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MANAGEMENT DECISION
AND RESEARCH CENTER

**National Survey of VA Researchers
2002**

**Volume 2
Facility-Level Results:
VISN 1**

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

**OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**National Survey of VA Researchers
2002**

**Volume 2
Facility-Level Results:
VISN 1**

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2002 National Survey of VA Researchers

3. Facility-Level Results: VISN 1

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2002 Survey of VA Researchers Facility-Level Results: VISN 1

Introduction

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 1. For reasons of score reliability and respondent confidentiality, results are reported only for those facilities with 10 or more respondents. In the case of integrated facilities, results are reported separately for each campus that met this sample size criterion. In the case of integrated facilities where no single campus had 10 or more respondents, a score for the integrated facility overall is reported if the cumulative total of respondents at all campuses combined was 10 or more.

For those facilities that met these criteria, the survey results are presented in 13 exhibits. Characteristics of the respondents are presented in Exhibit 1. Note that the individual facility sample sizes reported in Exhibit 1 will typically not sum to the overall VISN sample size. This is because the VISN sample size includes all respondents from that VISN, whereas only those individual facilities that met the sample size criteria are reported separately.

In Exhibit 2, a performance overview is provided in the form of a table of summary scale scores for each facility. Facilities with scores that are significantly different from the VHA national average are noted. This is followed by a series of bar graphs (Exhibit 3 through Exhibit 8) depicting facility scores on each summary scale along with the VISN and VHA national averages. Each graph also includes as a benchmark the score at the best facility nation-wide on the scale in question.

Beginning with Exhibit 9, the focus shifts from the summary scales to the individual survey questions. For each facility that met the sample size criterion, the percentages of dissatisfied, neutral and satisfied respondents are reported for each survey question that contributed to one of the summary scales.

The section concludes with an appendix that lists the individual survey items that compose each of the summary scales.

Exhibit 1. Characteristics of 2002 Respondents in VISN 1 Facilities

Characteristic	Categories	Bedford (n=25)	BHCS: Jamaica Plain (n=42)	Providence (n=13)	CHCS: West Haven (n=55)	White River Junction (n=17)	VISN 1 (n=169*)
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	24	50	62	63	41	52
	Rehabilitation	8	0	0	7	0	4
	Health Services	48	32	15	26	41	31
	Cooperative Studies	8	8	23	0	18	8
	Other	12	11	0	4	0	6
Years in VHA	0 to 5	21	28	38	28	18	25
	6 to 10	25	18	0	24	35	21
	Over 10	54	54	62	48	47	55
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	0	7	8	6	18	7
	Rehabilitation	0	0	0	0	0	0
	General Internal Medicine	13	17	0	9	12	11
	Medical Subspecialty	8	17	23	19	41	18
	Psychiatry / Psychology	25	49	54	47	18	43
	Dentistry	4	0	0	0	0	1
	Other	21	7	15	19	6	15
	None	29	2	0	0	6	5
Gender	Female	60	46	38	26	35	37
Ethnicity	African-American	4	0	0	0	0	1
	Asian or Pacific Islander	4	13	0	8	0	8
	Hispanic	0	3	0	0	0	1
	White	88	85	100	88	100	89
	Other	4	0	0	4	0	2
Research Project Funding	Any	96	95	92	95	100	93
	VA	72	66	69	55	71	61
	Other Federal	48	73	54	53	65	58
	Foundation	16	7	8	27	12	17
	Pharmaceutical / Business	24	20	23	31	12	23
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	88	83	85	87	94	86
	VA	64	51	46	56	53	54
	Other Federal	16	56	46	38	59	42
	Foundation	12	7	8	22	6	14
	Pharmaceutical / Business	12	15	15	25	6	16
Degree	PhD only	75	65	40	33	38	48
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	25	35	60	67	63	52

*Facility sample sizes may not sum to VISN sample size because only those facilities with 10 or more respondents are reported.

Exhibit 2. VISN 1 Overview: Facility Scores on 2002 Summary Scales

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
Bedford, MA	3.92*	3.51	3.00	2.54	3.65*	3.86*
BHCS: Jamaica Plain, MA ¹	3.47	3.08*	2.49	2.38	3.24	3.23
Providence, RI	3.58	3.10	2.25	2.31	3.37	2.75
CHCS: West Haven, CT	3.62	2.97**	2.23*	2.18*	3.20	3.25
White River Junction, VT	3.86	3.64	1.93*	1.97*	3.04	3.53
VISN Average	3.65	3.22	2.39	2.28	3.28	3.27
VHA Average	3.59	3.30	2.69	2.48	3.14	3.08

For reasons of data reliability and respondent confidentiality, only sites with 10 or more respondents are reported. In the case of integrated facilities and health care systems, separate results are reported for each campus/division that had 10 or more respondents.

All measures reported in this table utilized a 1-5 response scale with a higher score indicative of higher levels of satisfaction. Scale definitions are provided in the appendix to this chapter; scale development is described in the national summary chapter.

VISN Leadership Support is a single-item measure of the supportiveness of VISN leadership (Q3a).

Overall VISN Support is a more comprehensive scale that includes the VISN leadership item (Q3a) and seven others (Q3b through Q3h) representing a variety of VISN-based research support activities.

VISN Average = VISN average in 2002.

VHA Average = VA national average in 2002.

* A single asterisk indicates a difference between the facility and national average that was significant ($p < .05$) without a Bonferroni adjustment for multiple comparisons, but was not significant when the Bonferroni adjustment was applied.

** Double asterisks indicate a difference between the facility and national average that was significant ($p < .05$) even after the Bonferroni adjustment for multiple comparisons was applied (i.e., a difference that was significant both with and without the Bonferroni adjustment).

¹Facility scores for West Roxbury have not been reported because there were only 8 respondents. There is some indication based on this limited group that West Roxbury researchers may be more satisfied than Jamaica Plain researchers with local support but less satisfied with protected time for research and with overall VISN support.

Exhibit 3
Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 1

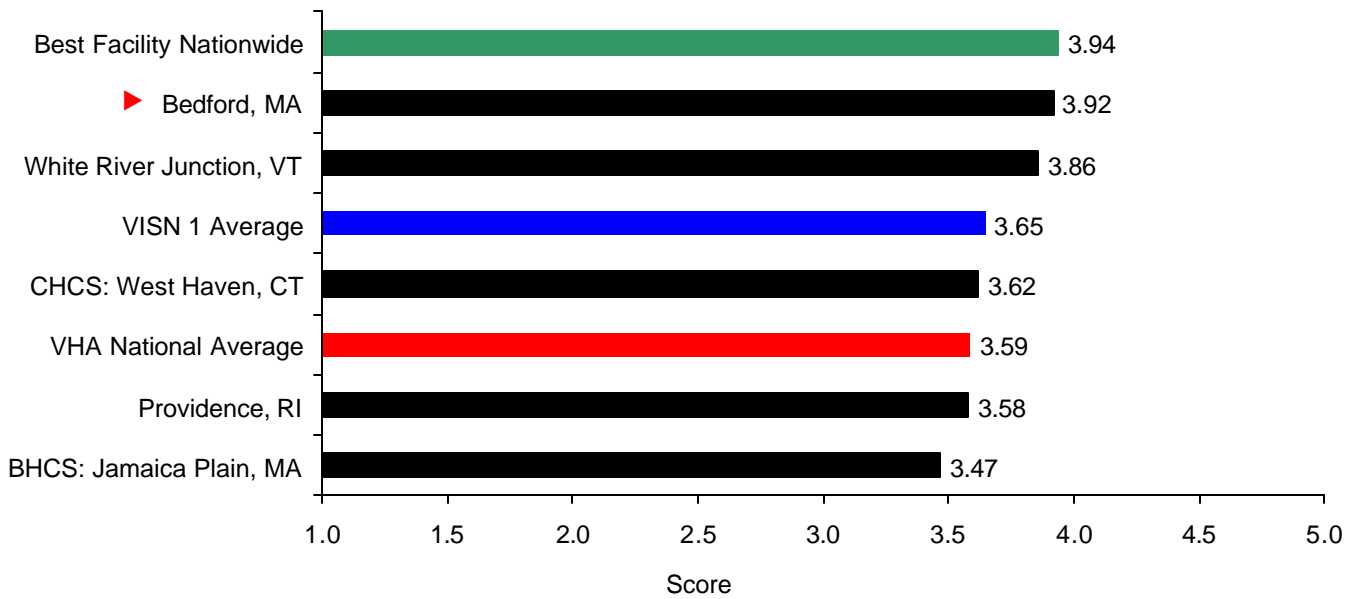
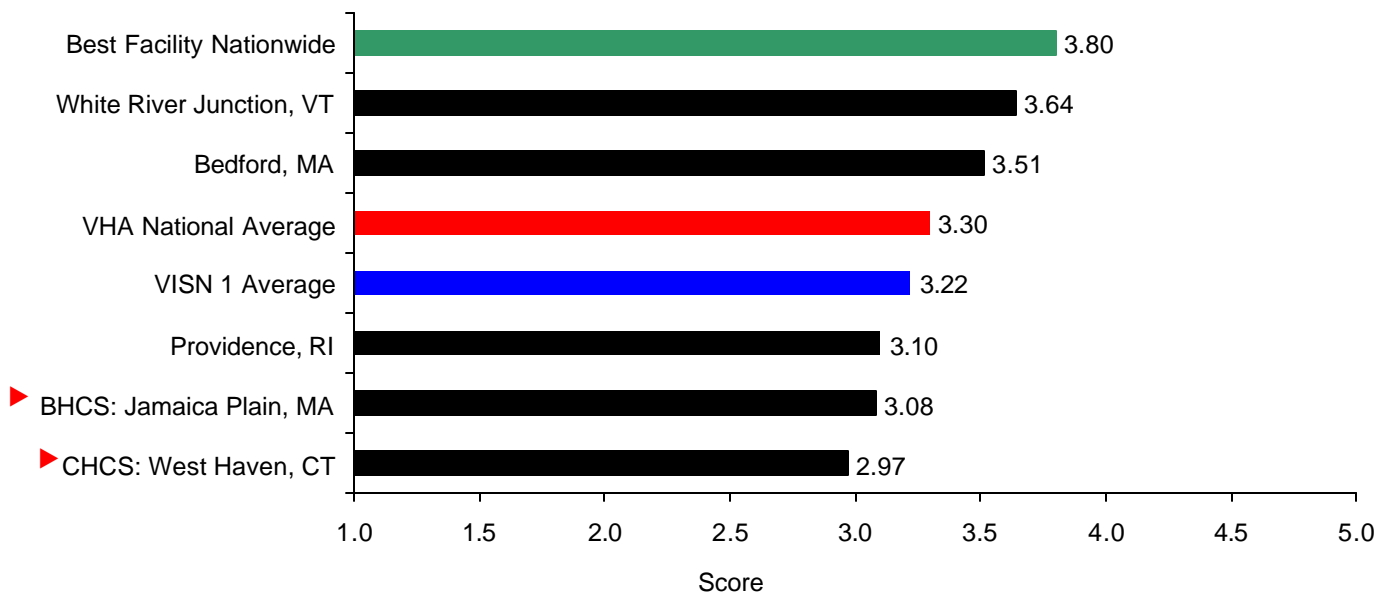


Exhibit 4
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 1



▶ Denotes score is significantly different from national average.
Score. The response scale ranged from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

Exhibit 5
Satisfaction with VISN Leadership Support
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 1

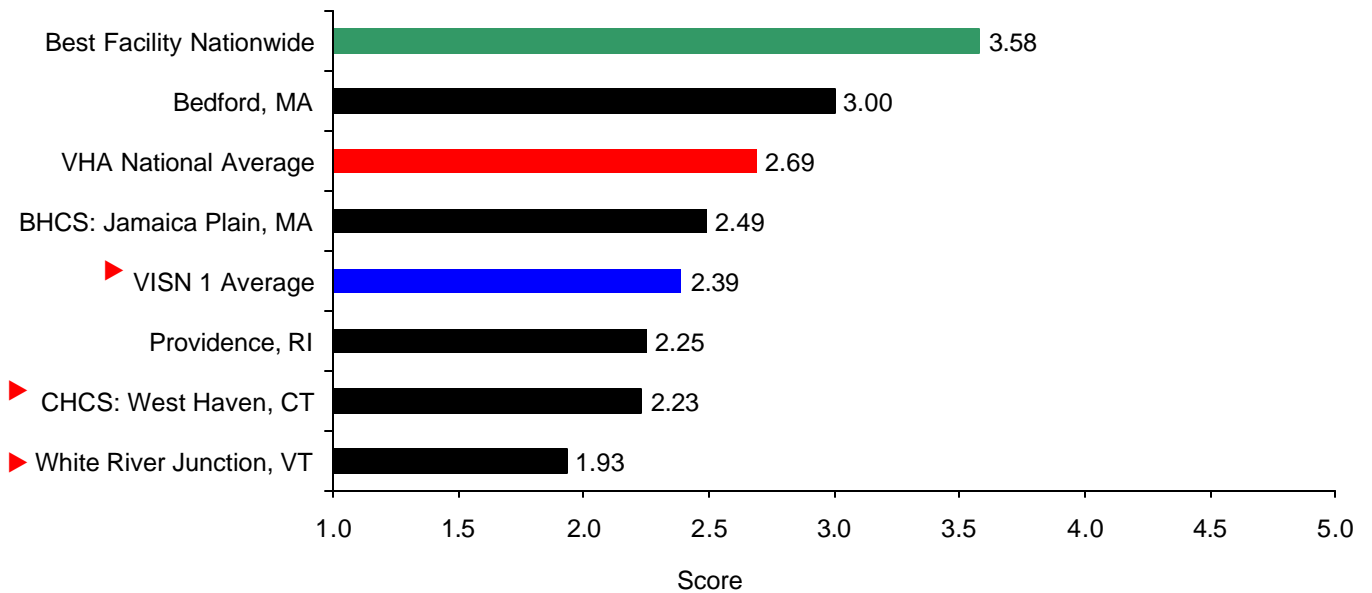
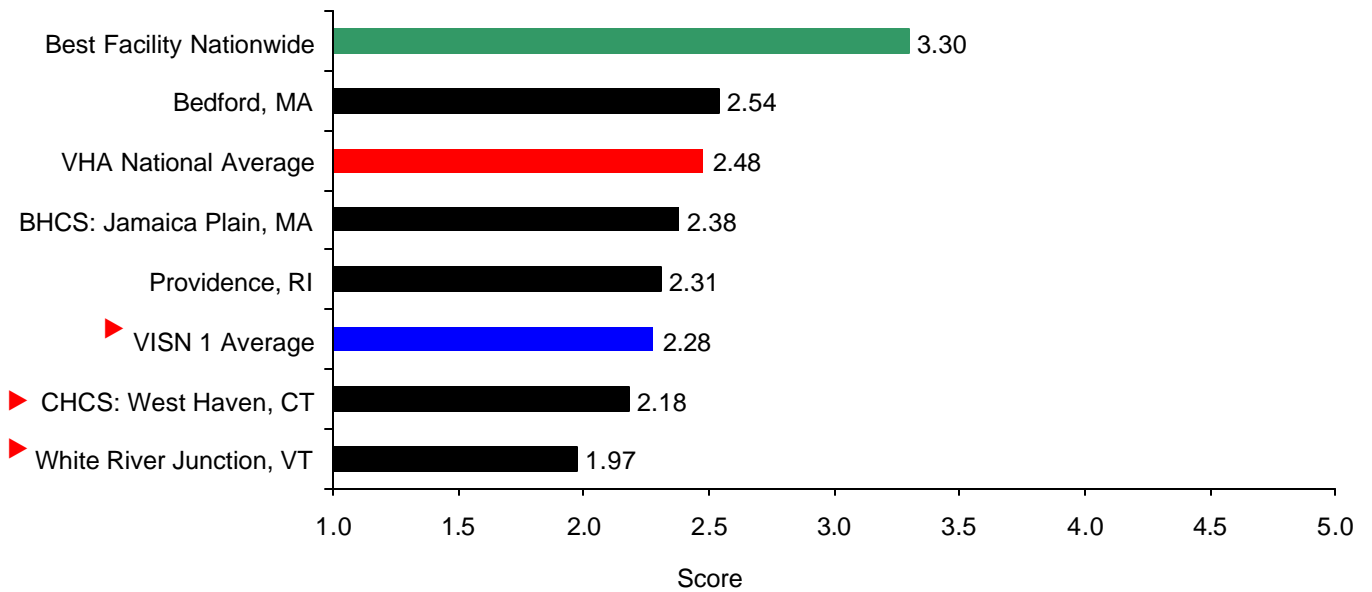


Exhibit 6
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 1



▶ Denotes score is significantly different from national average.
Score. The response scale ranged from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

Exhibit 7
Satisfaction with Support from the National Research Office
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 1

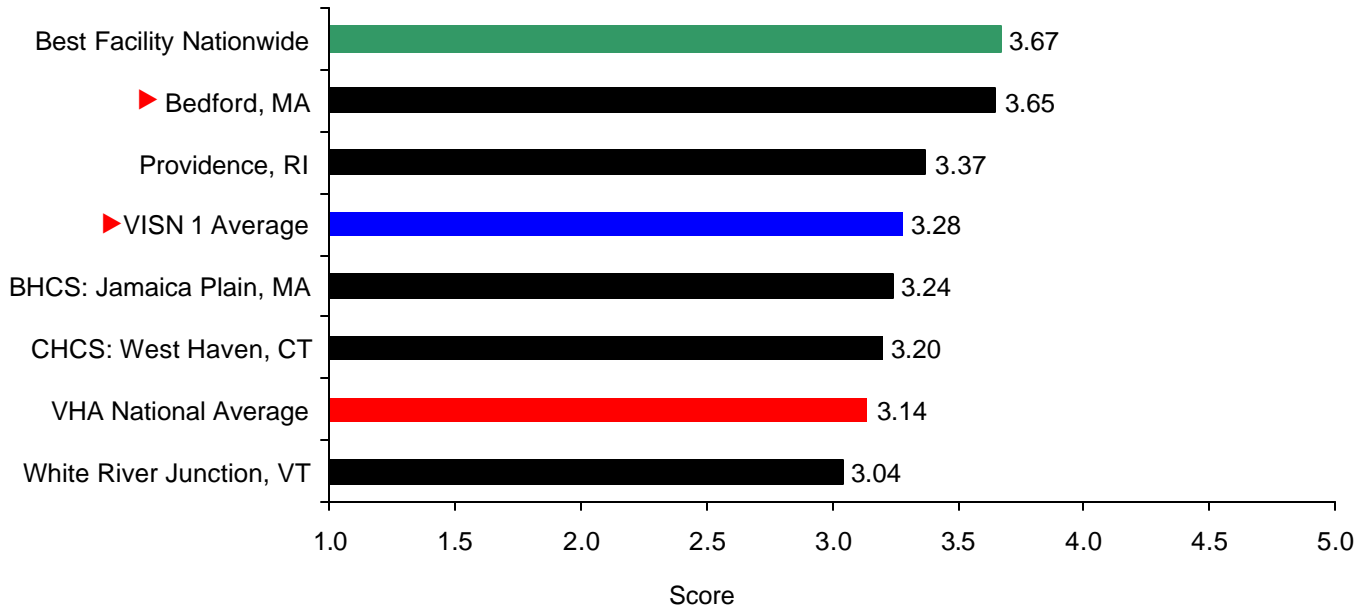
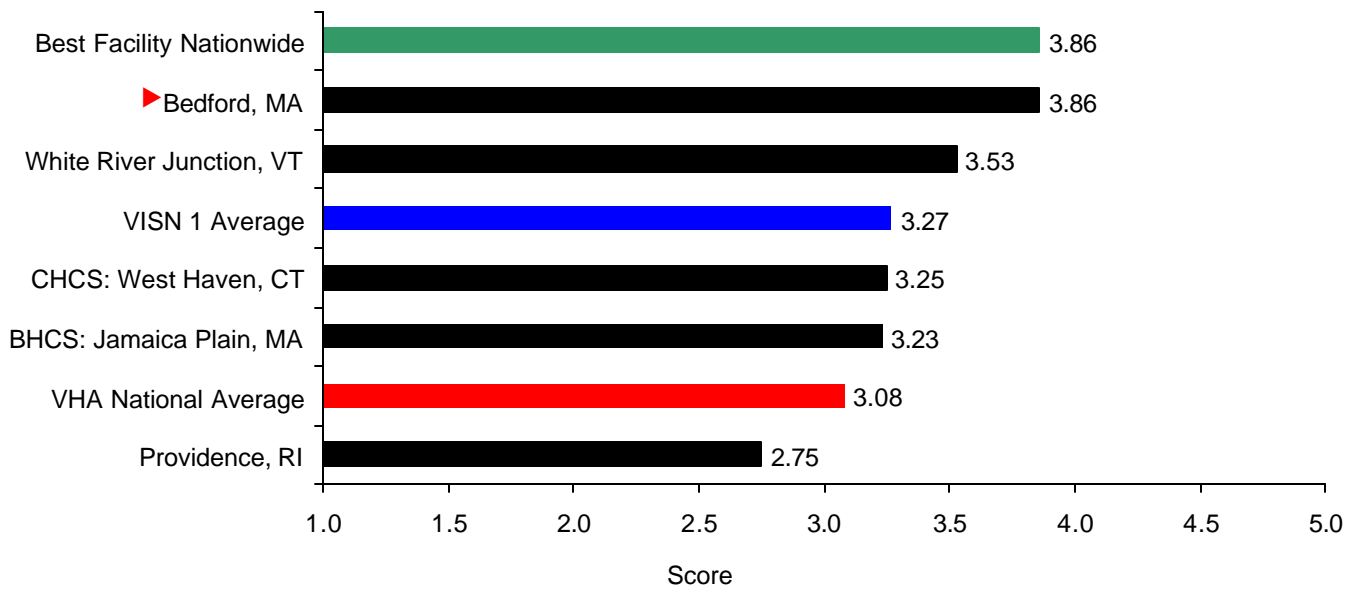


Exhibit 8
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 1



▶ Denotes score is significantly different from national average.

Score. The response scale ranged from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

Exhibit 9. Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility

Question 1	Bedford (n=25)			BHCS Jamaica Plain (n=42)			Providence (n=13)			CHCS West Haven (n=55)			White River Junction (n=17)		
	Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Availability of RAs / technologists	30	13	57	24	21	55	40	20	40	40	37	23	25	13	63
b Availability of clerical support	35	17	48	60	23	18	73	9	18	59	26	15	31	25	44
c Competence of support staff	4	13	83	33	28	40	27	18	55	27	31	42	13	19	69
d Assistance with research project management	43	22	35	44	21	36	25	25	50	40	31	29	18	29	53
e Availability of collaborators	8	13	79	3	15	83	9	36	55	7	18	75	18	12	71
f Mentoring / collegial support	17	17	67	13	13	75	17	33	50	13	21	66	31	6	63
g Office space / facilities	24	16	60	30	18	53	45	9	45	28	39	33	29	12	59
h Laboratory space / facilities	22	11	67	26	26	48	43	29	29	53	18	29	20	20	60
i Animal care facilities	40	0	60	25	25	50	0	50	50	11	17	72	0	14	86
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	13	29	58	34	29	37	50	25	25	37	28	35	24	29	47
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	9	26	65	13	26	62	44	11	44	21	21	58	24	24	53
l Adequacy of protected research time	19	14	67	33	13	54	58	8	33	31	23	46	33	13	53
m Computer systems / support	36	20	44	21	26	54	17	42	42	56	17	28	29	6	65
n Libraries	29	25	46	60	5	35	27	9	64	34	15	51	18	12	71

*D=Dissatisfied / N=Neutral / S=Satisfied

Exhibit 10. Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA

Question 2	Bedford (n=25)			BHCS Jamaica Plain (n=42)			Providence (n=13)			CHCS West Haven (n=55)			White River Junction (n=17)		
	Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Salary / fringe benefits	18	23	59	28	20	53	36	36	27	30	36	34	27	27	47
b Future security of research opportunities	23	41	36	29	29	41	31	38	31	38	38	25	31	25	44
n Job security	25	21	54	25	13	63	8	33	58	11	36	53	29	18	53
c Workload	17	25	58	37	15	49	31	38	31	23	37	40	24	29	47
d Level of stress	33	21	46	37	27	37	15	31	54	30	39	31	41	6	53
e Opportunities for creativity	4	21	75	24	17	59	8	31	62	13	24	63	24	12	65
f Opportunities to use my skills	0	21	79	24	12	63	15	23	62	7	26	67	18	12	71
g Opportunities to expand my skills	8	33	58	21	23	56	15	31	54	9	28	63	24	12	65
h Enjoyment of the research	0	8	92	10	7	83	0	8	92	0	9	91	0	12	88
i Autonomy to choose research direction	0	13	88	0	24	76	0	8	92	6	7	87	12	12	76
j Amount of paperwork	42	25	33	49	37	15	38	46	15	44	30	26	47	47	6
k Communication within local research services	17	30	52	46	20	34	23	31	46	44	27	29	13	44	44
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	17	17	67	32	37	32	38	31	31	43	24	33	18	12	71
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	4	29	67	39	15	46	33	50	17	24	35	41	12	18	71

*D=Dissatisfied / N=Neutral / S=Satisfied

Exhibit 11. Satisfaction with Research Support from the VISN

Question 3	Bedford (n=25)			BHCS Jamaica Plain (n=42)			Providence (n=13)			CHCS West Haven (n=55)			White River Junction (n=17)		
	Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VISN leadership	26	42	32	46	33	21	67	25	8	62	30	9	73	27	0
b VISN support for protected time	40	27	33	45	34	21	50	25	25	70	16	14	69	15	15
c VISN educational programs	32	42	26	34	42	24	8	92	0	52	41	7	40	60	0
d VISN support for specific projects	41	41	18	46	41	14	60	30	10	61	25	14	64	29	7
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	59	35	6	53	44	3	55	45	0	69	22	9	71	21	7
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	55	35	10	62	28	10	58	42	0	72	24	4	79	21	0
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	45	40	15	48	43	10	67	25	8	49	36	15	79	7	14
h VISN recognition of work at university	57	36	7	62	35	3	64	36	0	65	26	9	71	29	0

*D=Dissatisfied / N=Neutral / S=Satisfied

Exhibit 12. Satisfaction with Support from the National Research Office

Question 4	Bedford (n=25)			BHCS Jamaica Plain (n=42)			Providence (n=13)			CHCS West Haven (n=55)			White River Junction (n=17)		
	Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters	0	43	57	26	28	46	67	25	8	22	40	38	27	20	53
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	19	38	43	31	23	46	50	25	25	22	43	35	27	13	60
c VA letter of intent process	0	32	68	18	28	54	8	92	0	7	39	54	25	38	38
d VA grant review process	5	25	70	18	33	49	60	30	10	19	36	45	38	31	31
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	10	30	60	21	44	36	55	45	0	35	48	17	50	36	14

*D=Dissatisfied / N=Neutral / S=Satisfied

Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position

Questions 6-11, 13 ⁴	Bedford (n=25)			BHCS Jamaica Plain (n=42)			Providence (n=13)			CHCS West Haven (n=55)			White River Junction (n=17)		
	No ¹	Percent Neutral	Yes ²	No ¹	Percent Neutral	Yes ²	No ¹	Percent Neutral	Yes ²	No ¹	Percent Neutral	Yes ²	No ¹	Percent Neutral	Yes ²
6 If you had to decide all over again, do you think you would choose a career in the VA?	0	17	83	28	25	48	31	31	38	22	30	48	6	18	76
7 Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	8	25	67	23	20	58	23	46	31	26	22	52	18	6	76
8 Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	58	25	17	43	28	30	54	8	38	48	17	35	76	12	12
9 Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	67	13	21	85	3	13	54	38	8	60	11	28	59	24	18
10 Do you personally know of any individual whose recruitment to VA was made possible by the availability of research opportunities and support in the VA?	33	NA	67	40	NA	60	38	NA	62	33	NA	67	18	NA	82
11 Do you personally know of an individual who could not be recruited to the VA because opportunities and support for research in the VA were insufficient?	71	NA	29	35	NA	65	46	NA	54	44	NA	56	35	NA	65
13 If research opportunities were <u>not</u> available in the VA, how likely do you think it is that you would currently be working in the VA system? ³	68	NA	32	74	NA	26	46	NA	54	69	NA	31	65	NA	35

NA = Not applicable; no neutral response category for this question.

¹Includes “probably not” and “no.”

²Includes “probably yes” and “yes.”

³Respondents indicating that there was less than or equal to a 5% chance that they would work in VA if research opportunities were not available were defined as “No.”

⁴Question 12 not included in this table because of differences in response scale.

Appendix. Scale Definitions

Scale	Definition	Survey Items
Research Work	Satisfaction with own research work (e.g., levels of stress, opportunities for creativity, attractiveness of my position compared with other available job opportunities).	Q2c - Q2i and Q2m
Local Support	Satisfaction with local VA facilities and support (e.g., availability of support staff, computer systems/support, laboratory space).	Q1b - Q1d, Q1f - Q1j, Q1m, Q1n, Q2k and Q2L
VISN Leadership Support	Satisfaction with supportiveness of VISN leadership	Q3a
Overall VISN Support	Satisfaction with VISN support and opportunities (e.g., VISN rewards and recognition supporting research, VISN support for specific research projects, supportiveness of VISN leadership)	Q3a - Q3h
National Research Program	Satisfaction with support and opportunities in VA national research system (e.g., supportiveness of research headquarters, satisfaction with grant review process)	Q4a - Q4e
Protected Time for Research	Adequacy of own protected time for research	Q1L