



Accountability, and Oversight of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): Public Safety Benefits of Unmasking, Body-Worn Cameras, and Identification

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Executive Summary

The U.S. Immigration Policy Center (USIPC) at UC San Diego ran a series of survey experiments on nationally representative and California-based samples to uncover the public safety implications of unmasking Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, requiring body-worn cameras, and new identification rules requiring agents to clearly display their agency, name, and badge number. Recent polling shows that the majority of Americans think that federal immigration enforcement efforts have gone too far and are supportive of a broad suite of reforms. Our findings provide causal evidence that affirms recent polling. As Congress negotiates reform, justice, accountability, and oversight measures related to federal immigration enforcement, our results make clear that unmasking ICE agents, requiring body-worn cameras, and requiring agents to clearly display insignia that includes their agency, name, and badge number will have significant public safety benefits. However, to be clear, this is not to suggest that these measures alone are sufficient. Indeed, it is likely that rigorous social science research would show the public safety benefits of an even broader suite of reforms.

Unmasking ICE

When shown an image of an ICE agent:

- wearing a mask and holding a weapon and an identical image of the ICE agent not wearing a mask, the overwhelming majority of respondents, **86 percent**, **said that the image of the agent with the mask makes them more fearful that law enforcement would use violence against them**
- wearing a mask and holding a weapon and an identical image of the ICE agent not wearing a mask, the overwhelming majority of respondents, **85 percent**, **said that the image of the agent with the mask is more likely to abuse their power**
- wearing a mask and holding a weapon and an identical image of the ICE agent not wearing a mask, the large majority of respondents, **72 percent**, **said that the image of the agent with the mask is less likely to be held accountable if they abuse their power**
- wearing a mask and standing in a parking lot approximately 15 feet away from the viewer and an identical image of the ICE agent not wearing a mask, an

overwhelming majority of survey respondents, **91 percent**, said that the image of the ICE agent who is not wearing a mask is the one they are more likely to ask for help if they were the victim of a crime

- wearing a mask and standing in a parking lot approximately 15 feet away from the viewer and an identical image of the ICE agent not wearing a mask, an overwhelming majority of survey respondents, **87 percent**, said that the image of the ICE agent who is not wearing a mask is the one they are more likely to ask for help if they witnessed a crime
- holding a badge and wearing a mask and an identical image of the ICE agent not wearing a mask, a full **78 percent of survey respondents** said that the image of the ICE agent wearing a mask is more likely to represent a person impersonating a law enforcement officer
- holding a badge and wearing a mask and an identical image of the ICE agent not wearing a mask, the overwhelming majority of respondents, **85 percent**, said that the image of the law enforcement officer not wearing a mask is more likely to represent a person whose commands they would obey

Body-Worn Cameras

When shown pairs of profiles of law enforcement officers that are identical except one officer is an ICE agent with a body-worn camera and the other is an ICE agent without a body-worn camera:

- an overwhelming majority of survey respondents, **93 percent**, said that they trust the law enforcement officer with the body-worn camera to comply with the law in the course of their official duties
- an overwhelming majority of survey respondents, **85 percent**, said that the law enforcement officer without the body-worn camera is more likely to violate the constitution in the course of their law enforcement duties
- an overwhelming majority of survey respondents, **88 percent**, said that the law enforcement officer without the body-worn camera is more likely to commit violence against them

Visibly Displaying Identification

- A full **72 percent** of survey respondents said that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that they are **less likely to trust** people claiming to be law enforcement when they are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number
- Over two-thirds of survey respondents, **68 percent**, said that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that they are **less likely to obey the commands of people claiming to be law enforcement** when they are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number
- A strong majority of survey respondents, **60 percent**, said that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that law enforcement officers in plain clothes who do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number are **more likely to abuse their power**
- A majority of survey respondents, **53 percent**, said that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that law enforcement officers in plain clothes who do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number are **less likely to be held accountable** if they abuse their power
- Over two-thirds of survey respondents, **68 percent**, said that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that it is **more difficult to report law enforcement officers who violate the law** when they are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number
- Nearly three-fourths of survey respondents, **72 percent**, said that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that when law enforcement officers are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, it becomes **easier for others to impersonate law enforcement**
- Nearly two-thirds of survey respondents, **63 percent**, said that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that when law enforcement officers are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, they get confused about who the real law enforcement officers are

Introduction

Since the beginning of Donald J. Trump’s second term in office, immigration enforcement has intensified across the country. For example, “Operation Metro Surge” deployed several thousand federal agents to Minnesota and resulted in three shootings in January 2026 alone, including the fatal shootings of two U.S. citizens: poet Renée Nicole Macklin Good on January 7 and ICU nurse Alex Pretti on January 24. As a result of these and other incidents of violence, attention has turned to reform, justice, accountability, and oversight measures within the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agencies.

On February 4, 2026, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives approved a \$1.2 trillion appropriation package, which President Trump later signed into law. However, Congress only extended funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through February 13, 2026, which allowed lawmakers time for negotiations over reform, justice, accountability, and oversight of federal immigration enforcement.

On February 4, 2026, Democratic leaders Hakeem Jeffries and Charles Schumer sent a letter to Speaker Mike Johnson and Majority Leader John Thune, urging the adoption of what they described as “common sense reforms” and accountability measures for federal immigration enforcement. They included a requirement that officers obtain a judicial warrant before entering private property, a ban on facial coverings by ICE agents, and new identification rules requiring officers to clearly display their agency, name, and badge number, as well as verbalize their badge number and name if asked. Reforms also seek to prohibit enforcement near sensitive locations such as schools and medical facilities, end stops or searches based on race, ethnicity, language, or occupation, and codify reasonable use-of-force standards supported by expanded training and certification requirements and removing officers from the field in the case of an incident until an investigation is conducted. Additional reforms include preserving the authority of state and local governments to investigate excessive-force incidents, ensure uniform basic detention standards, require the use of body cameras during public interactions, and regulate and standardize the type of uniforms and equipment DHS officers carry during enforcement operations to bring them in line with civilian enforcement.¹

In a statement released shortly after the vote, Minority Leader Jeffries stated that the aforementioned changes his party was demanding must be part of any full-year

¹Hakeem Jeffries and Charles E. Schumer, Letter to Speaker Mike Johnson and Majority Leader John Thune regarding Department of Homeland Security funding and oversight, February 4, 2026.

appropriations bill.²

To be clear, these are not the only reform, justice, accountability, and oversight measures that are being debated. The broader immigrant rights and justice movement has also called for measures such as halting funding until full Congressional investigations are conducted into the use of force by federal immigration officials, including the high-profile deaths of Renée Nicole Macklin Good and Alex Pretti, ending qualified immunity for federal officers, prohibiting Border Patrol from engaging in interior immigration enforcement operations, ending family detention and halting any new contracts for private detention, repealing the Alien Enemies Act or withhold funds for its use, ending the expansion of 287(g) programs, and ending enforcement actions targeting refugees such as Operation PARRIS.

A slim Republican House majority and the need to clear the 60-vote threshold in the Senate puts Democratic lawmakers in a strong bargaining position when it comes to reform, justice, accountability, and oversight of federal immigration enforcement. However, whereas a recent NPR poll finds that nearly two-thirds of Americans say that ICE has “gone too far” in the enforcement of immigration laws, there is little to no publicly available polling data on the specific reform, justice, accountability, and oversight measures described above.³

The following provides new empirical data showing the public safety benefits of unmasking ICE, requiring body-worn cameras, and new identification rules requiring officers to clearly display their agency, name, and badge number. To be clear, this is not to suggest that these measures alone are sufficient. Indeed, it is likely that rigorous social science research would also show the public safety benefits of this broader suite of reforms. Our work just happens to coincide with a few parts of the broader debate over federal immigration enforcement and we hope that our results can inform decision making during this critical moment.

Survey Experiments

To empirically examine the public safety implications of the wearing of facial coverings by law enforcement officers, body-worn cameras, and requiring law enforcement officers to visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, we designed and fielded three original survey experiments. Two of

²“Trump Signs \$1.2TN Funding Bill, Ending Partial Government Shutdown,” The Guardian, February 3, 2026.

³<https://www.npr.org/2026/02/05/nx-s1-5699413/poll-trump-ice-immigration-economy-approval>.

these surveys were fielded from February 2, 2026, to February 4, 2026 on a national sample. The national sample includes 1,059 total respondents. These two survey experiments with national samples speak to the public safety implications of the wearing of facial coverings by law enforcement and body-worn cameras. The third was fielded from December 12, 2025, to December 18, 2025, on a California sample. The California sample includes 1,296 total respondents. The survey experiment on the California sample speaks to the public safety implications of requiring law enforcement officers to visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number. Adults aged eighteen and older were recruited from a blend of online panels to minimize possible panel-specific bias through the Cint platform. Cint is one of the most widely used providers of survey respondents in peer-reviewed social science research. For each of the three surveys, quota sampling was used to ensure representativeness, with quotas for age, sex, race and ethnicity, region and party affiliation. Quotas for age, sex, and race and ethnicity, and region were determined based on the most recent Census American Community Survey data. Quotas for party affiliation were determined based on an average taken from Gallup, the American National Election Study (ANES), and the Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES). Interactive proportional fitting, or “raking,” was then used to weight the data. The margin of error for the national sample is 3.0 percent and the margin of error for the California sample is 2.7 percent.

Unmasking Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

Experiment 1 was designed to empirically examine how the wearing of facial coverings by law enforcement officers affects public safety. Pairs of images were shown to survey respondents. One image showed a law enforcement officer not wearing a mask and the other image showed the same law enforcement officer wearing a mask. The two images were otherwise identical to control for other potential confounds. The order of the pairs of images and the accompanying questions was randomized to control for potential bias.

Fear of Law Enforcement

To test how the wearing of facial coverings by law enforcement officers affects fear of law enforcement, survey respondents were shown two images. The images were generated by ChatGPT. The first image was created using the following prompts:

“Create an image of an immigration and customs enforcement agent. The agent should have a neutral facial expression. The agent should not be looking directly at the viewer. The agent should be holding an assault rifle.” The second image was created using the following prompts: “Now put a ski mask on the agent. The image should otherwise remain the same.” The two images are shown below.

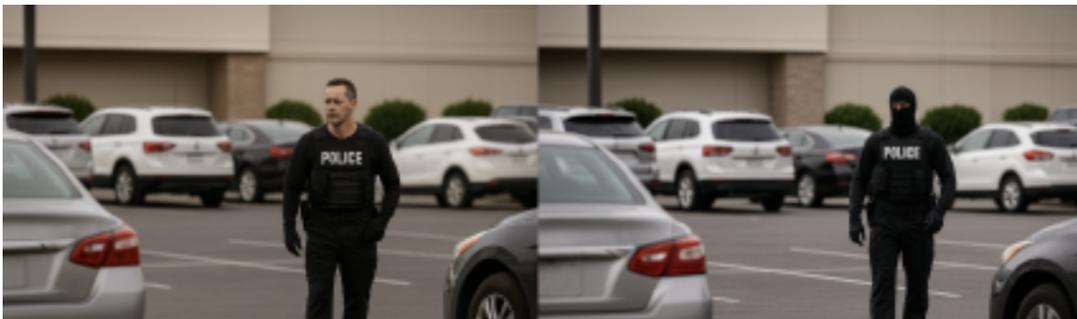


To ensure external validity, we examined hundreds of images of ICE agents on Google images. These images often show ICE agents wearing tactical vests that say “Police” and show them holding large weapons such as assault rifles.

Both images were shown to survey respondents with Image A on the left and Image B on the right. Image A and Image B were randomly rotated so that the image without the mask was not always on the left. Survey respondents were then asked, “In your opinion, which of the following makes you more fearful that law enforcement would use violence against you?” An overwhelming majority of survey respondents, 86 percent, said that the image of the law enforcement officer wearing a mask makes them more fearful that law enforcement would use violence against them. Survey respondents were also asked, “In your opinion, which of the following is more likely to abuse their power?” An overwhelming majority of survey respondents, 85 percent, said that the image of the law enforcement officer wearing a mask is more likely to abuse their power. Lastly, survey respondents were asked, “In your opinion, which of the following is more likely to be held accountable if they abuse their power?” The large majority of survey respondents, 72 percent, said that the image of the law enforcement officer not wearing a mask is more likely to be held accountable if they abuse their power. Because both images are identical except for the mask, we can causally attribute the results to the mask.

Seeking Help from Law Enforcement

To test how the wearing of facial coverings by law enforcement officers affects help-seeking behaviors, survey respondents were shown two images. The images were generated by ChatGPT. The first image was created using the following prompts: “I’d now like a photorealistic image of a parking lot (outdoor, like a strip mall, but no visible signage) and 15 feet away there is an immigration and customs enforcement agent wearing a ski mask. The scenario it depicts should be that the agent is not focused on the viewer (the viewer would need to call out to him for help if they had some issue), so he should be further away and not paying attention to the viewer.” The second image was created using the following prompts: “Remove his ski mask. The image should otherwise remain the same.” The two images are shown below.



To ensure external validity, we examined hundreds of images of ICE agents on Google images. The images resemble immigration enforcement actions in public spaces such as Home Depot parking lots.

Both images were shown to survey respondents with Image A on the left and Image B on the right. Image A and Image B were randomly rotated so that the image without the mask was not always on the left. Survey respondents were then asked, “In your opinion, which of the following law enforcement officers would you be more likely to ask for help if you were the victim of a crime/witnessed a crime?” The two questions, “were the victim of a crime” and “witnessed a crime,” were randomly shown to survey respondents. A total of 515 survey respondents were asked, “were the victim of a crime,” and a total of 544 survey respondents were asked, “witnessed a crime.” An overwhelming majority of survey respondents, 91 percent, said that the image of the law enforcement officer who is not wearing a mask is the one they are more likely to ask for help if they were the victim of a crime. Moreover, an overwhelming majority of survey respondents, 87 percent, said that the image of the law enforcement officer who is not wearing a mask is the one they are more likely to

ask for help if they witnessed a crime. Because both images are identical except for the mask, we can causally attribute the results to the mask.

Concerns About Impersonation and Obeying Commands

To test how the wearing of facial coverings by law enforcement officers affects concerns about people impersonating law enforcement, as well as the likelihood of obeying commands, survey respondents were shown two images. The images were generated by ChatGPT. The first image was created using the following prompts: “Create an image of an immigration and customs enforcement agent. The agent should have a neutral facial expression. The agent should not be looking directly at the viewer. The agent should be wearing a vest that says ‘Police.’ The agent should be wearing all black. The agent should not be wearing a ski mask. The agent should be holding a badge.” The second image was created using the following prompts: “Now put a black balaclava on the agent. The image should otherwise remain the same.” The two images are shown below.



To ensure external validity, which in this case, means the creation of images that resemble real-world instances of impersonation, we examined hundreds of images of ICE agents on Google images and reviewed an October 2025 Federal Bureau of Investigation bulletin describing several instances of people impersonating ICE agents. The Federal Bureau of Investigation bulletin warns against people impersonating Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents using fake law enforcement insignia and describes one instance where impersonators wore all black with a tactical vest.

Both images were shown to survey respondents with Image A on the left and

Image B on the right. Image A and Image B were randomly rotated so that the image without the mask was not always on the left. Survey respondents were then asked, “In your opinion, which of the following is more likely to represent a person impersonating a law enforcement officer?” A full 78 percent of survey respondents said that the image of the law enforcement officer wearing a mask is more likely to represent a person impersonating a law enforcement officer. Survey respondents were also asked, “In your opinion, which of the following is more likely to represent a person whose commands you would obey?” A full 85 percent of survey respondents said that the image of the law enforcement officer not wearing a mask is more likely to represent a person whose commands they would obey. Because both images are identical except for the mask, we can causally attribute the result to the mask.

Body-Worn Cameras

Experiment 2 was designed to empirically examine the public safety implications of body-worn cameras. Pairs of law enforcement officer profiles were shown to survey respondents. Each profile included the agency of the law enforcement officer, which was “Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).” Each profile also included the number of years of service for the law enforcement officer, which was “5 years.” Each profile then included the equipment used. One profile included, “Firearm, Bulletproof vest, and Taser.” The other profile included, “Firearm, Bulletproof vest, Taser, and Body-worn camera.” In other words, both profiles were identical except one included a body-worn camera as part of the equipment. The order of the pairs of profiles and the attending questions were randomized to control for potential bias.

Trust to Comply With the Law and Violate Constitution

Survey respondents were asked, “Which of the two law enforcement officers are you more likely to trust to comply with the law in the course of their official duties?” An overwhelming majority, 93 percent, said that they trust the law enforcement officer with the body-worn camera to comply with the law in the course of their official duties. Survey respondents were also asked, “Which of the two law enforcement officers do you believe would be more likely to violate the constitution in the course of their law enforcement duties?” An overwhelming majority, 85 percent, said that the law enforcement officer without the body-worn camera is more likely to violate the constitution in the course of their law enforcement duties. Because both profiles are identical except for the body-worn camera, we can causally attribute the results to the body-worn camera.

Commit Violence

Survey respondents were asked, “Which of the two law enforcement officers do you believe would be more likely to commit violence against you?” An overwhelming majority, 88 percent, said that the law enforcement officer without the body-worn camera is more likely to commit violence against them. Because both profiles are identical except for the body-worn camera, we can causally attribute the result to the body-worn camera.

Law Enforcement Visibly Displaying Identification

Experiment 3 was designed to empirically examine the public safety implications of requiring law enforcement officers to visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, or both name and badge number, when performing enforcement duties. Approximately half of survey respondents were randomly assigned to a true control group and approximately half of survey respondents were randomly assigned to watch a news clip of ICE agents in plain clothes conducting an enforcement action. The video was aired on CNN on September 26, 2025.⁴ The video was cropped so that CNN was not shown to survey respondents to control for potential bias. The video also included captions of a grocery store worker saying, “Let go of me!” and “Boss get me out of here!” and “Help me!” The captions were also cropped out of the video to control for potential bias. The resulting video shows a plain clothes agent chasing a grocery store worker into a store and the audio of the chase, a brief struggle, and then a second agent helping the first agent hold and then drop and pin the grocery store worker to the ground and the audio of this scene. In the middle of the video, the narrator says, “Video shared by immigrant advocacy organization Escucha Mi Voz shows a grocery store worker in Iowa being arrested by ICE agents in plain clothes.” Survey respondents in both experimental conditions were then asked a series of questions about law enforcement officers in plain clothes.

The video was ultimately selected for use in Experiment 3 not only because it depicts ICE agents in plain clothes conducting an enforcement action, but later in the clip, the narrator says that in a statement sent to CNN, ICE stated that “agents executed the arrest professionally and in full compliance with the law.” This is important for external validity because the video, according to ICE itself, reflects standard practice, rather than an exceptional case. This also means that the experiment is not stacked in favor of a result that negatively reflects against ICE.

⁴<https://www.cnn.com/2025/09/26/us/video/ice-agents-in-plain-clothes-tackle-worker-iowa-digvid>.

Law Enforcement Visibly Displaying Identification and Trust in Law Enforcement

To test how requiring law enforcement officers to visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, or both name and badge number, when performing enforcement duties, affects trust in law enforcement, survey respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the following statement, “I am less likely to trust people claiming to be law enforcement when they are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number.” A full 72 percent of survey respondents said that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that they are less likely to trust people claiming to be law enforcement when they are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number.

Whereas an already large percentage of survey respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” with the preceding statement, survey respondents in the treatment group who watched the video were even more likely to “agree” or “strongly agree.” More specifically, survey respondents who watched the video were 5.6 percent more likely to “agree” or “strongly” agree that they are less likely to trust people claiming to be law enforcement when they are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number. This difference is statistically significant for a hypothesis that watching the video would increase agreement with the statement ($p = .051$) and can be causally attributed to the video.

Law Enforcement Visibly Displaying Identification and Obeying Commands

To test how requiring law enforcement officers to visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, or both name and badge number, when performing enforcement duties, affects the likelihood of obeying the commands of people claiming to be law enforcement, survey respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the following statement, “I am less likely to obey the commands of people claiming to be law enforcement when they are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number.” Over two-thirds of survey respondents, 68 percent, said that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that they are less likely to obey the commands of people claiming to be law enforcement when they are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number.

Whereas an already large percentage of survey respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” with the preceding statement, survey respondents in the treatment group

who watched the video were even more likely to “agree” or “strongly agree.” More specifically, survey respondents who watched the video were 6.2 percent more likely to “agree” or “strongly” agree that they are less likely to obey the commands of people claiming to be law enforcement when they are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number. This difference is statistically significant ($p = .035$) and can be causally attributed to the video.

Law Enforcement Visibly Displaying Identification and Concerns About Abuse of Power

To test how requiring law enforcement officers to visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, or both name and badge number, when performing enforcement duties, affects concerns that law enforcement will abuse their power, survey respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the following statement, “Law enforcement officers in plain clothes who do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number are more likely to abuse their power.” A strong majority of survey respondents, 60 percent, said that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that law enforcement officers in plain clothes who do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number are more likely to abuse their power.

Whereas a majority of survey respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” with the preceding statement, survey respondents in the treatment group who watched the video were even more likely to “agree” or “strongly agree.” More specifically, survey respondents who watched the video were 10.8 percent more likely to “agree” or “strongly” agree that law enforcement officers in plain clothes who do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number are more likely to abuse their power. This difference is statistically significant ($p = .001$) and can be causally attributed to the video.

Law Enforcement Visibly Displaying Identification and Accountability

To test how requiring law enforcement officers to visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, or both name and badge number, when performing enforcement duties, affects concerns about accountability, survey respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the following statement, “Law enforcement officers in plain clothes who do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number are less likely to be held accountable if they abuse their power.” A majority of survey respondents,

53 percent, said that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that law enforcement officers in plain clothes who do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number are less likely to be held accountable if they abuse their power.

Whereas a majority of survey respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” with the preceding statement, survey respondents in the treatment group who watched the video were even more likely to “agree” or “strongly agree.” More specifically, survey respondents who watched the video were 9.5 percent more likely to “agree” or “strongly” agree that law enforcement officers in plain clothes who do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number are less likely to be held accountable if they abuse their power. This difference is statistically significant ($p = .003$) and can be causally attributed to the video.

Law Enforcement Visibly Displaying Identification and Reporting Violations

To test how requiring law enforcement officers to visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, or both name and badge number, when performing enforcement duties, affects concerns about reporting law enforcement officers who violate the law, survey respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the following statement, “It is more difficult to report law enforcement officers who violate the law when they are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number.” Over two-thirds of survey respondents, 68 percent, said that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that it is more difficult to report law enforcement officers who violate the law when they are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number.

Whereas an already large percentage of survey respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” with the preceding statement, survey respondents in the treatment group who watched the video were even more likely to “agree” or “strongly agree.” Survey respondents who watched the video were 3.4 percent more likely to “agree” or “strongly” agree that it is more difficult to report law enforcement officers who violate the law when they are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number. However, this difference is not statistically significant ($p = .255$).

Law Enforcement Visibly Displaying Identification and Impersonation

To test how requiring law enforcement officers to visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, or both name and badge number, when performing enforcement duties, affects concerns about people impersonating law enforcement, survey respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the following statement, “When law enforcement officers are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, it becomes easier for others to impersonate law enforcement.” Nearly three-fourths of survey respondents, 72 percent, said that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that when law enforcement officers are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, it becomes easier for others to impersonate law enforcement.

Whereas an already large percentage of survey respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” with the preceding statement, survey respondents in the treatment group who watched the video were even more likely to “agree” or “strongly agree.” More specifically, survey respondents who watched the video were 6.5 percent more likely to “agree” or “strongly” agree that when law enforcement officers are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, it becomes easier for others to impersonate law enforcement. This difference is statistically significant ($p = .020$) and can be causally attributed to the video.

Law Enforcement Visibly Displaying Identification and Identifying Real Law Enforcement

To test how requiring law enforcement officers to visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, or both name and badge number, when performing enforcement duties, affects the ability of the public to identify who the real law enforcement officers are, survey respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the following statement, “When law enforcement officers are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, I get confused about who the real law enforcement officers are.” Nearly two-thirds of survey respondents, 63 percent, said that they “agree” or “strongly agree” they get confused about who the real law enforcement officers are.

Whereas an already large percentage of survey respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” with the preceding statement, survey respondents in the treatment group who watched the video were even more likely to “agree” or “strongly agree.” More

specifically, survey respondents who watched the video were 7.8 percent more likely to “agree” or “strongly” agree that when law enforcement officers are in plain clothes and do not visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, they get confused about who the real law enforcement officers are. This difference is statistically significant ($p = .011$) and can be causally attributed to the video.