
MDRC

MANAGEMENT DECISION
AND RESEARCH CENTER

**National Survey of VA Researchers
2002**

**Volume 2
Facility-Level Results:
VISN 17**

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 17**

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2002 Survey of VA Researchers Facility-Level Results: VISN 17

Introduction

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 17. 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 17 Facilities

Characteristic	Categories	North TX HCS: Dallas (n=46)	STVHCS: San Antonio (n=42)	VISN 17 (n=96*)
		Percent	Percent	Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	71	80	73
	Rehabilitation	7	5	6
	Health Services	5	10	8
	Cooperative Studies	7	3	7
	Other	10	3	7
Years in VHA	0 to 5	47	29	37
	6 to 10	12	12	12
	Over 10	42	59	51
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	10	5	8
	Rehabilitation	5	5	4
	General Internal Medicine	12	17	13
	Medical Subspecialty	31	34	32
	Psychiatry / Psychology	14	12	16
	Dentistry	2	7	4
	Other	24	15	19
None	2	5	3	
Gender	Female	30	24	26
Ethnicity	African-American	7	2	4
	Asian or Pacific Islander	10	12	11
	Hispanic	2	7	4
	White	73	73	74
	Other	7	5	6
Research Project Funding	Any	85	90	89
	VA	52	55	52
	Other Federal	24	52	38
	Foundation	20	29	25
	Pharmaceutical / Business	43	38	41
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	89	90	91
	VA	54	50	51
	Other Federal	20	50	33
	Foundation	15	24	21
	Pharmaceutical / Business	41	38	40
Degree	PhD only	20	26	24
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	80	74	76

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

Exhibit 2. VISN 17 Overview: Facility Scores on 2002 Summary Scales

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
North TX HCS: Dallas, TX	3.47	3.45	3.28**	2.96**	3.17	3.09
STVHCS: San Antonio, TX	3.52	3.33	3.05*	2.64	3.08	3.45
VISN Average	3.45	3.35	3.10	2.78	3.12	3.19
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 17

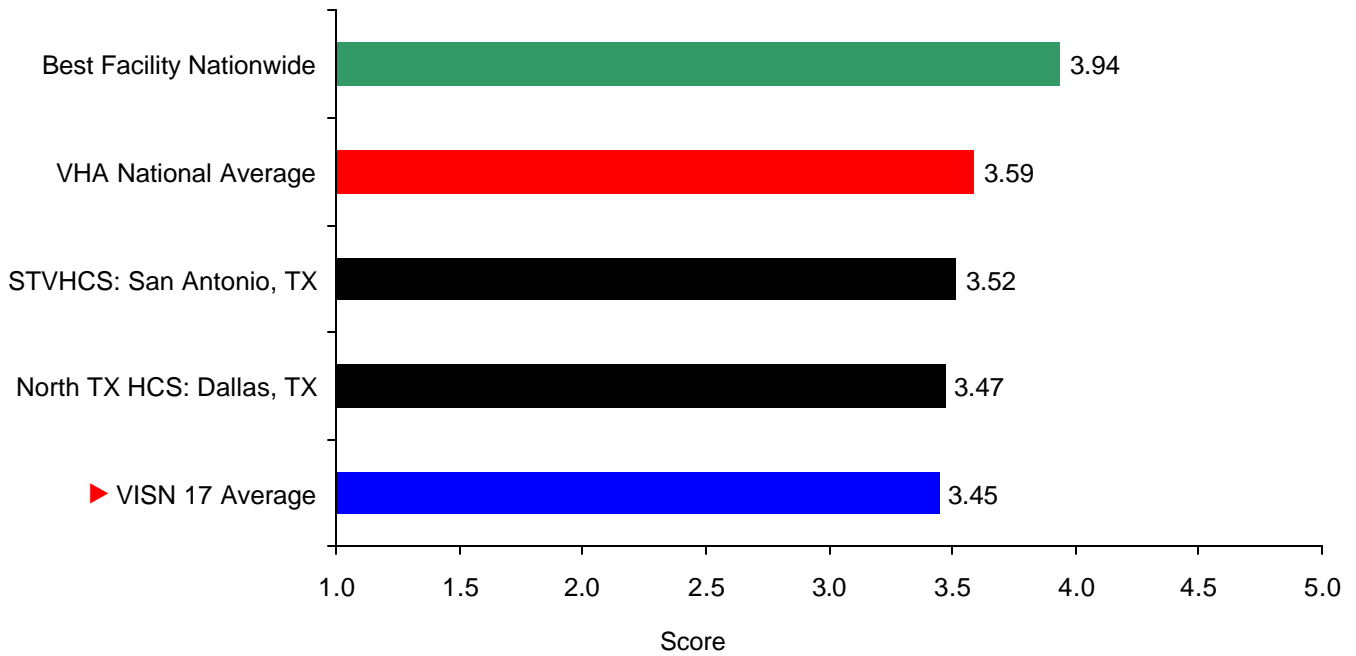
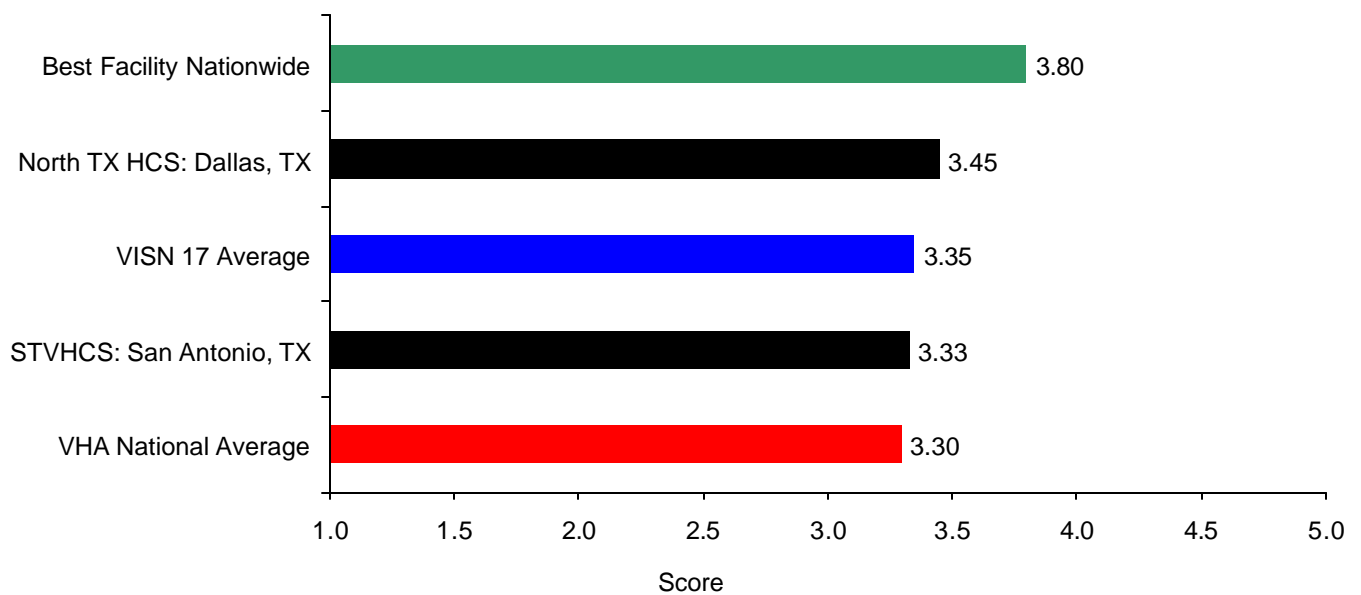


Exhibit 4
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 17



▶ 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 17

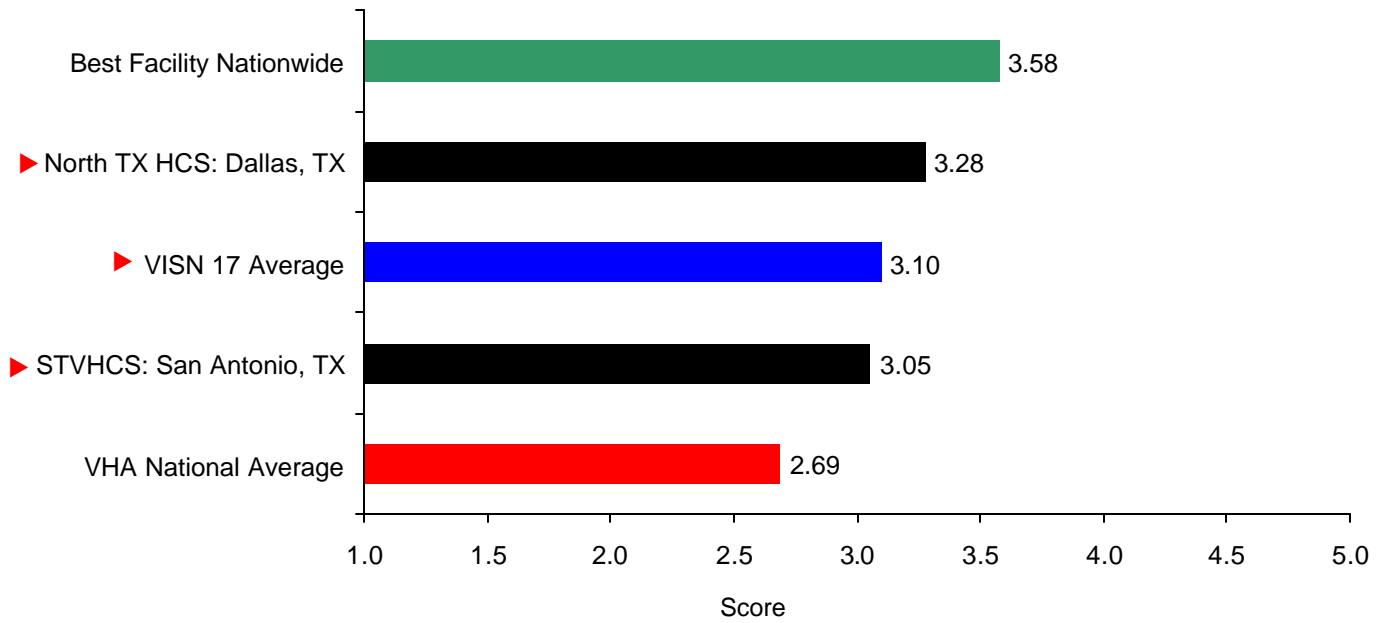
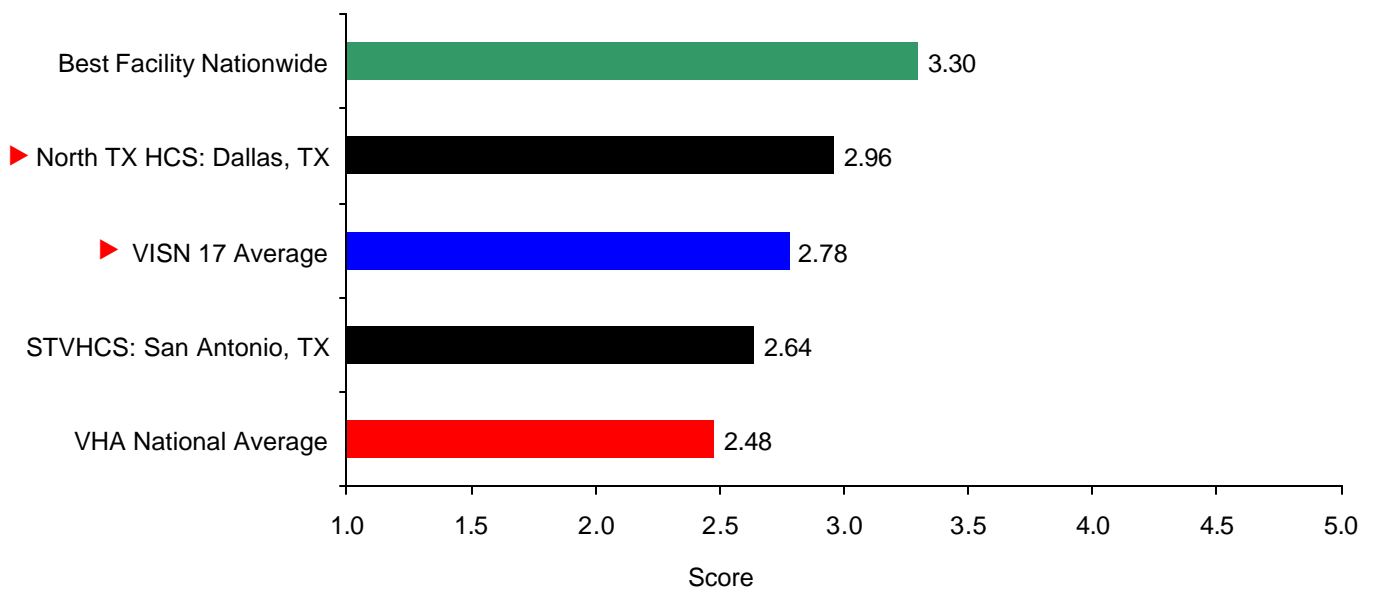


Exhibit 6
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 17



▶ 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 17

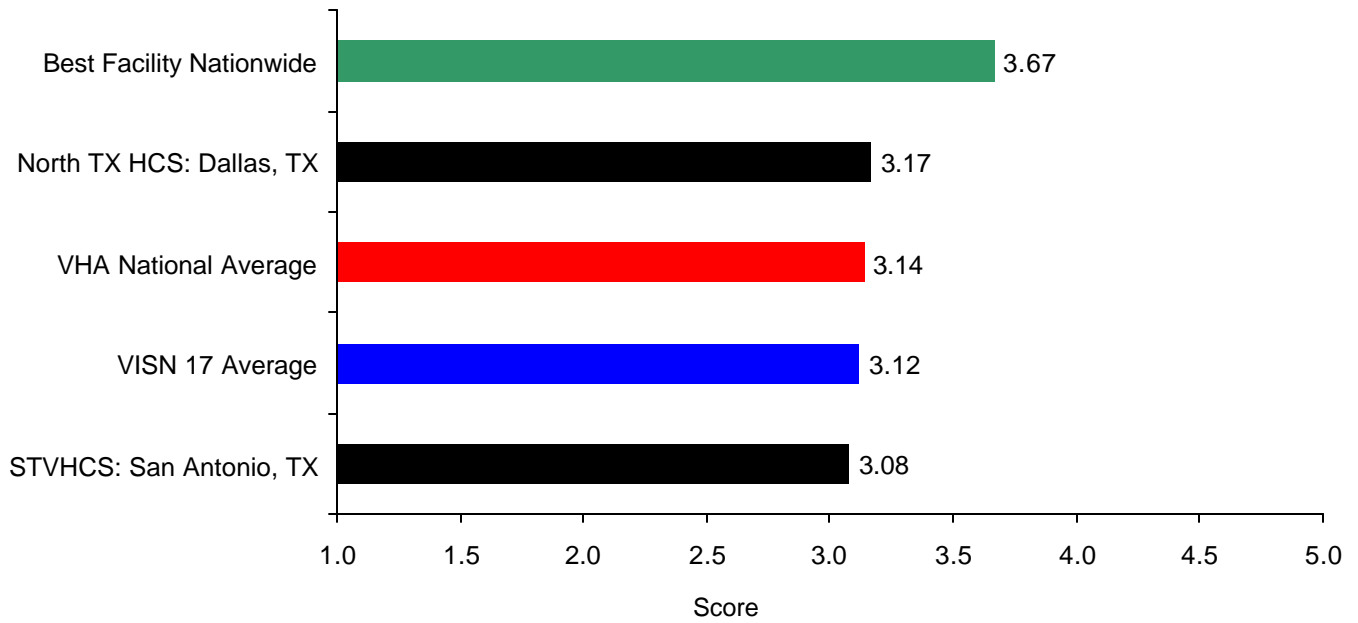
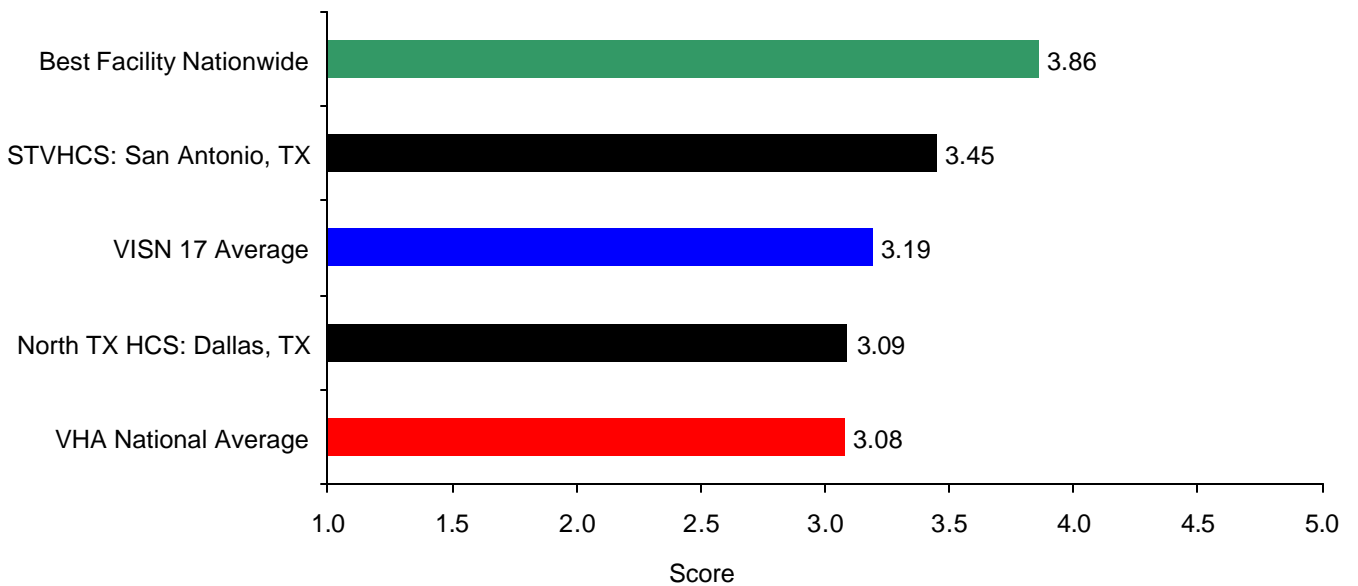


Exhibit 8
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 17



▶ 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	North TX HCS: Dallas (n=46) Percent			STVHCS: San Antonio (n=42) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Availability of RAs / technologists	29	34	37	31	21	49
b Availability of clerical support	56	14	30	36	33	31
c Competence of support staff	23	34	43	15	21	64
d Assistance with research project management	30	40	30	21	24	55
e Availability of collaborators	26	23	51	15	23	63
f Mentoring / collegial support	23	30	47	24	17	59
g Office space / facilities	25	23	52	43	15	43
h Laboratory space / facilities	14	29	57	36	19	44
i Animal care facilities	4	29	67	13	35	52
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	20	11	69	22	27	51
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	14	23	63	21	18	62
l Adequacy of protected research time	39	23	39	33	5	62
m Computer systems / support	11	18	70	19	33	48
n Libraries	11	13	76	15	27	59

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

Exhibit 10. Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA

Question 2	North TX HCS: Dallas (n=46) Percent			STVHCS: San Antonio (n=42) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Salary / fringe benefits	32	20	49	33	25	42
b Future security of research opportunities	31	36	33	24	32	44
n Job security	11	17	72	17	29	55
c Workload	29	24	47	22	32	46
d Level of stress	31	29	40	24	39	37
e Opportunities for creativity	22	27	51	21	36	43
f Opportunities to use my skills	16	22	62	14	26	60
g Opportunities to expand my skills	29	31	40	18	33	50
h Enjoyment of the research	7	11	83	5	14	81
i Autonomy to choose research direction	4	2	93	12	15	73
j Amount of paperwork	42	33	24	57	24	19
k Communication within local research services	20	30	50	23	30	48
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	20	27	52	19	26	55
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	22	33	44	24	20	56

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

Exhibit 11. Satisfaction with Research Support from the VISN

Question 3	North TX HCS: Dallas (n=46) Percent			STVHCS: San Antonio (n=42) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VISN leadership	26	35	40	22	49	30
b VISN support for protected time	37	27	37	36	36	28
c VISN educational programs	14	45	40	34	43	23
d VISN support for specific projects	19	35	47	34	37	29
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	46	41	12	55	33	12
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	34	41	24	47	36	17
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	43	40	17	60	26	14
h VISN recognition of work at university	38	48	15	58	27	15

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

Exhibit 12. Satisfaction with Support from the National Research Office

Question 4	North TX HCS: Dallas (n=46) Percent			STVHCS: San Antonio (n=42) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters	20	42	38	30	32	38
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	16	56	29	40	23	37
c VA letter of intent process	20	36	43	15	38	47
d VA grant review process	18	36	45	20	34	46
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	29	38	33	41	34	25

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

Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position

Questions 6-11, 13 ⁴		North TX HCS: Dallas (n=46) Percent			STVHCS: San Antonio (n=42) Percent		
		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?	13	26	61	17	26	57
7	Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	15	26	59	17	22	61
8	Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	63	20	17	67	17	17
9	Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	76	9	15	69	17	14
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?	39	NA	61	45	NA	55
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?	51	NA	49	60	NA	40
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	54	NA	46	45	NA	55

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