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MANAGEMENT DECISION
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**National Survey of VA Researchers
2002**

**Volume 2
Facility-Level Results:
VISN 8**

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 8**

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2002 National Survey of VA Researchers

3. Facility-Level Results: VISN 8

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2002 Survey of VA Researchers Facility-Level Results: VISN 8

Introduction

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 8. 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 8 Facilities

Characteristic	Categories	Bay Pines (n=17)	NF/SG HCS: Gainesville (n=40)	Miami (n=29)	San Juan (n=16)	Tampa (n=37)	VISN 8 (n=148*)
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	63	68	78	69	58	66
	Rehabilitation	13	18	11	13	14	13
	Health Services	6	5	11	0	11	8
	Cooperative Studies	6	3	0	6	3	3
	Other	13	8	0	13	14	10
Years in VHA	0 to 5	19	41	19	19	17	25
	6 to 10	25	8	22	19	9	18
	Over 10	56	51	59	63	74	57
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	6	13	7	0	17	10
	Rehabilitation	13	8	7	19	8	9
	General Internal Medicine	6	13	15	0	11	10
	Medical Subspecialty	38	21	22	56	22	26
	Psychiatry / Psychology	0	13	15	0	17	12
	Dentistry	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	38	28	26	25	22	30
None	0	5	7	0	3	4	
Gender	Female	50	31	35	38	43	40
Ethnicity	African-American	0	0	0	0	3	1
	Asian or Pacific Islander	13	13	8	0	0	6
	Hispanic	13	5	15	94	11	21
	White	75	82	73	6	80	70
	Other	0	0	4	0	6	2
Research Project Funding	Any	76	98	93	69	92	89
	VA	53	70	69	38	59	60
	Other Federal	0	38	31	19	32	26
	Foundation	6	25	34	13	14	19
Pharmaceutical / Business	47	40	41	44	46	43	
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	82	90	90	63	86	86
	VA	47	65	69	38	65	59
	Other Federal	0	28	28	13	35	23
	Foundation	6	15	31	6	11	14
Pharmaceutical / Business	47	28	45	44	27	36	
Degree	PhD only	25	41	39	0	45	36
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	75	59	61	100	55	64

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

Exhibit 2. VISN 8 Overview: Facility Scores on 2002 Summary Scales

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
Bay Pines, FL	3.24	3.28	2.71	2.40	2.94	2.73
NF/SG HCS: Gainesville, FL	3.78	3.54*	3.38**	2.92*	3.67**	3.50*
Miami, FL	3.46	3.37	2.93	2.65	3.40	3.00
San Juan, PR	3.62	3.66	3.14	2.76	3.20	2.00*
Tampa, FL	3.58	3.16	2.94	2.68	3.05	3.07
VISN Average	3.58	3.37	3.10	2.75	3.31	3.02
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 8

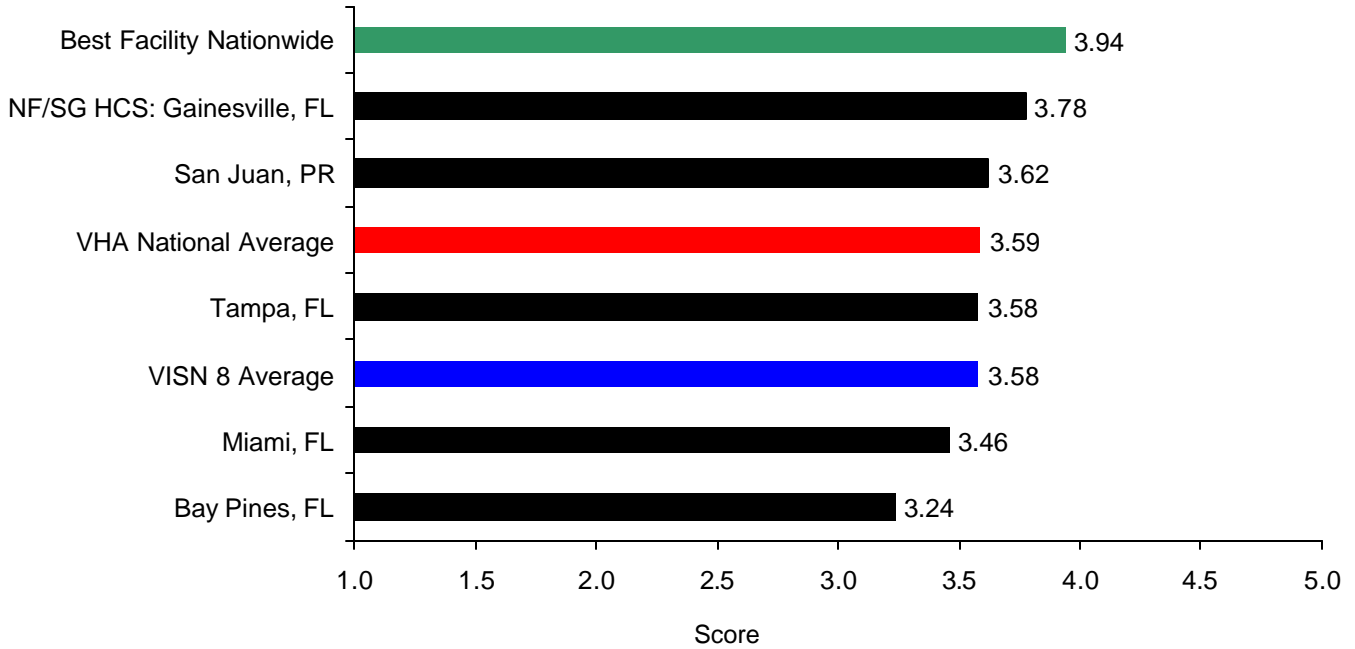
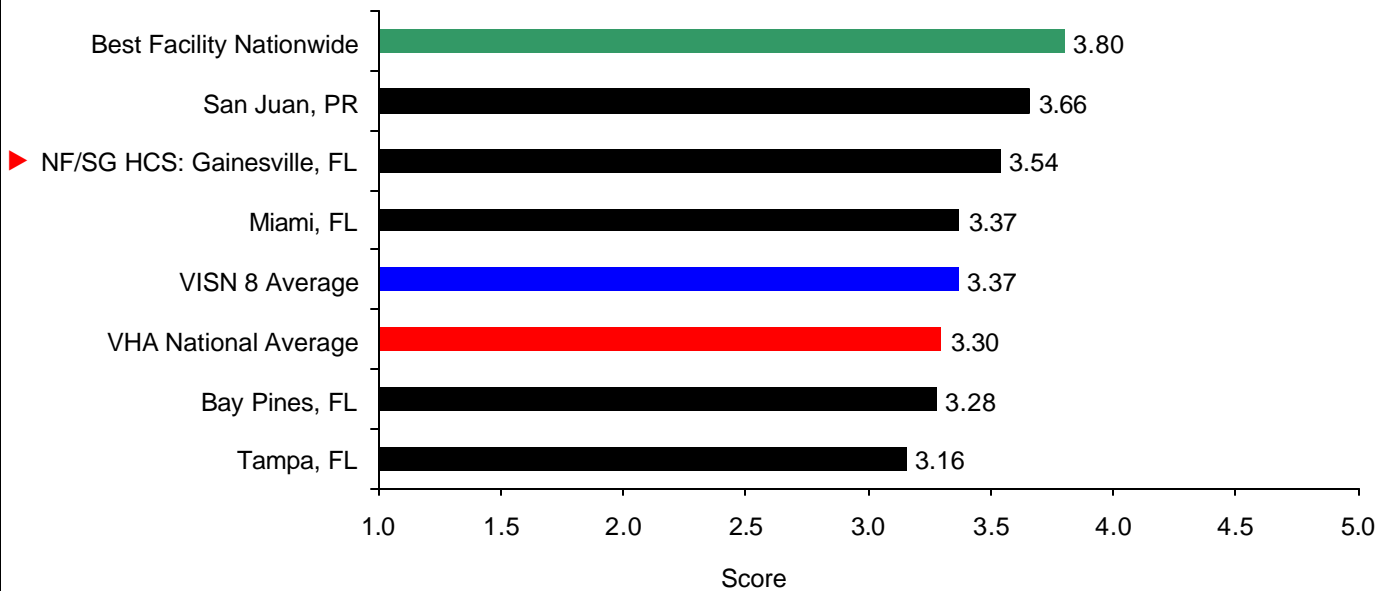


Exhibit 4
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 8



▶ 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 8

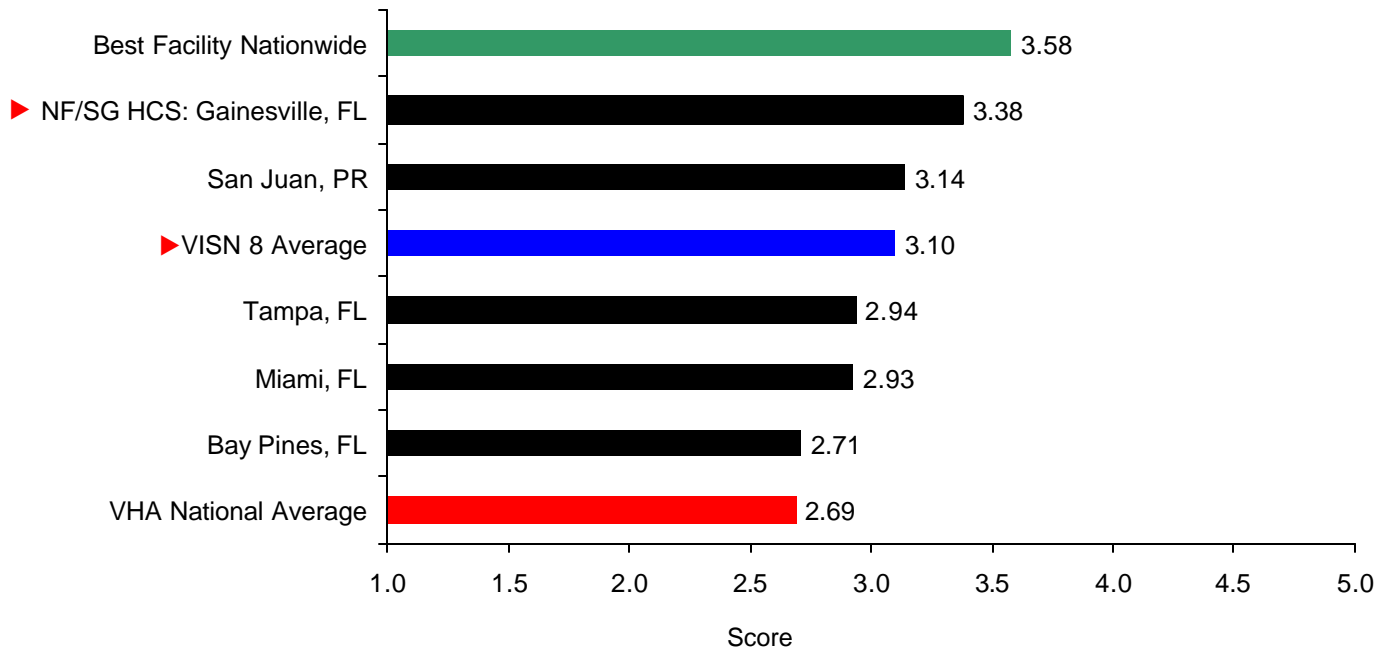
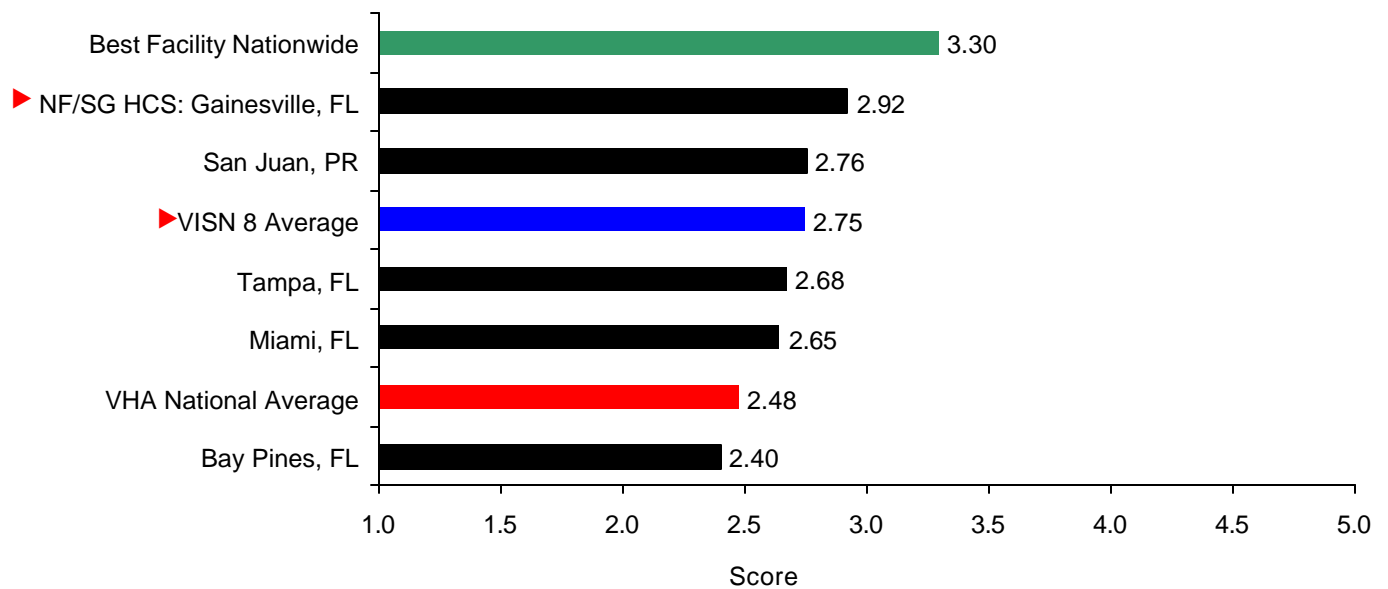


Exhibit 6
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 8



▶ 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 8

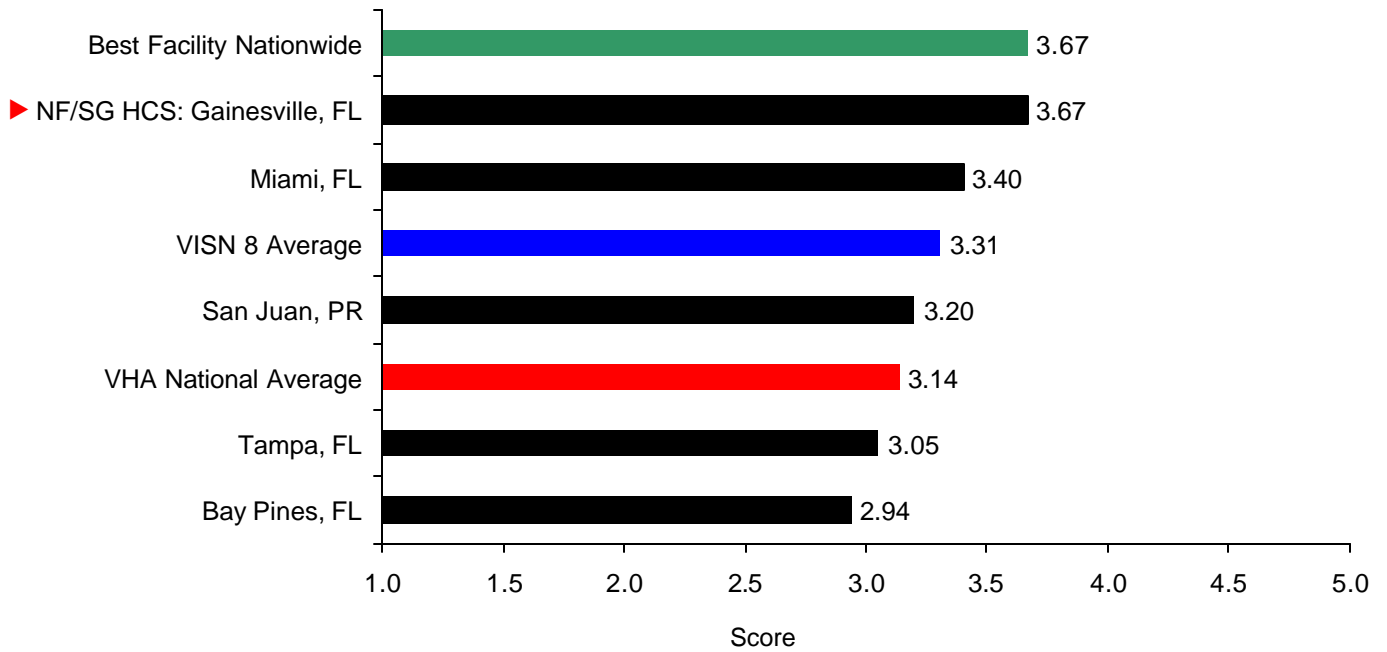
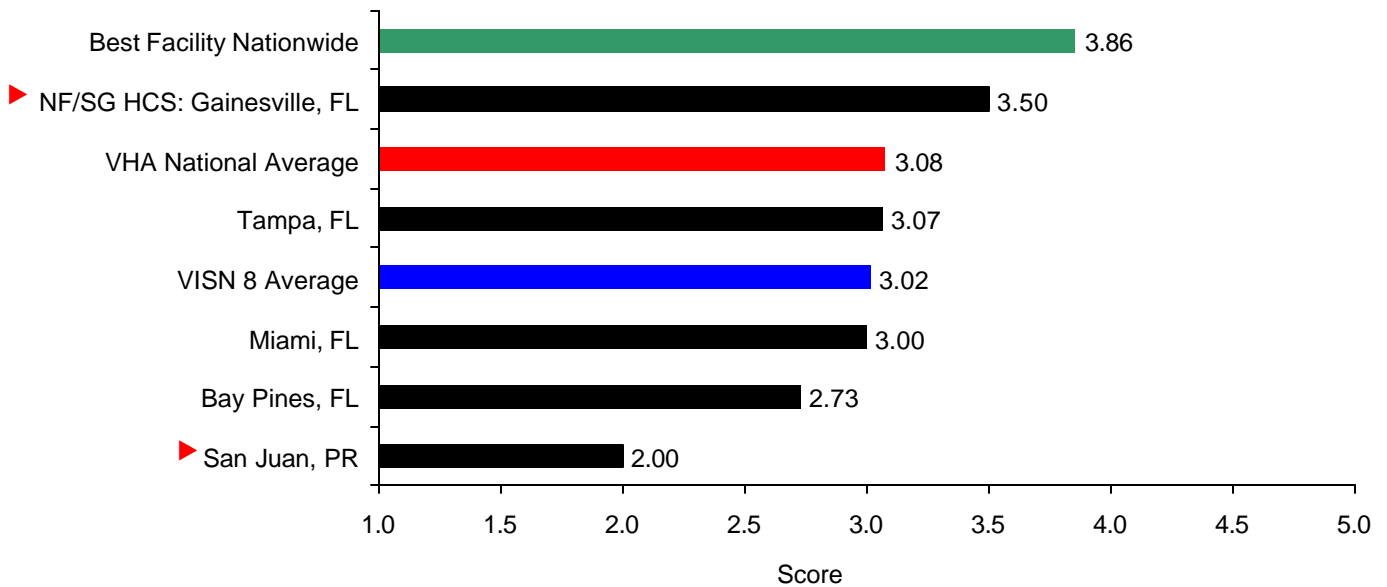


Exhibit 8
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 8



▶ 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	Bay Pines (n=17)			NF/SG HCS: Gainesville (n=40)			Miami (n=29)			San Juan (n=16)			Tampa (n=37)		
	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	40	13	47	27	22	51	36	21	43	31	31	38	29	18	53
b Availability of clerical support	50	25	25	43	19	38	66	21	14	29	36	36	52	19	29
c Competence of support staff	7	20	73	16	21	63	10	21	69	7	13	80	22	22	56
d Assistance with research project management	50	7	43	33	28	39	7	14	79	8	23	69	41	15	44
e Availability of collaborators	38	13	50	11	18	71	21	36	43	31	23	46	12	24	64
f Mentoring / collegial support	44	6	50	21	13	66	29	32	39	8	50	42	36	21	42
g Office space / facilities	27	27	47	23	15	62	41	22	37	36	14	50	45	9	45
h Laboratory space / facilities	36	21	43	17	29	54	48	19	33	31	0	69	44	7	48
i Animal care facilities	20	20	60	13	13	74	0	36	64	33	0	67	13	20	67
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	44	13	44	13	13	75	18	21	61	31	6	63	41	5	54
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	56	13	31	18	16	66	7	41	52	31	15	54	25	13	63
l Adequacy of protected research time	53	7	40	26	18	55	37	22	41	67	13	20	43	10	47
m Computer systems / support	38	13	50	21	31	49	18	39	43	14	14	71	46	9	46
n Libraries	29	12	59	5	31	64	28	28	45	0	13	88	9	24	68

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

Exhibit 10. Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA

Question 2	Bay Pines (n=17)			NF/SG HCS: Gainesville (n=40)			Miami (n=29)			San Juan (n=16)			Tampa (n=37)		
	Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Salary / fringe benefits	46	23	31	24	21	55	35	31	35	42	8	50	38	14	48
b Future security of research opportunities	62	15	23	10	38	51	50	31	19	0	60	40	29	18	53
n Job security	13	40	47	18	16	66	11	25	64	7	21	71	15	29	56
c Workload	47	13	40	18	25	58	29	36	36	40	33	27	29	18	53
d Level of stress	47	20	33	33	30	38	24	34	41	31	44	25	36	19	44
e Opportunities for creativity	40	13	47	10	13	77	34	14	52	0	38	63	29	15	56
f Opportunities to use my skills	33	7	60	10	13	78	17	24	59	6	25	69	22	19	58
g Opportunities to expand my skills	40	20	40	20	18	63	24	41	34	13	19	69	29	20	51
h Enjoyment of the research	13	27	60	3	15	83	7	18	75	0	31	69	8	8	84
i Autonomy to choose research direction	0	36	64	10	8	83	0	7	93	0	19	81	3	15	82
j Amount of paperwork	53	27	20	63	13	25	52	21	28	50	25	25	51	32	16
k Communication within local research services	20	27	53	24	18	58	17	24	59	0	19	81	24	16	59
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	33	20	47	13	23	65	21	28	52	19	19	63	30	16	54
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	40	13	47	11	24	66	26	30	44	0	40	60	26	9	66

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

Exhibit 11. Satisfaction with Research Support from the VISN

Question 3	Bay Pines (n=17)			NF/SG HCS: Gainesville (n=40)			Miami (n=29)			San Juan (n=16)			Tampa (n=37)		
	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	36	36	29	15	41	44	26	59	15	14	57	29	41	26	32
b VISN support for protected time	57	29	14	28	34	38	48	36	16	79	7	14	45	17	38
c VISN educational programs	36	21	43	33	40	27	31	46	23	38	31	31	38	25	38
d VISN support for specific projects	50	36	14	27	33	40	36	44	20	23	54	23	43	29	29
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	57	29	14	42	42	15	67	19	15	46	38	15	55	27	18
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	64	21	14	37	43	20	59	30	11	46	38	15	63	19	19
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	57	36	7	42	35	23	42	42	15	38	54	8	53	19	28
h VISN recognition of work at university	67	33	0	48	31	21	52	33	15	33	56	11	57	20	23

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

Exhibit 12. Satisfaction with Support from the National Research Office

Question 4	Bay Pines (n=17)			NF/SG HCS: Gainesville (n=40)			Miami (n=29)			San Juan (n=16)			Tampa (n=37)		
	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	25	50	25	11	24	66	14	38	48	23	46	31	38	12	50
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	33	47	20	14	32	54	15	38	46	15	46	38	35	24	41
c VA letter of intent process	13	33	53	9	26	66	13	33	54	10	50	40	21	27	52
d VA grant review process	40	27	33	8	24	68	14	25	61	18	55	27	26	32	42
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	36	36	29	14	23	63	18	50	32	30	40	30	48	16	35

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

Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position

Questions 6-11, 13 ⁴	Bay Pines (n=17)			NF/SG HCS: Gainesville (n=40)			Miami (n=29)			San Juan (n=16)			Tampa (n=37)		
	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?	35	12	53	13	21	67	11	44	44	13	19	69	16	16	68
7 Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	47	6	47	15	18	67	22	30	48	19	13	69	29	11	60
8 Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	59	24	18	68	13	20	70	11	19	44	44	13	68	11	22
9 Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	59	18	24	70	8	23	63	4	33	75	6	19	68	11	22
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?	59	NA	41	30	NA	70	44	NA	56	50	NA	50	57	NA	43
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?	59	NA	41	63	NA	37	52	NA	48	63	NA	38	51	NA	49
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	35	NA	65	63	NA	38	66	NA	34	31	NA	69	51	NA	49

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