



The Rialto Police Department's Body-Worn Video Camera Experiment:

Operation "Candid Camera"



TASER
PROTECT LIFE

April 29, 2013

Thank you Police Department for
protecting our city and cleaning our
streets. When I get old enough I will
enroll in the explorer program and become
a Police officer.

thanks,
Josh



↑
gang member

(6th grade)

The Problem:

- The public's **perception** of police use of force continues to be a concern
- “Too many” incidents in which officers resort to use of force
 - Officers misinterpreting the contact or aggressive suspects?
- “High number” of citizens’ complaints against police officers
 - Officers misbehaving or bogus complaints?

The Challenges

1. Reducing use of force and complaints without changing the frequency and nature of contact with the public.
2. Requires third-party systematic observation that would scientifically measure both the implementation and the outcome of the practice.
3. Cost Effectiveness.
4. Leadership – can we implement this type of research?

Boise State Football

- Past 7 Seasons
- Record of 84-9
- .913
- 2 BCS Bowl Games
- Top 25
- 86% of the players out of state
- 8.5 million dollar budget
- In comparison - University of Alabama 2 BCS titles
37.8 million



AlterNet by John Knefel

Bad Cop: 7 Cities Where Shocking Police Abuses Cost Taxpayers Millions

Bad police behavior runs roughshod over civil liberties, and costs cities millions of dollars in payouts to those who successfully sue.

March 4, 2013

Chicago = \$82.5 million since 2003.

New York = \$185.6 million in 2011.

Oakland = \$13.5 million in 2010.

Milwaukee = \$14 million past 10 years.

Los Angeles = \$125 million past 10 years.

Denver = \$10 million past 8 years.

Cleveland = \$8 million past 10 years.



Here is Why



Cameras in Police Use

- 61% of police departments used video cameras in patrol cars in 2007
(U.S. Department of Justice 2010)
- Cameras are likely to:
 - (1) improve accountability
 - (2) reduce complaints of police misconduct
 - (3) save thousands of dollars in court costs
 - (4) lower overtime costs for investigations and court appearances
 - (5) ability to collect evidence for trial
 - (6) increased professionalism by “forcing officers” to give more attention to following agency rules

(International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2004)

Do Police Cameras Actually Work?

- No Formal Evaluation until now.
- Without a controlled experiment, alternative explanations will always be present.
- Do Body Worn Cameras increase officers' compliance compared to *not* wearing cameras?

Rialto (California)

- Rialto Police Department
- Mid-sized police department in California, United States
- 28.5 square miles
- Population of 100,000 residents
- Total of 115 sworn police officers and 42 non-sworn personnel
- 54 front-line, uniformed officers

Hypothesis

- Will wearing body-worn video cameras reduce the number of complaints against officers compared to the control group?
- Will wearing body-worn video cameras reduce the number (instances) of use-of-force compared to the control group?

The Research Design

- Random assignment of all front-line officer to shifts with or without cameras.
- Taser Inc. HD cameras Recording all police-public interactions, for 12 months.
- Went live 13 February 2012, after two weeks of Phase I.

Assignment of 988 Shifts in 12 months into 'Experiment Shifts' and 'Control Shifts'

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
<u>DAY SHIFT</u>	<u>TEAM 2</u>	<u>TEAM 1</u>	<u>TEAM 1</u>	<u>TEAM 1</u>	<u>TEAM 3</u>	<u>TEAM 2</u>	<u>TEAM 2</u>
<u>NIGHT SHIFT</u>	<u>TEAM 5</u>	<u>TEAM 5</u>	<u>TEAM 5</u>	<u>TEAM 4</u>	<u>TEAM 4</u>	<u>TEAM 4</u>	<u>TEAM 3</u>
<u>COVER</u>		<u>TEAM 6</u>	<u>TEAM 6</u>	<u>TEAM 6</u>	<u>TEAM 6</u>	<u>TEAM 3</u>	

Example of RIALTO POLICE DEPARTMENT PATROL PATTERNS random assignment

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
DAY SHIFT	Exp't	Exp't	Control	Exp't	Exp't	Control	Exp't
NIGHT SHIFT	Exp't	Control	Control	Exp't	Control	Exp't	Exp't
COVER SHIFT		Exp't	Control	Control	Control	Control	

162 OFFICER SHIFTS PER WEEK RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO TREATMENT AND CONTROL CONDITIONS, EVERY SUNDAY FOR THE FOLLOWING 7 DAYS, FOR 52 WEEKS (N=8424)

TEAMS	N OFFICERS PER TEAM	DAYS	TIME	OFFICER SHIFTS PER WEEK	OFFICERS SHIFTS IN 12 MONTHS (-52 weeks)
Team 1 (days)	10	Tues/Wed/Thurs	0600-1830	3 days x 10 officers = 30	1,560
Team 2 (days)	9	Sat/Sun/Mon	0600-1830	3 days x 9 officers = 27	1,404
Team 4 (nights)	10	Thurs/Fri/Sat	1800-0630	3 days x 10 officers = 30	1,560
Team 5 (nights)	9	Mon/Tues/Wed	1800-0630	3 days x 9 officers = 27	1,404
Team 6 (night cover)*	7	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1400-0000	4 days x 7 officers = 21	1,092
Team 3 (day cover)	9	Fri Sat Sunday	0600-1800 1400-0230 1800-0630	1 day x 9 officers = 9 1 day x 9 officers = 9 1 day x 9 officers = 9	468 468 468
TOTAL	54			162	8,424

2,038 OFFICER SHIFT HOURS PER WEEK RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO TREATMENT AND CONTROL CONDITIONS, EVERY SUNDAY FOR THE FOLLOWING 7 DAYS, FOR 52 WEEKS (N=105,976)

TEAMS	N OFFICERS PER TEAM	DAYS	TIME	OFFICER SHIFT HOURS PER WEEK	OFFICERS SHIFT HOURS IN 12 MONTHS (~52 weeks)
Team 1 (days)	10	Tues/Wed/Thurs	0600-1830	12.5 hours x 3 days x 10 officers = 375.0	19,500
Team 2 (days)	9	Sat/Sun/Mon	0600-1830	12.5 hours x 3 days x 9 officers = 337.5	17,550
Team 4 (nights)	10	Thurs/Fri/Sat	1800-0630	12.5 hours x 3 days x 10 officers = 375.0	19,500
Team 5 (nights)	9	Mon/Tues/Wed	1800-0630	12.5 hours x 3 days x 9 officers = 337.5	17,550
Team 6 (night cover)*	7	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1400-0000	10.0 hours x 4 days x 7 officers = 280.0	14,540
Team 3 (day cover)	9	Fri Sat Sunday	0600-1800 1400-0230 1800-0630	12.0 hours x 1 day x 9 officers = 108.0 12.5 hours x 1 day x 9 officers = 112.5 12.5 hours x 1 day x 9 officers = 112.5	5616 5850 5850
TOTAL	54			2,038	105,976

The Cameras



Measurements

- Complaints against officers:
IA Pro = software used by 340 internal affairs and professional standards units around the world
- Use of Force Incidents:
Blue Team = web-enabled software which tracks and records all incidents, use-of-force, vehicle accidents and pursuits
- Camera Data:
Evidence.com (TASER®) = web-based video management system that tracks all video cameras evidence. 50,000 hours of data

Technology

- Crime Mapping:

Omega Dashboard = data can be imported from any records or dispatch system and quickly viewed in several formats including heat maps, repeat call locations, day of the week charts and time of day graphs.

- Dispatch:

Computer Aided Dispatch = automated communications system for receiving and dispatching all calls for service.

- Scheduling:

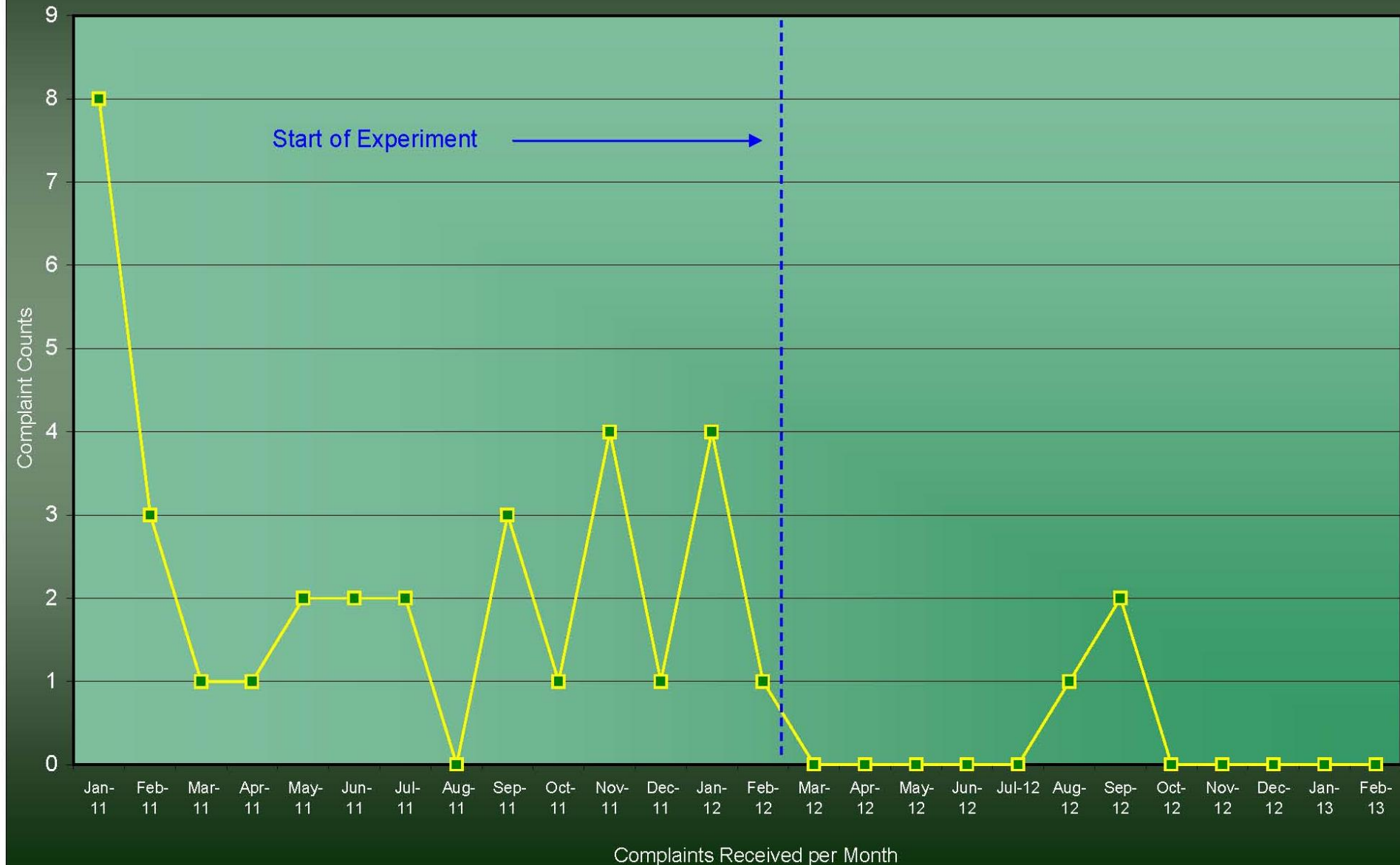
Tele-Staff = automated scheduling system for public safety includes a comprehensive workforce management platform that optimizes the scheduling, communications, and deployment of personnel.

Findings

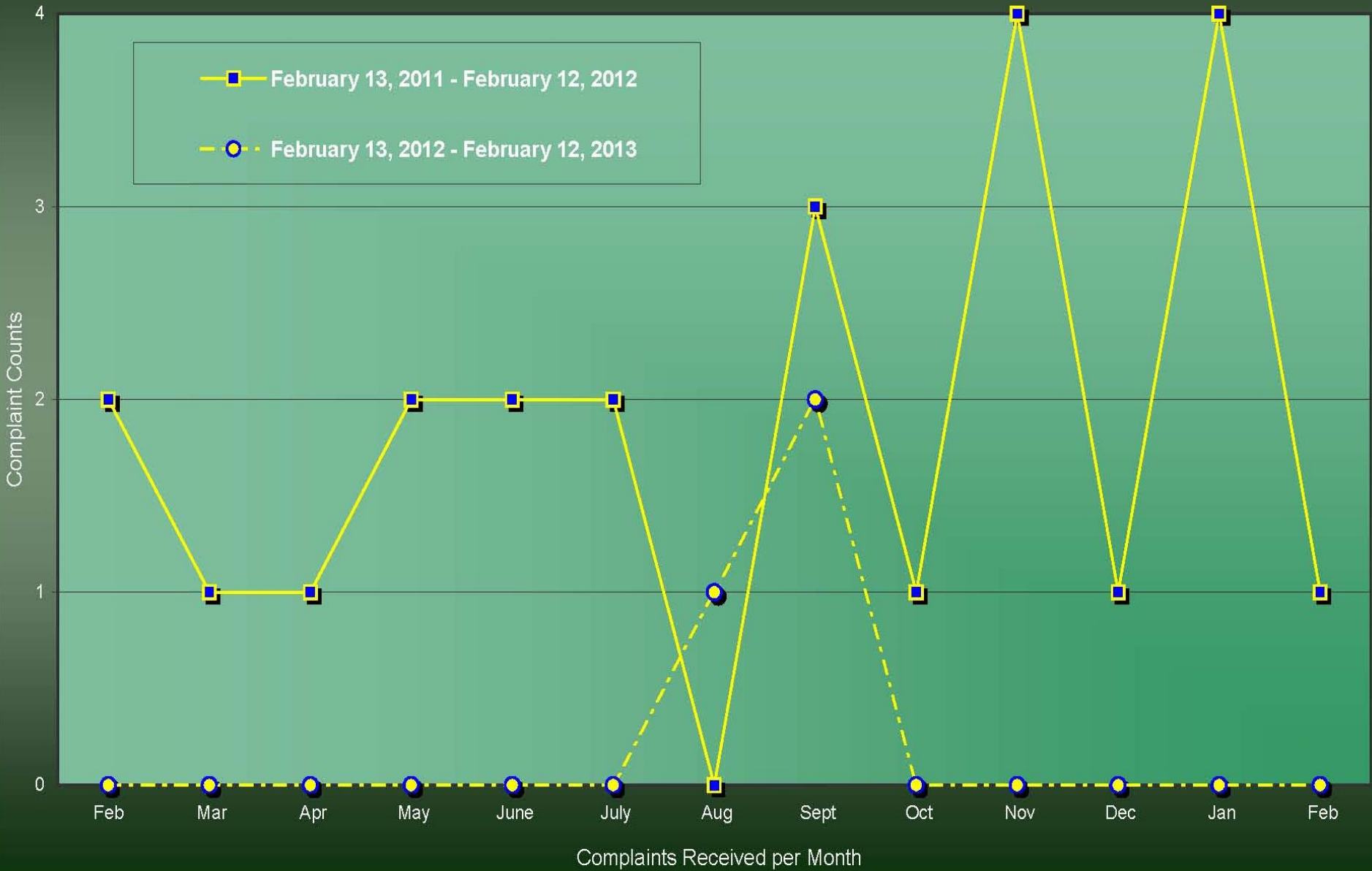
Use of Force, Citizens Complaints and Police-Public Raw Figures – Baseline and Experimental Raw Data

	2009	2010	2011	02/2012 – 02/2013
Use of Force	70	65	60	25
Complaints	36	51	28	3
Police-Public contacts	--	--	40,111	43,289

Complaints Received Against Patrol Officers at the Rialto Police Department (January 1, 2011 - February 12, 2013)



Complaints Received Against Patrol Officers at the Rialto Police Department



Officer Complaints

February 13, 2011 to February 12, 2012 = 24

February 13, 2012 to February 12, 2013 = 3 **(-87.5%)**

2009 = 36 **(91.66%)**

2010 = 51 **(94.11%)**

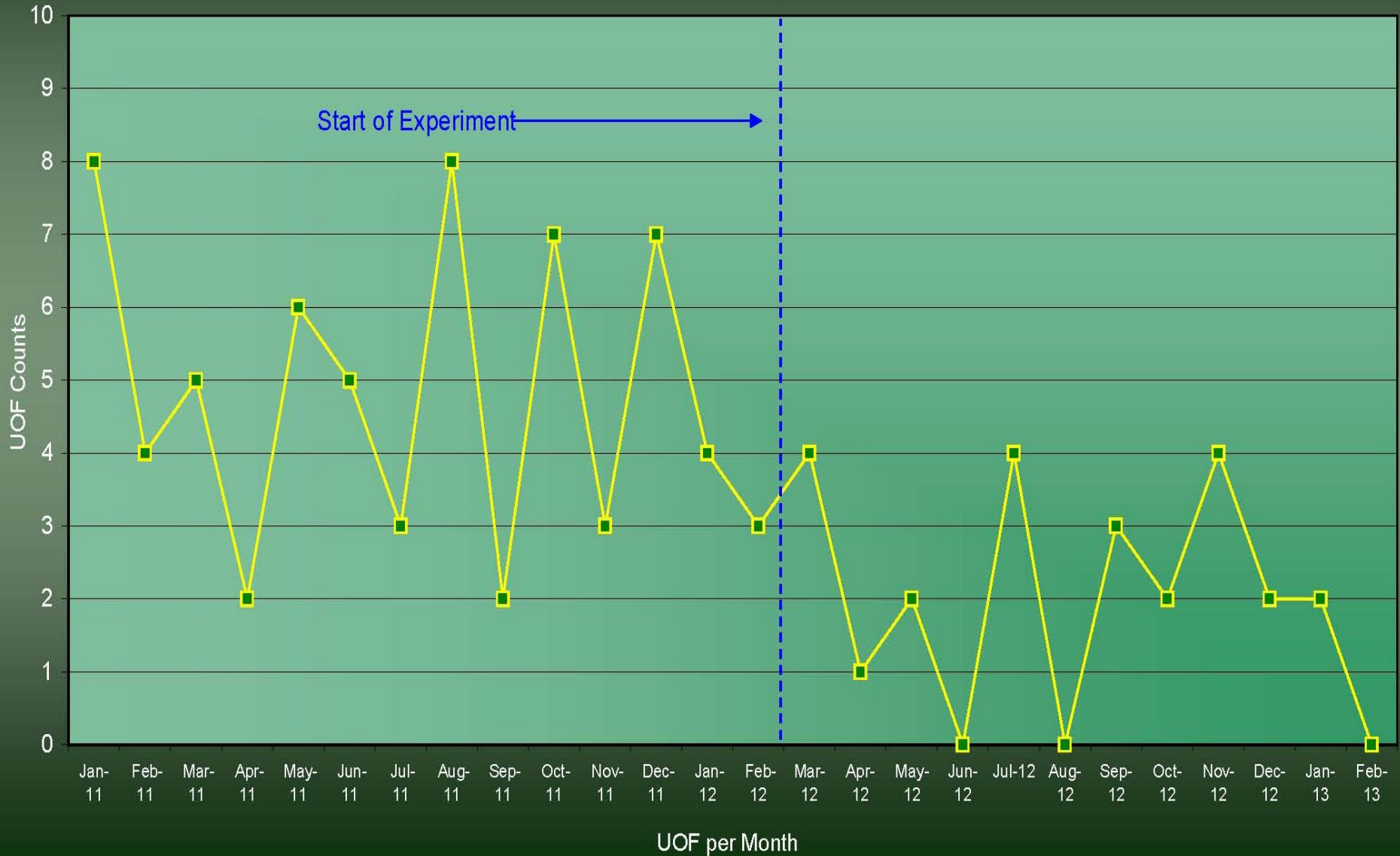
2011 = 28 **(89.28%)**

Control = 1

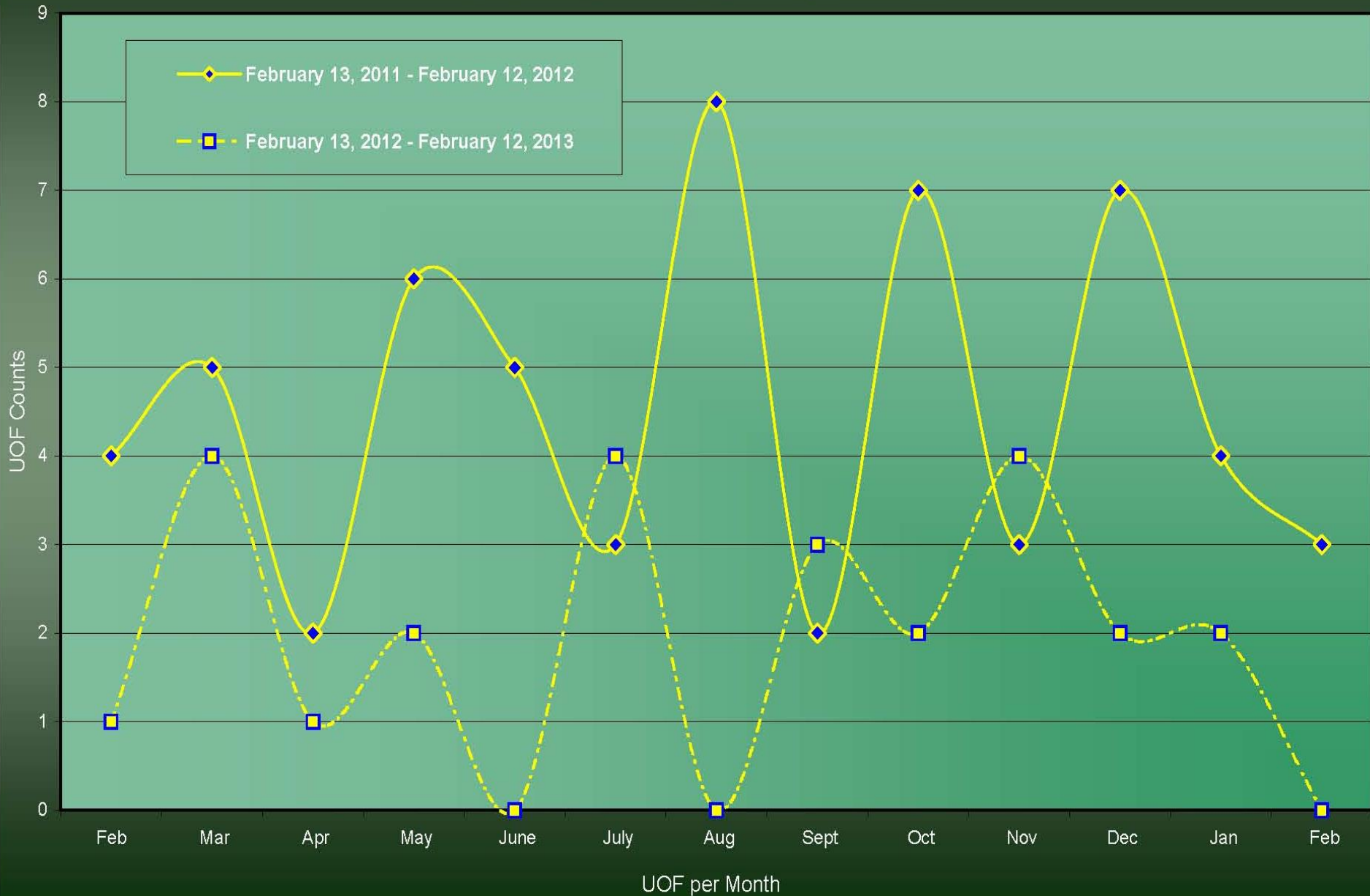
Experiment = 2

** Reduction was so large – not enough complaints for meaningful analysis*

Use of Force (UOF) by Patrol Officers at the Rialto Police Department (January 1, 2011 - February 12, 2013)



Use of Force (UOF) by Patrol Officers at the Rialto Police Department



Officer Use-of-Force

February 13, 2011 to February 12, 2012 = 61

February 13, 2012 to February 12, 2013 = 25 **(-59.01%)**

2009 = 70 **(64.28%)**

2010 = 65 **(61.53%)**

2011 = 60 **(58.33%)**

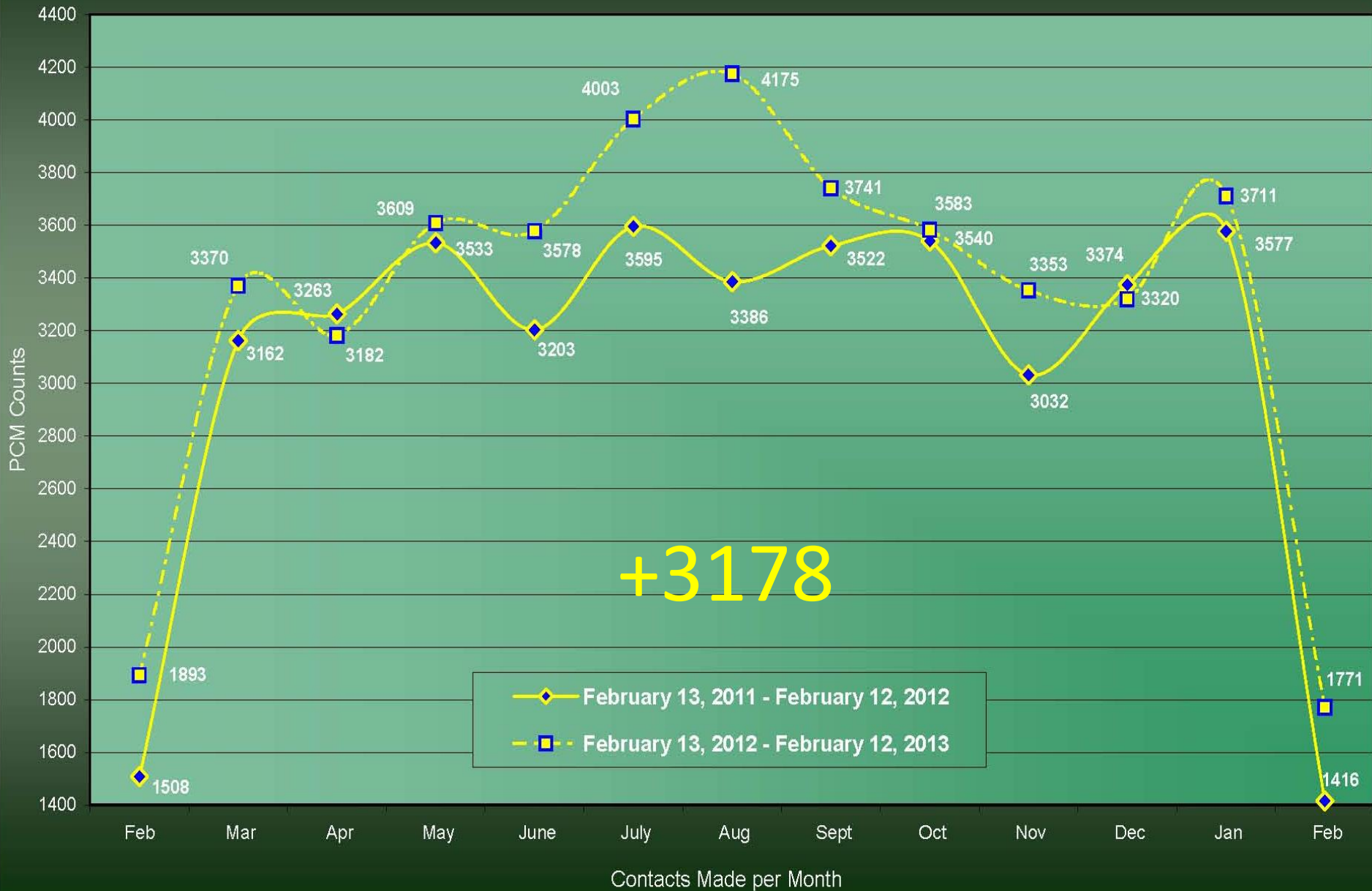
Control = 17

Experiment = 8

**This is important as it shows the reduction is the result of the cameras.*

**All 8 experiment use-of-force incidents were captured on video.*

Public Contacts Made (PCM) by Patrol Officers at the Rialto Police Department



Video File Downloads for the Rialto Police Department (Jan 1, 2012 - Feb 12, 2013)



Summary of Findings

- 1. Reduction in use-of-force incidents from 61 to 25.**
- 2. Of the 25 use-of-force incidents, 17 were control and 8 Experiment.**
- 3. Of the 8 use-of-force incidents on the Experiment days, all 8 were recorded on video.**
- 4. Reduction in complaints from 24 to 3 or from 0.7 complaints per 1,000 contacts to 0.07 per 1,000 contacts.**
- 5. Contacts increased from the previous years - no backfiring effect.**
- 6. Survey of all officers before and during RCT shows no changes in officers' self-legitimacy**

Wider Implications

- *Drilling down into the nitty-gritty of deterrence theory.*
- *Implications of self-awareness to heightened certainty of being observed in other social contexts in which allegations of wrongdoing can be made.*
- *An untapped research venue for those interested in police legitimacy and police-public relations more broadly.*

Drawbacks

- Cost – can be an issue, but consider what it might cost you in the long-run.
- Privacy Issues – you will need some guidelines.
- Defining Policy – not a drawback, but it would be better to have consistency with other agencies.

Further Study

- Convictions due to video evidence.
 - Domestic Violence Cases
 - Assaults on officers
 - Resisting arrest
- Cost savings on complaint investigations.
- Cost savings on use-of-force investigations.
- Cost savings on use-of-force lawsuits.
- Reductions in frivolous complaints.
- Cost savings on court costs.

Local News





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