

Abstract
Chicago Police Body-Worn Camera Project

The Chicago Police Department (CPD), in collaboration with key stakeholders and researchers, is prepared to implement a body-worn camera (BWC) project. UIC will be involved in designing and executing an evaluation of this innovative program.

Chicago's BWC project has several unique strengths:

(1) In 2015 Chicago pilot tested BWCs with 30 officers and based on the lessons learned and background research, is fully prepared for a large-scale implementation project.

(2) The CPD will create multiple coordinated teams to ensure community and officer engagement, thoughtful phased implementation, and evaluation feedback loops;

(3) The CPD will test BWCs in a wide range of community settings that vary by race/ethnicity and by severity of crime/disorder problems; this will help to identify the conditions that define successful BWC deployment and the challenges faced in different environments;

(4) Chicago will build upon two of its nationally recognized programs – the CAPS community beat meetings (for community input) and CPD's procedural justice training (to enhance officer's skills and increase the probability of BWC success);

(5) Chicago will be one of the first – if not the first – municipal law enforcement agency to test the utility of BWCs as a training tool, involving supervisors in a coaching and mentoring process that utilizes BWC footage to encourage desired behaviors during police-public interactions;

(6) Chicago has a built-in system for evaluating police-citizen interactions. The Police-Community Interaction (PCI) Survey, designed and tested as part of the National Police Research Platform, headquartered at UIC, continuously measures the level of procedural justice during contacts, thus providing a basis for CPD's new "RespectStat" accountability program and performance metrics that should help to monitor the effects of the BWC project;

(7) the University of Illinois at Chicago will independently evaluate the BWC program to provide immediate feedback for real-time program adjustments (formative evaluation) and to generate other data regarding the effects of BWCs on officers, residents and neighborhood problems (impact evaluation). These results will contribute to evidence-based decision making about institutionalization in Chicago and nationwide; and

(8) To address issues of continuation, accountability and access, the CPD is planning to develop an integrated digital content management system that will connect to a variety of source systems (CAD, In-car cameras, BWCs, etc.) and provide for the secure on-line management, distribution, and storage of all digital content from a range of component platforms.

