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# Police, Camera, Evidence

The impact of Body Worn Video on the criminal justice outcome of domestic abuse incidents and other trials...

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March 2017



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# Why?

## Pressure on Essex police

- High profile domestic abuse deaths
- 85-95 domestic abuse calls a day
- Wanted an evidence based approach
- Sought innovation



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**ESSEX  
POLICE**

Protecting and serving Essex

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# Theory of change

- Greater support for victims and witnesses
- Increase in positive disposals and early guilty pleas (quantity and quality of evidence)
- Accountability and confidence - officer
- Reduction in offending behaviour due to officer presence and successful outcomes

# Do BWV cameras reduce attrition for domestic abuse incidents through the CJ process?

- 308 eligible response officers
  - 80 randomly assigned to the treatment (cameras)
  - 238 randomly assigned to the control (no cameras)  
*Only 70 officers ended up wearing the cameras*
- Minimising potential for contamination
  - Sample stratified by location
  - Deployment to incidents is ‘blinded’
  - Single crewing policy
  - An analytical focus on the incident and the officer
- Outcomes
  - The proportion of attended incidents resulting in arrest, charge & criminal conviction
  - Also monitoring early guilty pleas & sentencing

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## Do BWV cameras reduce attrition for domestic abuse incidents through the CJ process?

- Launched trial - January 2014,
- 308 response officers attended 7,609 domestic abuse incidents during the 4 month trial



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So....

## Results – proportion of charges

A significantly higher proportion of treatment group incidents resulted in one or more criminal charges than another Sanction Detection outcomes

| Proportion of Detected Cases with Charges |         |
|---|---------|
| Treatment                                 | Control |
| 81%                                       | 72%     |



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## Results – proportion of charges

- Other explanatory factors were considered, and the camera effect was not associated with any particular geographic areas, demographics of officer, or risk factors
- This result was confirmed at the officer level, and at all levels of risk of incident....

## Results – proportion of charges

The results from this predictive model show the likely effect the camera would have in different cases (based on Essex data)

| Risk Assessment | Proportion of Detected Cases Charged |         |            |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---------|------------|
|                 | Treatment                            | Control | Difference |
| Standard        | 57%                                  | 45%     | 12%        |
| Medium          | 80%                                  | 72%     | 9%         |
| High            | 99%                                  | 98%     | 1%         |

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## Officer feedback

- Quantity and Quality of evidence
- Supporting Victims and Witnesses
- Accountability
- Confidence and Efficacy

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“picture paints a thousand words and a video paints a million...but if your pictures is blurry then...”

## Conclusions

- BWV could be effective at increasing the proportion of detections that were criminal charges
- Lots of implementation feedback
  - Evidence capture
  - Officer behaviour change
  - Practical limitations and low usage
- No effect for other CJ stages before detection but...
  - More likely to change with greater uptake?
  - Subject to other influences?
- Promising results for later CJ stages
- Opportunities – reflective practice



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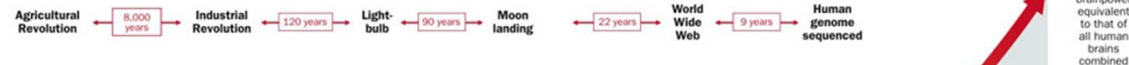
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# In London....



## The accelerating pace of change ...



## ... and exponential growth in computing power ...

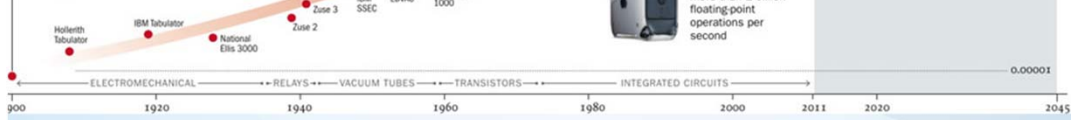
Computer technology, shown here climbing dramatically by powers of 10, is now progressing more each hour than it did in its entire first 90 years

### COMPUTER RANKINGS

By calculations per second per \$1,000



**Analytical engine**  
Never fully built, Charles Babbage's invention was designed to solve computational and logical problems



ABOUT US RESEARCH CRIME REDUCTION TOOLKIT RESEARCH MAP GET INVOLVED

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### Updates

## New Randomised Controlled Trial published on Body Worn Video

Tue 08 Oct 2015  
Frontline staff use Crime Reduction Toolkit to get ready for Christmas

Tue 24 Nov 2015  
New Randomised Controlled Trial published on Body Worn Video

Wed 02 Sep 2015  
Research Map goes from strength to strength highlighting new policing and crime-reduction related research projects

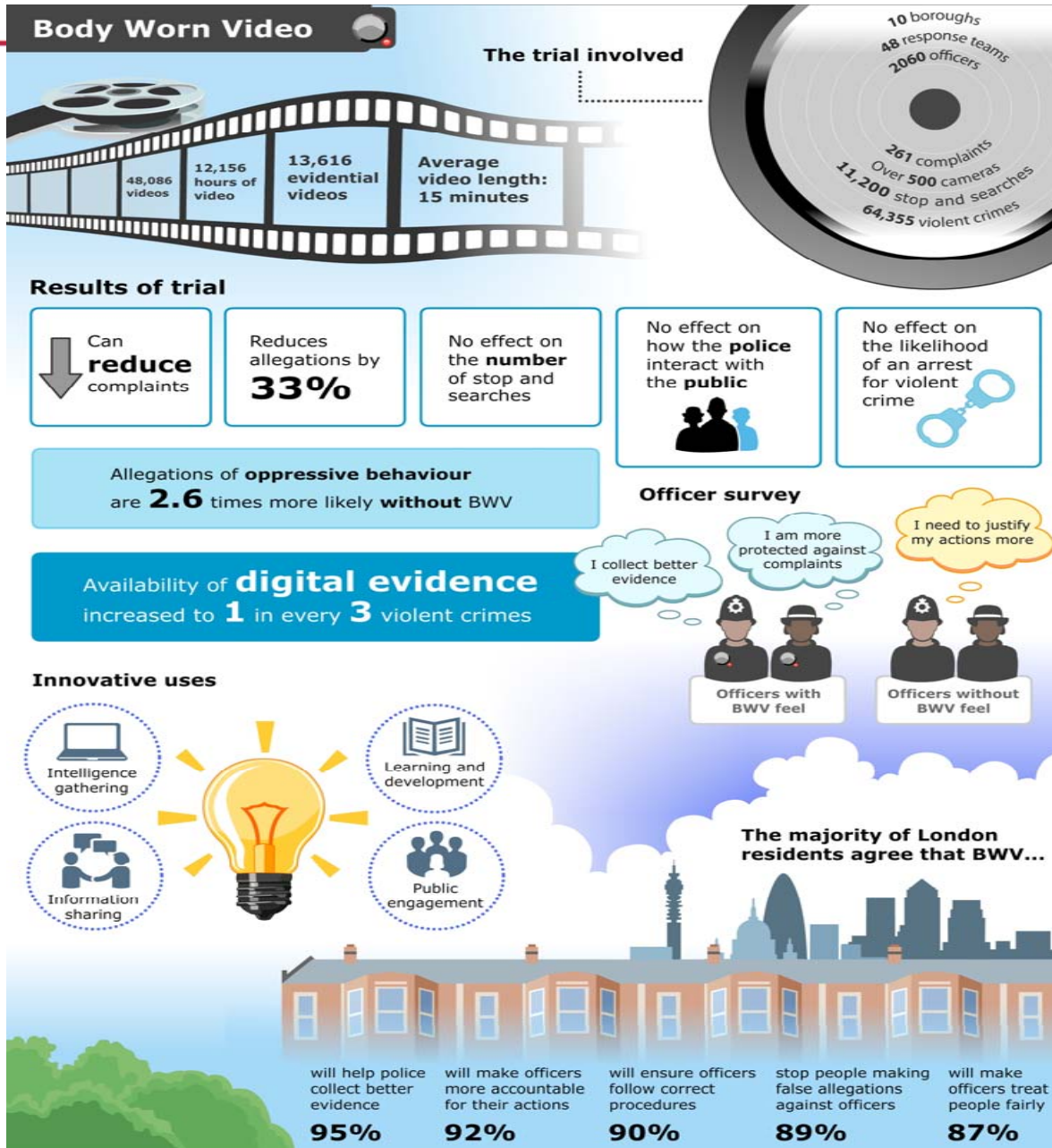
Wed 29 Jul 2015  
Police Knowledge Fund - Successful bids announced



The Mayor of London and Commissioner of the Metropolitan police today confirmed that plans to introduce police Body Worn Video to all frontline police officers are moving ahead, as a new report finds strong public support for the cameras.

The research project was a joint initiative by The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the College of Policing to build on the existing international evidence base on body worn video by carrying out an in-depth, peer reviewed investigation into the MPS' pilot of the technology. This was the largest such pilot in any major city in the world. The research was intended to provide learning that could inform the wider implementation of body worn video in future.

The evaluation used a cluster randomised controlled trial (RCT) to test the impact of BWV on complaints against the police, frequency of stop and search and criminal justice outcomes for violent incidents in 10 Metropolitan Police Service boroughs between May 2014 and April 2015.





Questions?