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Most N.J. police departments still don't have body cams. See if your town does.

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Less than half of New Jersey's law enforcement agencies have body worn cameras, according to data released Thursday by the state attorney general's office.

The announcement comes as lawmakers push police departments to adopt cameras, and protesters nationwide demand more ways to monitor cops.

"The need for accountability and transparency has never been greater," state Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said in a statement. "I applaud the many police departments that have embraced body-worn cameras as a critical tool for enhancing police-community relations, and I urge more to follow suit."

Nearly 45%, or 239 of the state's 537 agencies reported using at least some cameras, according to the survey. There were 12,195 cameras overall across those departments.

The data shows disparities.

For example, Newark and Jersey City have similarly sized police forces that approach nearly 1,000 officers, according to the two cities' websites. But Newark, which is under supervision by the U.S. Department of Justice to reform its policing practices, has four times as many body cameras: 1,123 versus 276 in Jersey City.

That will change in Jersey City, according to Kimberly Wallace-Scalcione, a spokeswoman for Mayor Steven Fulop.

"The Fulop Administration has reexamined police department operations and is focusing on proactively targeting ways to increase accountability and safety. With the purchase of 700 additional body cameras, going forward all of the city's over 900 officers will be required to wear body cameras on every shift," Wallace-Scalcione said in a prepared statement.

Nine of the state's 20 largest communities don't have any body cameras: Paterson, Toms River, Clifton, Union City, New Brunswick, Lakewood, Hoboken, West New York and Hackensack.

Paterson previously announced it was in the process of getting them, and other departments may be moving in the same direction. The State Police finished giving cameras to troopers on the road last month, officials said.

Some departments have said paying for cameras is a challenge.

Legislative researchers estimate one camera can range from \$120 to nearly \$2,000, and storage costs can be even more burdensome. Edison previously said it pays \$179,000 a year to lease cameras and store footage.

While Grewal's office sets body camera rules, last updated in 2015, lawmakers have considerable power over how widely they're used.

Two bills that would generally require officers to wear cameras (S1163) and mandate footage of police force be stored for at least three years (A4312) were approved earlier this year and are now before Gov. Phil Murphy.

A spokesman previously declined to say if the governor would sign them.

Grewal's office has committed to releasing footage of deadly encounters within weeks, and investigators recently divulged video of a man dying in Trenton police custody and an Asbury Park officer shooting and killing a man last month.

However, a Gloucester County SWAT Team apparently did not have cameras when they shot and killed a man during a hostage standoff last year, and Grewal's office has since been sued to release existing surveillance footage.

While Thursday's survey did not include federal agencies, it did cover state, county and local departments, including those working on college campuses, school districts and bridges, according to a press release.

NJ Advance Media staff writer Matt Gray contributed to this report.