

The Core Benefits of Sound In Corrections Security

Immediate Notification



Audio alerts can give early warning of security threats such as assault or battery.

Evidence Collection



Audio recordings can provide key information and context that video does not capture.

Broader Coverage



Audio can be utilized in areas where video is impractical or not permitted, helping fill blind spots in coverage.

Sound In Corrections Security

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One of the greatest security challenges in corrections institutions is the ongoing protection of facility staff, officers, and offenders. By enabling audio in video security systems, monitors can provide better security to all people within the facility.

The Jail Design Guide published by the National Institute of Corrections¹ advises installing audio technology along with video security systems. The Guide also advises that a dedicated staff member monitor security alerts from these technologies to ensure a timely response to any security incident.

The three core benefits of using sound in corrections security are:

1) Immediate Notification of Assault 2) Evidence Collection 3) Broader Surveillance Coverage

Immediate Notification

The value of using audio along with video security systems increases when installed with sound classification analytics. Certain sound analytics installed on security cameras can detect screams, elevated voices, or other sounds indicating a security event in progress.

When these sounds are detected, corrections officers can receive an immediate alert, thereby enabling faster response times. Such technology can give officers the opportunity to intervene and de-escalate a security incident before it intensifies further. Such early warnings can be critical in protecting staff, officers, and offenders from assaults and can be a crucial tool in demonstrating compliance with Department of Justice standards such as PREA².

Evidence Collection

When an incident arises, the audio recording can capture key information and context that video alone does not. Whereas a video feed under normal circumstances would see a conversation taking place, the addition of sound can provide information to detect fraud, extortion, or bribery. The audio recording can then be used to aid in the prosecution of such offenses.

Broader Coverage

Some areas of corrections facilities such as underneath stairwells, are notoriously difficult to cover with video cameras. Other areas such as shower facilities do not have video coverage for privacy purposes. Audio in these areas can provide alerts of assault or other misconduct thereby expanding the security coverage and areas monitored by officers.

The inclusion of audio technology in correction security systems improves the ability of an institution to detect, respond to, and de-escalate a security event, thereby better protecting facility staff, officers, and offenders.

¹ Jail Design Guide 3rd Edition, US Department of Justice National Institute of Corrections, 2011. nicic.gov

² USC 117 STAT. 119