

Measuring the Impact of De-escalation Training Using Body-Worn Camera Footage Michael D. White, Ph.D. & Carlena A. Orosco, M.A.

In order to assess the impact of the de-escalation training, we randomly selected and not trained officers. Each week from March 4, 2020 - July 16, 2020, we randomly selected 5 officers in each group, and then randomly selected a BWC video for each officer from the previous week (246 incidents). We recorded more than 140 variables for each encounter related to the call, the officer, and the citizen. We paid special attention to officers' use of de-escalation tactics.



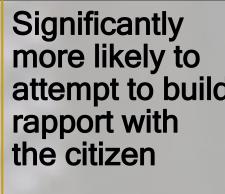


Click this text to hear an audio briefing of the findings.

Key Findings - Trained patrol officers were:

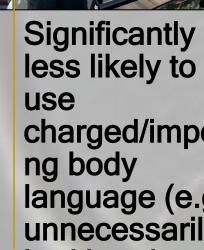


Significantly less likely to use a condescending rapport with /patronizing tone with the citizen





attempt to build fail to transfer control to another officer, ng body if necessary



charged/imposi language (e.g., unnecessarily had hand on firearm).

Significantly more likely to resolve the encounter informally, especially not issuing a ticket/citation

VX4: Officer De-Escalation Tactics

	During the interaction, the primary officer	No	Yes	N/A	not clear from the video footage
VQ21	Used friendly physical contact on the citizen (e.g., a hand on the shoulder)	0	1	88	98
VQ22	Used friendly language (e.g., "buddy," "brother," "dude")	0	1	88	98
VQ23	Explained their decision-making to the citizen (i.e., explaining their policy constraints, honesty)	0	1	88	98

Overall Takeaways



Officers assigned to patrol squads who received the training changed their behavior in significant ways consistent with the principles of the de-escalation training.



There were no differences among officers assigned to specialty units (K9, gangs, tactical, bikes).



All officers, regardless of training group or assignment, engaged in high levels of procedural justice.



