
MDRC

MANAGEMENT DECISION
AND RESEARCH CENTER

**National Survey of VA Researchers
2002**

**Volume 2
Facility-Level Results:
VISN 6**

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 6**

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2002 National Survey of VA Researchers

3. Facility-Level Results: VISN 6

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2002 Survey of VA Researchers Facility-Level Results: VISN 6

Introduction

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 6. 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 6 Facilities

Characteristic	Categories	Durham (n=51)	VISN 6 (n=71*)
		Percent	Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	57	54
	Rehabilitation	6	13
	Health Services	27	24
	Cooperative Studies	8	8
	Other	2	1
Years in VHA	0 to 5	18	15
	6 to 10	25	25
	Over 10	57	59
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	10	10
	Rehabilitation	2	3
	General Internal Medicine	27	23
	Medical Subspecialty	25	24
	Psychiatry / Psychology	14	21
	Dentistry	2	1
	Other	18	15
None	2	3	
Gender	Female	35	34
Ethnicity	African-American	0	0
	Asian or Pacific Islander	2	6
	Hispanic	0	0
	White	98	94
	Other	0	0
Research Project Funding	Any	96	90
	VA	73	62
	Other Federal	73	61
	Foundation	35	28
	Pharmaceutical / Business	43	41
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	94	92
	VA	61	56
	Other Federal	53	44
	Foundation	24	20
	Pharmaceutical / Business	33	31
Degree	PhD only	27	25
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	73	75

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

Exhibit 2. VISN 6 Overview: Facility Scores on 2002 Summary Scales

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
Durham, NC	3.91**	3.47*	2.20*	2.14*	3.54**	3.17
VISN Average	3.78	3.40	2.32	2.18	3.42	3.08
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).

Exhibit 3
Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 6

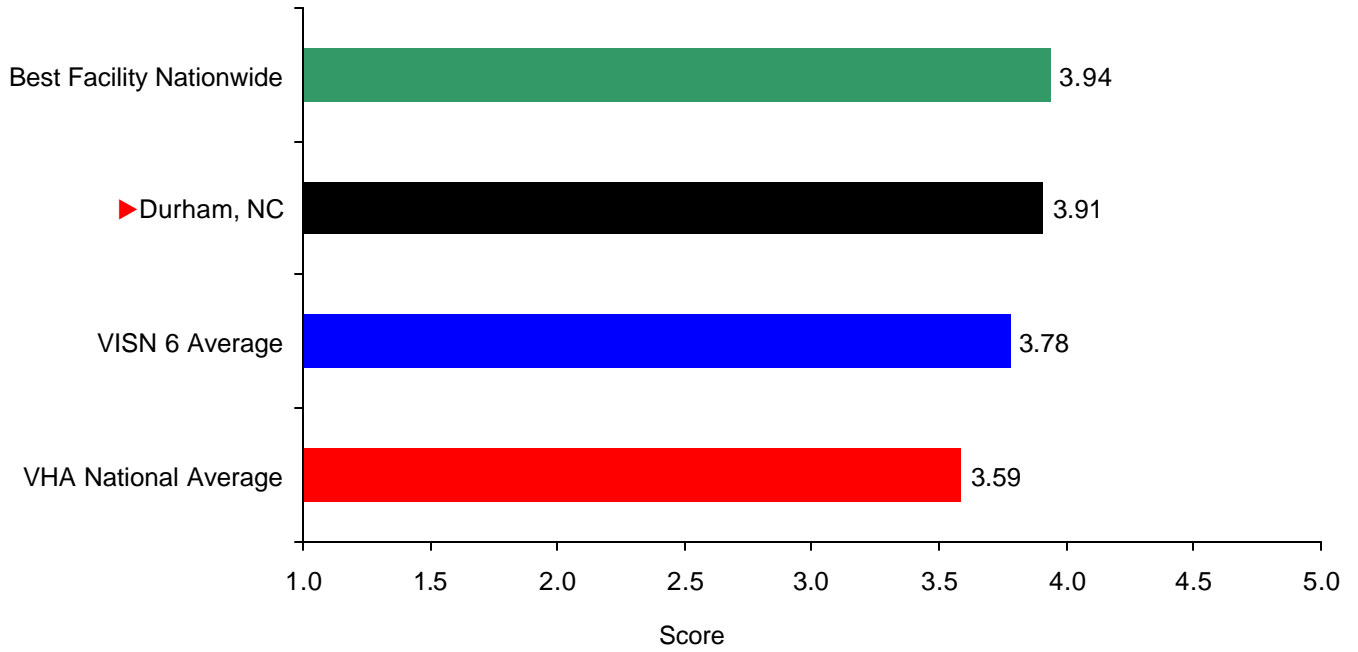
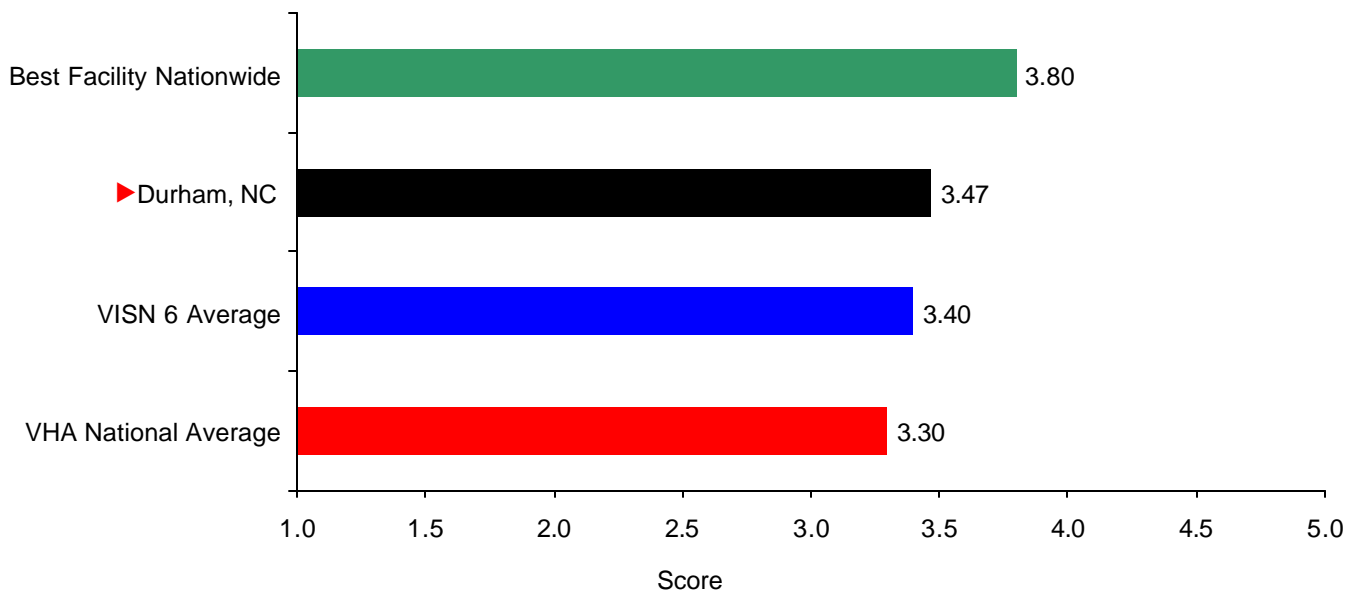


Exhibit 4
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 6



▶ 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 6

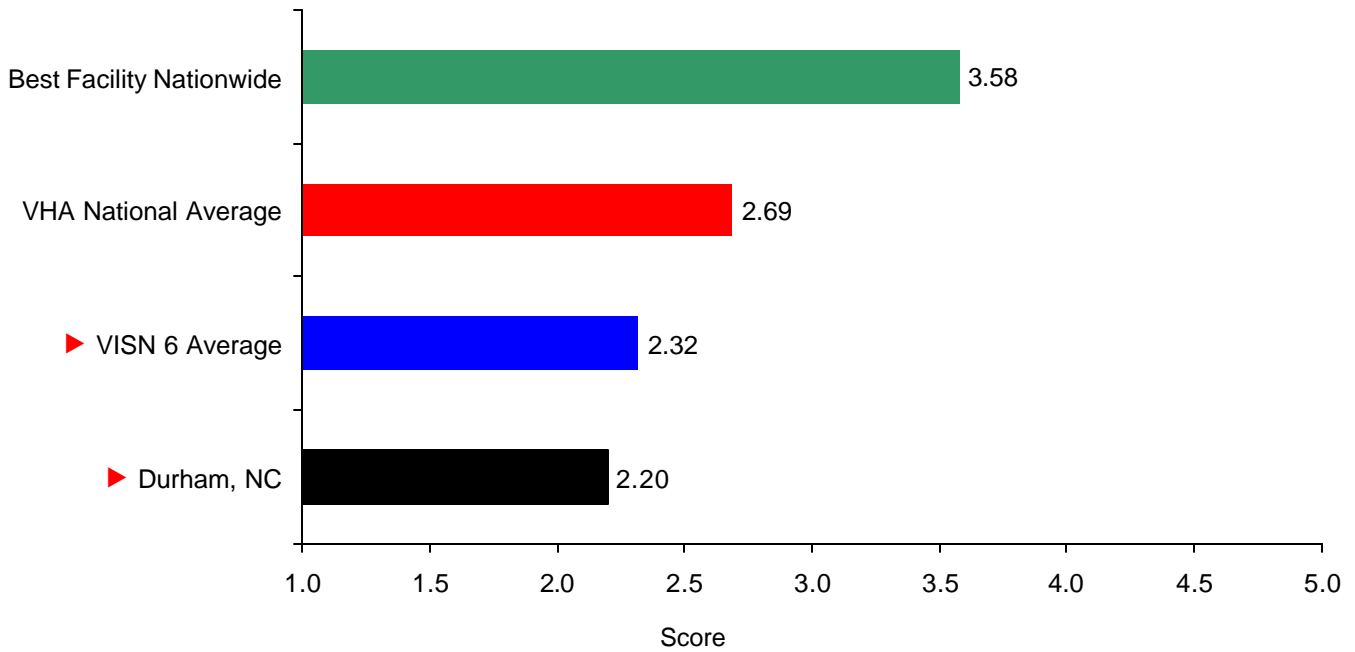
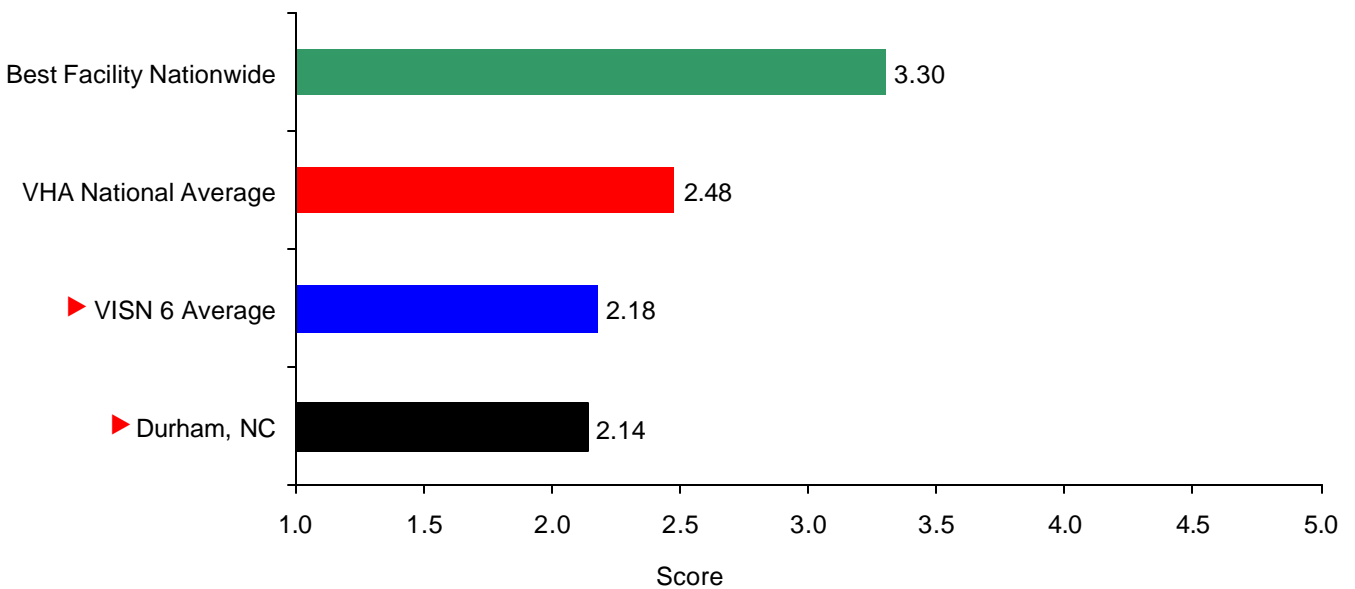


Exhibit 6
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 6



▶ 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 6

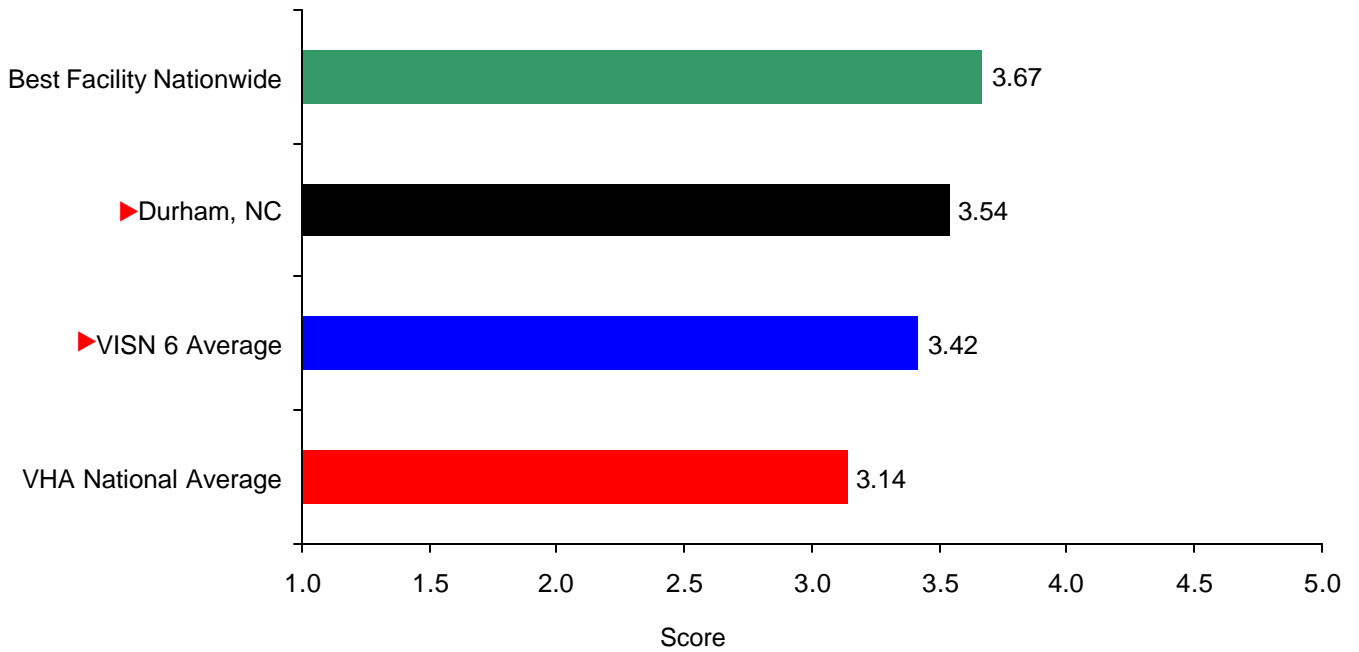
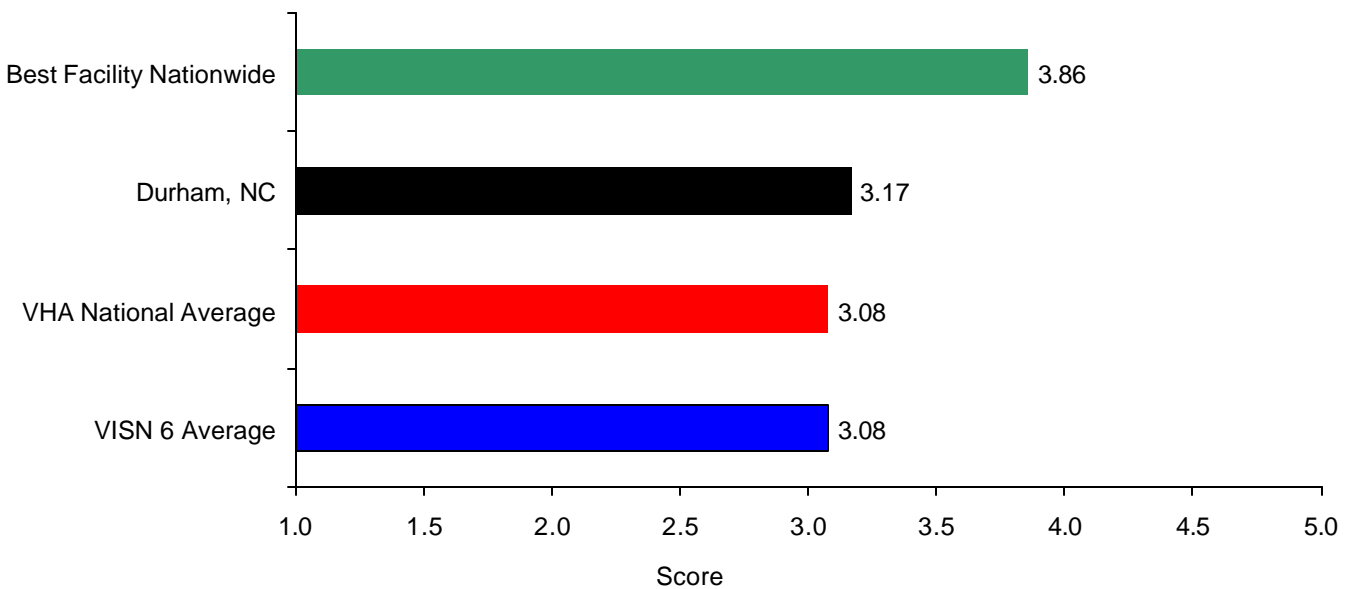


Exhibit 8
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 6



▶ 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	Durham (n=51) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*
a Availability of RAs / technologists	18	30	52
b Availability of clerical support	40	21	38
c Competence of support staff	15	17	69
d Assistance with research project management	6	29	65
e Availability of collaborators	9	19	72
f Mentoring / collegial support	9	21	70
g Office space / facilities	36	20	44
h Laboratory space / facilities	39	24	37
i Animal care facilities	9	9	82
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	20	24	56
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	14	31	55
l Adequacy of protected research time	29	25	46
m Computer systems / support	38	23	40
n Libraries	14	18	68

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

Exhibit 10. Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA

Question 2	Durham (n=51) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*
a Salary / fringe benefits	30	22	48
b Future security of research opportunities	26	46	28
n Job security	16	24	60
c Workload	18	26	56
d Level of stress	18	30	52
e Opportunities for creativity	2	16	82
f Opportunities to use my skills	4	10	86
g Opportunities to expand my skills	8	20	71
h Enjoyment of the research	0	6	94
i Autonomy to choose research direction	0	6	94
j Amount of paperwork	46	38	16
k Communication within local research services	10	49	41
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	6	31	63
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	8	27	65

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

Exhibit 11. Satisfaction with Research Support from the VISN

Question 3	Durham (n=51) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*
a Supportiveness of VISN leadership	64	27	9
b VISN support for protected time	63	29	7
c VISN educational programs	48	52	0
d VISN support for specific projects	68	29	2
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	72	21	7
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	55	45	0
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	48	50	2
h VISN recognition of work at university	61	36	2

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

Exhibit 12. Satisfaction with Support from the National Research Office

Question 4	Durham (n=51) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*
a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters	7	33	61
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	2	35	63
c VA letter of intent process	14	26	60
d VA grant review process	11	31	58
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	28	26	46

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

Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position

Questions 6-11, 13 ⁴		Durham (n=51) Percent		
		No ¹	Neutral	Yes ²
6	If you had to decide all over again, do you think you would choose a career in the VA?	6	27	67
7	Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	10	29	61
8	Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	69	14	18
9	Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	78	16	6
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?	29	NA	71
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?	47	NA	53
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	75	NA	25

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