s)
- Other similar or nearby jurisdictions acquiring BWC
- Other (*please specify*):

- Unsure / Don't know

63. How likely are you to consider acquiring body-worn cameras in the next year?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Unlikely → *Go to #65*
- Very unlikely → *Go to #65*
- Unsure / Don't know → *Go to #65*

64. When do you anticipate acquiring body-worn cameras?

- Within the next 3 months
- 4 – 6 months
- 7 – 12 months
- More than 12 months
- No anticipated date
- Unsure / Don't know

65. How supportive do you think patrol officers would be if your agency implemented body-worn cameras?

- Very supportive
- Somewhat supportive
- Not supportive
- Officers would likely not have a reaction one way or the other
- Unsure / Don't know

66. How supportive do you think the community would be if your agency implemented body-worn cameras?

- Very supportive
- Somewhat supportive
- Not supportive
- Community would likely not have a reaction one way or the other
- Unsure / Don't know

67. Does your agency formally document and store civilian complaints against sworn officers in paper or electronic format?

- Yes- Electronic only
- Yes- Paper only
- Yes- Both paper and electronic records
- No- Agency does not document and store civilian complaints → *Go to end of survey*

68. Are these paper or electronic civilian complaint records easily retrievable?

- Yes
- No → *Go to end of survey*

69. How many formal civilian complaints against sworn officers were received in 2015?

70. Of the civilian complaints identified in question 69, how many involved at least one allegation of excessive use of physical force?

71. For the civilian complaints reporting excessive use of physical force, what was the total number of allegations related to excessive use of physical force? There may be more than one allegation per complaint.

72. For the allegations identified in question 71, how many were:

a. Unfounded (the complaint was not based on facts, or reported incident did not occur)	
b. Exonerated (The incident occurred, but officer action was deemed lawful and proper)	
c. Not sustained (Insufficient evidence to prove the allegation)	
d. Sustained (Sufficient evidence to justify disciplinary action against the officer(s))	
e. Pending (Final disposition of the allegation has not been made)	
f. Other disposition (e.g., withdrawn)	
g. Total use of force allegations (<i>sum of lines a through f, should also equal number provided in question 71</i>)	

Thank You!

Thank you for participating in this survey. BJS and RTI will be analyzing and disseminating information on body-worn cameras in the coming months. If you have any questions about this survey, please contact RTI Data Collection Manager Alissa Chambers at 919-541-6340 or lemas.bwc@rti.org. Information on all of BJS's law enforcement data collection and dissemination activities can be found at www.bjs.gov.