

Introduction

Recent use-of-force and instances of misconduct between officers and citizens in New York City, South Carolina, Baltimore and Ferguson have triggered the demand for accountability and transparency from law enforcement.

- RPD's Body-Worn Camera (BWC) program goals include:
- Deploying BWCs to officers who regularly interact with the public in enforcement capacities
 - Improving high quality public service
 - Promoting fairness
 - Incorporating the BWC program into RPD's policy and training development

RIT's Evaluation Plan

- Goal: Track how BWC affects several aspects of law enforcement, research methodologies selected for our evaluation plan include but not limited to:
- Comparative analysis of data
 - Survey instrumentation
 - Ride-along and interview analysis

*All combined to measure the validity of BWC

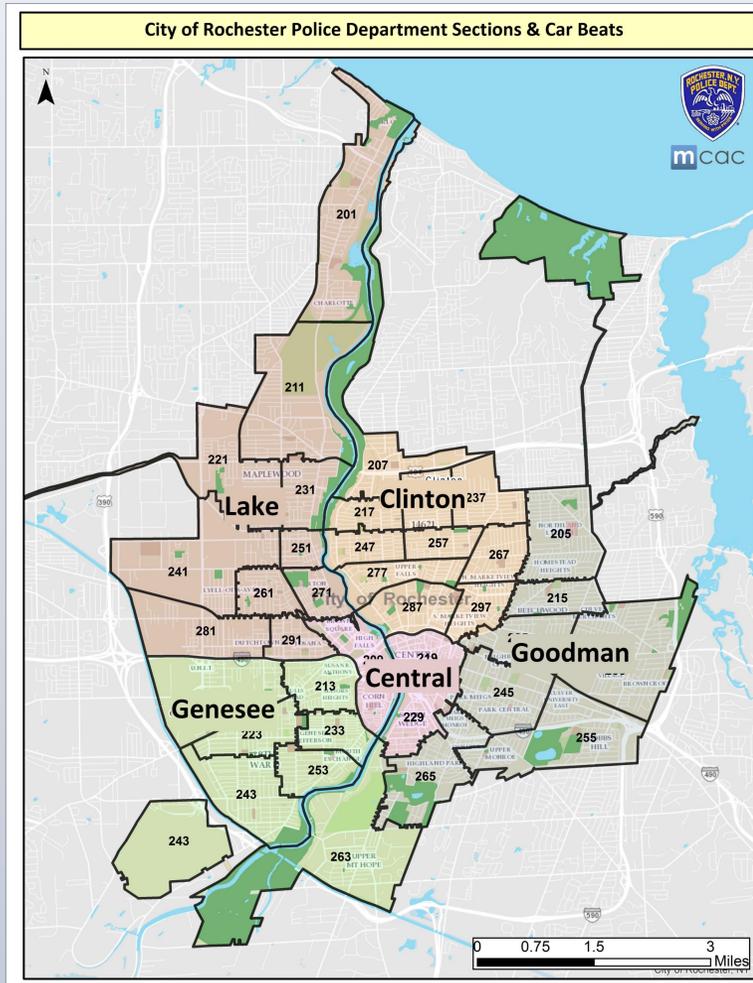


General Research Questions

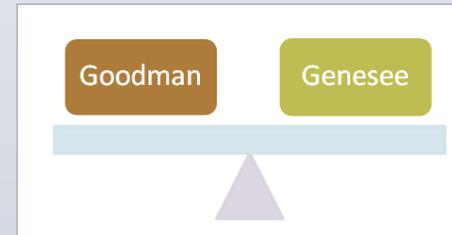
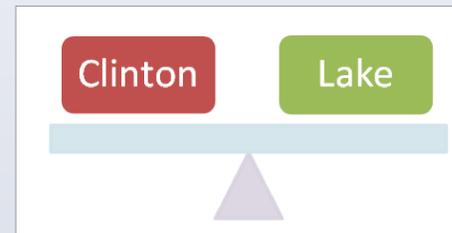
- How do the Body Worn Cameras affect police-citizen encounters?
- How do Body Worn Cameras impact police time spent on different tasks?
- What are the officers' general attitude towards Body Worn Cameras now, and how does it change after its implementation?
- How do Body Worn Cameras affect police discretion on making arrests?
- What aspects of the Rochester Police Department's organizational process could be affected by Body Worn Cameras?

Roll-out Plan and Comparison Groups

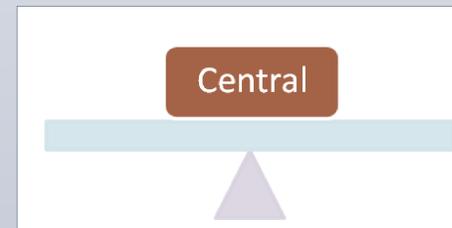
Roll Out Plan for Each Patrol Section



Comparison Groups



Independent Site



Literature Review Findings

Orlando Police Department

- Randomly selected 46 officers to wear the devices compared to 43 officers not wearing it
- 58% decline in use-of-force incidents among officers with the cameras
- 65% decline in civilian complaints against those officers
- Study showed significant reductions in the number of civilian injuries by officers wearing body cameras, and of injuries to the officers themselves

Rialto, California

- Year long study concluded in 2013
- 54 front line officers were randomly assigned to either wear body cameras or to not wear the cameras while on shift
- Use-of-force incidents by officers wearing cameras reduced by 59%
- Civilian complaints dropped by 87.5%

San Diego

- Rolled out the cameras June 2014
- Use of "personal body" force by officers reduced by 46.5%
- Complaints have fallen 40.5%
- Use of pepper spray reduced by 30.5%

Pre-study: Ride-along with Police



CPSI conducted 12 ride-along sessions with Clinton section patrol officers and supervisors. We observed the mannerisms of patrol officers and asked them questions regarding their knowledge, expectations, and concerns about BWC.

Major findings

- Officers are lacking information on the deployment plan for the BWC.
- Officers agree that technology is playing a much more important role as a policing tool, but it cannot substitute for police officers' proactive activities.
- Officers are open to using BWCs and generally believe it has some utility as a policing tool; however they think BWC won't cause a significant difference in their job.
- Officers' view of BWCs benefit: it can be used as strong proof to justify their decisions/actions.
- Officer current concerns of BWC:
 - a. The amount of time to upload/download/tag videos.
 - b. The policies may complicate policing.
 - c. The appearance of BWCs may reduce citizens approaching officers
 - d. Officers' potential loss of privacy.
 - e. Officers' potential loss of discretion.

References

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