

5 Reasons Why a Correctional Facility Should Consider a Mobile Video Solution

Mobile video solutions are becoming more commonplace in the corrections industry. While the interactions within the corrections industry differ slightly from those in law enforcement, the reasons for implementing a mobile video solution are fairly similar.

Corrections officers may have to defuse an altercation between inmates just like a police officer may have to defuse an interaction between civilians, and body-worn cameras capture those incidents and provide context.

However, it may not be necessary for a police officer to record their entire shift, but a corrections officer most likely will want to leave their body cameras on throughout their shift.

In addition to body cameras, cameras can be mounted to prisoner vans or transport vehicles to monitor inmate activity and have video evidence of a prisoner's whereabouts before, during and after transportation.

Why Consider Mobile Video Solution?

The reasons for considering a mobile video solution are similar to the reasons the corrections industry already invests in CCTV systems.

Safety

The biggest reason to implement a mobile video solution is to keep everyone safe — not just the corrections officers but also the inmates. A [2014 study by the New Zealand Corrections Journal](#) found during a six-month trial, there were nine recorded events where a prisoner de-escalated a situation when in the presence of a body-worn camera or stated they would have struck an officer if the camera was not there.

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Additionally, a [2018-19 study by the Body-Worn Camera Training & Technical Assistance program](#) compared incidents at a correctional facility in Florida from August 2017-January 2018, prior to the pilot that implemented body-worn cameras and stun guns, to August 2018-January 2019 when the weapons/cameras were introduced. The pilot found a 42% reduction in staff assaults.

The fact is cameras often deter individuals from making poor choices. Identifying contraband is another reason a body camera is useful. CCTVs have limitations, so extra mobile cameras help spot illegal substances.

Exonerate Officers

As prisons become increasingly overcrowded, corrections officers can't monitor everyone. Because of the high inmate to officer ratio, if an altercation wasn't captured on CCTV, it's often a case of he said, she said between inmates and officers.

With body-worn cameras, officers can capture an incident and the footage can be reviewed, exonerating an officer from any wrongdoing. The Florida study found a 70% reduction in allegations of excessive force after implementing body-worn cameras.

Body-worn cameras also mean the onus isn't on the officer to remember every single detail. Incidents happen quickly, and it can be difficult for corrections officers to recall the events exactly as they happened while trying to de-escalate a situation.

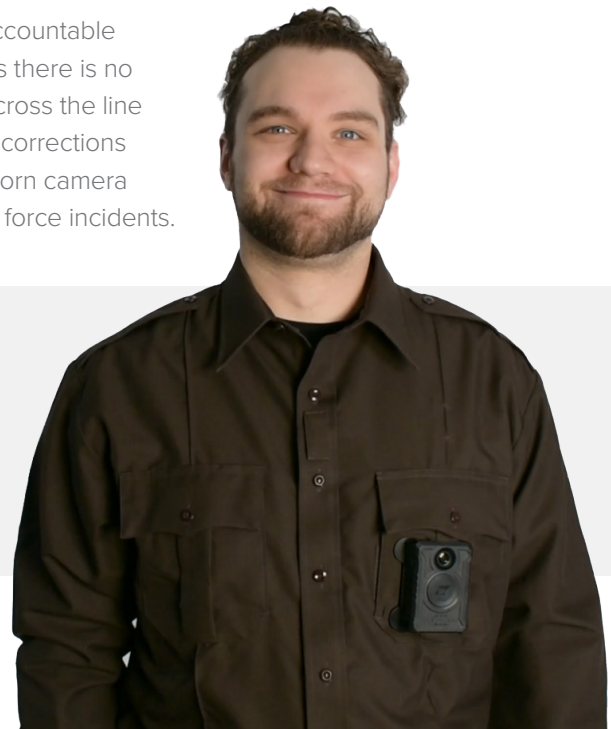
Tell the Whole Story

Everyone wants to know the truth, and body-worn cameras show exactly what happened. If there are several officers involved in a single incident, that means there are multiple points of view involved, making it easier to figure out how an incident took place.

CCTVs are stationary and only cover a small section of the prison. They have blind spots, and crucial actions could be missed if solely relying on CCTVs.

Accountability

Corrections facilities not only want to hold their inmates accountable but also its officers. The presence of body cameras means there is no denying how an incident unfolded. And should an officer cross the line regarding inmate care, then the accountability falls on the corrections facility in disciplining the officer appropriately. The body-worn camera pilot in Florida found a 51% reduction in reactionary use of force incidents.





Offset Cost with Grants

Many states are requiring law enforcement agencies to purchase body-worn cameras for their department, often offering grants to help offset the cost of outfitting an entire agency. These grants don't just include state and local police officers; body cameras for correctional officers generally are covered with these grants.

No matter the size of your correctional facility, Pro-Vision has the scalable and versatile hardware solution to fit your needs.

About Pro-Vision

Founded in 2003, Pro-Vision is a leading video technology solutions provider trusted by thousands of organizations in 58 countries. Pro-Vision solutions include vehicle video recording systems, body-worn cameras, data management and cloud-based storage solutions. Pro-Vision's transit, law enforcement and commercial partners utilize these solutions to enhance safety, increase productivity and protect critical assets.



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