

## Can Body Cameras Reduce Altercations in a Correctional Facility?

Correctional officers have a tough job in keeping the peace between inmates. Overcrowded prisons and small, confined living spaces can lead to altercations — not only with other inmates but also with officers.

Many correctional facilities have implemented body-worn cameras to capture incidents to determine who was at fault and also as a deterrent for unnecessary violence. But does the presence of body cameras actually deter inmates and correctional officers from making poor choices?

### Body Camera Studies Prove Reduction in Altercations

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. The study found no serious assaults were recorded during the six-month trial, and there was a reduction in the severity of incidents.

Compared to the 12 months before the six-month trial, there was a 15%-20% overall reduction in incidents thanks to the presence of body cameras.

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 study also found a **70% reduction in allegations of excessive force after implementing body-worn cameras.**

The fact is body cameras often deter individuals from making poor choices.

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## Correctional Officers Notice Altercation Reductions Due to Body Cameras

David Porter, the former deputy director of operations at the Maine Department of Corrections, said he has noticed a reduction in altercations since his facility began implementing body-worn cameras.

He also noted the body cameras proved there were many false allegations made about his officers from inmates.

**“Every complaint was a he said, she said situation,” Porter said. “We found the body cameras very helpful in what staff were saying about the false allegations.”**

Wyoming Honor Farm’s Chris Abernathy also said he’s seen a reduction in altercations since his facility implemented body-worn cameras.

**“I think it definitely makes the (the inmates) think twice about what’s going on,” he said. “The body cameras are very visual.”**

### 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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