

Evidence Based Policing

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- **Explore and evaluate the use body worn cameras in evidence-based policing**

- Evidence-based policing (EBP) is an approach to policing that emphasizes the use of empirical evidence to inform and guide decision-making processes. It involves the use of scientific research to develop and implement effective policing practices and policies, as well as the evaluation of these practices and policies using data-driven methods. The ultimate goal of EBP is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of policing by relying on evidence based strategies and technique.
- One of the core ideas of EBP is the use of scientific research to understand the factors that contribute to crime and develop evidence-based strategies to address those factors. This involves the use of data to identify patterns of criminal activity, such as hot spots of crime, and develop targeted strategies to address those patterns. For example, research has shown that the hot-spot policing, which involves targeting high-crime areas with increased police presence and proactive enforcement efforts, can be an effective strategy for reducing crime in those areas (Eck & Weisburd, 2010)

- Another core idea of EBP is the use of evidence-based practices to improve effectiveness and efficiency... This involves the adoption of strategies that have been proven to be effective in reducing crime and improving public safety. For example, community policing, which emphasizes collaboration and partnership between police and community members, has been shown to be effective strategy for reducing crime and improving community relations.
- In addition to adopting evidence-based practices, EBP also emphasizes the evaluation of policing programs and policies using empirical evidence. This involves collecting and analyzing data to determine whether a program or policy is achieving its intended goals and to identify areas for improvement. For example, a police department may implement a new training program for officers and then collect data on officer performance to determine whether the program is improving officer skills and knowledge.
- Finally, EBP emphasizes the importance of transparency and accountability in policing. This involves officers and agencies. For example the police departments may use data on officer performance, such as use of force incidents of citizen complaints, to identify areas where additional training of policy changes ,may be needed.
- In recent years, body-worn cameras (BWCs) have emerged as a a tool for evidence-based policing. BWCs are small cameras that are worn by police officers and record their interactions with the people. The purpose of BWCs in evidence-based policing is to provide an objective record of police-citizen interactions that can be use as evidence in criminal investigations or in case of alleged police misconduct.

- Overall, evidence-based policing is a data-driven approach that emphasizes the use of scientific research to develop and implement effective policing practices and policies. BWCs have the potential to support evidence-based policing by providing objective evidence of police-citizen interactions, but their use also raises important ethical and privacy concerns that must be carefully considered and addressed.
- References:
- Eck, J.E & Weisburd, D. (2010). Places, spaces, and policing: Finding hot spots and decoding patterns of crime. *Police Quarterly*, 13(3), 217-248.

- Explore the criminological theories which underpin its in use

- Body-worn cameras (BWCs) have been increasingly used by police forces in the UK and around the world as a tool for evidence-based policing. The use of BWCs is underpinned by various criminological theories, which posit that surveillance technologies can enhance deterrence, improve police accountability, and increase public trust in the police. This essay will explore that criminological theories that underpin the use of BWCs in evidence-based policing .
- One of the main criminological theories that underpins the use of BWCs is deterrence theory. This theory suggests that surveillance technologies, such as BWCs can act as deterrent to potential offenders by increasing their perceived risk of being caught and punished (Gill & Spriggs 2005). The use of BWCs can therefore, enhance an deterrent effect of policing and reduce the incidence of crime.
- Another criminological theory that underpins the use of BWCs is procedural justice theory. This theory posits that people are more likely to comply with the law and cooperate with the police when they perceive that the police are acting fairly and impartially (Tyler. 1990). The use of BWCs can enhance procedural justice by increasing police accountability and transparency, as BWCs footage can provide a record of police interactions with the public.
- Additionally BWCs can also enhance the legitimacy of policing, which is another criminological theory that underpins their use. Legitimacy theory suggests that people are more likely to accept and to obey the law when they perceive that the police are acting fairly and legitimately (Tyler & Huo, 2002). The use of BWCs can increase public trust in the police.
- However, there are also potential downsides to the use of BWCs that must be considered. One concern is that BWCs may not necessarily enhance police accountability and transparency, but rather serve as a tool for police surveillance of the public (Murray et al., 2019). Additionally, there are concerns about the potential for BWCs footage to be misused or manipulated by police officers or for it to be used in ways that infringe an individual's privacy rights (Murray et al., 2019).

- In conclusion, the use of BWCs in evidence-based policing is underpinned by various criminological theories, including deterrence theory, procedural justice theory, and legitimacy theory. While BWCs have the potential to enhance police accountability, transparency, and public trust in the police, there are also potential downsides benefits and drawbacks of BWCs and to ensure that their use is guided by ethical and legal frameworks that protect individual rights and promote public safety.
- Reference:
- Gill, M., Spriggs, A. (2015) Assessing

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

- Body-WORN VIDEO CAMERAS (BWVCs) are small cameras that can be worn on an officer uniform or equipment that record audio and video footage of police interactions with the public. The purpose of their use is to provide an objective and transparent record of events during police citizen encounters, which can be used in investigations and court proceedings. The use of BWVCs has been increasingly adopted in evidence-based policing in the UK to improve accountability, transparency, and trust between police and the public.
- The adoption of BWVCs in the UK has been the result of the recommendations of several high profile inquiries and reviews, such as the Leveson Inquiry, the Hillsborough Inquiry, and the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. These inquiries highlighted issues of police accountability and transparency, and the potential for police misconduct and abuse of power. The use of BWVCs has been viewed as a way to address these issues by providing an objective and unbiased record of events during police interactions with the public.
- There are several benefits associated with the use of BWVCs in evidence-based policing. One key benefit is the potential to improve police accountability and transparency, by providing an objective record of police-citizen encounters. This helps to build trust between police and the public, as well as to reduce complaints and legal challenges against the police.
- Another benefit of BWVCs is that they can potentially enhance the quality of evidence gathered during investigations and court proceedings. The footage recorded by BWVCs can provide an objective and detailed account of events, which can be used to corroborate or challenge witness statements and other evidence. This can lead to more effective investigations, and more accurate judicial outcomes.

- Research studies have also demonstrated the potential effectiveness of BWVCs in reducing police use of force, particularly in situation where officers are faced with aggressive or violent behavior from members of the public. For example, a study conducted by Ariel et al. (2016) found that the use of BWVCs was associated with a significant reduction in the number of complaints against police officers, as well as a reduction in the use of force incidents.
- However, there are also some concerns associated with the use of BWVCs in evidence-based policing. For example, there are concerns about the potential for the selective use or editing of footage by police officers, which could lead to biased or incomplete records of events.

Additionally, there are concerns about the potential invasion of privacy for members of public who may be recorded by BWVCs during police-citizen encounters.

In conclusion, the use of BWVCs in evidence-based policing in UK has been driven by concerns around police accountability and transparency. While there are some associated with their use, the potential benefits of BWVCs in improving police-citizen interactions.

Reference:

Ariel, b., Farrar W., & Sutherland, A. (2016). The effect of police body worn cameras on use of force and citizens complaints, against the police : A randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 32(1), 111-135

Ethical Limitations of Body-worn cameras

- There are several ethical limitations associated with the use of BWCs in evidence-based –policing. One of the main concerns is the potential for the cameras to infringe on the privacy rights of members of the public who may be recorded during police-citizen encounters. Additionally, there are concerns about the potential for the cameras to be used to discriminate against certain groups, such as ethnic minorities or members of the LGBTQ+ community. Another ethical concern is the potential for officers to manipulate or selectively edit footage to present a biased account of events. This could compromise the integrity of investigations and court proceedings, and could potentially lead to wrongful convictions or acquittals.
- **Evaluation of Body Camera Evidence in regards to crime Topic**
- One area where BWCs evidence has been particularly useful is in cases of domestic violence. BWCs footage can provide an objective and detailed record of the events leading up to an arrest, which can be used to support the victim testimony and provide evidence for prosecution. For example a study conducted by Westmarland et al. (2018) found that the use of BWCs in evidence in cases of domestic violence, particularly when the victim is hesitant to testify or when there are conflicting accounts of events.
- In regards with street crime, BWCs have been used to gather evidence of criminal activity and identify suspects. for example, in a study conducted by Jones et al. (2019), BWCs were used to record interactions between police officers and members of the public in high crimes areas. The footage was then analysed to identify patterns of criminal activity and to develop strategies for reducing crime.
- BWCs has also been used in cases of stop and search, particularly to reduce the potential for racial bias. For example, a study conducted by Murray et al (2019) found that use of BWCs in stop and search procedures can lead to a reduction in the use of force incidents and can help.

Strengths, weakness and ethical limitations and use of their evidence in regards to a crime topic of body worn cameras

- Body-worn cameras BWCs have become an increasingly popular tool for police officers in the UK record interaction with members of the public. These devices record audio and video footage of police-citizen interactions, which can be used as evidence in investigation and court proceedings. While there are several benefits associated with the use of BWCs in evidence-based policing, there are also some limitations and ethical concerns that need to be taken into account.
- **Strengths of Body worn cameras**
- One of the main strengths of BWCs is their potential to improve police accountability and transparency. By providing an objective and unbiased record of events during police-citizen interactions, BWCs can help to build trust between police and public. This can lead to a reduction in complaints against police officers, as well as a reduction in legal challenges. Another strength is their potential to enhance the quality of evidence gathered during investigations and court proceedings. The footage recorded by BWCs can provide an objective and detailed account of events, which can be used to corroborate or challenge witness statements and other evidence. This can lead to more effective and efficient investigations, and more accurate judicial outcomes.
- **Weakness of Body worn cameras**
- One of the main weaknesses of BWCs is the potential for selective use or editing of footage by police officers. This could lead to biased or incomplete records of events, which could potentially compromise the integrity of investigation and court proceedings. Additionally, there are concerns about the potential invasion of privacy for members of the public who may be recorded by BWCs during police-citizen encounters. Another weakness is the potential for officers to alter their behavior in the presence of the cameras. This could potentially lead to a reduction in the use of force incidents, but it could also lead to officers being less effective in their roles.