

A CAUTIONARY NOTE ON THE ADOPTION OF POLICE BODY CAMERAS

Findings from the Mesa Field Experiment

Jacob T.N. Young & Justin T. Ready
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Arizona State University

[Web](#)[Images](#)[Shopping](#)[News](#)[Videos](#)[More ▾](#)[Search tools](#)

About 527,000 results (0.54 seconds)

Images for jacob young slate

[Report images](#)

[More images for jacob young slate](#)

Three Myths About Police Body Cams - Slate

www.slate.com/.../ferguson_body_cams_myths_about_police_body... ▾ Slate ▾

Sep 2, 2014 - By Justin T. Ready and Jacob T.N. Young.

140901_FT_FergusonCopBodyCam A police officer wears a body camera at a rally for Michael ...

You've visited this page 3 times. Last visit: 4/5/15

Justin T. Ready - Slate

www.slate.com/authors.justin_t_ready.html ▾ Slate ▾

... of Two Cities Whether body cams succeed in increasing police transparency depends entirely on training and policies. Justin T. Ready and Jacob T.N. Young.

A Tale of Two Cities - Slate

www.slate.com/.../police_body_cams_won_t_help_unless_they_co... ▾ Slate ▾

Dec 10, 2014 - By Justin T. Ready and Jacob T.N. Young. NYPD Body Jacob T.N. Young is an assistant professor of criminology at Arizona State University.

[Web](#)[Images](#)[Shopping](#)[News](#)[Videos](#)[More ▾](#)[Search tools](#)

About 527,000 results (0.54 seconds)

Images for jacob young slate

[Report images](#)

[More images for jacob young slate](#)

Three Myths About Police Body Cams - Slate

www.slate.com/.../ferguson_body_cams_myths_about_police_body... ▾ Slate ▾

Sep 2, 2014 - By Justin T. Ready and **Jacob T.N. Young**.

140901_FT_FergusonCopBodyCam A police officer wears a body camera at a rally for Michael ...

You've visited this page 3 times. Last visit: 4/5/15

Justin T. Ready - Slate

www.slate.com/authors.justin_t_ready.html ▾ Slate ▾

... of Two CitiesWhether body cams succeed in increasing police transparency depends entirely on training and policies.Justin T. Ready and **Jacob T.N. Young**.

A Tale of Two Cities - Slate

www.slate.com/.../police_body_cams_won_t_help_unless_they_co... ▾ Slate ▾

Dec 10, 2014 - By Justin T. Ready and **Jacob T.N. Young**. NYPD Body **Jacob T.N.**

Young is an assistant professor of criminology at Arizona State University.

[Web](#)[Images](#)[Shopping](#)[News](#)[Videos](#)[More ▾](#)[Search tools](#)

About 527,000 results (0.54 seconds)

Images for jacob young slate

[Report images](#)

[More images for jacob young slate](#)

Three Myths About Police Body Cams - Slate

www.slate.com/.../ferguson_body_cams_myths_about_police_body... ▾ Slate ▾

Sep 2, 2014 - By Justin T. Ready and **Jacob T.N. Young**.

140901_FT_FergusonCopBodyCam A police officer wears a body camera at a rally for Michael ...

You've visited this page 3 times. Last visit: 4/5/15

Justin T. Ready - Slate

www.slate.com/authors.justin_t_ready.html ▾ Slate ▾

... of Two CitiesWhether body cams succeed in increasing police transparency depends entirely on training and policies.Justin T. Ready and **Jacob T.N. Young**.

A Tale of Two Cities - Slate

www.slate.com/.../police_body_cams_won_t_help_unless_they_co... ▾ Slate ▾

Dec 10, 2014 - By Justin T. Ready and **Jacob T.N. Young**. NYPD Body **Jacob T.N. Young** is an assistant professor of criminology at Arizona State University.

[Web](#)[Images](#)[Shopping](#)[News](#)[Videos](#)[More ▾](#)[Search tools](#)

About 527,000 results (0.54 seconds)

Images for jacob young slate

[Report images](#)

[More images for jacob young slate](#)

Three Myths About Police Body Cams - Slate

www.slate.com/.../ferguson_body_cams_myths_about_police_body... ▾ Slate ▾

Sep 2, 2014 - By Justin T. Ready and **Jacob T.N. Young**.

140901_FT_FergusonCopBodyCam A police officer wears a body camera at a rally for Michael ...

You've visited this page 3 times. Last visit: 4/5/15

Justin T. Ready - Slate

www.slate.com/authors.justin_t_ready.html ▾ Slate ▾

... of Two CitiesWhether body cams succeed in increasing police transparency depends entirely on training and policies.Justin T. Ready and **Jacob T.N. Young**.

A Tale of Two Cities - Slate

www.slate.com/.../police_body_cams_won_t_help_unless_they_co... ▾ Slate ▾

Dec 10, 2014 - By Justin T. Ready and **Jacob T.N. Young**. NYPD Body **Jacob T.N. Young** is an assistant professor of criminology at Arizona State University.

[Web](#)[Images](#)[Shopping](#)[News](#)[Videos](#)[More ▾](#)[Search tools](#)

About 527,000 results (0.54 seconds)

Images for jacob young slate

[Report images](#)

[More images for jacob young slate](#)

Three Myths About Police Body Cams - Slate

www.slate.com/.../ferguson_body_cams_myths_about_police_body... ▾ Slate ▾

Sep 2, 2014 - By Justin T. Ready and Jacob T.N. Young.

140901_FT_FergusonCopBodyCam A police officer wears a body camera at a rally for Michael ...

You've visited this page 3 times. Last visit: 4/5/15

Justin T. Ready - Slate

www.slate.com/authors/justin_t_ready.html ▾ Slate ▾

... of Two Cities Whether body cams succeed in increasing police transparency depends entirely on training and policies. Justin T. Ready and Jacob T.N. Young.

A Tale of Two Cities - Slate

www.slate.com/.../police_body_cams_won_t_help_unless_they_co... ▾ Slate ▾

Dec 10, 2014 - By Justin T. Ready and Jacob T.N. Young. NYPD Body ... Jacob T.N. Young is an assistant professor of criminology at Arizona State University.

CONTEXT

- President Obama's "Body Worn Camera Partnership Program"
- Federal funding to adopt a **technological innovation** which is expected to improve relations between police departments and minority communities.

INNOVATION

- Innovations are new ideas, devices, technologies, etc. that solve existing problems.
- **Body Worn Cameras** are seen as an innovation that can alleviate the “simmering distrust” of the police in some communities.

SIMPLE ENOUGH RIGHT?

Problem

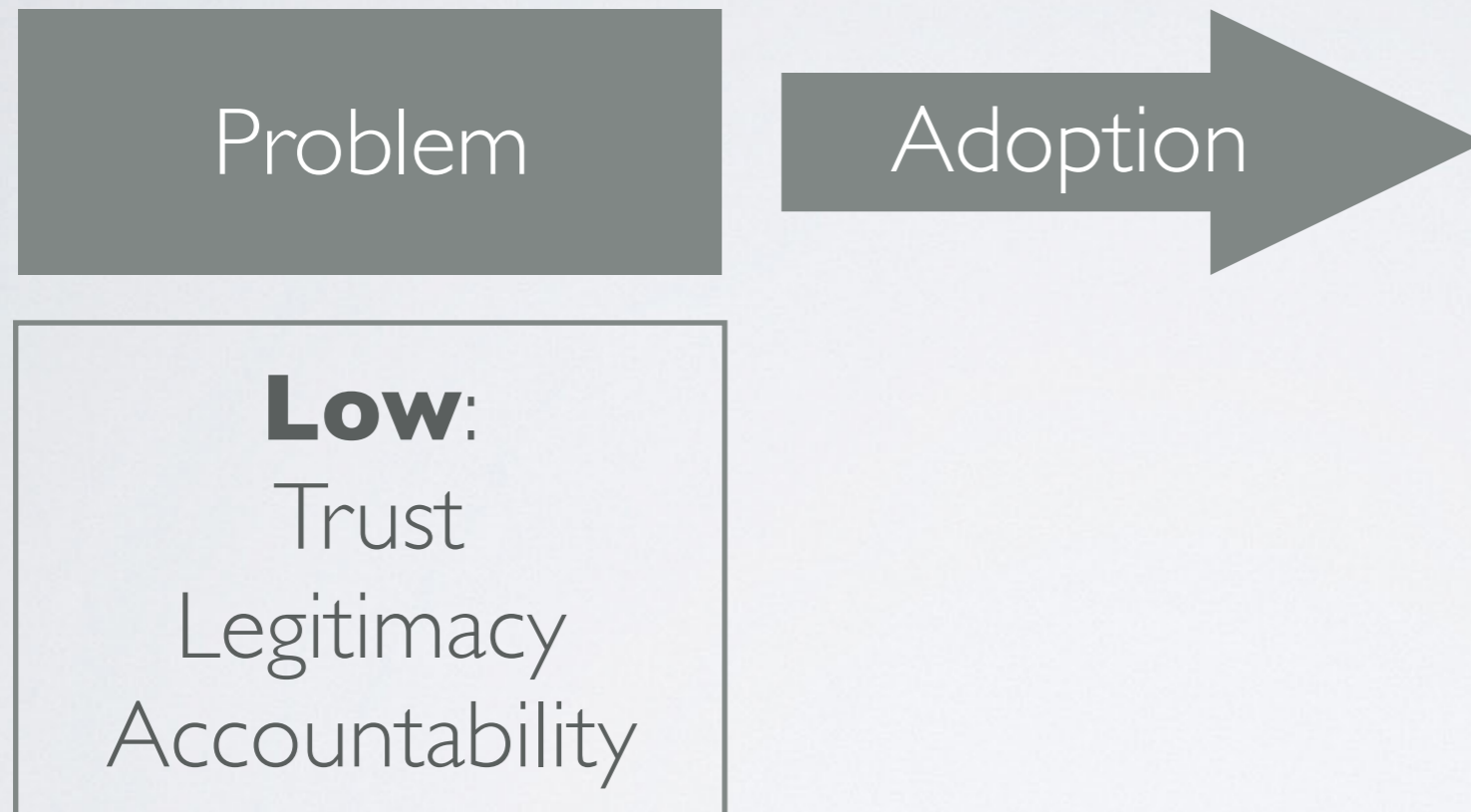
Low:

Trust

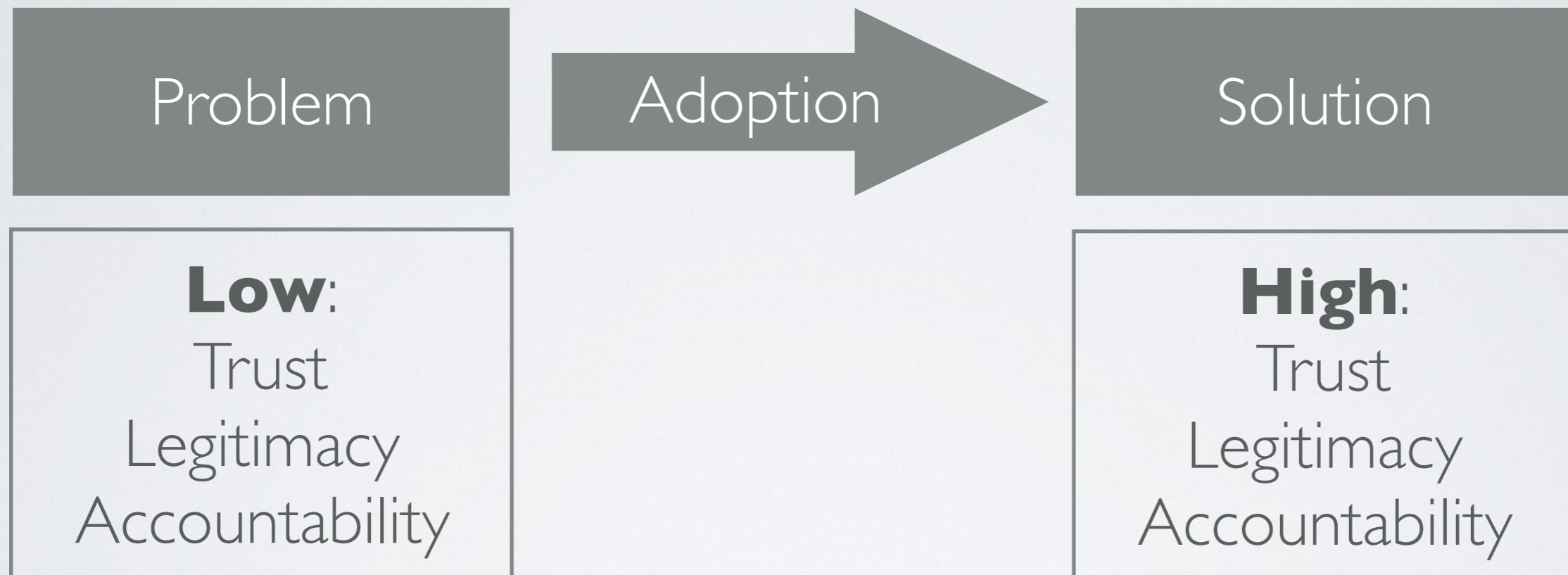
Legitimacy

Accountability

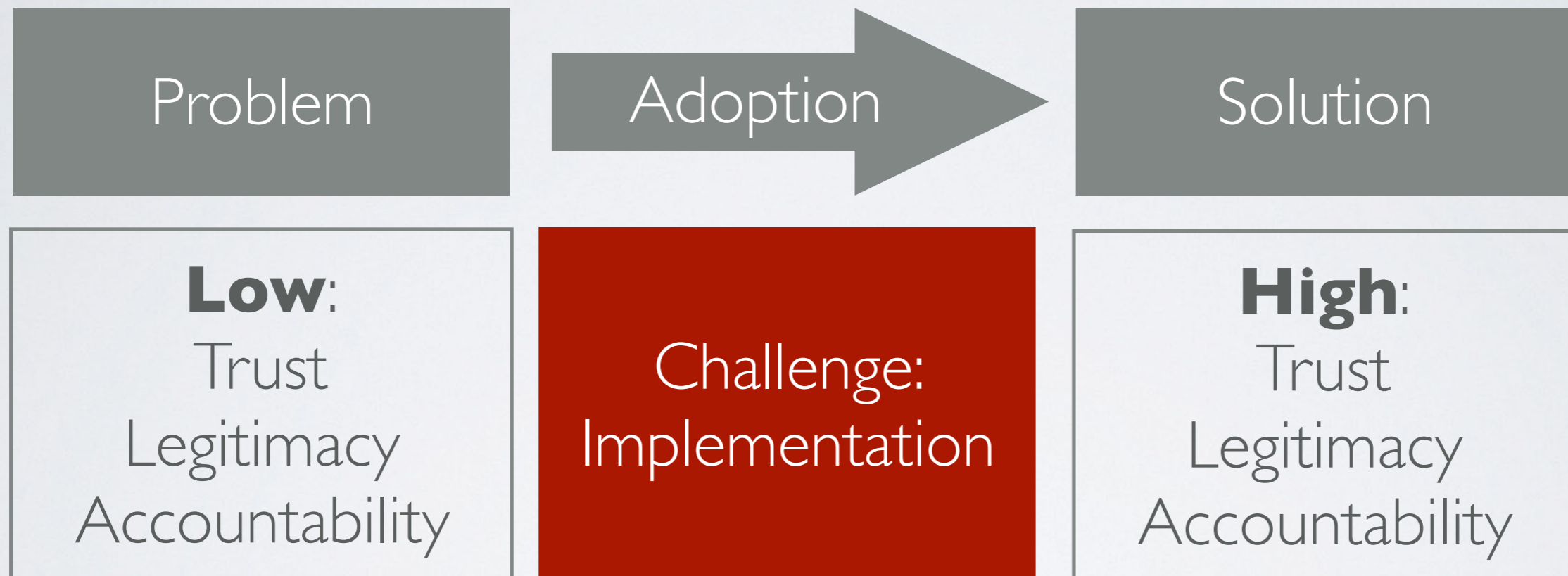
SIMPLE ENOUGH RIGHT?



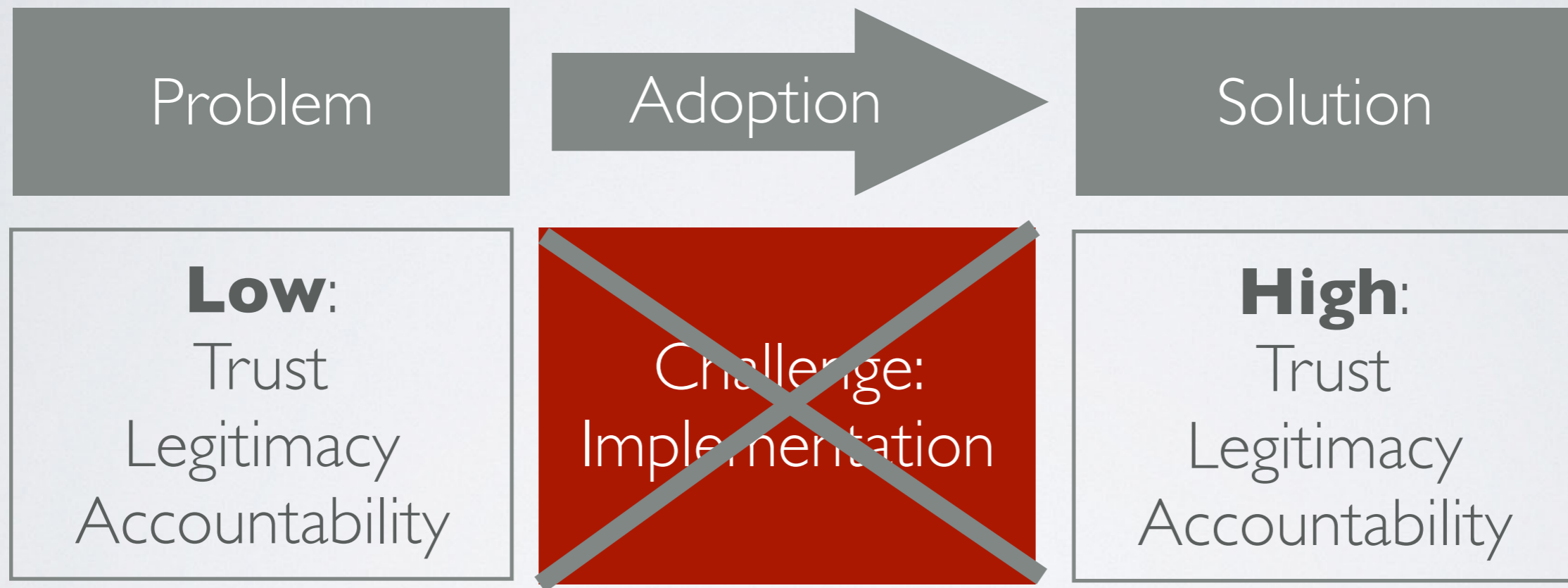
SIMPLE ENOUGH RIGHT?



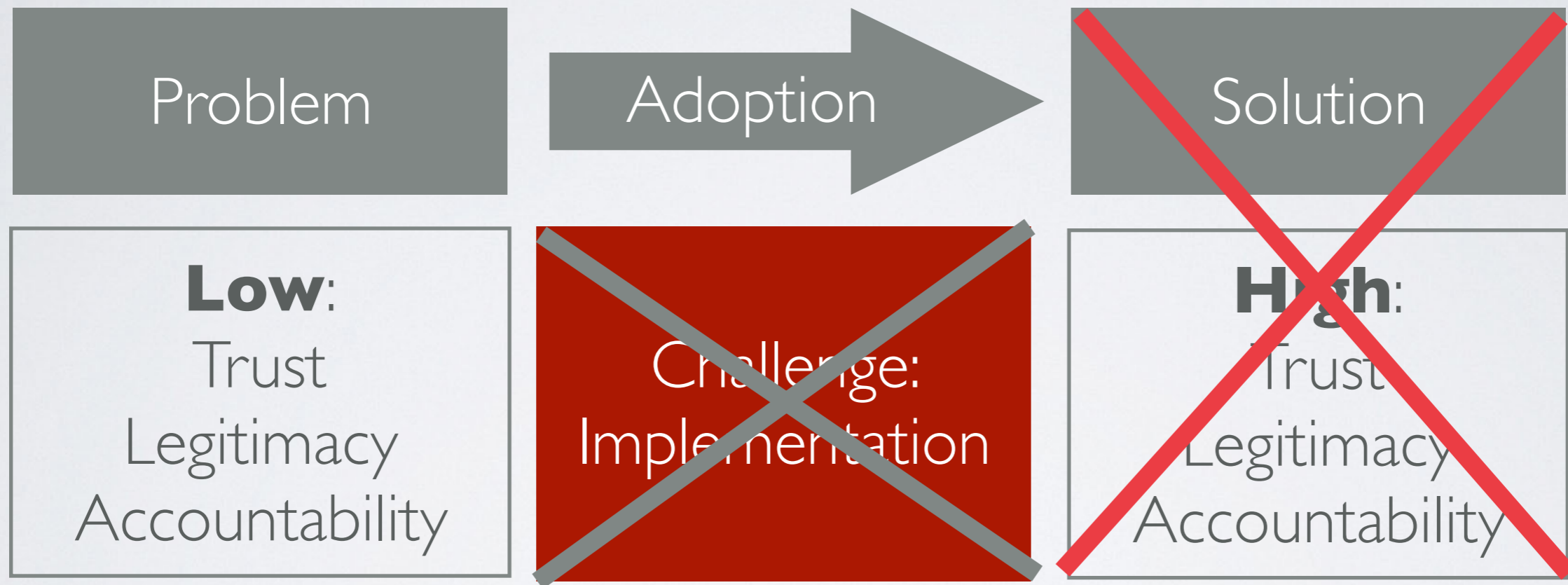
SIMPLE ENOUGH RIGHT?



SIMPLE ENOUGH RIGHT?



SIMPLE ENOUGH RIGHT?



CHALLENGE OF INTRODUCTION NEW TECHNOLOGY

- Two important areas:

- **Individual preferences and framing**

- More likely to use when perceived as useful for job

- **Organizational policy**

- Mandatory vs. voluntary use environments show more use

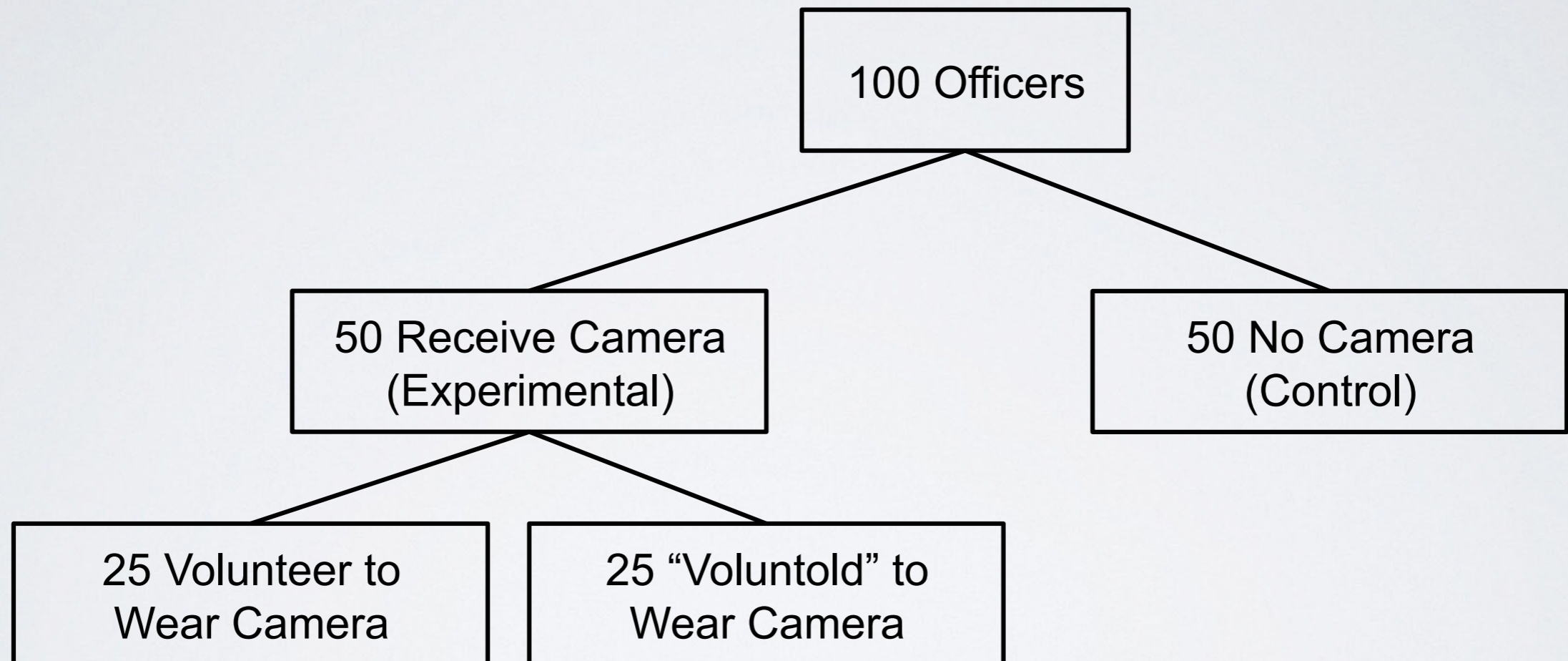
CHALLENGE OF INTRODUCTION NEW TECHNOLOGY

- **Implementation of Body Cameras face these same issues**

MESA FIELD EXPERIMENT

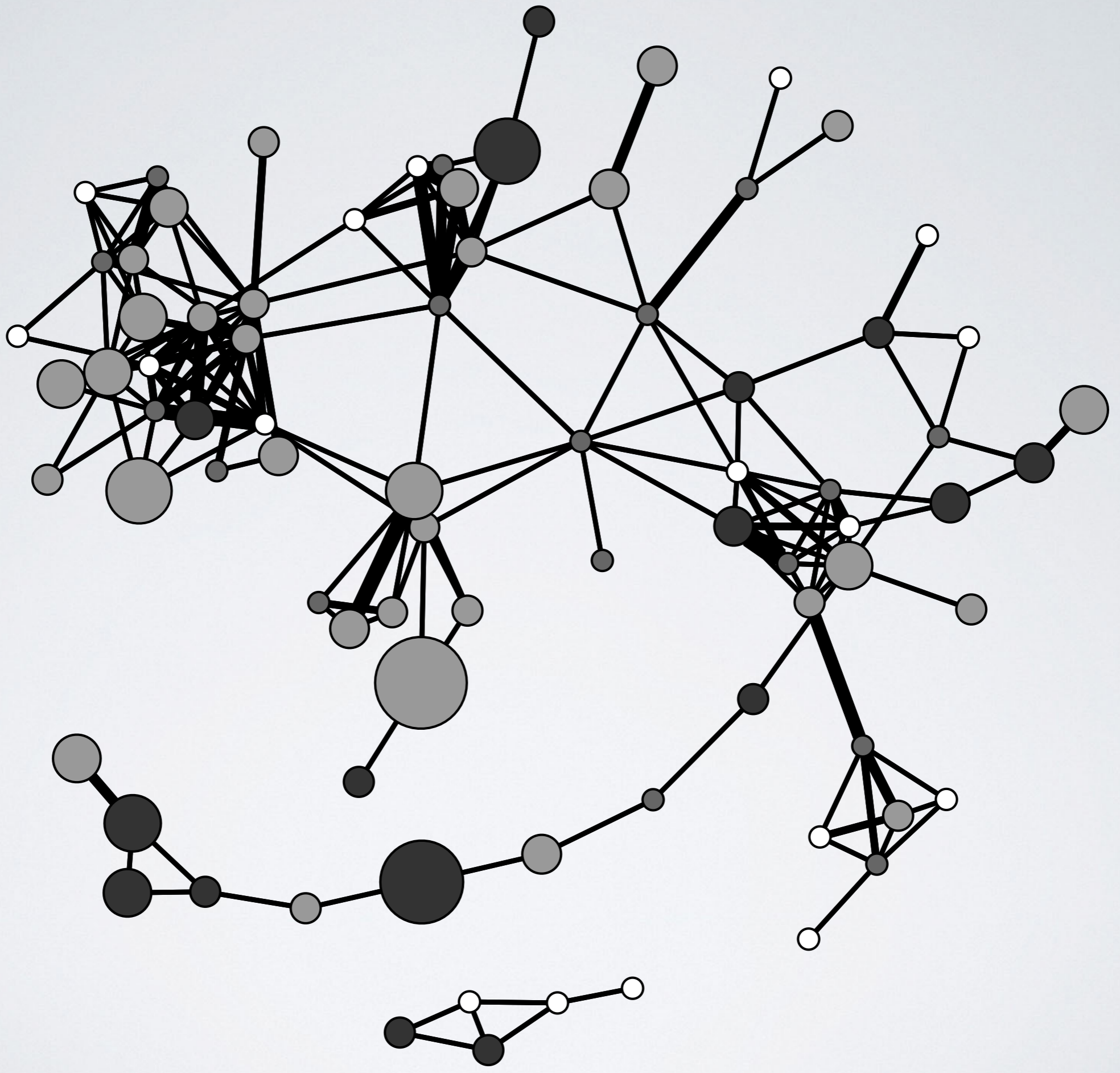
- Quasi-experiment examining perceptions and activation of body worn cameras
 - Strengths
 - Longitudinal - identify causal order
 - Relational - identify interdependence
 - Policy change during study period
 - Random assignment of cameras

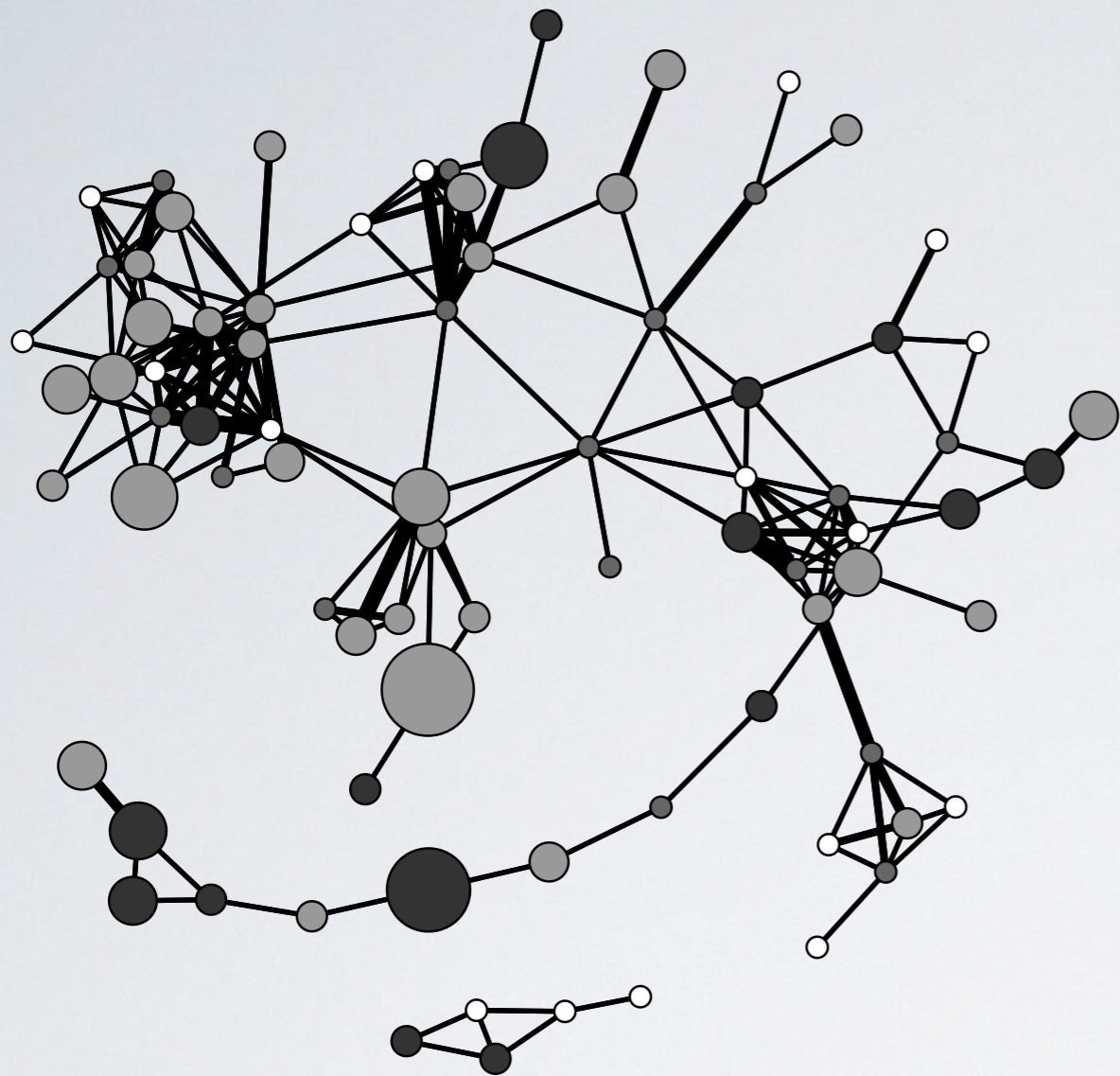
CAMERA ASSIGNMENT



FINDINGS REGARDING PREFERENCES AND FRAMING

- Volunteer Officers were more likely to **activate** the camera, net of situational and personal characteristics
- Officers, regardless of assignment, were more likely to perceive cameras as useful if they interacted with officers who viewed the cameras as useful

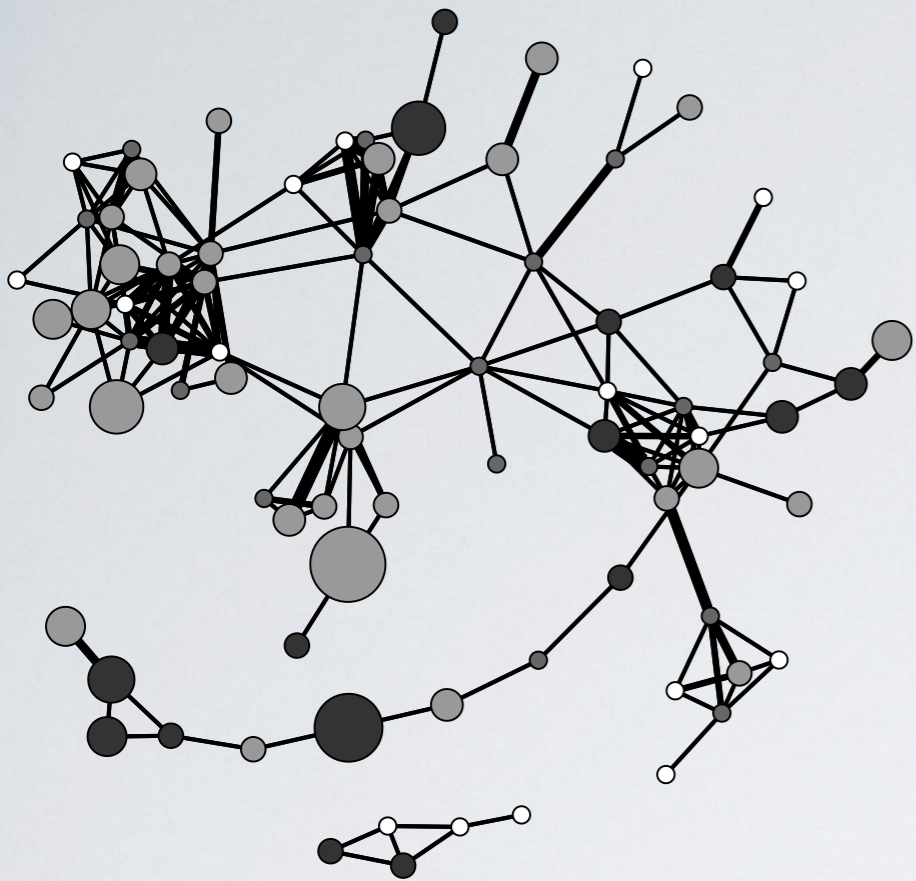




Point:

The workgroup context matters for framing the use of cameras

Which then matters for use



Google

jacob young diffusion of ideas



Web

Images

Videos

News

Shopping

More ▾

Search tools

About 360,000 results (0.63 seconds)

Diffusion of Ideas and Technology: The Role of Networks in ...

ccj.sagepub.com/content/.../1043986214553380.abstract Sage Publications ▾

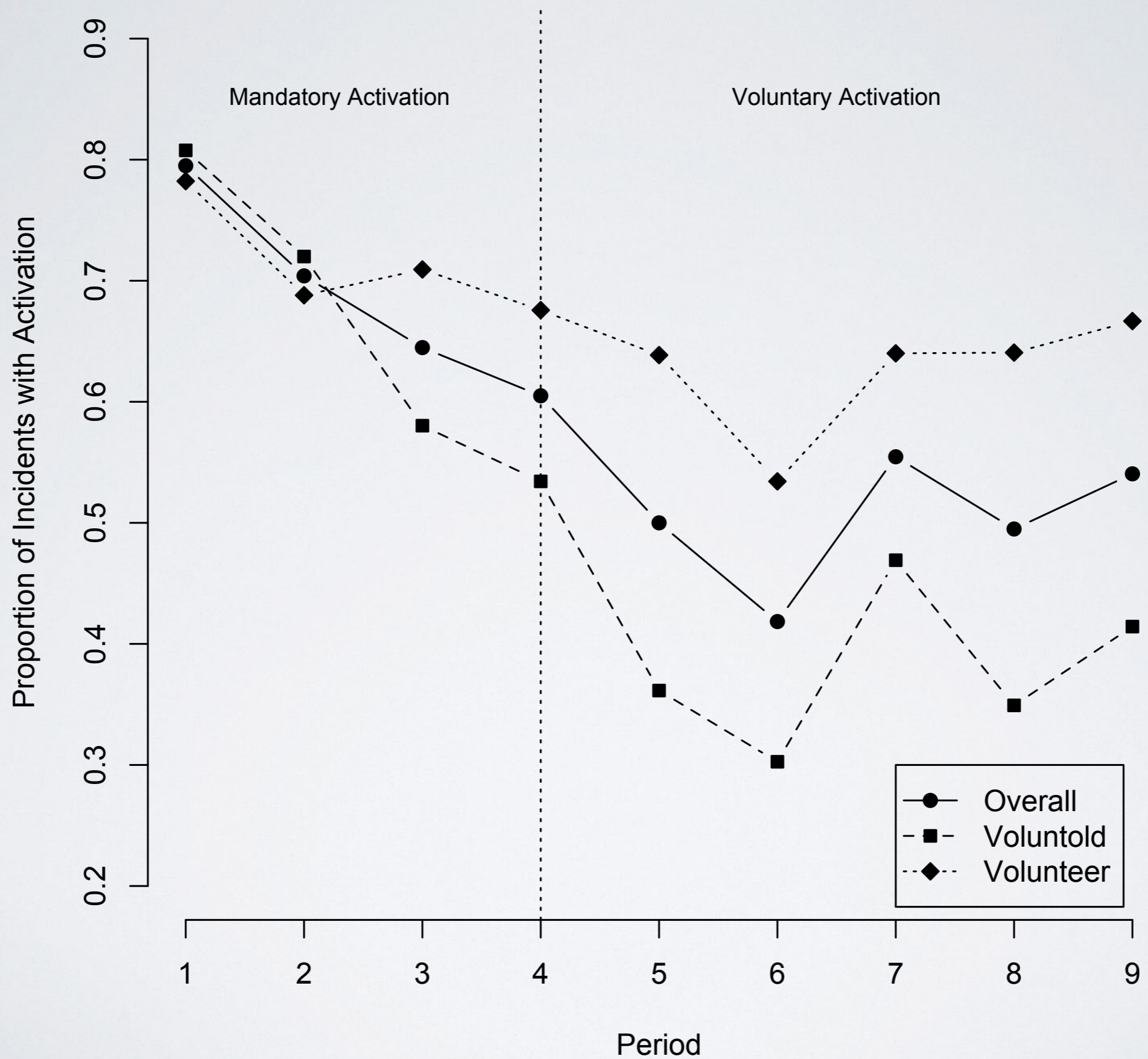
by JTN Young - 2014 - [Related articles](#)

Oct 14, 2014 - **Diffusion of Ideas and Technology: The Role of Networks in Influencing the Endorsement and Use of On-Officer ...** **Jacob T. N. Young** **Jacob.**

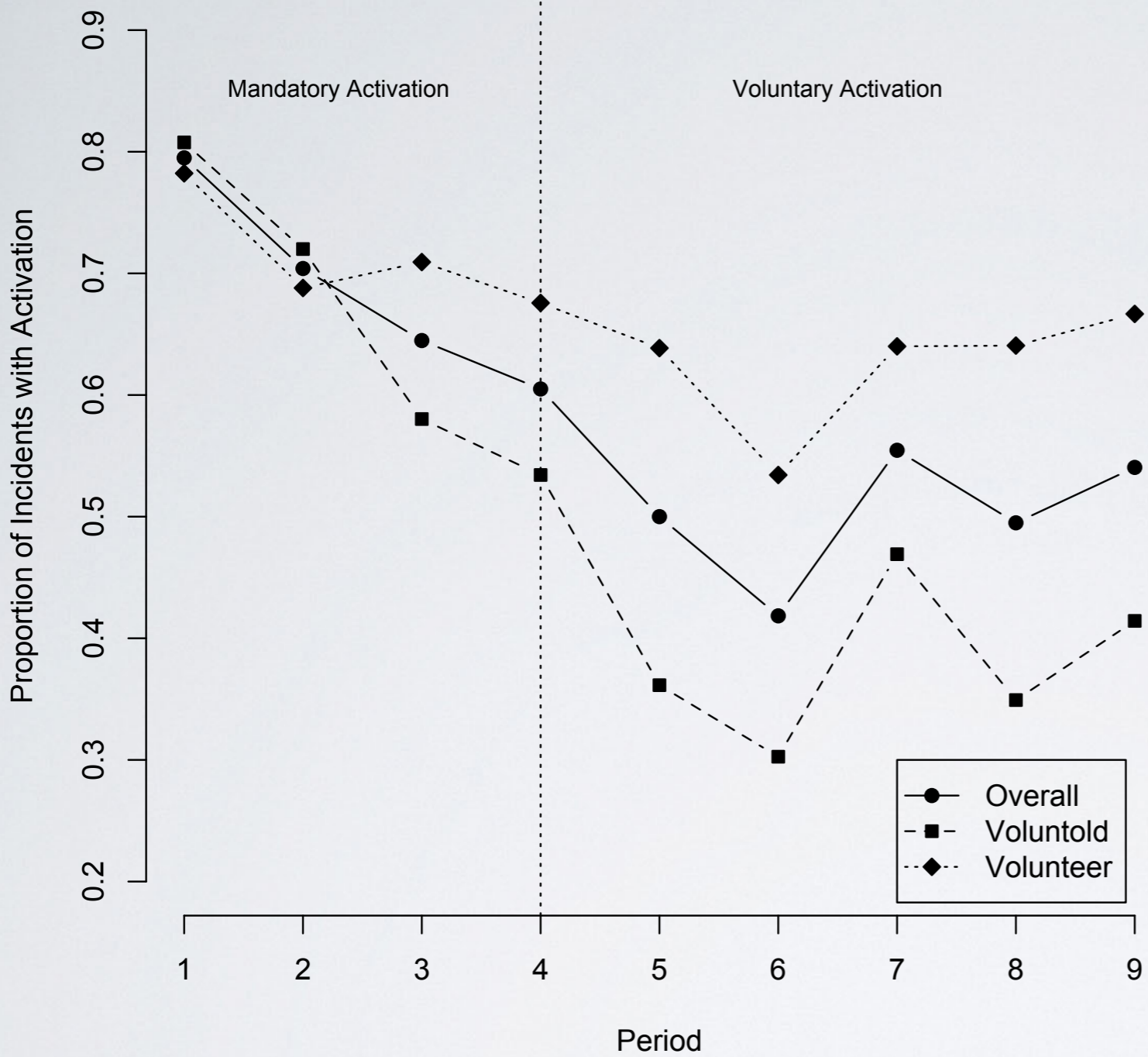
FINDINGS REGARDING POLICY

- No difference between “volunteer” and “voluntold” in camera activation during **mandatory** activation period, net of situational and personal characteristics
- Significant decline during **voluntary** period, primarily among “voluntold” officers

Proportion of Incidents where Camera was Activated by Period and by Group

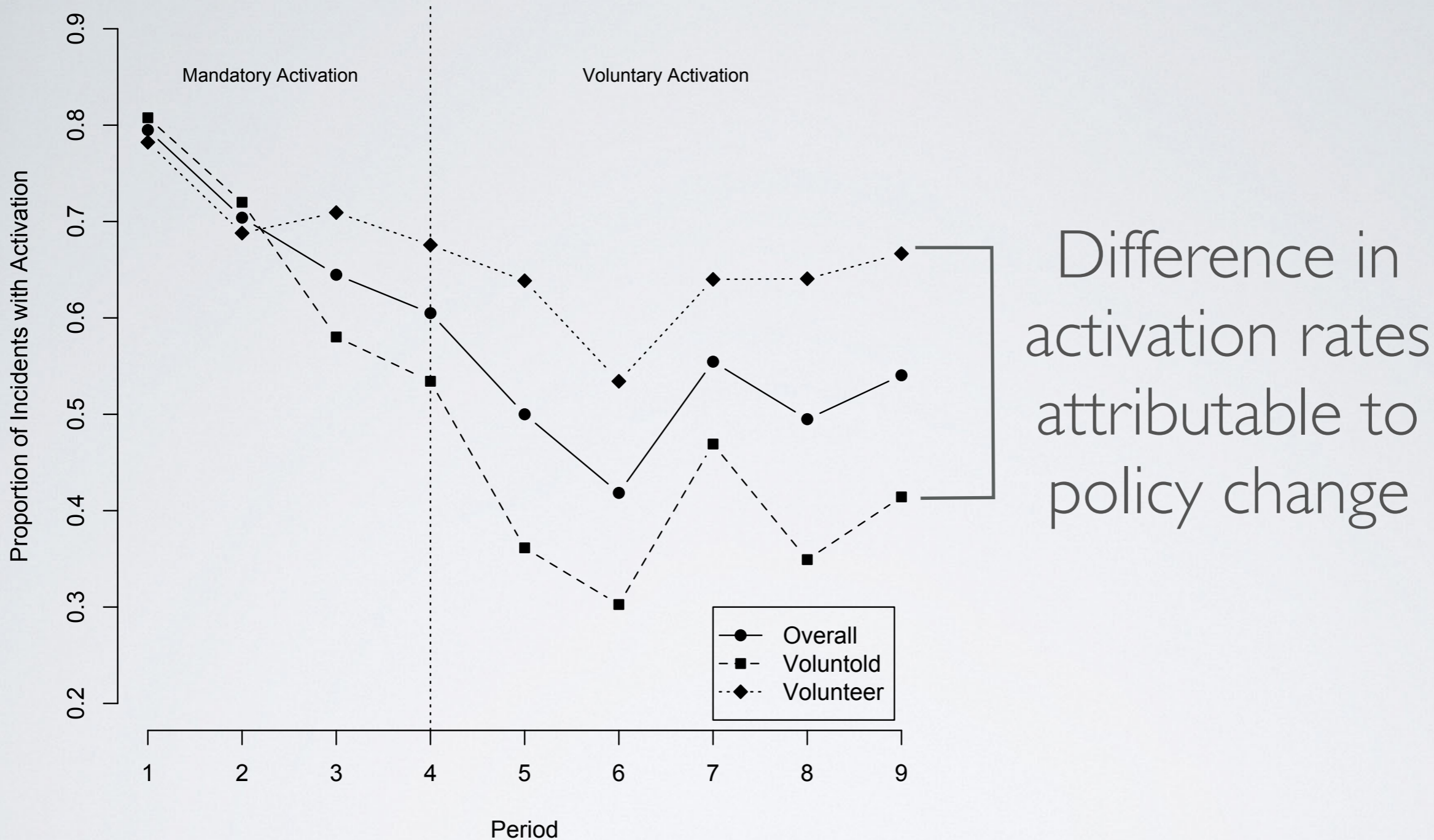


Proportion of Incidents where Camera was Activated by Period and by Group



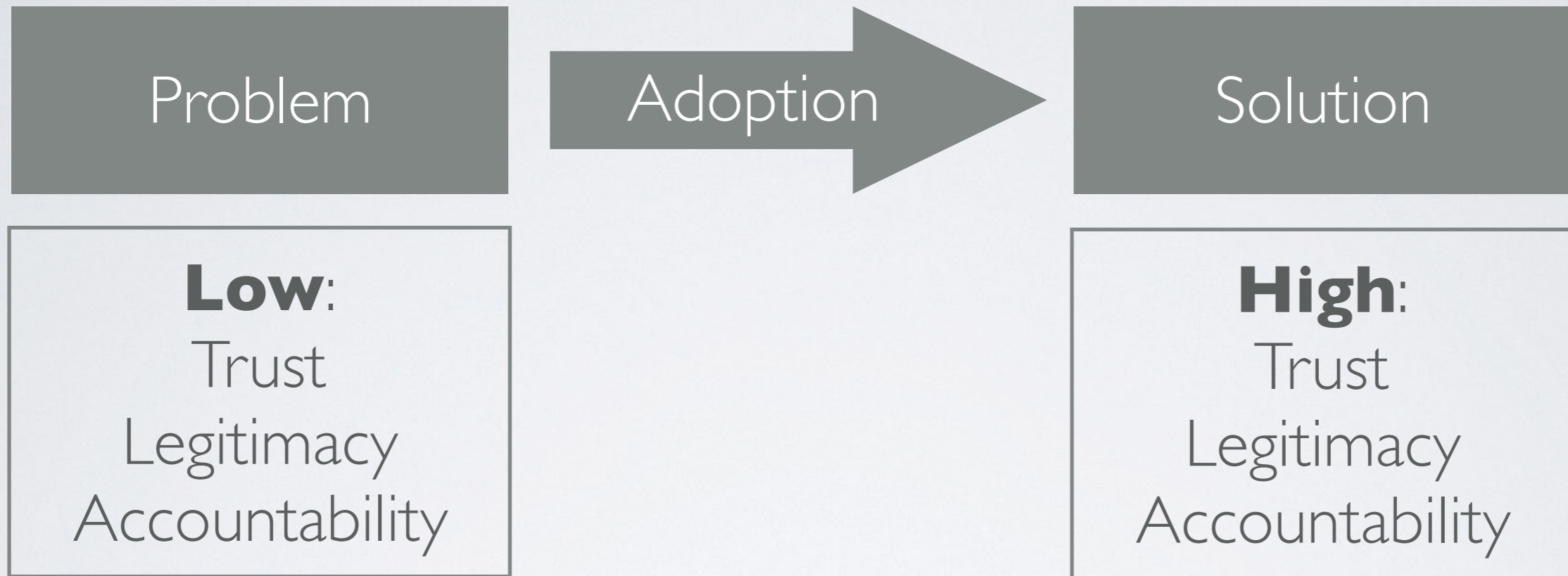
Difference in activation rates attributable to policy change

Proportion of Incidents where Camera was Activated by Period and by Group

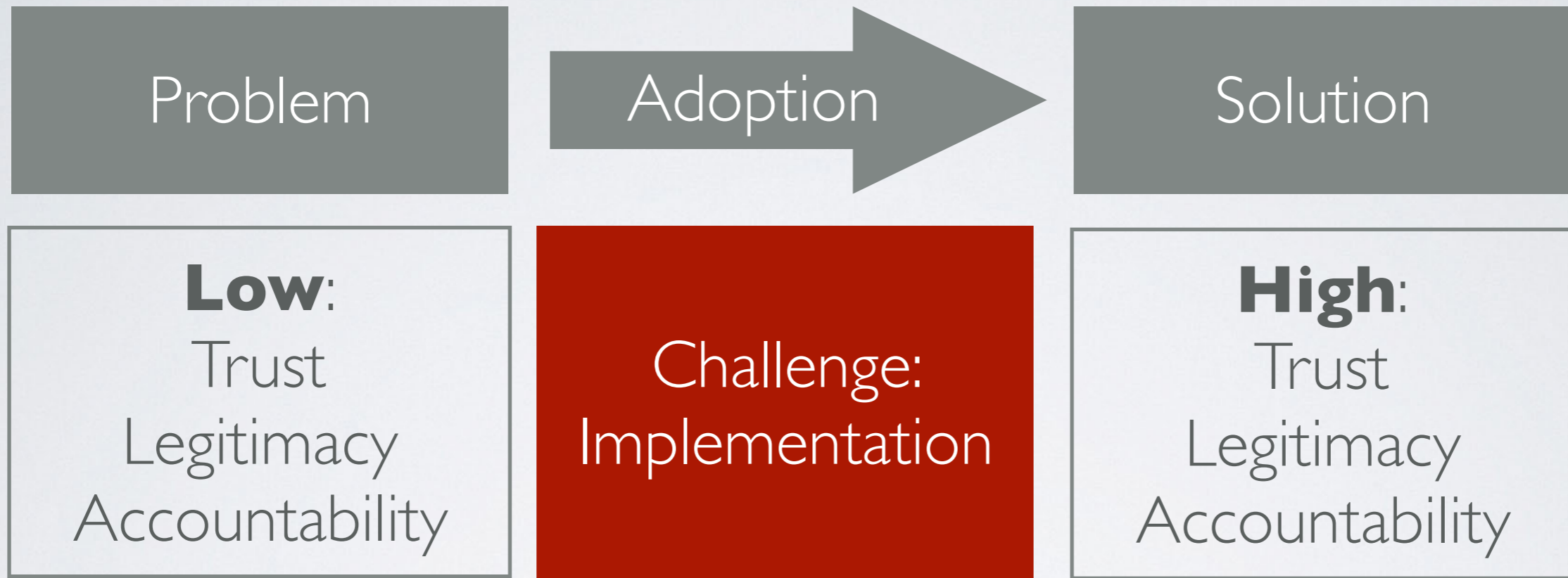


Voluntold officers were **three times more likely to stop** activating their cameras when the policy switches to voluntary activation relative to the volunteer officers.

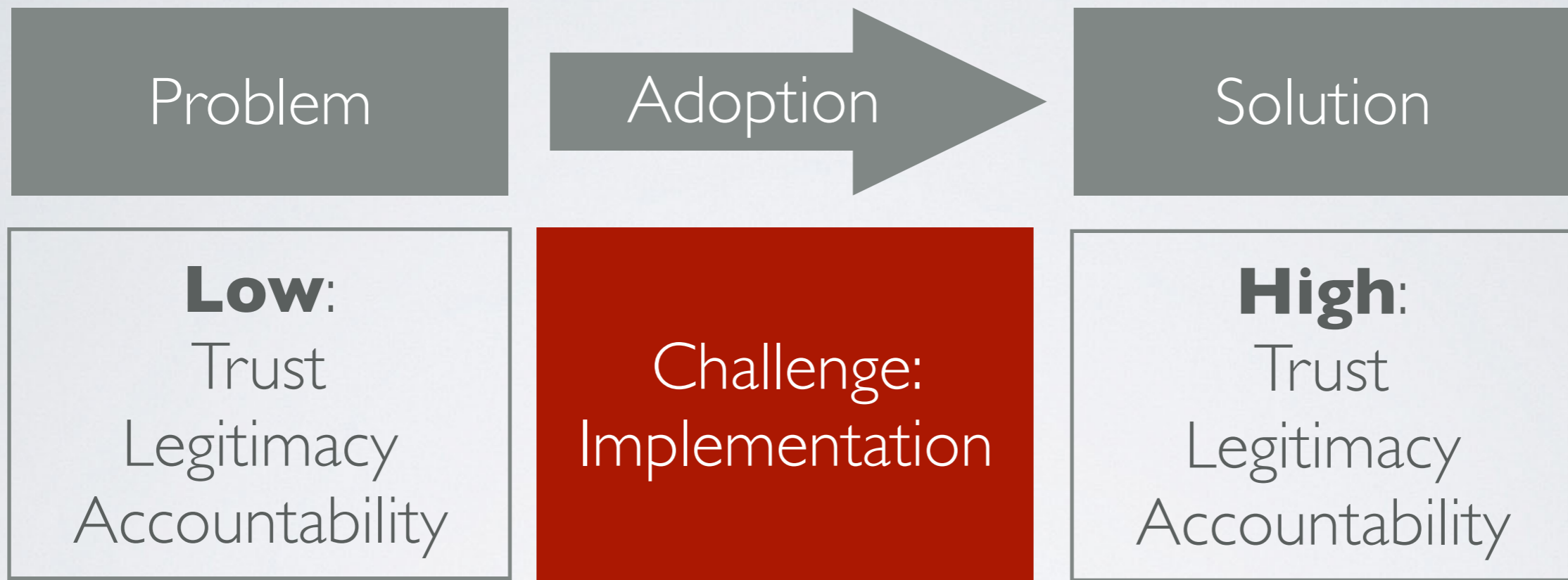
SIMPLE ENOUGH RIGHT?



SIMPLE ENOUGH RIGHT?

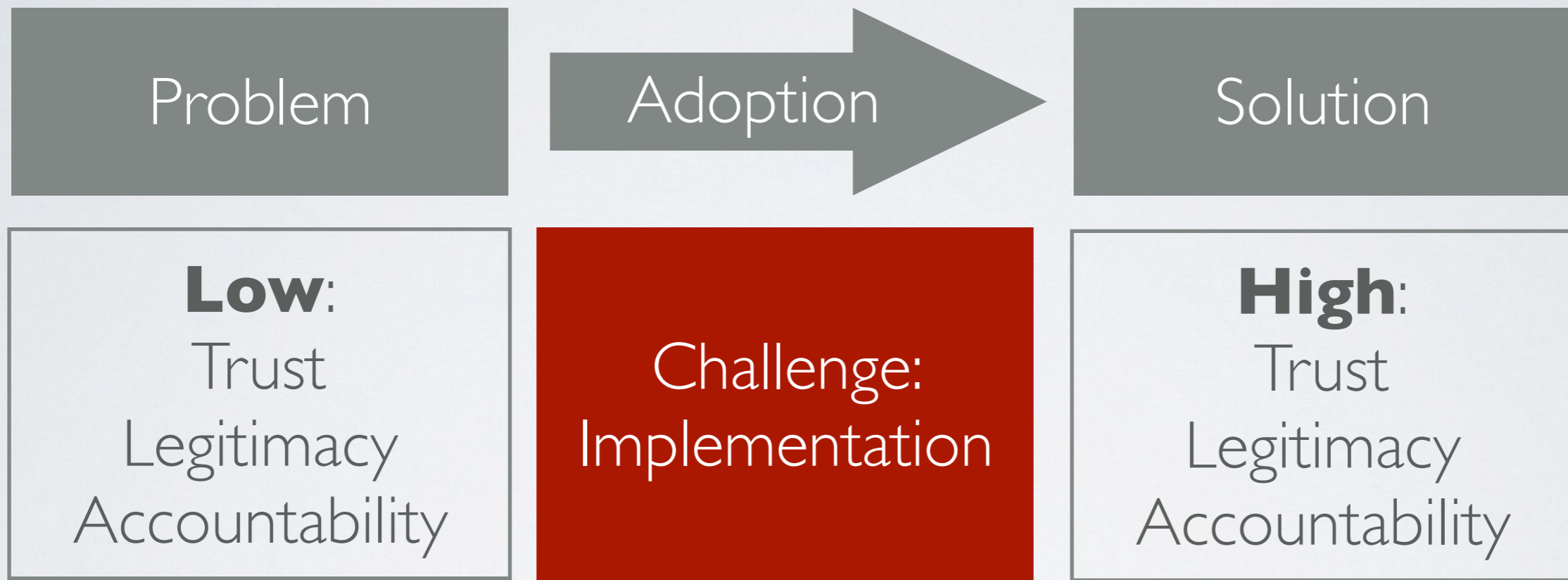


SIMPLE ENOUGH RIGHT?



Agencies should be aware of the difficulties faced when adoption technology

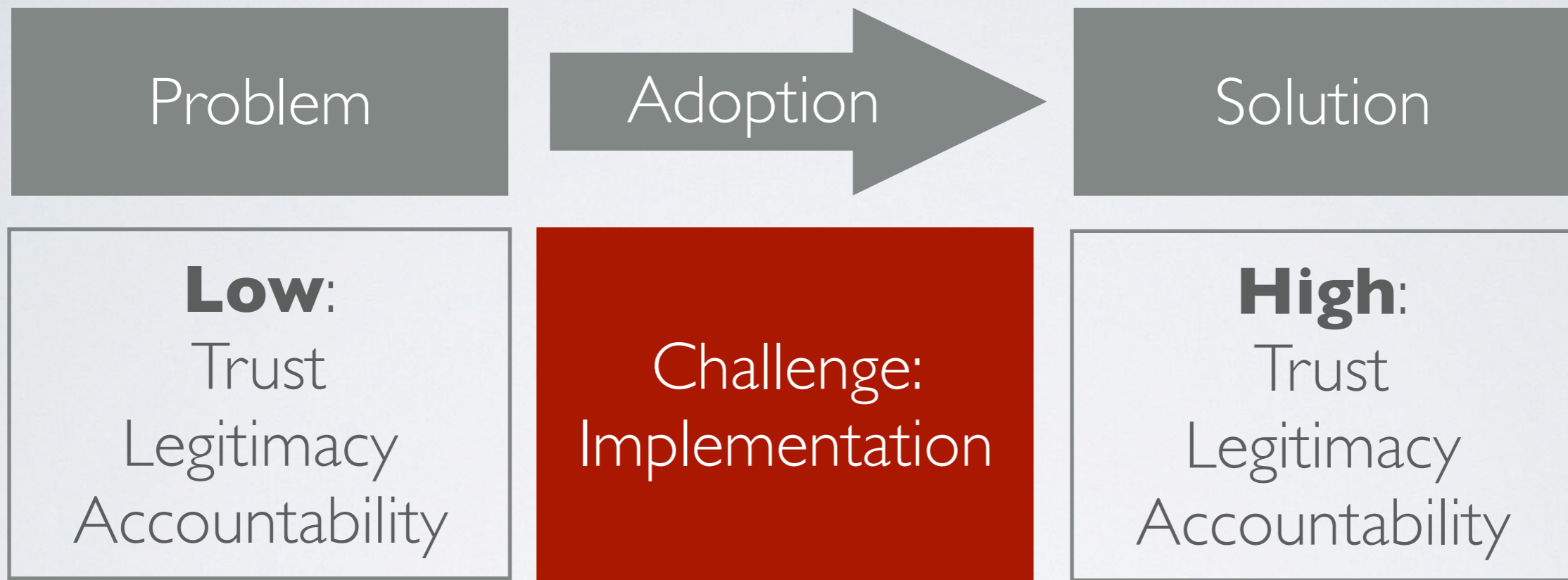
SIMPLE ENOUGH RIGHT?



Agencies should be aware of the difficulties faced when adoption technology

More research on organizational context and activation

SIMPLE ENOUGH RIGHT?



Agencies should be aware of the difficulties faced when adoption technology



More research on organizational context and activation

THANK YOU!

Contact Information:

Jacob Young

jacob.young.1@asu.edu

Justin Ready

justin.ready@asu.edu