
MDRC

MANAGEMENT DECISION
AND RESEARCH CENTER

**National Survey of VA Researchers
2002**

**Volume 2
Facility-Level Results:
VISN 4**

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 4**

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3. Facility-Level Results: VISN 4

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2002 Survey of VA Researchers Facility-Level Results: VISN 4

Introduction

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 4. 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 4 Facilities

Characteristic	Categories	Philadelphia (n=37)	VAPHS: Pittsburgh (UD) (n=44)	VISN 4 (n=86*)
		Percent	Percent	Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	70	50	61
	Rehabilitation	3	21	13
	Health Services	11	19	14
	Cooperative Studies	5	5	5
	Other	11	5	7
Years in VHA	0 to 5	35	26	31
	6 to 10	27	24	25
	Over 10	38	50	44
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	16	5	10
	Rehabilitation	3	14	10
	General Internal Medicine	11	19	15
	Medical Subspecialty	24	29	25
	Psychiatry / Psychology	38	10	21
	Dentistry	3	0	1
	Other	5	19	14
	None	0	5	4
Gender	Female	19	38	29
Ethnicity	African-American	0	0	0
	Asian or Pacific Islander	5	2	5
	Hispanic	0	2	1
	White	92	90	90
	Other	3	5	4
Research Project Funding	Any	95	89	90
	VA	65	75	67
	Other Federal	62	50	56
	Foundation	22	32	26
	Pharmaceutical / Business	38	32	34
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	95	86	88
	VA	59	66	59
	Other Federal	43	45	44
	Foundation	14	25	19
	Pharmaceutical / Business	38	18	27
Degree	PhD only	11	33	24
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	89	67	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 4 Overview: Facility Scores on 2002 Summary Scales

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
Philadelphia, PA	3.60	3.19	2.69	2.68	2.95	3.28
VAPHS: Pittsburgh (UD), PA	3.80	3.42	3.46**	3.02**	3.34	3.40
VISN Average	3.65	3.30	3.13	2.86	3.13	3.35
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 4

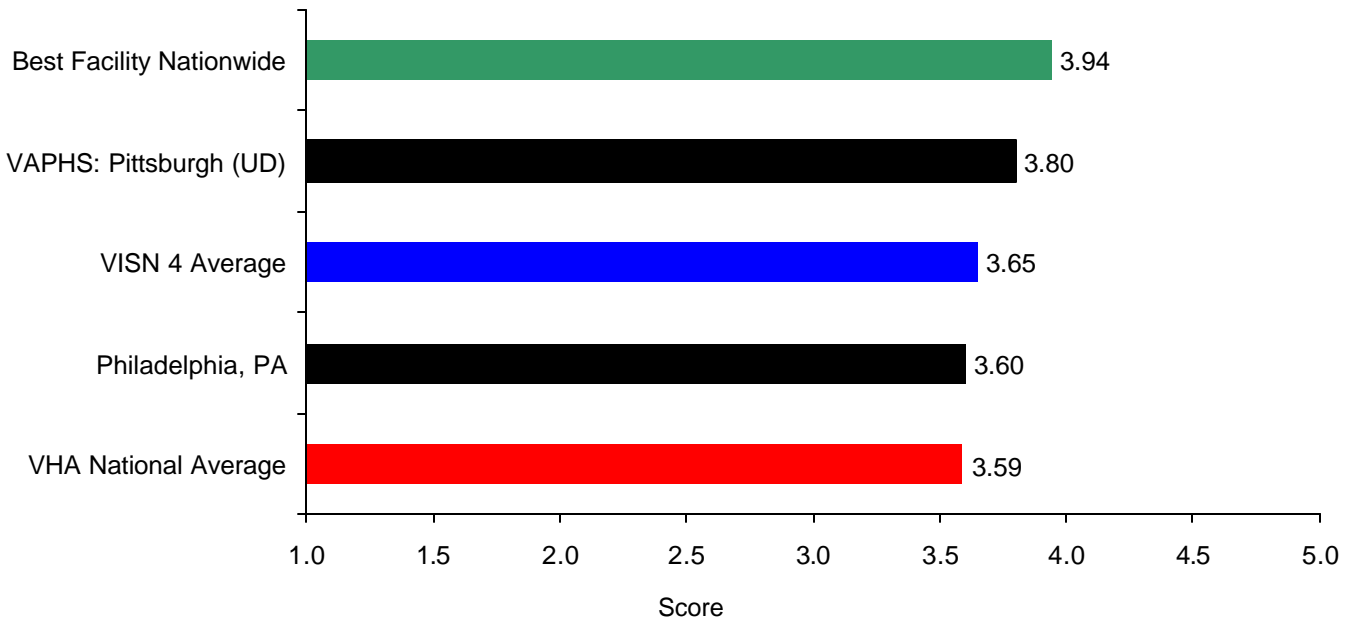
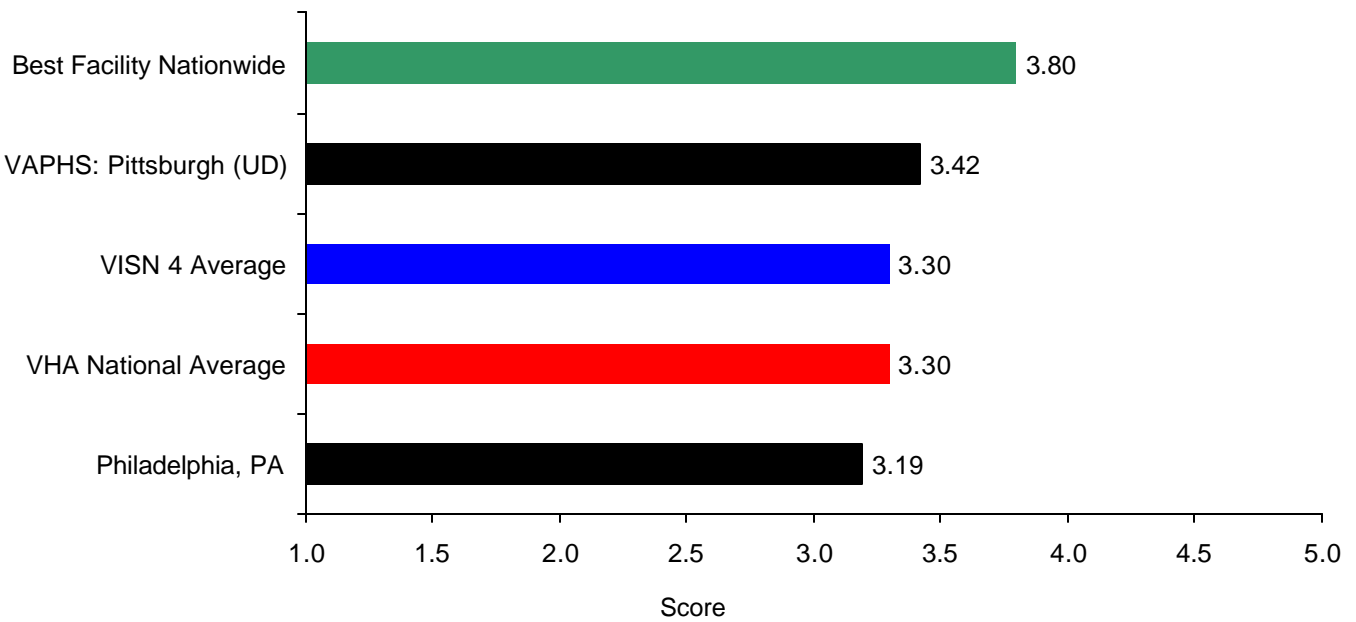


Exhibit 4
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 4



► 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 4

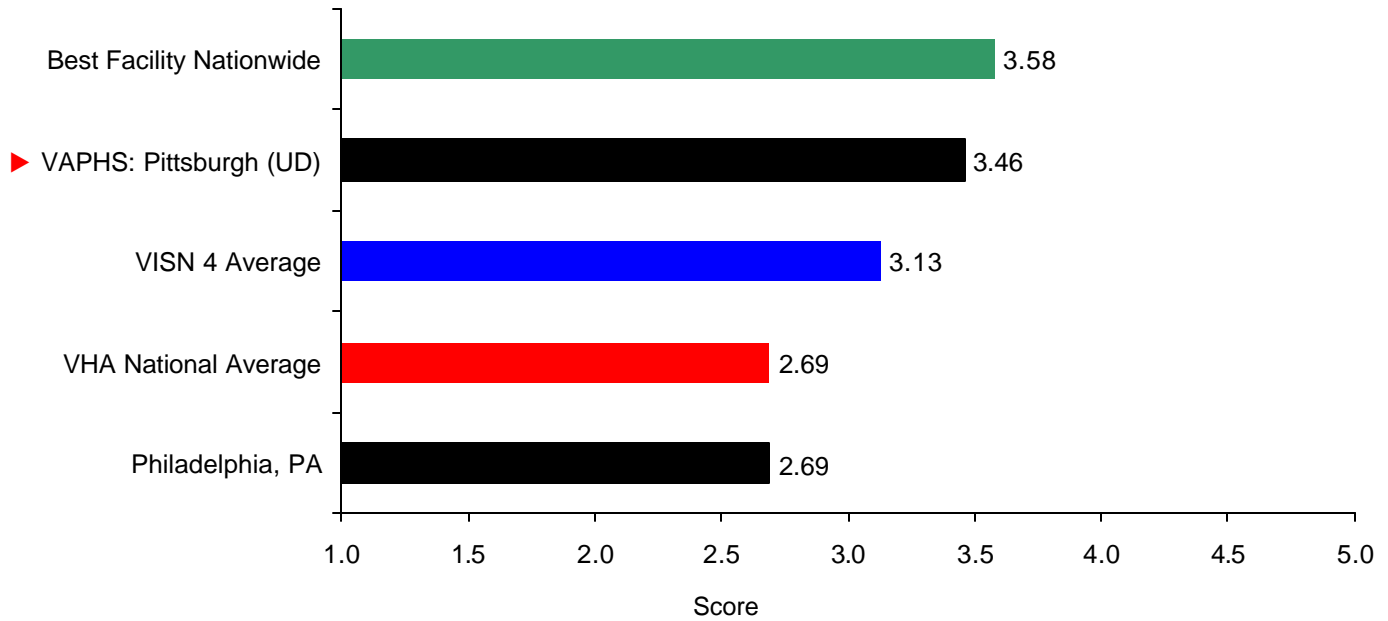
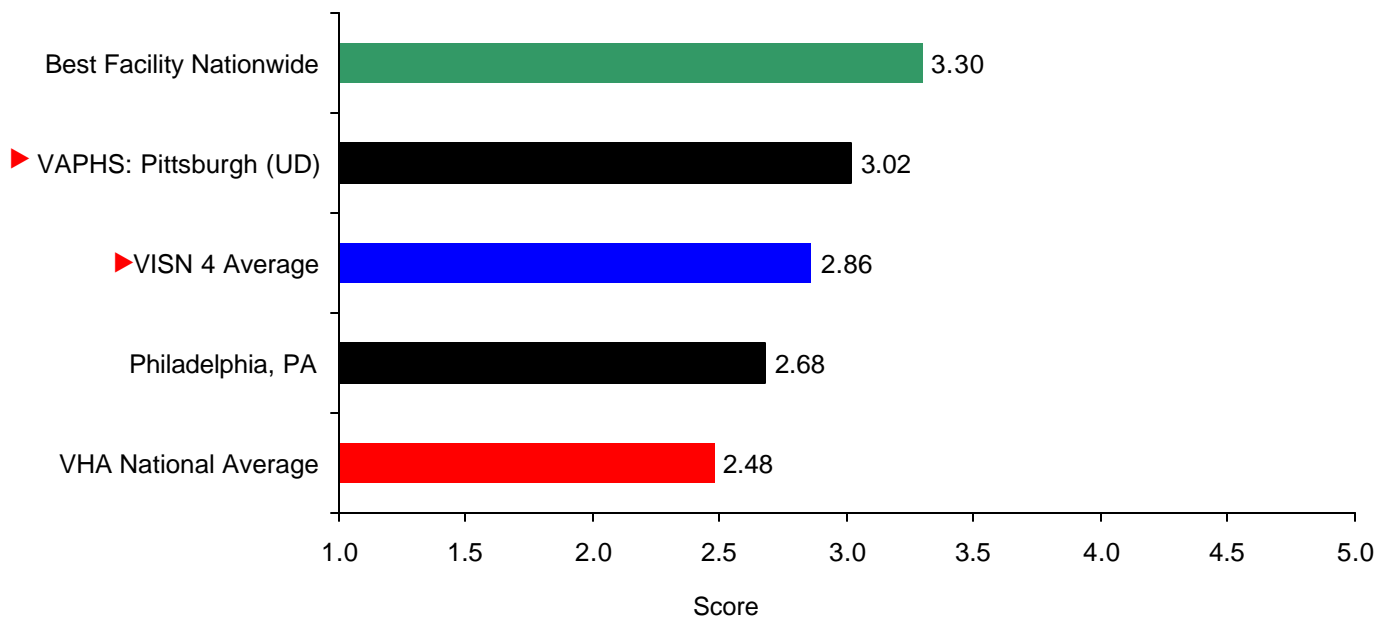


Exhibit 6
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 4



▶ 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 4

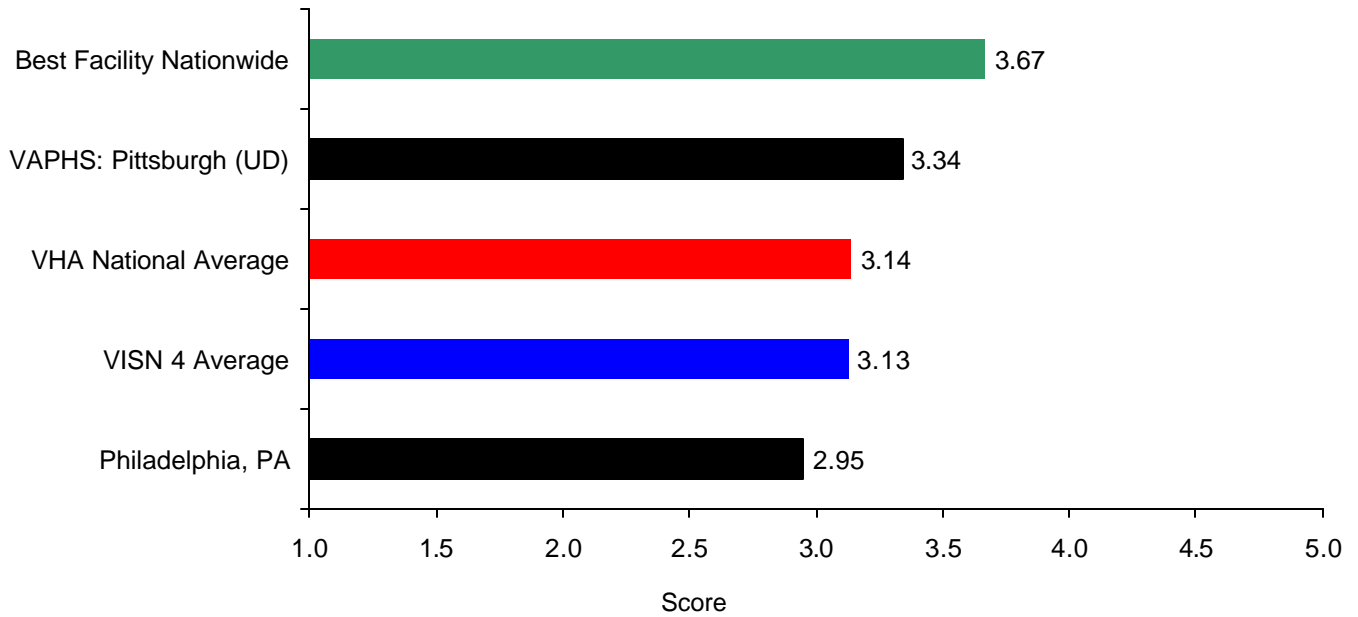
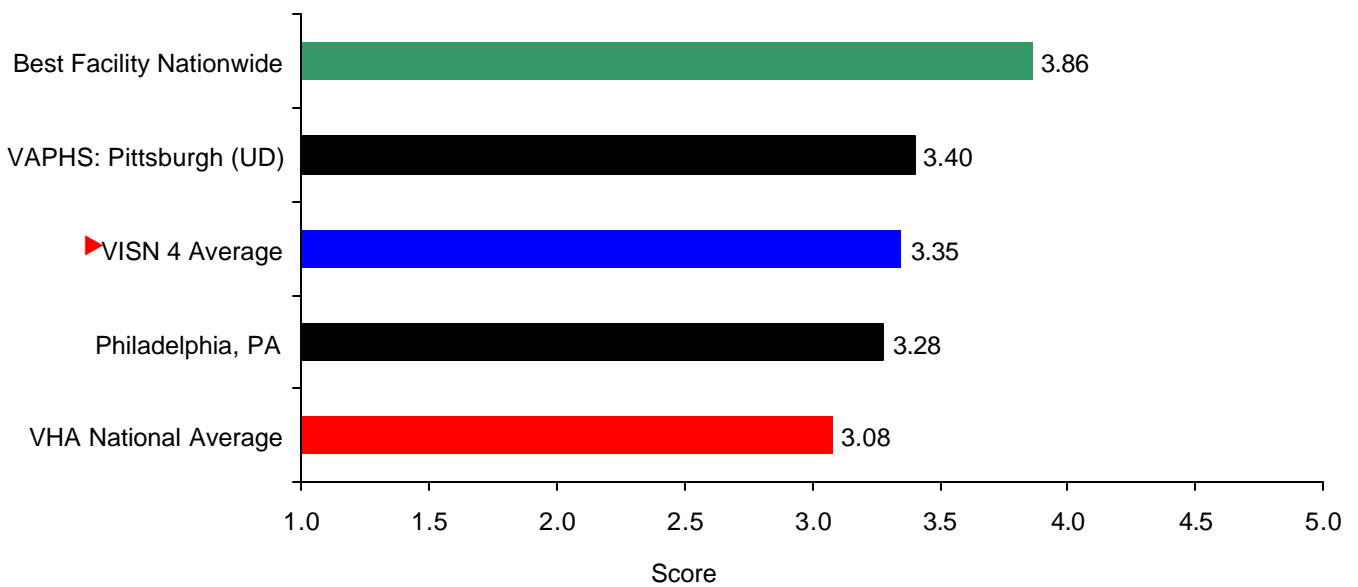


Exhibit 8
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 4



▶ 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	Philadelphia (n=37) Percent			VAPHS: Pittsburgh (UD) (n=44) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Availability of RAs / technologists	26	32	41	10	26	64
b Availability of clerical support	69	14	17	39	24	37
c Competence of support staff	28	25	47	17	17	66
d Assistance with research project management	31	23	46	29	12	59
e Availability of collaborators	14	14	72	2	14	84
f Mentoring / collegial support	17	14	69	9	25	66
g Office space / facilities	32	24	43	35	15	50
h Laboratory space / facilities	52	21	28	35	13	52
i Animal care facilities	24	35	41	0	23	77
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	19	24	57	16	27	57
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	11	17	71	14	19	67
l Adequacy of protected research time	31	8	61	26	19	55
m Computer systems / support	41	27	32	35	14	51
n Libraries	17	29	54	21	14	64

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

Exhibit 10. Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA

Question 2	Philadelphia (n=37) Percent			VAPHS: Pittsburgh (UD) (n=44) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Salary / fringe benefits	16	50	34	17	24	60
b Future security of research opportunities	33	42	24	26	31	43
n Job security	19	28	53	9	14	77
c Workload	28	25	47	14	20	66
d Level of stress	33	28	39	25	16	59
e Opportunities for creativity	17	14	69	9	11	80
f Opportunities to use my skills	20	11	69	11	5	84
g Opportunities to expand my skills	23	17	60	14	11	75
h Enjoyment of the research	8	14	78	2	11	86
i Autonomy to choose research direction	3	8	89	7	9	84
j Amount of paperwork	42	36	22	57	20	23
k Communication within local research services	33	14	53	19	31	50
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	25	22	53	12	30	58
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	22	22	56	11	27	61

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

Exhibit 11. Satisfaction with Research Support from the VISN

Question 3	Philadelphia (n=37) Percent			VAPHS: Pittsburgh (UD) (n=44) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VISN leadership	40	37	23	17	32	51
b VISN support for protected time	51	34	14	26	26	49
c VISN educational programs	35	38	26	26	51	23
d VISN support for specific projects	31	46	23	26	34	39
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	53	31	17	47	31	22
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	55	21	24	38	32	30
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	36	30	33	23	51	26
h VISN recognition of work at university	50	34	16	41	38	21

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

Exhibit 12. Satisfaction with Support from the National Research Office

Question 4	Philadelphia (n=37) Percent			VAPHS: Pittsburgh (UD) (n=44) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters	37	31	31	5	34	61
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	39	39	21	15	39	46
c VA letter of intent process	26	55	19	18	32	50
d VA grant review process	18	45	36	18	18	64
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	25	50	25	33	25	43

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

Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position

Questions 6-11, 13 ⁴	Philadelphia (n=37) Percent			VAPHS: Pittsburgh (UD) (n=44) 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?	22	31	47	18	9	73
7 Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	25	22	53	14	25	61
8 Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	58	11	31	68	16	16
9 Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	69	9	23	77	7	16
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?	42	NA	58	27	NA	73
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?	61	NA	39	64	NA	36
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	46	NA	54	57	NA	43

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