AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 208
(I-17)

Introduced by: Medical Student Section

Subject: Increased Use of Body-Worn Cameras by Law Enforcement Officers

Referred to: Reference Committee B
(Ralph J. Nobo, Jr., MD, Chair)

Whereas, “Police officers are more risk averse and cautious about their actions when wearing on-officer video technology,” with studies showing a 53% decrease in response-to-resistance incidents and a 59% decrease in use-of-force incidents;\(^1\)\(^2\)\(^3\) and

Whereas, Police officers using body-worn cameras are about half as likely to use force compared to officers who didn’t have body-worn cameras;\(^4\) and

Whereas, During the course of a study, police officers using body-worn cameras experienced a 47.7% decline in the number of complaints received, compared to a 7.4% decline in the number of complaints received by a control group of officers not wearing body-cameras;\(^5\) and

Whereas, After using body-worn cameras, most police officers agree that use of a body-worn camera “provides a more accurate account of an incident” and “improves the quality of evidence”;\(^5\) and

Whereas, Our AMA has affirmed that “physical and verbal violence between law enforcement officers and public citizens, particularly within racial and ethnic minority populations, is a social determinant of health” (AMA Policy H-515.955); and

Whereas, Existing AMA policy states that our AMA will “facilitate the development and implementation of a comprehensive, long-range, coordinated strategy to address issues and concerns affecting minorities, including minority health,” including the “development, coordination, and strengthening of AMA resources devoted to minority health issues” (H-350.971); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate for legislative, administrative, or regulatory measures to expand funding for (1) the purchase of body-worn cameras and (2) training and technical assistance required to implement body-worn camera programs. (New HOD Policy)

\(^1\) Ready JT, Young JTN. The impact of on-officer video cameras on police-citizen contacts: findings from a controlled experiment in Mesa, AZ. Journal of Experimental Criminology. 2015;11: 445. doi:10.1007/s11292-015-9237-8

\(^2\) Wesley G. Jennings, Matthew D. Lynch, Lorie A. Fridell, Evaluating the impact of police officer body-worn cameras (BWCs) on response-to-resistance and serious external complaints: Evidence from the Orlando police department (OPD) experience utilizing a randomized controlled experiment, Journal of Criminal Justice, 2015, Pages 480-486, ISSN 0047-2352


Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Research the Effects of Physical or Verbal Violence Between Law Enforcement Officers and Public Citizens on Public Health Outcomes H-515.955
Initiatives Regarding Minorities H-350.971
Use of Conducted Electrical Devices by Law Enforcement Agencies H-145.977
Guns in Hospitals H-215.977