

Measurable Reductions in Use of Force and Complaints

Rialto Police Department (California)

One of the most cited and rigorously studied deployments of body-worn cameras produced dramatic results.

After implementation:

- **59% reduction in use-of-force incidents**
- **87.5% reduction in citizen complaints**
- **Nearly 10x fewer complaints year-over-year**

These reductions were not anecdotal. They were measured through randomized control shifts, comparing officers with cameras to those without.

The presence of video changed behavior on both sides of the interaction. Officers reported fewer confrontations. Citizens were less likely to escalate when they knew encounters were recorded.

Why this matters:

Fewer force incidents and complaints mean less internal investigation time, reduced exposure to litigation, and lower long-term liability costs.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

As one of the largest early adopters of body-worn cameras, Las Vegas Metro provides insight at scale.

Documented outcomes after one year:

- **30% reduction** in officers receiving at least one misconduct complaint
- **37% reduction** in use-of-force incidents
- Control officers without cameras saw force incidents **increase**

The study also measured financial impact.

Cost analysis showed:

- Body-worn camera programs cost approximately **\$828–\$1,097 per officer per year**

- **Over \$4,000 per officer per year saved** through reduced complaints and investigations

For large agencies, these savings scale into **millions of dollars annually**.

Why this matters:

Video programs are not just defensible from a public trust perspective. They are financially rational investments.

Faster, Fairer Complaint Resolution

In-Car Video Systems (IACP National Study)

In-car video systems have been in use longer than body-worn cameras, and their impact is well documented.

Across thousands of officers surveyed nationwide:

- **93% of complaints were resolved in favor of the officer** when video evidence was available
- Only **5% of complaints were sustained**
- In **at least half of cases**, complaints were withdrawn once citizens learned video existed

Supervisors reported that many investigations shifted from formal internal affairs cases to quick, first-line resolution, saving significant time and resources.

Why this matters:

Video protects good officers. It prevents false allegations from consuming weeks of administrative time and reduces the emotional toll of prolonged investigations.

Officer Safety and De-Escalation

Video systems do more than document events. They influence behavior in real time.

From national surveys and agency studies:

- **48% of officers** reported citizens became less aggressive after learning interactions were being recorded
- **33% of officers** reported feeling safer on duty with video systems in use

- Officers with more training and experience using video were even more likely to report improved safety

Video encourages professionalism without inhibiting officers' ability to do their job. The vast majority of officers report that cameras do not negatively impact decision-making or discretion.

Why this matters:

De-escalation reduces injuries, use-of-force reports, and long-term liability. Officer safety improves when encounters are calmer and more controlled.

Stronger Cases and Reduced Court Burden

Prosecutors consistently report that video evidence:

- Increases guilty pleas
- Reduces court time
- Strengthens evidentiary integrity

Clear, synchronized in-car and body-worn video captures events as they actually occurred, reducing reliance on conflicting statements or memory recall months later.

Why this matters:

Better evidence improves case outcomes while saving time for officers, prosecutors, and courts.

Transparency That Builds Public Confidence

Independent research consistently shows that video programs:

- Improve public perception of accountability
- Reduce accusations of misconduct
- Strengthen trust during high-visibility incidents

Video does not replace good policing. It documents it.

When agencies can show exactly what happened, speculation fades and facts prevail.

Why Departments Choose Purpose-Built Law Enforcement Video Systems

The benefits above depend on more than simply wearing a camera. Agencies succeed when video systems are:

- Reliable in the field
- Easy for officers to operate
- Secure and defensible in storage
- Built for evidence workflows, not consumer video

Departments that invest in professional-grade in-car and body-worn video reduce risk, protect officers, and gain confidence in every critical incident review.

The Bottom Line

Agencies that deploy modern video systems consistently experience:

- Fewer use-of-force incidents
- Fewer complaints
- Faster investigations
- Lower liability exposure
- Stronger cases
- Greater public trust

Video is no longer just about recording events. It is about reducing risk, protecting officers, and ensuring agencies can stand confidently behind their actions.