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

**Volume 2
Facility-Level Results:
VISN 3**

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 3**

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2002 National Survey of VA Researchers

3. Facility-Level Results: VISN 3

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2002 Survey of VA Researchers Facility-Level Results: VISN 3

Introduction

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 3. 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 3 Facilities

Characteristic	Categories	Bronx (n=22)	VANJHCS: East Orange (n=27)	NYHHS: New York (n=24)	Northport (n=17)	VISN 3 (n=98*)
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	73	68	75	81	74
	Rehabilitation	9	4	4	0	4
	Health Services	9	20	4	6	9
	Cooperative Studies	9	8	13	13	11
	Other	0	0	4	0	2
Years in VHA	0 to 5	27	17	21	12	18
	6 to 10	36	17	13	12	22
	Over 10	36	67	67	76	60
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	0	20	0	6	7
	Rehabilitation	0	4	4	0	2
	General Internal Medicine	10	16	4	12	9
	Medical Subspecialty	29	36	58	59	45
	Psychiatry / Psychology	48	8	8	6	18
	Dentistry	5	0	4	0	2
	Other	10	12	13	12	12
None	0	4	8	6	4	
Gender	Female	32	13	46	29	33
Ethnicity	African-American	0	0	0	12	2
	Asian or Pacific Islander	5	13	8	12	10
	Hispanic	0	9	0	0	2
	White	95	78	92	65	84
	Other	0	0	0	12	2
Research Project Funding	Any	91	85	96	100	92
	VA	59	52	67	59	56
	Other Federal	55	33	38	18	36
	Foundation	36	15	8	29	20
	Pharmaceutical / Business	50	33	33	53	41
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	82	89	88	88	86
	VA	55	48	71	41	52
	Other Federal	50	30	33	12	31
	Foundation	32	11	8	29	18
	Pharmaceutical / Business	45	37	25	35	36
Degree	PhD only	29	19	35	20	24
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	71	81	65	80	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 3 Overview: Facility Scores on 2002 Summary Scales

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
Bronx, NY	3.83	3.32	3.05	2.87*	3.44	3.41
VANJHCS: East Orange, NJ	3.63	3.00*	3.13	2.67	3.31	3.15
NYHHS: New York, NY ¹	3.30	2.92*	2.73	2.52	3.12	3.10
Northport, NY	3.33	2.91*	2.18	1.94*	3.06	2.47
VISN Average	3.52	3.05	2.83	2.56	3.24	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).

¹Facility scores for Brooklyn have not been reported because there were only 6 respondents. There is some indication based on this limited group that Brooklyn researchers may be more satisfied than New York researchers with VISN support but less satisfied with protected time for research.

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

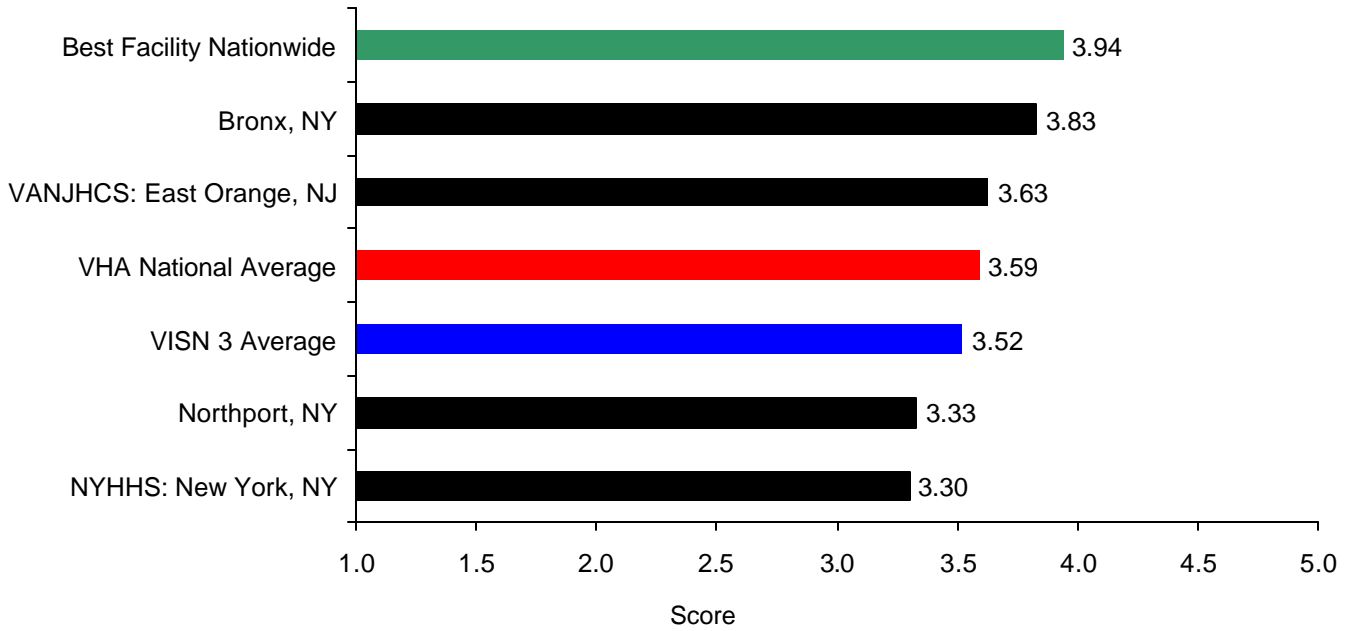
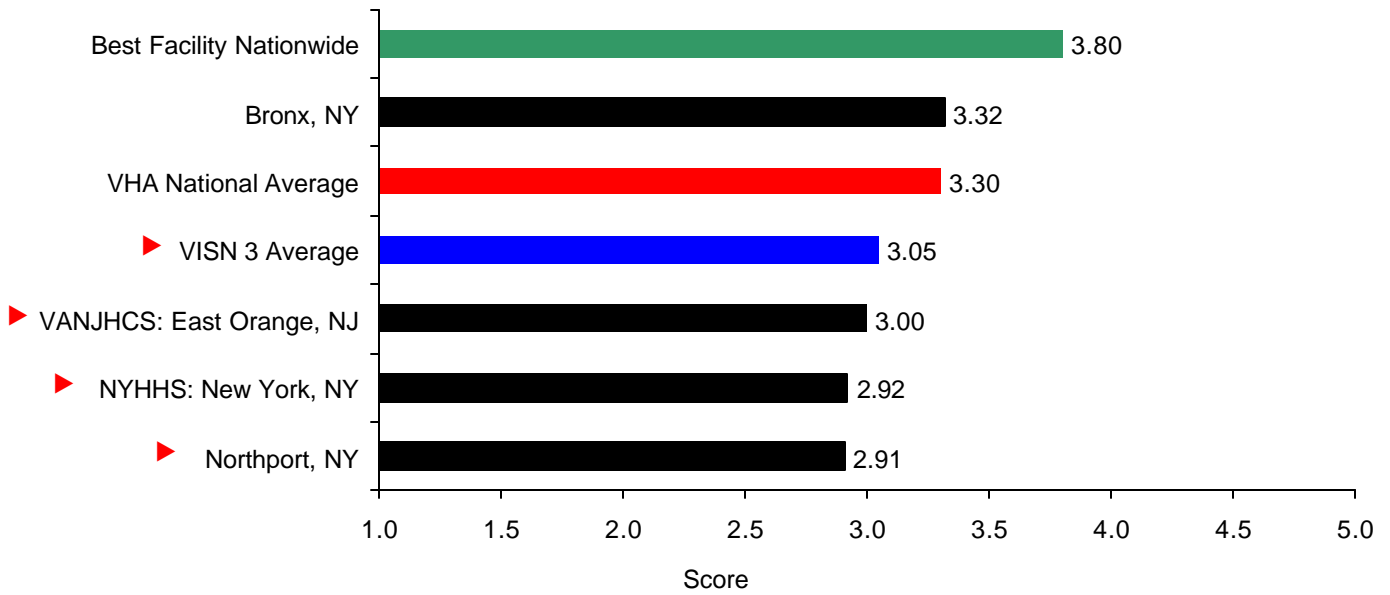


Exhibit 4
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 3



▶ 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 3

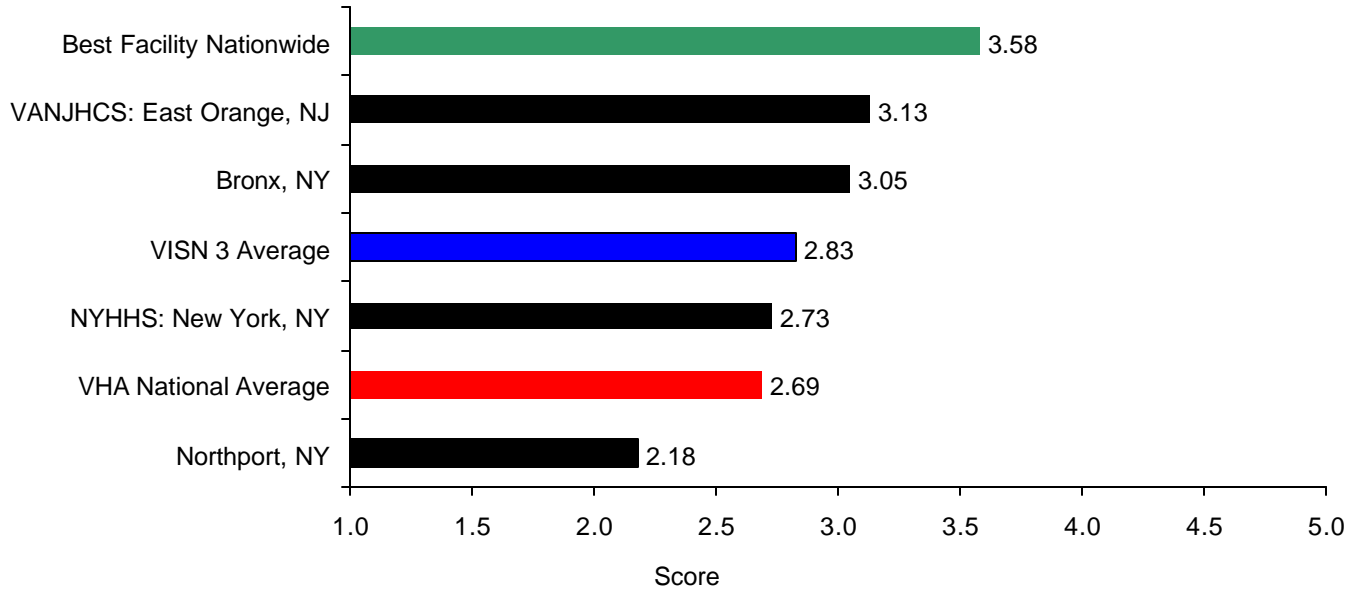
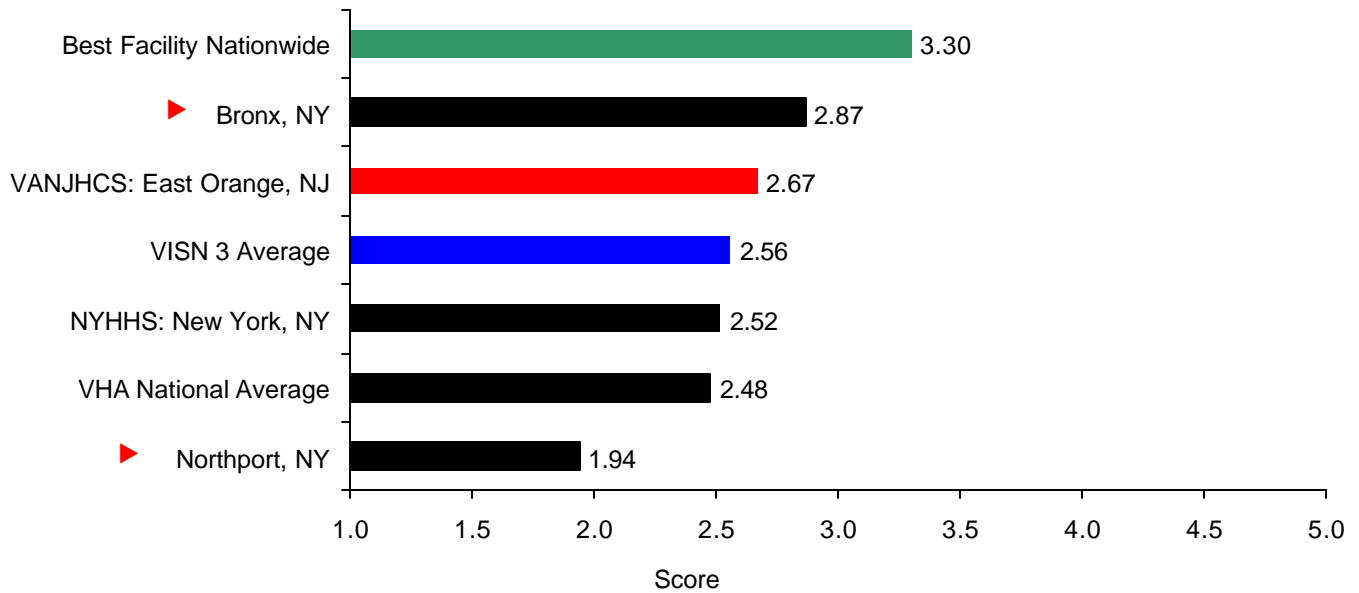


Exhibit 6
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 3



▶ 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 3

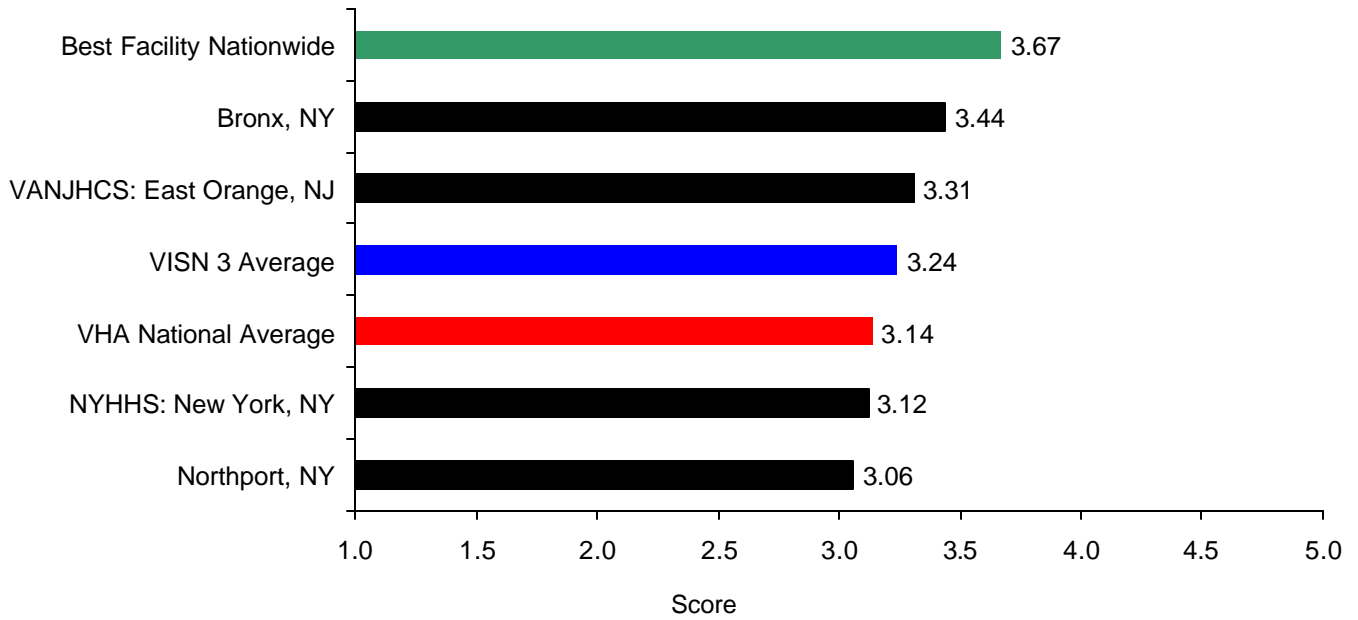
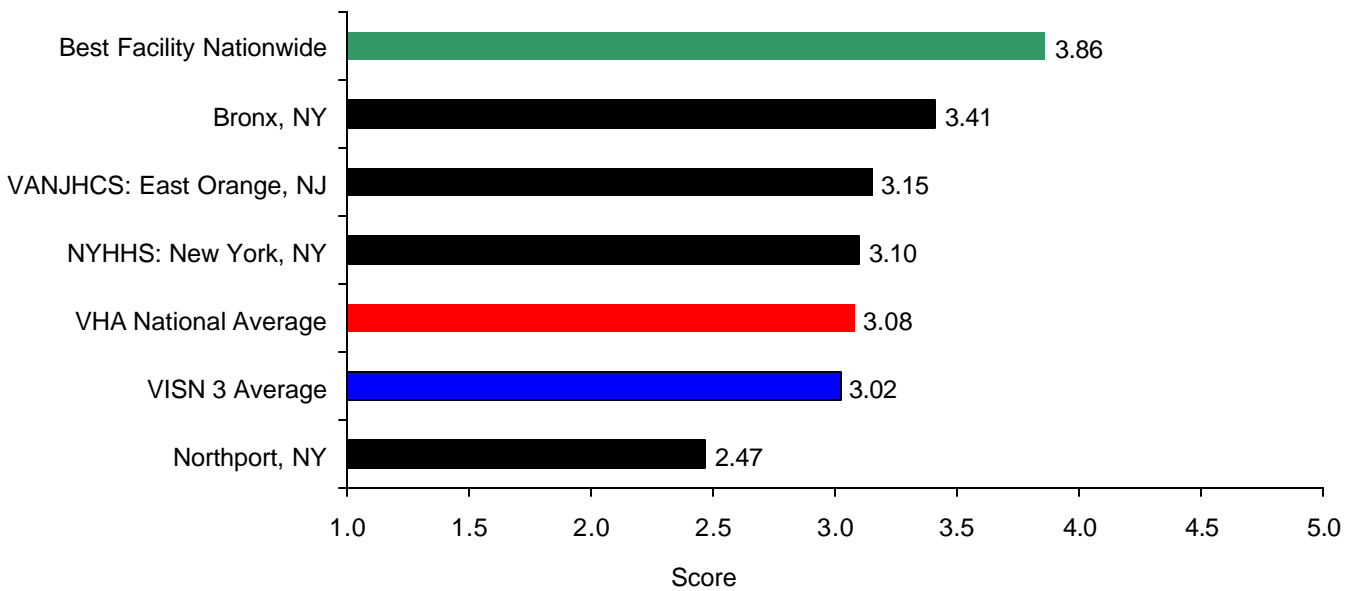


Exhibit 8
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 3



▶ 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	Bronx (n=22)			VANJHCS: East Orange (n=27)			NYHHS: New York (n=24)			Northport (n=17)		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Availability of RAs / technologists	27	32	41	33	38	29	52	29	19	65	18	18
b Availability of clerical support	59	18	23	68	12	20	78	17	4	94	6	0
c Competence of support staff	38	24	38	46	23	31	46	33	21	53	29	18
d Assistance with research project management	38	14	48	64	20	16	64	18	18	47	29	24
e Availability of collaborators	5	23	73	38	17	46	21	33	46	35	12	53
f Mentoring / collegial support	10	19	71	28	24	48	25	21	54	47	12	41
g Office space / facilities	27	18	55	19	26	56	29	25	46	24	24	53
h Laboratory space / facilities	17	11	72	26	22	52	25	30	45	0	27	73
i Animal care facilities	0	9	91	7	20	73	14	29	57	18	18	64
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	14	18	68	26	22	52	39	17	43	65	18	18
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	10	19	71	32	28	40	9	18	73	56	25	19
l Adequacy of protected research time	32	14	55	42	12	46	38	24	38	53	29	18
m Computer systems / support	32	9	59	22	30	48	29	17	54	35	18	47
n Libraries	32	41	27	19	15	65	13	13	75	6	6	88

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

Exhibit 10. Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA

Question 2	Bronx (n=22) Percent			VANJHCS: East Orange (n=27) Percent			NYHHS: New York (n=24) Percent			Northport (n=17) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Salary / fringe benefits	23	23	55	15	38	46	50	10	40	38	13	50
b Future security of research opportunities	32	27	41	33	37	30	48	35	17	44	44	13
n Job security	18	18	64	11	26	63	26	22	52	18	29	53
c Workload	14	41	45	26	41	33	33	25	42	24	59	18
d Level of stress	14	32	55	33	26	41	46	25	29	53	24	24
e Opportunities for creativity	5	23	73	15	26	59	21	29	50	24	35	41
f Opportunities to use my skills	9	9	82	15	19	67	22	22	57	35	24	41
g Opportunities to expand my skills	14	14	73	22	22	56	38	25	38	29	29	41
h Enjoyment of the research	0	18	82	4	15	81	13	8	79	6	6	88
i Autonomy to choose research direction	0	0	100	0	4	96	13	8	79	0	18	82
j Amount of paperwork	67	14	19	74	15	11	54	33	13	71	18	12
k Communication within local research services	27	36	36	59	19	22	54	29	17	53	29	18
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	23	14	64	48	15	37	46	25	29	47	35	18
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	14	23	64	19	26	56	25	42	33	29	41	29

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

Exhibit 11. Satisfaction with Research Support from the VISN

Question 3	Bronx (n=22)			VANJHCS: East Orange (n=27)			NYHHS: New York (n=24)			Northport (n=17)		
	Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VISN leadership	36	27	36	17	52	30	36	41	23	59	35	6
b VISN support for protected time	41	27	32	29	38	33	42	26	32	71	29	0
c VISN educational programs	29	43	29	35	30	35	38	38	24	59	35	6
d VISN support for specific projects	25	35	40	43	35	22	43	33	24	63	38	0
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	32	41	27	48	30	22	57	24	19	65	24	12
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	41	45	14	42	46	13	55	27	18	82	18	0
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	32	50	18	46	25	29	52	35	13	82	18	0
h VISN recognition of work at university	29	52	19	54	29	17	55	27	18	87	13	0

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

Exhibit 12. Satisfaction with Support from the National Research Office

Question 4	Bronx (n=22)			VANJHCS: East Orange (n=27)			NYHHS: New York (n=24)			Northport (n=17)		
	Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters	14	19	67	23	35	42	23	41	36	18	47	35
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	14	29	57	15	38	46	18	41	41	29	35	35
c VA letter of intent process	11	32	58	8	27	65	14	32	55	18	47	35
d VA grant review process	20	25	55	15	23	62	18	36	45	38	25	38
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	40	20	40	36	32	32	33	29	38	53	12	35

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

Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position

Questions 6-11, 13 ⁴	Bronx (n=22) Percent			VANJHCS: East Orange (n=27) Percent			NYHHS: New York (n=24) Percent			Northport (n=17) Percent		
	No ¹	Neutral	Yes ²	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?	14	23	64	15	31	54	13	25	63	24	35	41
7 Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	9	27	64	31	19	50	38	17	46	29	29	41
8 Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	50	27	23	67	15	19	58	17	25	41	12	47
9 Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	82	14	5	37	26	37	58	17	25	82	6	12
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?	23	NA	77	41	NA	59	38	NA	63	24	NA	76
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?	32	NA	68	63	NA	37	71	NA	29	35	NA	65
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	82	NA	18	70	NA	30	58	NA	42	59	NA	41

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