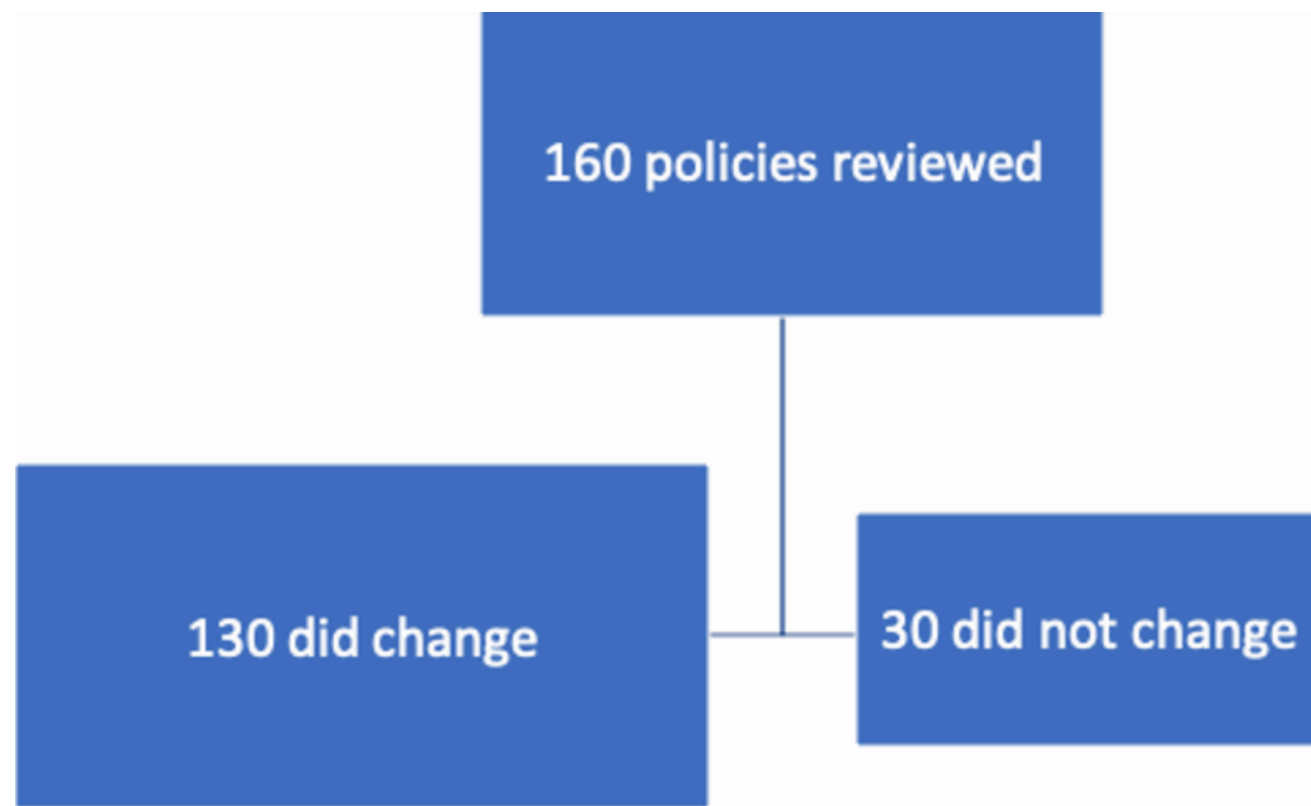


DRIVERS OF CHANGE IN BWC POLICY

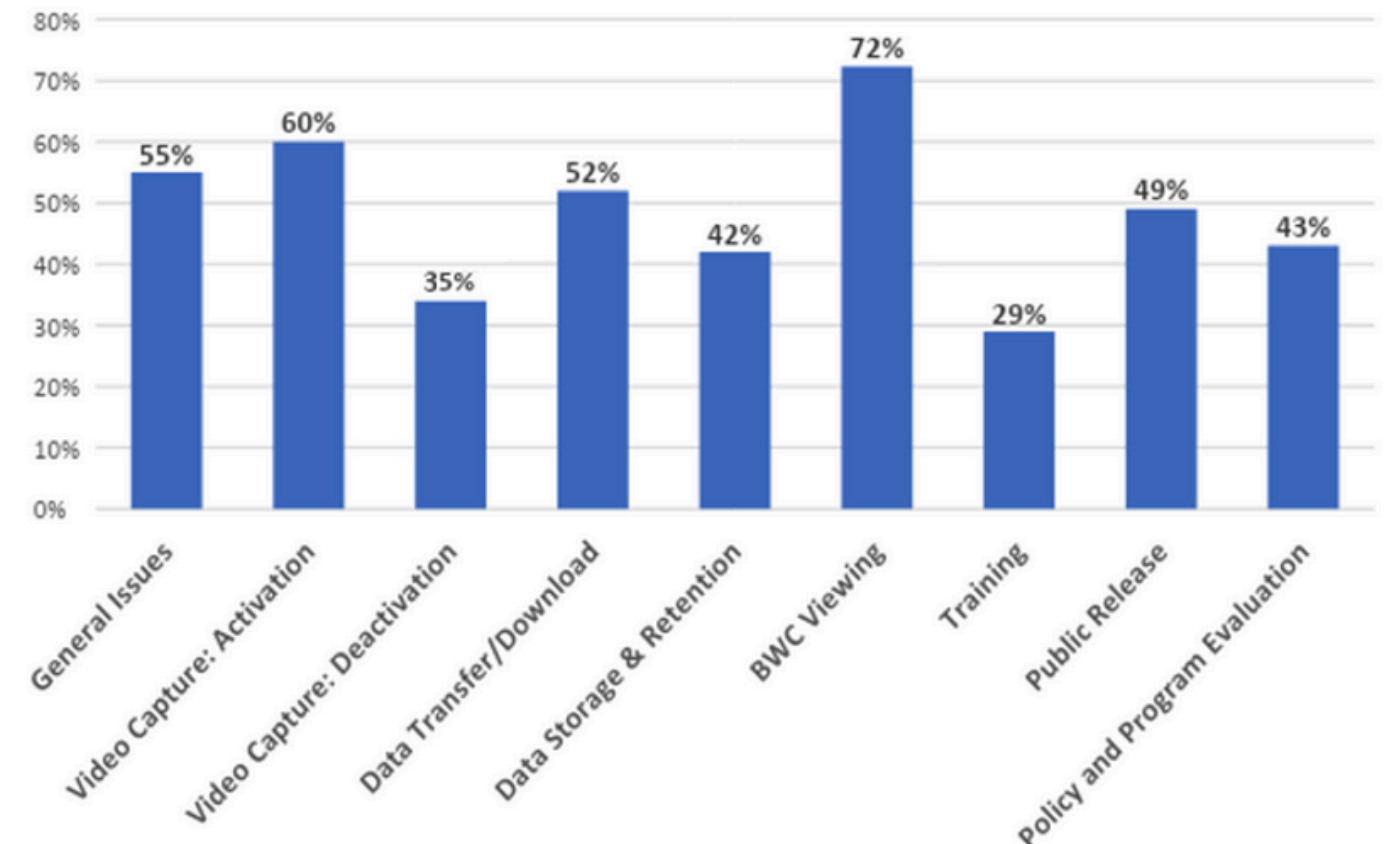
Michael D. White, Ph.D.
Genesis Navarrete
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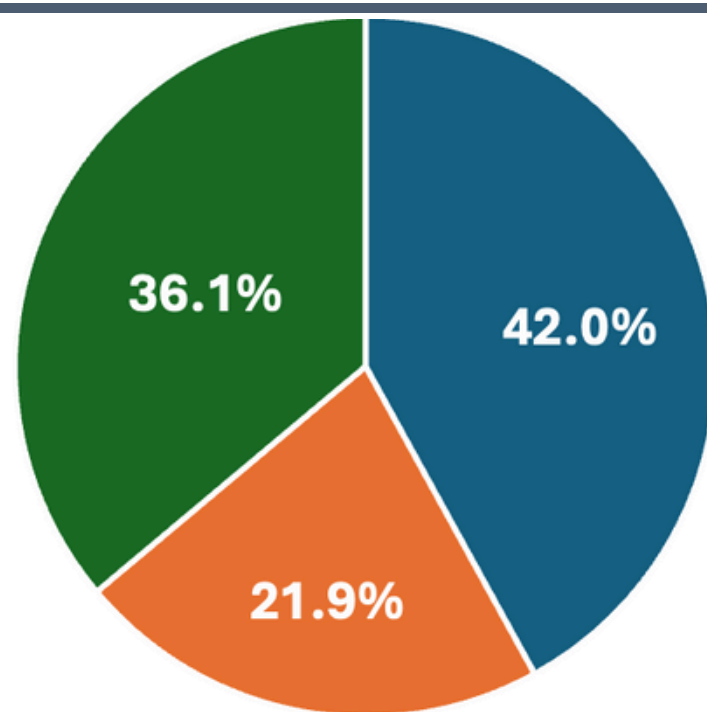
We examined policy changes for 160 law enforcement agencies that received funding through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)'s Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program (BWCPIP). We compared each agency's original policy (2016-2021) to their current (as of September 2023). In addition, 25 agencies were surveyed about the drivers of change.



81% of agencies (130) changed their policy



Every area of policy changed for 130 agencies. Change was most common in BWC Viewing (72%) and least common in Training (29%).



■ Stricter ■ More Lenient ■ Complete Removal

There were 957 total policy changes, an average of 7.4 changes per policy. Stricter policy language (42%) and removal of language (36%) were the most common types.

"A little bit of 'trial and error', as we were the first valley agency in Arizona to implement BWC technology. As things progressed with BWC usage, we learned better/different ways to do associated tasks."

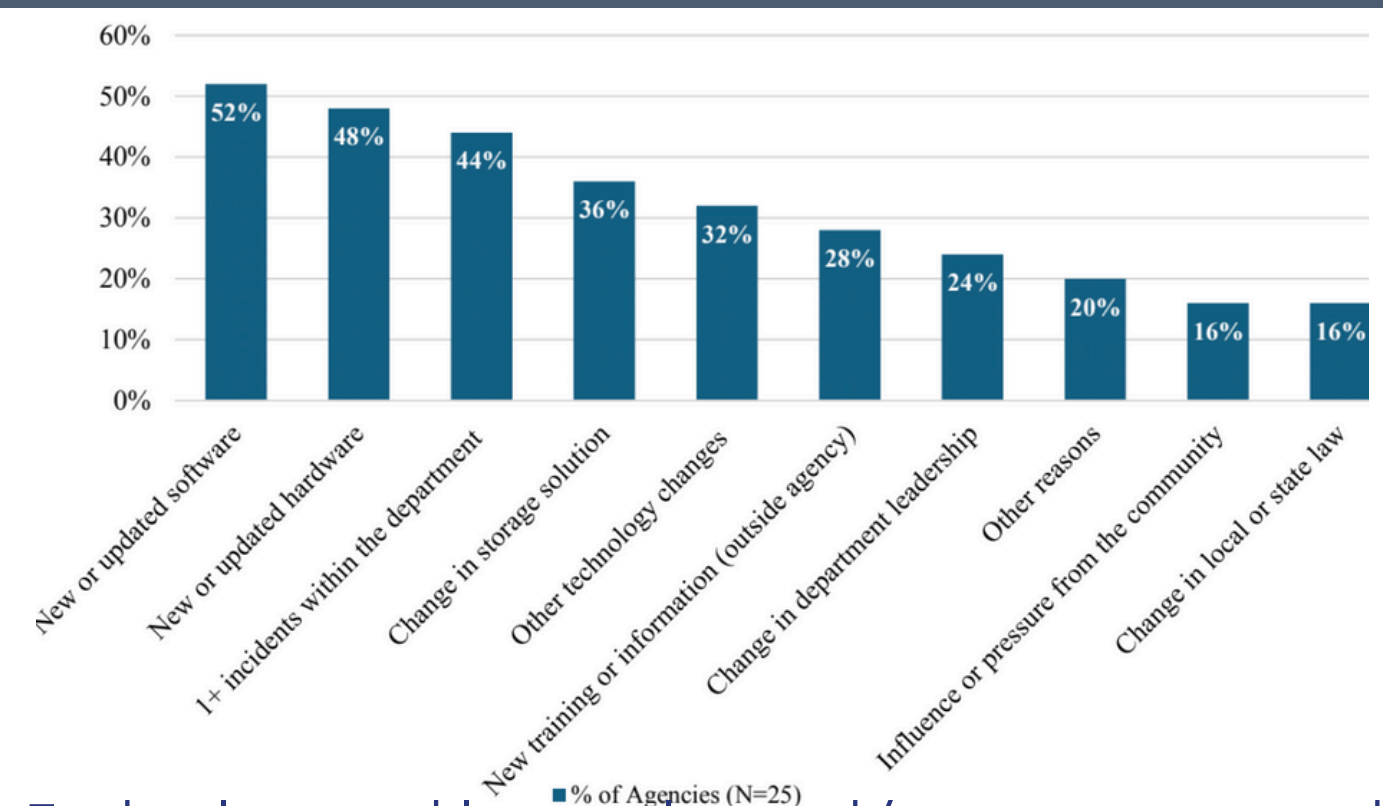


"Lessons learned and staying consistent with other city department law enforcement agencies."

"Statutorily, changes to [state] law have been the biggest driver of change to BWC policy."



"Technology is also a huge factor. As new products/features come to market, we have to change our policies to address those advances."



Technology and lessons learned/experience were the biggest drivers of change.

Key Takeaways

- Static policy will undermine your BWC program.
- Periodic policy review is necessary to reflect technological advancements, lessons learned, training, input from communities, and changes in local and state laws.
- Dynamic BWC policies are critical for program success by leading to enhanced implementation and ensuring proper use by officers.