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## New Analysis: Video Evidence Has Substantial Role in Determining Outcomes of Police Misconduct

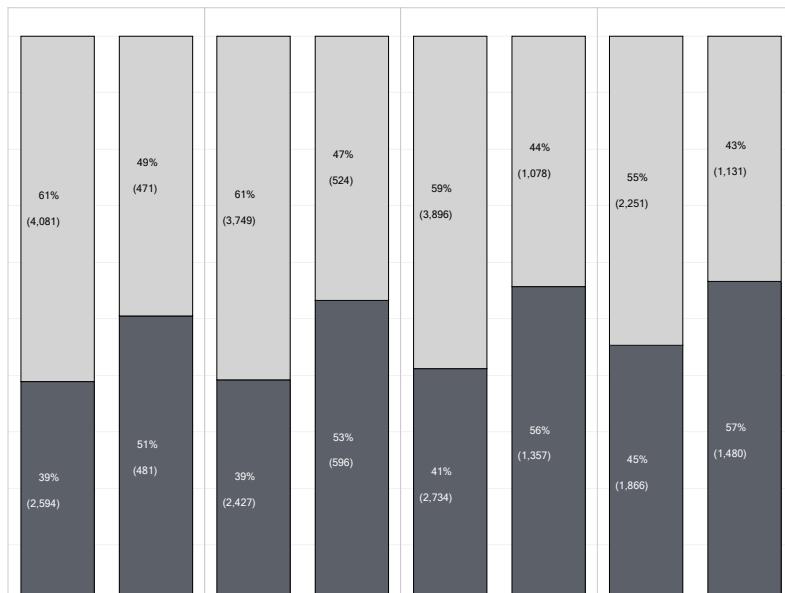
Today, the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), the nation's largest independent police oversight agency, released new analysis showing that video evidence from surveillance cameras, bystander video, and body-worn camera footage have a substantial role in closing allegations of misconduct and determining recommendations for action.

CCRB Board Chair Maya Wiley, Esq. said, ““Video can be the difference between being able to determine what happened in a complaint under investigation. This analysis primarily highlights CCTV and witness video, but it does suggest how body-worn camera footage can potentially strengthen police accountability and transparency, while also supporting officers who behave lawfully.”

The findings come on the heels of the New York City Police Department’s expanded pilot program of body-worn cameras last week in the Washington Heights and Inwood neighborhoods of upper Manhattan.

CCRB issues disposition recommendations “on the merits” when a preponderance of the evidence substantiates, exonerates, or unfounds allegations of police misconduct. Fully investigated but unsubstantiated allegations or those where the subject member of service could not be identified are classified as dispositions where there was “no merit.” **Analysis of allegations over the last five years shows that the CCRB has been able to provide a higher percentage of disposition recommendations “on the merits” for allegations with video evidence compared to those without video.**

On the Merits



The analysis shows in 2016, the CCRB closed 57% of allegations with video “on the merits” compared to only 43% of allegations without video that year. In 2015, CCRB made “on the merits” disposition recommendations in 56% of allegations compared to only 41% of allegations without video. As the chart above shows, this pattern holds true in 2013 and 2014 as well.

“In other words,” said Wiley, “video evidence helps the Board more consistently understand allegations and determine an appropriate disposition—be it recommending discipline where evidence including video substantiates the misconduct, or be it by exonerating or unfounding allegations if evidence demonstrates that the officer behaved lawfully.”

Analysis comparing substantiated allegations with and without video is even starker. **On average, the CCRB was able to substantiate police misconduct with video at twice the rate over the last five years compared to misconduct without video—18.6% compared to only 9.3%.**

#### **Substantiated Allegations With and Without Video by Year**

<b>Year</b>	<b>With Video</b>	<b>Without Video</b>
2012	20%	8%
2013	14%	9%
2014	18%	8%
2015	23%	11%
2016	17%	10%

“For the purposes of conducting impartial investigations into misconduct, the benefit of video evidence is clear. Still the CCRB echoes concerns of privacy and civil rights groups around how footage is recorded, stored, and utilized. We will monitor against abuse of access to footage that gives law enforcement the chance to tailor statements, interviews, and reports to footage,” said Wiley.

For more information, please read CCRB Board Chair Maya Wiley’s opinion piece in Time  
<http://ti.me/2q3G9CD>

For additional questions, please contact Edison Alban at 212-912-7200 or by email at [press@ccrb.nyc.gov](mailto:press@ccrb.nyc.gov).

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