



ANDREA HEADLEY

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
MCCOURT SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

BODY-WORN CAMERAS, POLICE ARRESTS, AND RACIAL DISPARITIES: EVIDENCE FROM A LARGE-SCALE STAGGERED DIFFERENCE-IN- DIFFERENCES ANALYSIS

Body-worn camera (BWC) programs rapidly diffused as a prominent accountability mechanism expected to improve police behavior. However, opposing theoretical predictions compete as to how BWCs will affect police actions such as arrests, and the findings from previous studies (mostly focusing on a single agency within unique contexts) remain mixed and particularly limited with regard to racial disparities. In response, this study conducts a large-scale staggered difference-in-difference analysis based on multi-year panel data on 3,360 local law enforcement agencies in the span of 10 years from 2007 to 2016. By employing Callaway and Sant'Anna's (2021) estimator, our analysis aims to provide more comprehensive and generalizable evidence of the effects of BWC adoption on police arrests in the US. Results show that BWC adoption had a negative effect on the total number of arrests, while having a null effect on the percentage of white or Black arrests out of total arrests or the ratio of white arrests to Black arrests. A major implication of our findings is that while closer oversight through BWCs led frontline officers to make arrest decisions with more caution, it alone was not enough to guard against racial disparities in arrests.

TIME

Monday, May 8, 2023
12:00PM-1:20PM

LOCATION

Skye Hall 173

ZOOM DETAILS

Meeting ID: 962 0242 8661
Passcode: 395819