

---

# MDRC

---

MANAGEMENT DECISION  
AND RESEARCH CENTER

---

**National Survey of VA Researchers  
2002**

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

---

**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 2**

Danielle Valley, M.P.H.  
Mark Meterko, Ph.D.  
Carol VanDeusen Lukas, Ed.D.  
Marjorie Nealon Seibert, M.B.A.  
Martin Charns, D.B.A.

Management Decision and Research Center  
Health Services Research and Development Service  
Management Consultation Project MRR 00-006

Prepared for the Chief Research and Development Officer  
Veterans Health Administration

September 2002



## 2002 National Survey of VA Researchers

### 3. Facility-Level Results: VISN 2

	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 2**

### **Introduction**

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 2. 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 2 Facilities**

Characteristic	Categories	Albany (n=16)	VAWNYHS: Buffalo (n=12)	Syracuse (n=12)	VISN 2 (n=40*)
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	69	92	75	78
	Rehabilitation	0	0	0	0
	Health Services	19	8	0	10
	Cooperative Studies	6	0	17	8
	Other	6	0	8	5
Years in VHA	0 to 5	25	17	8	18
	6 to 10	0	25	17	13
	Over 10	75	58	75	70
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	0	25	0	8
	Rehabilitation	0	0	0	0
	General Internal Medicine	13	8	0	8
	Medical Subspecialty	40	33	42	38
	Psychiatry / Psychology	7	0	17	8
	Dentistry	0	0	0	0
	Other	33	33	25	31
None	7	0	17	8	
Gender	Female	25	42	33	33
Ethnicity	African-American	0	0	0	0
	Asian or Pacific Islander	19	8	17	15
	Hispanic	0	0	0	0
	White	81	83	83	83
	Other	0	8	0	3
Research Project Funding	Any	88	100	92	93
	VA	63	50	42	53
	Other Federal	19	33	25	25
	Foundation	25	25	25	25
	Pharmaceutical / Business	31	33	50	38
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	81	100	75	85
	VA	63	50	33	50
	Other Federal	19	25	17	20
	Foundation	19	33	33	28
	Pharmaceutical / Business	31	33	42	35
Degree	PhD only	47	0	36	33
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	53	100	64	67

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

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

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
Albany, NY	3.43	3.45	3.31*	2.91*	3.15	2.33*
VAWNYHS: Buffalo, NY	3.56	3.49	2.82	2.54	2.79	2.50
Syracuse, NY	3.23	3.24	2.55	2.44	3.07	2.45
VISN Average	3.40	3.39	2.95	2.67	3.01	2.42
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 2

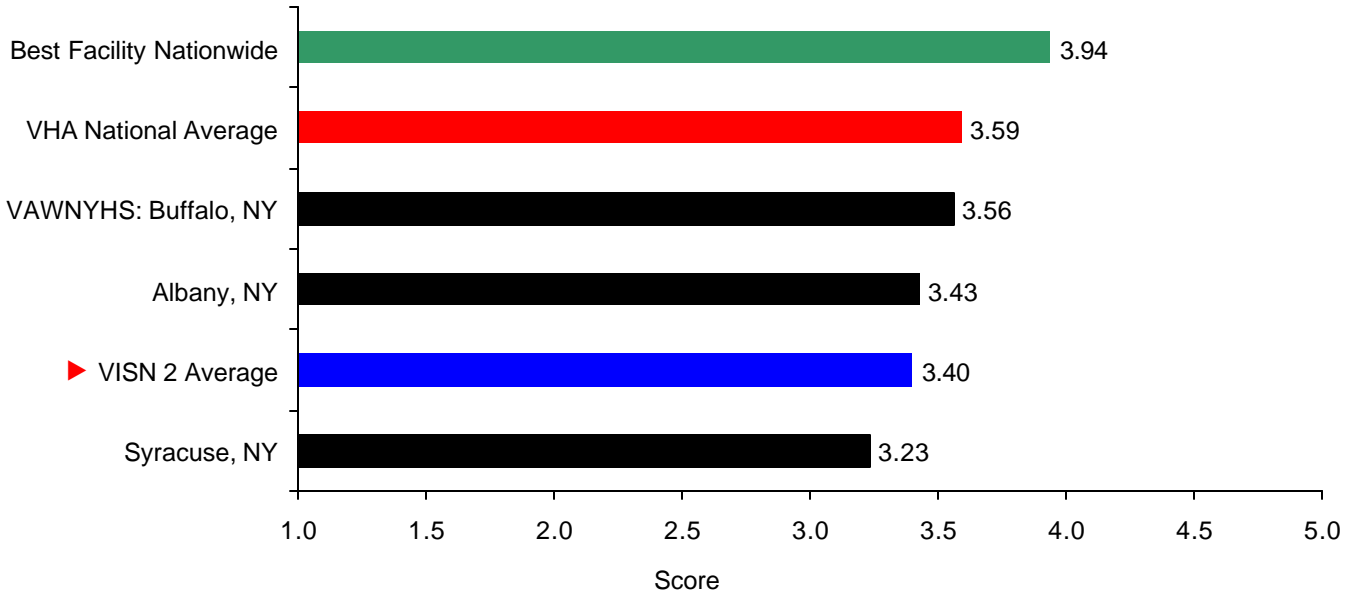
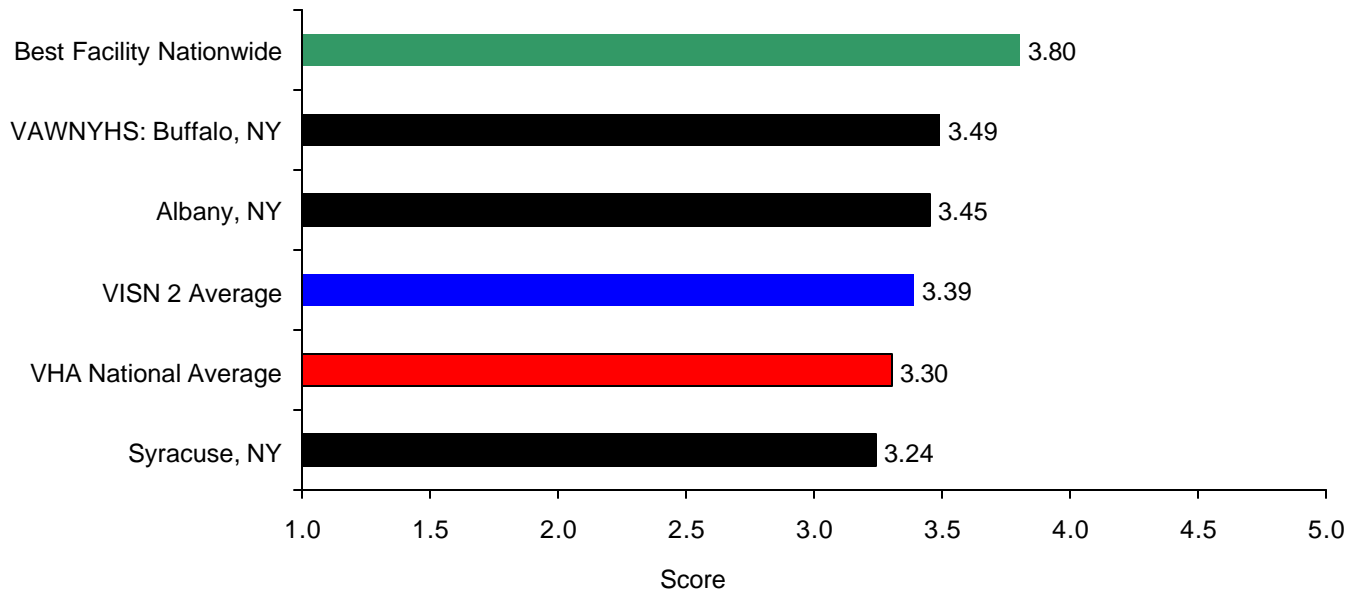


Exhibit 4  
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility  
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 2



▶ 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 2

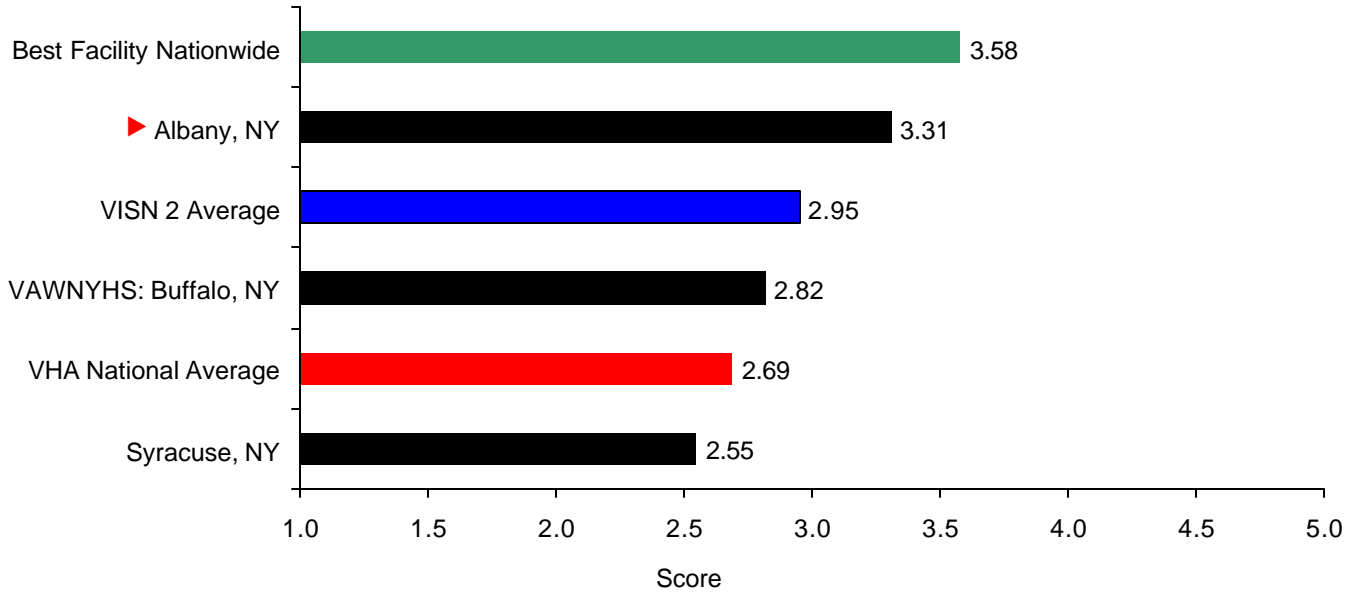
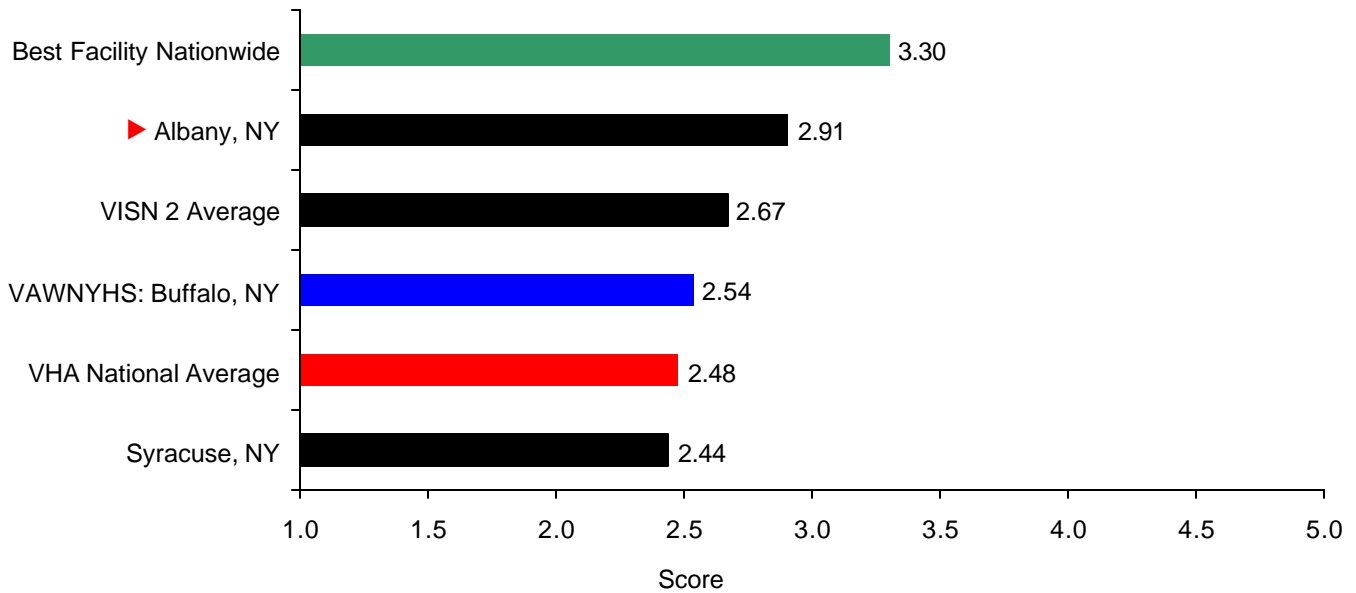


Exhibit 6  
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support  
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 2



▶ 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 2

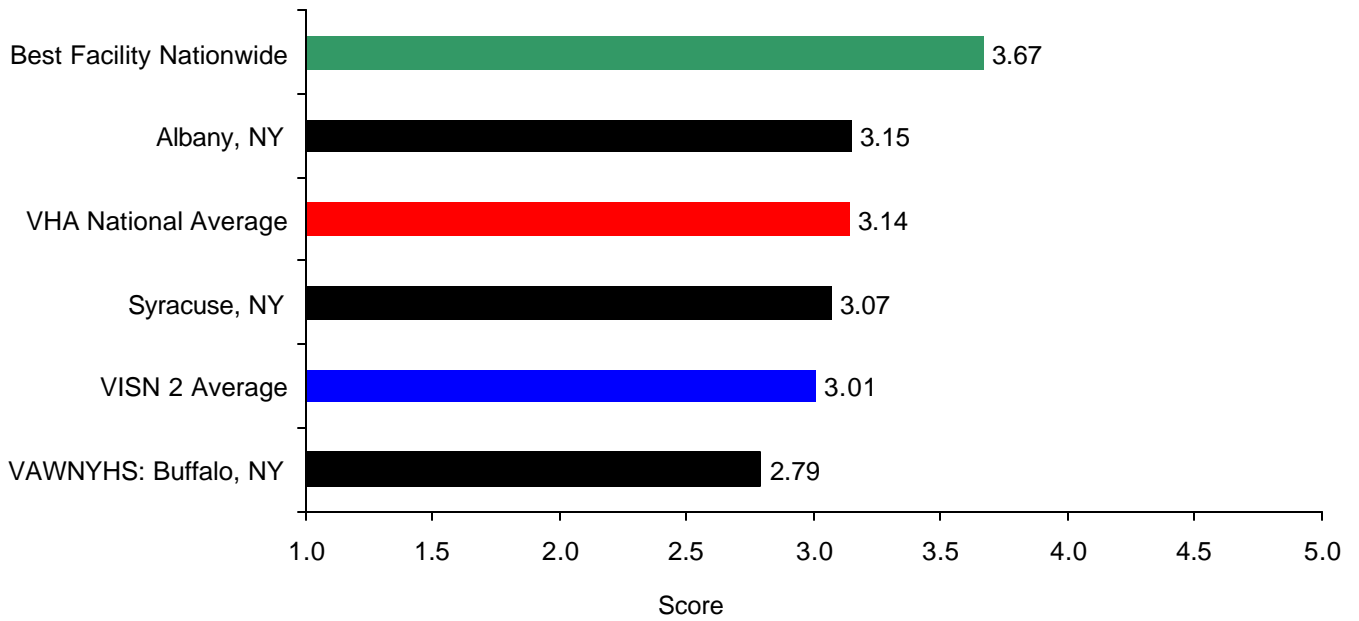
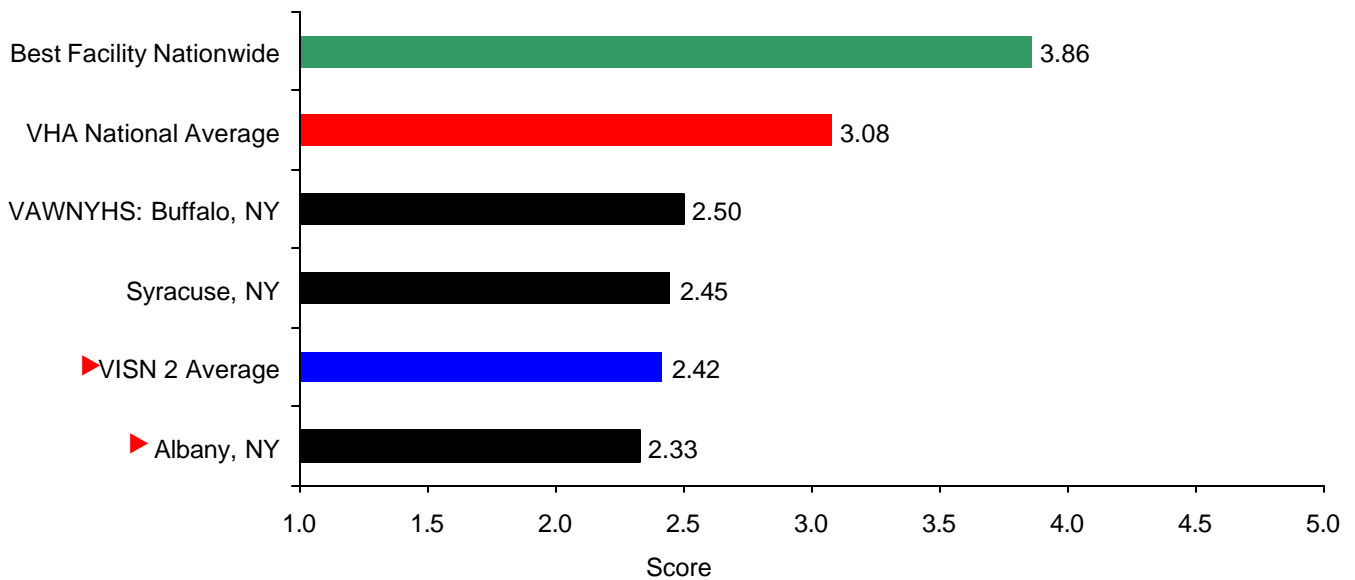


Exhibit 8  
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research  
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 2



▶ 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	Albany (n=16) Percent			VAWNYHS: Buffalo (n=12) Percent			Syracuse (n=12) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Availability of RAs / technologists	38	31	31	17	17	67	45	36	18
b Availability of clerical support	40	40	20	33	17	50	45	9	45
c Competence of support staff	23	0	77	18	27	55	18	18	64
d Assistance with research project management	17	42	42	45	36	18	18	27	55
e Availability of collaborators	31	19	50	18	18	64	42	25	33
f Mentoring / collegial support	20	40	40	33	8	58	50	25	25
g Office space / facilities	13	33	53	8	33	58	17	42	42
h Laboratory space / facilities	8	42	50	10	10	80	11	44	44
i Animal care facilities	0	22	78	14	0	86	0	25	75
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	50	19	31	17	42	42	42	25	33
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	62	8	31	27	45	27	33	17	50
l Adequacy of protected research time	67	8	25	50	20	30	55	27	18
m Computer systems / support	7	36	57	18	9	73	42	17	42
n Libraries	0	13	88	9	0	91	8	8	83

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

**Exhibit 10. Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA**

Question 2	Albany (n=16) Percent			VAWNYHS: Buffalo (n=12) Percent			Syracuse (n=12) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Salary / fringe benefits	8	8	85	40	20	40	22	33	44
b Future security of research opportunities	43	36	21	33	42	25	27	36	36
n Job security	27	27	47	18	36	45	18	18	64
c Workload	33	13	53	40	30	30	33	25	42
d Level of stress	53	20	27	36	45	18	42	17	42
e Opportunities for creativity	33	7	60	20	20	60	42	17	42
f Opportunities to use my skills	33	7	60	20	0	80	33	25	42
g Opportunities to expand my skills	33	7	60	20	10	70	42	17	42
h Enjoyment of the research	7	7	87	17	8	75	0	17	83
i Autonomy to choose research direction	13	7	80	9	9	82	8	17	75
j Amount of paperwork	63	19	19	55	36	9	58	25	17
k Communication within local research services	25	19	56	25	50	25	45	9	45
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	25	25	50	27	36	36	42	25	33
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	20	20	60	18	18	64	58	25	17

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

**Exhibit 11. Satisfaction with Research Support from the VISN**

Question 3	Albany (n=16) Percent			VAWNYHS: Buffalo (n=12) Percent			Syracuse (n=12) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VISN leadership	38	6	56	45	27	27	45	36	18
b VISN support for protected time	50	14	36	60	30	10	73	9	18
c VISN educational programs	38	31	31	30	40	30	36	36	27
d VISN support for specific projects	38	25	38	36	18	45	27	36	36
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	50	13	38	55	36	9	64	0	36
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	40	27	33	55	27	18	40	30	30
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	33	40	27	55	27	18	55	18	27
h VISN recognition of work at university	46	38	15	56	33	11	64	9	27

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

**Exhibit 12. Satisfaction with Support from the National Research Office**

Question 4	Albany (n=16) Percent			VAWNYHS: Buffalo (n=12) Percent			Syracuse (n=12) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters	18	36	45	30	50	20	36	18	45
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	27	36	36	40	60	0	36	27	36
c VA letter of intent process	18	45	36	30	60	10	20	40	40
d VA grant review process	18	45	36	22	22	56	10	40	50
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	36	45	18	40	50	10	55	9	36

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

**Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position**

Questions 6-11, 13 <sup>4</sup>	Albany (n=16) Percent			VAWNYHS: Buffalo (n=12) Percent			Syracuse (n=12) Percent		
	No <sup>1</sup>	Neutral	Yes <sup>2</sup>	No <sup>1</sup>	Neutral	Yes <sup>2</sup>	No <sup>1</sup>	Neutral	Yes <sup>2</sup>
6 If you had to decide all over again, do you think you would choose a career in the VA?	20	20	60	8	33	58	45	9	45
7 Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	33	7	60	27	27	45	50	17	33
8 Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	67	13	20	42	8	50	58	33	8
9 Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	50	7	43	50	25	25	50	17	33
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?	63	NA	38	58	NA	42	58	NA	42
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?	75	NA	25	42	NA	58	67	NA	33
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? <sup>3</sup>	44	NA	56	75	NA	25	50	NA	50

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

<sup>1</sup>Includes “probably not” and “no.”

<sup>2</sup>Includes “probably yes” and “yes.”

<sup>3</sup>Respondents 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.”

<sup>4</sup>Question 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