

EVIDENCE-BASED POLICING & APPLICATIONS

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1. EXPLORE AND EVALUATE THE USE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS IN EVIDENCE-BASED POLICING

Introduction

In the growing world full of technical tools and technology, most working fields are tending to the adoption of innovative applications or tools to enhance effectiveness and safety. The evidence-based policing are not associated with the evidence utilized for providing support for investigation procedures but rather associated with the evidence to underpin the potency of the investigation approaches implicated (White and Malm, 2022).

Define and discuss the core ideas of evidence-based policing

Definition

Evidence-based policing often-termed EBP is one of the effective approaches to policy-making and strategic decision-making specially used in police departments. Moreover, it has connections in association with evidence-based practices. It is major effective in times of higher levels of public scrutiny and budget cuts (Sidebottom and Tilley, 2019). In addition to this, advocates of evidence-based policing highlight the usefulness of statistical analysis, observed research, and preferably scattered controlled trials.

Discussion

The EBP However does not dismiss the traditional factors of police decision-making, it looks for the enhancement of awareness and increases the implication of scientific trials, focusing, and tracking of police resources. In order to inform and challenge policies, applications, and effective decisions the police officers and their associated team members (Huey *et al.* 2021) implicate the evidence-based policing method majorly. The approaches have come highlighted and developed by one of the greatest criminologists Larry Sherman, as he has argued that EBP is the type of approach that is associated with decision making which analyses what is the most effective and efficient way of policing, which methods and strategic plans achieve police missions cost-effectively (Sherman, 2020). In any criminological investigation, evidence is the main player and has been a vital element of investigations from the very first policing organizations that were entrenched. The evidence-based policing are not associated with the evidence utilized for

providing support for investigation procedures but rather associated with the evidence to underpin the potency of the investigation approaches implicated. EBP follows a step-wise method that involves adopting a structural framework approach to investigate any kind of criminal issues or topics. As a power, the analysis of Bryant and Bryant (2019) argues that the EBP project deals with five distinct stages, which include stating the question, collecting and assessing the already existing evidence as well as incorporating and implementing the findings.

Explore the criminological theories which underpin its use

In the growing world full of technical tools and technology, most working fields are tending to the adoption of innovative applications or tools to enhance effectiveness and safety. In the context of crime and criminal activity, in the United States, body-worn cameras are emerging and widely utilized by law enforcement agencies in both the state and local (Sherman, 2019). There are four types of criminological theories are take place in this section, which are:

Functionalism Theory

Criminal Officers use and wear body-worn cameras especially while performing duties. There are many theories that underpin the use of body-worn cameras such as functionalism, conflict, interactions, and learning theories are concisely highlighted as critical approaches created in sociological and social-psychological theory, and the benefaction of each to criminological is interlinked (Koziarski and Kalyal, 2021).

Conflict theory

They use it when they have to deal with the public in a direct and open environment. However, in evidence-based policing also referred to as EBP there is the use of body-worn cameras. In contrast to the emerging and increasing adoption, the recent evidence associated with the effectiveness of body-worn cameras is somehow found to be complicated.

Interactionist theory

It has been seen that there is conflict in the effectiveness of the body-worn camera in the evidence base policing as some studies show that body-worn cameras may be effective and others show the reverse (Pepper *et al.* 2020).

Learning theory

In addition to this, it has been observed that body Worn Video often termed BWV cameras are small, observable devices worn by police officers who are generally attached to their uniform.

Explain body-worn video cameras and the purpose of their use in evidence-based policing

The main aim of the device is to capture and gather all the informational data from the site of incidents. It helps to gain real-time context data directly from the site of the occurrence of the criminal activity. The police department provides innovative devices to all the officers who come in association with the public directly (Cordner, 2020). In order to conduct evidence-based policing, body-worn video cameras are observed to be effective and useful as it is helpful to collect real-time information and challenges associated with criminal activity. The device is very effective and it works like an independent witness as records and captures the footage of the scenario onto an internal storage device. Therefore, it can be further secured to another device in order to represent it in the courts or legal hearings.

WV cannot be utilized while normal patrolling by the police officer unless and until the operational procedures are not important and specific (Todak, 2019). This divide is also utilized to threaten and aware people of the site of incidents that are being captured. The police officer utilizes the BWV in some specific situations such as in order to provide evidence in the analysis of a criminal activity or suspected felony. Moreover, body-worn video cameras and the purpose of their use in evidence-based policing are widely spread as it helps to provide transparency. In the case of an encounter or incident, the police officer needs to submit a written report in order to justify their actions in turn to a certain situation as it acts as a crib sheet (Henne *et al.* 2022). In addition to this, police officers use a camera in certain situations such as for stopping a vehicle, arresting a criminal, finding property and land, and attending direct interaction with the public. Furthermore, BMV can be also utilized to force against people or their property and attend domestic abuse and violence scenarios.

Discuss the strengths, weaknesses, and ethical limitations of body-worn cameras

It has been observed that body Worn Video often termed BWV cameras are small, observable devices worn by police officers who are generally attached to their uniform. The body-worn camera and other associated innovative devices are the devices that come under wearable technologies, which are generally utilized for the purpose of safety and security such as in evidence-based policing and other public services, which can include recreational pursuits (White and Malm, 2022). It has been observed that the utilization of these devices has increased as compared to the last few decades and is still in the progressive processes as this advanced technology is exponentially emerging. It provides portability and due to this reason, it can deal with certain data protection perspectives.

The body-worn camera is effective as it is a mobile surveillance system that is mainly used to take images or audio of people while conducting some important investigation (Jiang *et al.* 2021). In addition to this, these devices can also be utilized by different businesses, Moreover, the business organizations taking advantage of these devices are required to be careful of data protection necessities. An analysis of the Pew Research Center survey has uncovered that there are approximately 66% of police officers and 93% of the local public are in favor of the utilization of BMV (Todak *et al.* 2021). There are some strengths, weaknesses, and ethical limitations to using body-worn cameras, which are as follows:

Strengths

The major advantages of the body-worn camera include that police officers while performing intense investigations capture the footage and footage can be utilized as evidence. This can be the most effective principle of the body-worn camera, which can be used for law enforcement. Moreover, this technological device can be used to prevent violence; in the year, 2013 a study has been performed by the University of Cambridge revealed that both police and the public become less probable to implicate violence when there is the involvement of body-worn cameras in fear of being captured. This study suggests a direct proportionality between body-worn cameras and violence (Blewer and Behlau, 2021).

Weaknesses

The major disadvantages of the body-worn camera include the quality of the recorded footage from the site of accident, as it is not possible to record like a professional due to the movements, lighting, and other factors occurring while investing in the operation. There is a possibility to record blurs or lags while capturing real-time footage. This can result in false interpretation and falsification of the investigated data. Which can make it more complicated and hard to appropriately interpret (Webster *et al.* 2022).

Ethical limitations

As body, cams are associated with personal data and due to this reason; there are some ethical limitations to using body-worn cameras. Technological devices are interlinked with and utilize face recognition technology in order to find out people by differentiating them from others, which gives safety and security by which data protection concerns grow. As per Article 9 of the UK, there needs to be a specific condition for using these technologies. There are a few specific privacy principles for using test devices such as fair and lawful processing, constricted purposes & data condemnation, liquidity, informational security, restricted ingress and individual rights. In addition to this, the best way to approach these technological devices is to consider and conduct a data protection impact assessment prior to the implication. As it will help to assess and estimate the method and whether will it meets the obligation of data protection. Data protection impact assessment will require focusing on each of the associated principles (Christodoulou *et al.* 2019).

Evaluation of the use of their evidence in regard to a crime topic

Domestic violence

The police officers estimated the utilization of BWCs in domestic violence incidents and found that there is a positive impact of the devices. Tough this mandatory need positioned the supplementary responsibilities on them, which they had to focus on and consider a strong agreement appeared that the advantages of the body-worn cameras, especially for shielding the victims and for imposing the suspects, exceed the costs.

Street crime

Body-worn cameras include the footage captured by police officers while performing intense investigations and footage can be utilized as evidence. It has been observed that over the past few years, the British police forces have started to use body cams in the context of street crimes and domestic violence in order to develop and guide the deployment of digital technologies (White and Malm, 2022).

Stop and search

The body-worn camera is effective as it is a mobile surveillance system, assists to reassure, and threatening the local public that the police officers are recording their actions, which can be detrimental. Moreover, this technological device provides greater transparency for both the suspect and the victim. Body-worn cameras help to ensure and allow police officers to display professionalism, collect evidence, and exemplify their professionalism in challenging situations (Piza *et al.* 2023).

Anti-social behavior

Body-worn video cameras are observed to be effective and useful as it is helpful to collect real-time information and challenges associated with criminal activity. The recent statistical reports on antisocial behavior in association with body cams reveal that concern of the utilization of the body is emerging in homes and businesses in the UK. A survey conducted in the year 2021 identified that a third of the population of England and Wales has seen antisocial incidents in the last 12 months. In some regions of the UK, the rate of business organizations that are inclined towards the adoption of the body cam is found to be 71% (Piza *et al.* 2021).

Conclusion

From the above analysis it can be concluded that there is conflict in the effectiveness of the body-worn camera in the evidence base policing as some studies show that body-worn cameras may be effective and others show the reverse. Moreover analyzing the reports of recent years, it has been seen that technology associated with surveillance and security can help develop strategies in order to avoid physical and online anti-social behavior.

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