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

**Volume 2
Facility-Level Results:
VISN 15**

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 15**

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3. Facility-Level Results: VISN 15

	Page
Introduction.....	2
Exhibits	
1. Respondent Demographics.....	3
<i>Summary Scale Score Results</i>	
2. Overview: Scores on Summary Scales.....	4
3. Research Work at Local VA.....	5
4. Support at the Local Facility.....	5
5. VISN Leadership Support.....	6
6. Overall VISN Support	6
7. Support from National Research Office.....	7
8. Adequacy of Protected Time.....	7
<i>Item-by-Item Results</i>	
9. Support at the Local Facility.....	8
10. Research Work at Local VA.....	9
11. Support from the VISN.....	10
12. Support from National Research Office.....	11
13. Attractiveness of VA Position.....	12
Appendix: Scale Definitions.....	13

2002 Survey of VA Researchers Facility-Level Results: VISN 15

Introduction

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 15. 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 15 Facilities

Characteristic	Categories	Columbia (n=11)	Kansas City (n=18)	St. Louis (n=21)	VISN 15 (n=50*)
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	73	56	85	71
	Rehabilitation	0	28	0	10
	Health Services	0	0	10	4
	Cooperative Studies	18	11	0	8
	Other	9	6	5	6
Years in VHA	0 to 5	18	17	10	14
	6 to 10	36	28	20	27
	Over 10	45	56	70	59
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	9	0	20	10
	Rehabilitation	0	6	0	2
	General Internal Medicine	0	22	5	10
	Medical Subspecialty	55	28	50	43
	Psychiatry / Psychology	18	11	0	8
	Dentistry	0	6	0	2
	Other	9	22	25	20
None	9	6	0	4	
Gender	Female	18	28	10	18
Ethnicity	African-American	0	0	0	0
	Asian or Pacific Islander	9	22	5	12
	Hispanic	0	0	0	0
	White	91	72	95	86
	Other	0	6	0	2
Research Project Funding	Any	100	78	95	90
	VA	45	39	43	42
	Other Federal	55	28	57	46
	Foundation	36	11	19	20
	Pharmaceutical / Business	55	50	38	46
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	91	67	86	80
	VA	36	39	38	38
	Other Federal	55	17	38	34
	Foundation	36	6	24	20
	Pharmaceutical / Business	45	33	24	32
Degree	PhD only	36	42	19	30
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	64	58	81	70

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

Exhibit 2. VISN 15 Overview: Facility Scores on 2002 Summary Scales

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
Columbia, MO	3.34	3.36	1.70*	1.77*	3.08	3.30
Kansas City, MO	3.38	2.88*	2.29	2.30	3.16	2.75
St. Louis, MO	3.40	2.90*	1.95*	1.91*	2.87	2.89
VISN Average	3.38	3.00	2.02	2.02	3.02	2.93
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 15

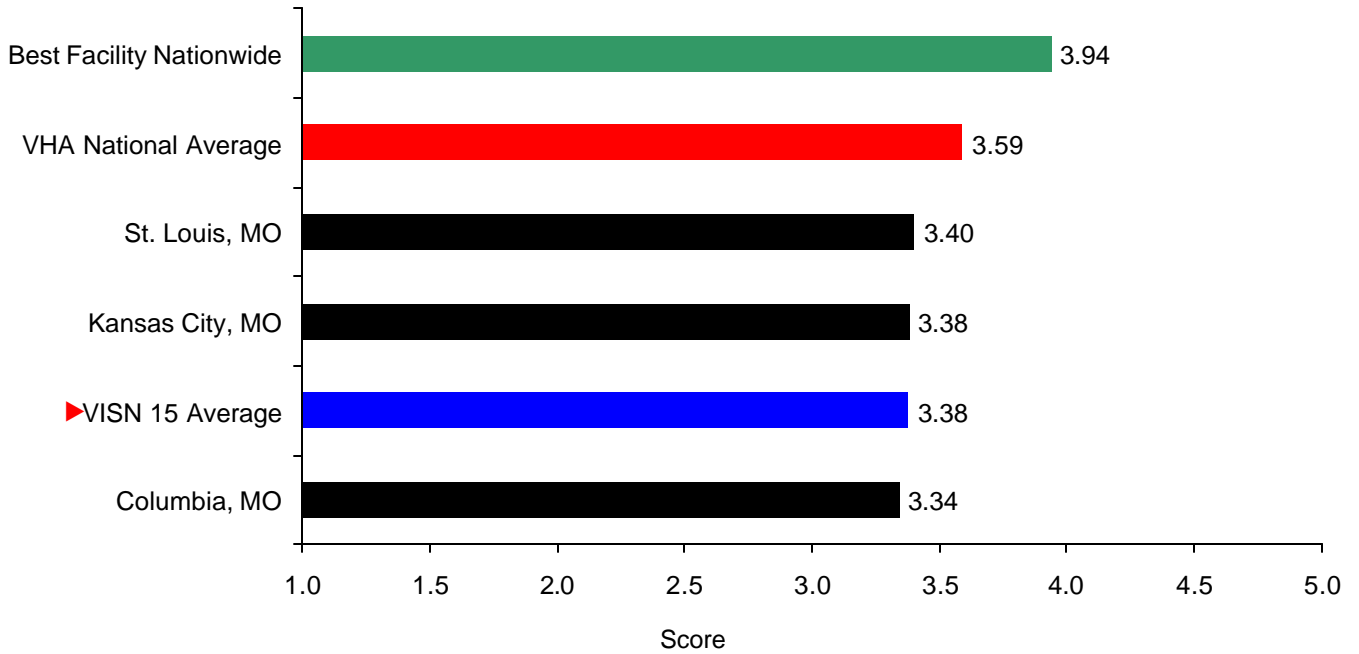
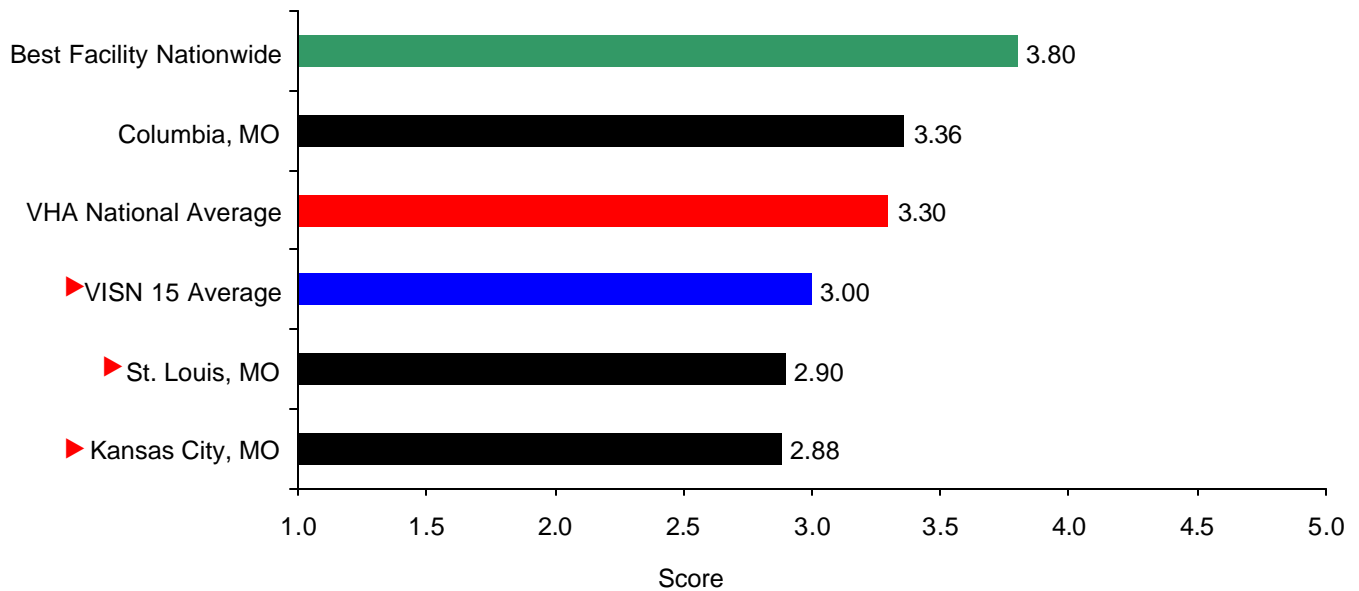


Exhibit 4
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 15



▶ 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 15

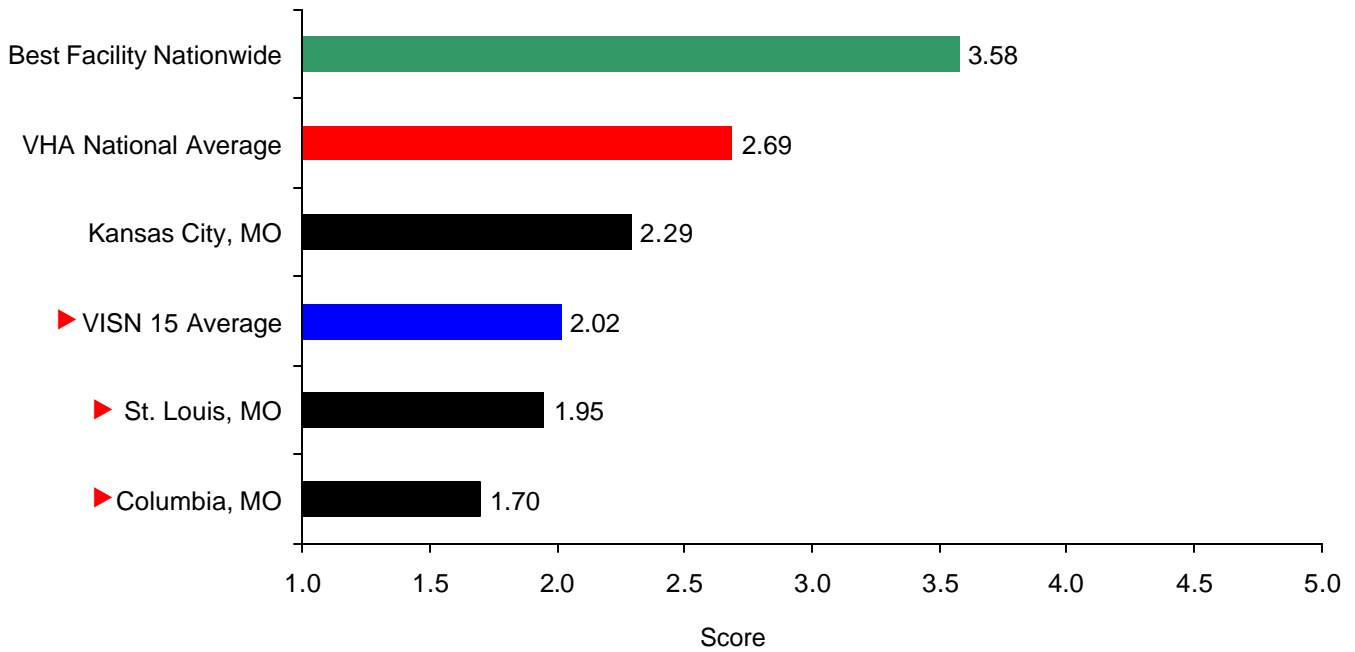
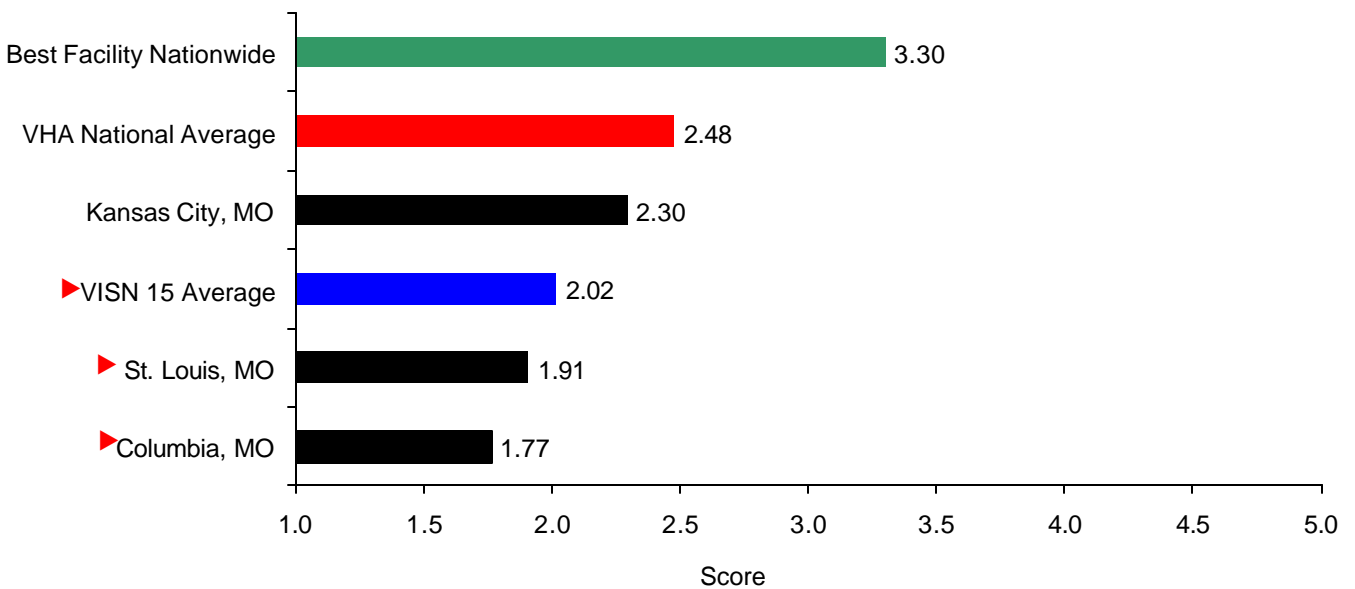


Exhibit 6
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 15



▶ 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 15

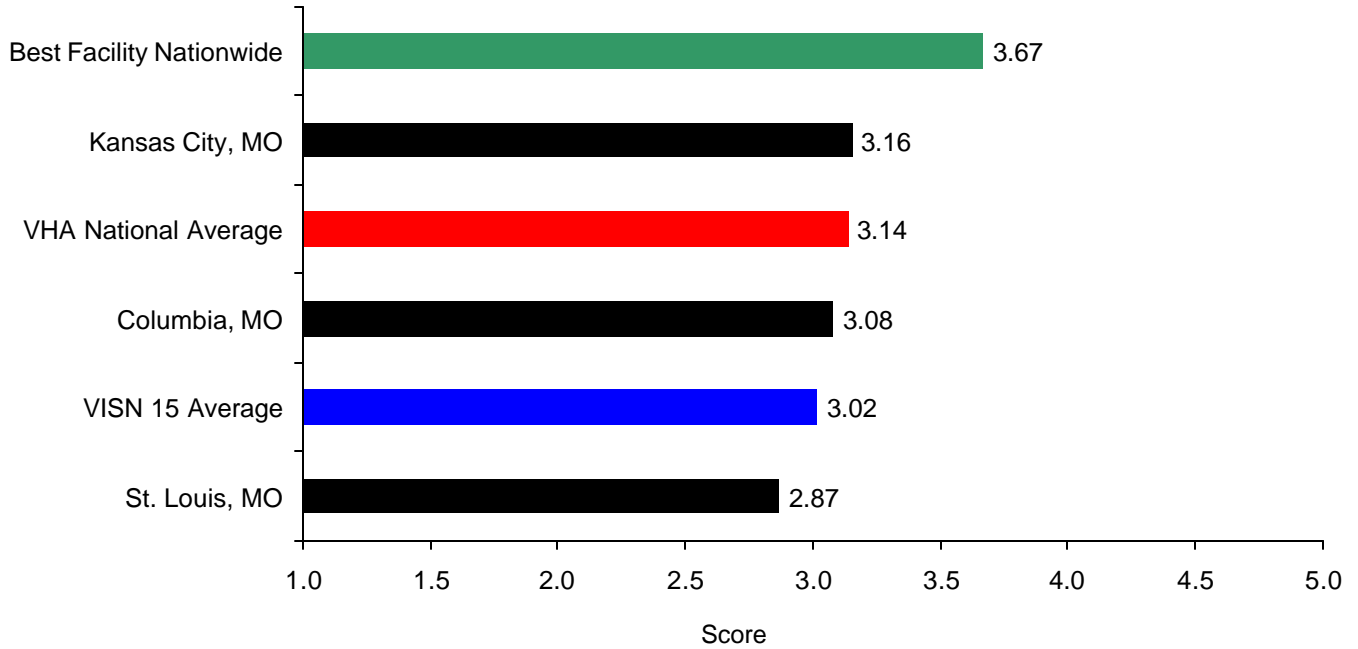
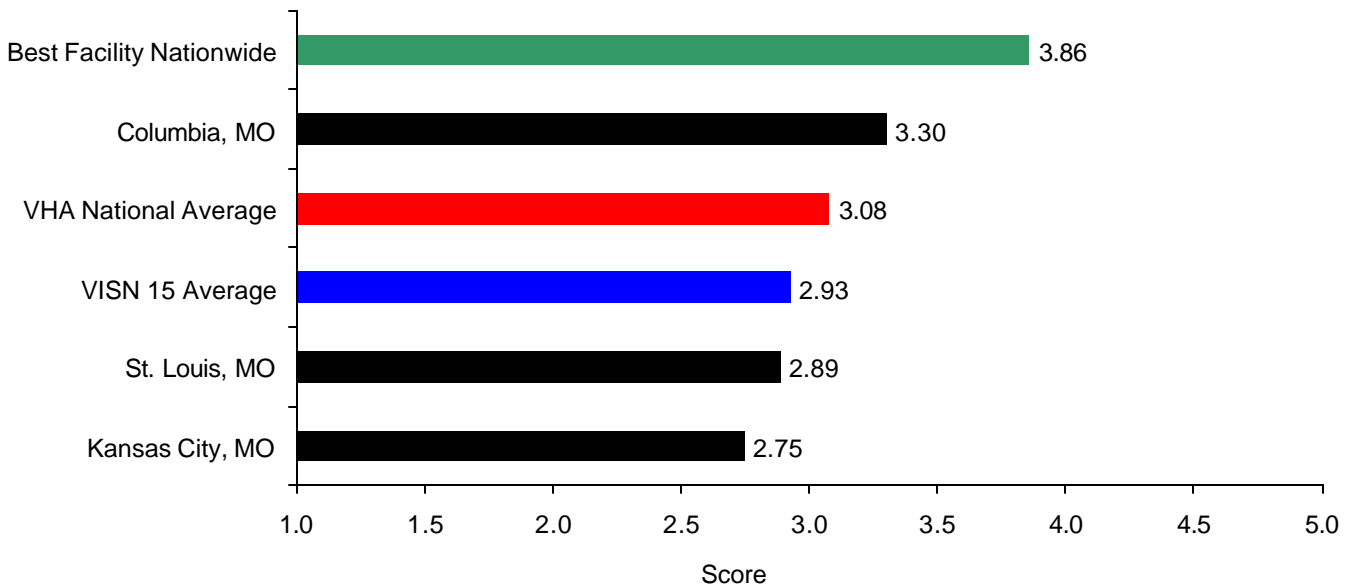


Exhibit 8
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 15



▶ 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	Columbia (n=11) Percent			Kansas City (n=18) Percent			St. Louis (n=21) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Availability of RAs / technologists	36	36	27	60	13	27	40	20	40
b Availability of clerical support	64	18	18	73	20	7	38	48	14
c Competence of support staff	36	27	36	41	35	24	19	48	33
d Assistance with research project management	18	55	27	60	13	27	40	30	30
e Availability of collaborators	27	18	55	31	25	44	48	19	33
f Mentoring / collegial support	20	20	60	33	28	39	52	19	29
g Office space / facilities	18	27	55	28	28	44	38	14	48
h Laboratory space / facilities	9	36	55	13	47	40	47	16	37
i Animal care facilities	13	13	75	0	57	43	38	19	44
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	10	20	70	44	11	44	38	14	48
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	27	36	36	41	35	24	43	10	48
l Adequacy of protected research time	30	0	70	44	19	38	50	17	33
m Computer systems / support	10	60	30	22	33	44	48	24	29
n Libraries	27	27	45	28	11	61	43	19	38

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

Exhibit 10. Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA

Question 2	Columbia (n=11) Percent			Kansas City (n=18) Percent			St. Louis (n=21) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Salary / fringe benefits	20	20	60	40	13	47	29	24	48
b Future security of research opportunities	45	36	18	24	53	24	52	24	24
n Job security	18	18	64	12	24	65	25	20	55
c Workload	40	30	30	47	18	35	29	33	38
d Level of stress	40	30	30	56	11	33	57	10	33
e Opportunities for creativity	40	10	50	28	17	56	20	30	50
f Opportunities to use my skills	27	27	45	33	17	50	14	24	62
g Opportunities to expand my skills	45	9	45	41	18	41	38	24	38
h Enjoyment of the research	9	9	82	12	18	71	0	10	90
i Autonomy to choose research direction	9	0	91	17	17	67	0	5	95
j Amount of paperwork	64	9	27	67	17	17	67	29	5
k Communication within local research services	18	45	36	47	24	29	33	33	33
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	27	18	55	39	22	39	43	33	24
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	27	18	55	24	24	53	33	33	33

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

Exhibit 11. Satisfaction with Research Support from the VISN

Question 3	Columbia (n=11) Percent			Kansas City (n=18) Percent			St. Louis (n=21) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VISN leadership	80	10	10	59	29	12	76	14	10
b VISN support for protected time	70	20	10	67	13	20	78	17	6
c VISN educational programs	60	30	10	53	24	24	62	33	5
d VISN support for specific projects	67	33	0	47	41	12	62	29	10
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	80	20	0	69	19	13	80	20	0
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	80	20	0	65	29	6	81	14	5
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	80	20	0	56	44	0	81	14	5
h VISN recognition of work at university	78	22	0	73	20	7	71	24	5

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

Exhibit 12. Satisfaction with Support from the National Research Office

Question 4	Columbia (n=11) Percent			Kansas City (n=18) Percent			St. Louis (n=21) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters	18	55	27	13	50	38	32	37	32
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	18	45	36	25	44	31	25	45	30
c VA letter of intent process	18	55	27	7	47	47	21	53	26
d VA grant review process	18	45	36	13	47	40	26	37	37
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	40	30	30	23	62	15	65	30	5

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

Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position

Questions 6-11, 13 ⁴	Columbia (n=11) Percent			Kansas City (n=18) Percent			St. Louis (n=21) Percent		
	No ¹	Neutral	Yes ²	No ¹	Neutral	Yes ²	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?	36	0	64	6	28	67	33	33	33
7 Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	18	36	45	28	28	44	40	30	30
8 Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	64	18	18	53	24	24	52	19	29
9 Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	55	36	9	82	0	18	43	19	38
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?	18	NA	82	59	NA	41	43	NA	57
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?	64	NA	36	59	NA	41	52	NA	48
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	64	NA	36	50	NA	50	71	NA	29

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