

## Appendix

### Summary of SAC Arrest Information Download and Data Preparation

Data collection for the Crime at the Beach analysis began with a query and download of mainframe IBR complaint records for the two resort agencies (Rehoboth Beach and Dewey Beach) from calendar years 1996 through 1998. The complaint data download includes incident types, incident locations, agencies, clearance codes, occur and report dates, as well as victim and offender descriptive data, where available. Victim and offender data are comprised of name, offender's State Bureau of Identification (SBI) number, address, age, sex, race, and driver's license state (for supplemental residential information).

Mainframe data were downloaded to SAC PC files for use in Visual FoxPro. This application facilitates data assessment and reconciliation prior to any statistical analyses (via SPSS, for example). Since the primary focus of this study is the victim and offender residence relationship, post-download data preparation began with an assessment of address data completeness. Victim and offender address data includes street address, city, county, state, and zip code. Some mainframe IBR records include only partial address information, however. City and state fields were regarded as the critical elements in records that had missing address data. These data were obtained for all offenders and all victims where possible and appropriate (society offenses are considered to have only society as the victim). In some cases city and/or state data were misplaced in other fields. Missing offender data were obtained from the state's offender identification file (offender demographics in the IBR files are redundant). Additionally, the primary SAC researcher on this project is very familiar with the Rehoboth Beach and Dewey Beach areas and was able to identify missing city/street addresses in those jurisdictions.

The data on the mainframe is available to the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) through a standing agreement that encompasses the importance of security and privacy laws at both the State and Federal level. These agreements and policies prohibit the dissemination of individual criminal information. For example, researchers within SAC sign a confidentiality agreement upon employment and may be dismissed if ever they violate that contract.