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

**Volume 2  
Facility-Level Results:  
VISN 5**

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**HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

**OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

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**National Survey of VA Researchers  
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**Volume 2  
Facility-Level Results:  
VISN 5**

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## 2002 National Survey of VA Researchers

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## **2002 Survey of VA Researchers Facility-Level Results: VISN 5**

### **Introduction**

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 5. 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 5 Facilities**

Characteristic	Categories	VAMHCS: Baltimore (n=39)	Washington (n=19)	VISN 5 (n=58*)
		Percent	Percent	Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	72	84	76
	Rehabilitation	8	0	5
	Health Services	13	5	10
	Cooperative Studies	3	5	3
	Other	5	5	5
Years in VHA	0 to 5	33	16	28
	6 to 10	31	16	26
	Over 10	36	68	47
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	10	11	10
	Rehabilitation	8	0	5
	General Internal Medicine	8	16	10
	Medical Subspecialty	23	42	29
	Psychiatry / Psychology	15	16	16
	Dentistry	0	5	2
	Other	26	11	21
None	10	0	7	
Gender	Female	28	21	26
Ethnicity	African-American	0	6	2
	Asian or Pacific Islander	5	22	11
	Hispanic	3	6	4
	White	92	56	81
	Other	0	11	4
Research Project Funding	Any	100	74	91
	VA	77	21	59
	Other Federal	64	32	53
	Foundation	41	16	33
	Pharmaceutical / Business	38	47	41
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	97	74	90
	VA	67	21	52
	Other Federal	49	21	40
	Foundation	33	16	28
	Pharmaceutical / Business	38	37	38
Degree	PhD only	34	17	29
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	66	83	71

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

**Exhibit 2. VISN 5 Overview: Facility Scores on 2002 Summary Scales**

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
VAMHCS: Baltimore, MD	3.66	3.51	2.61	2.57	3.46*	3.16
Washington, DC	3.11*	2.83*	2.16*	1.90*	2.58*	2.42*
VISN Average	3.49	3.29	2.45	2.35	3.21	2.91
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 5

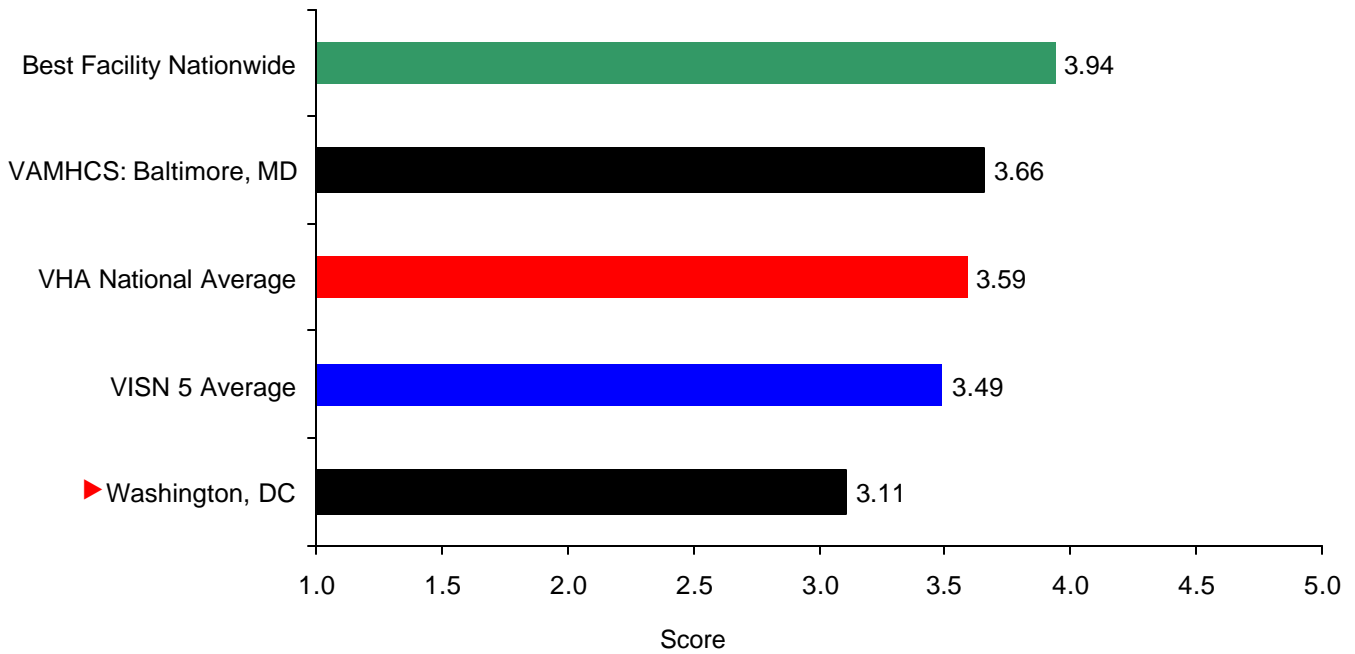
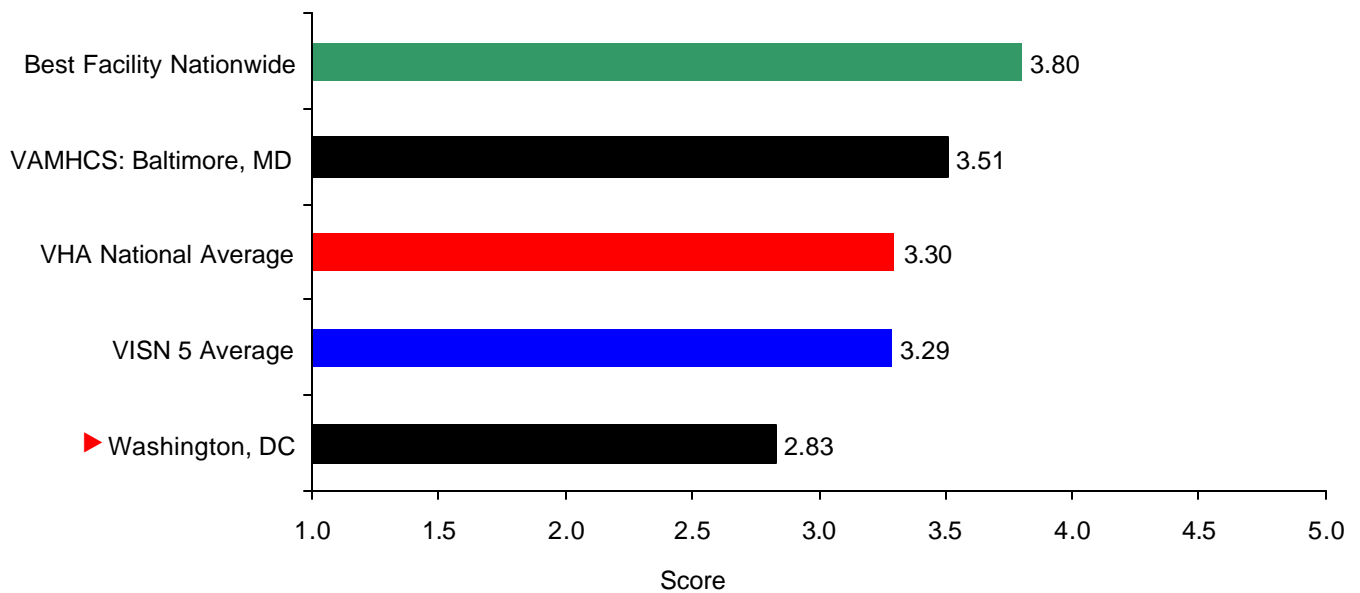


Exhibit 4  
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility  
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 5



▶ 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 5

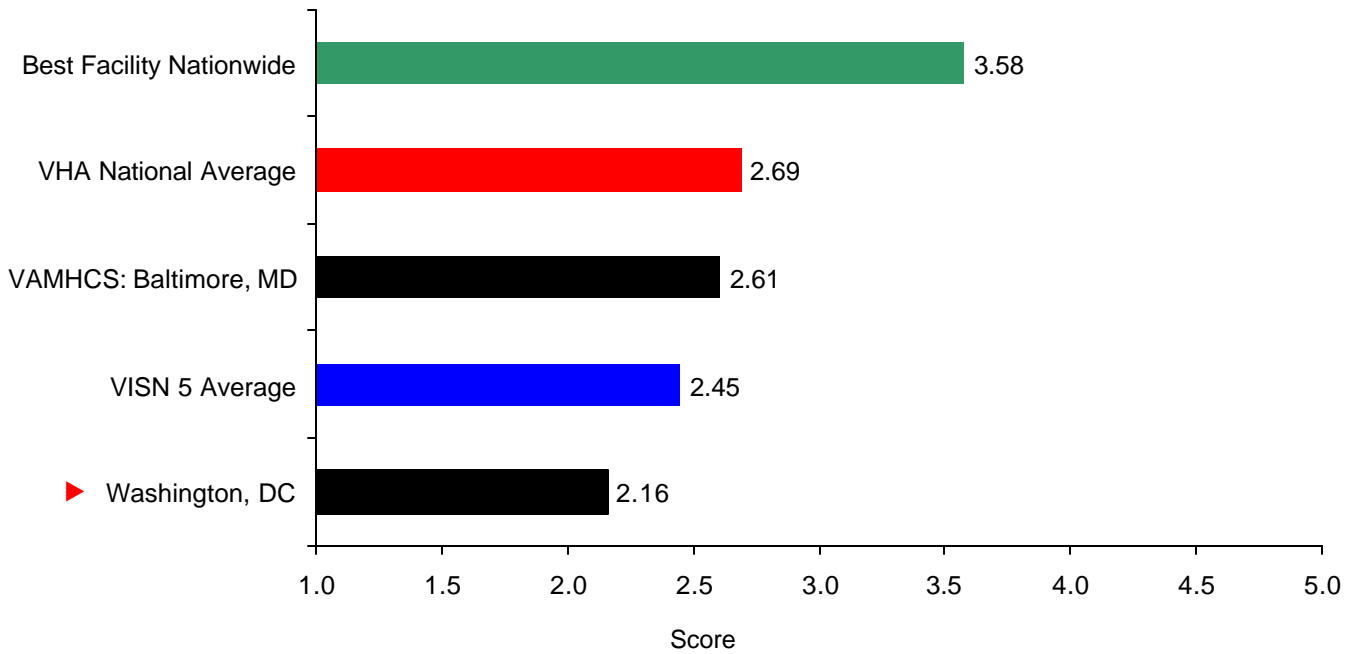
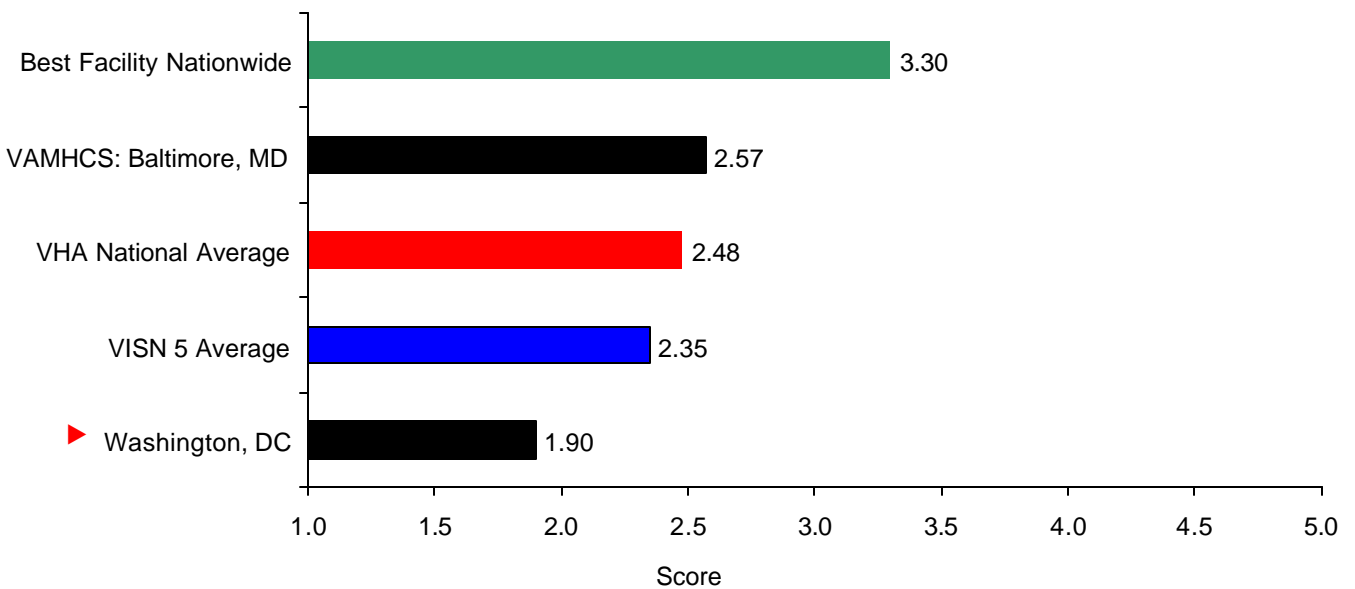


Exhibit 6  
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support  
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 5



▶ 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 5

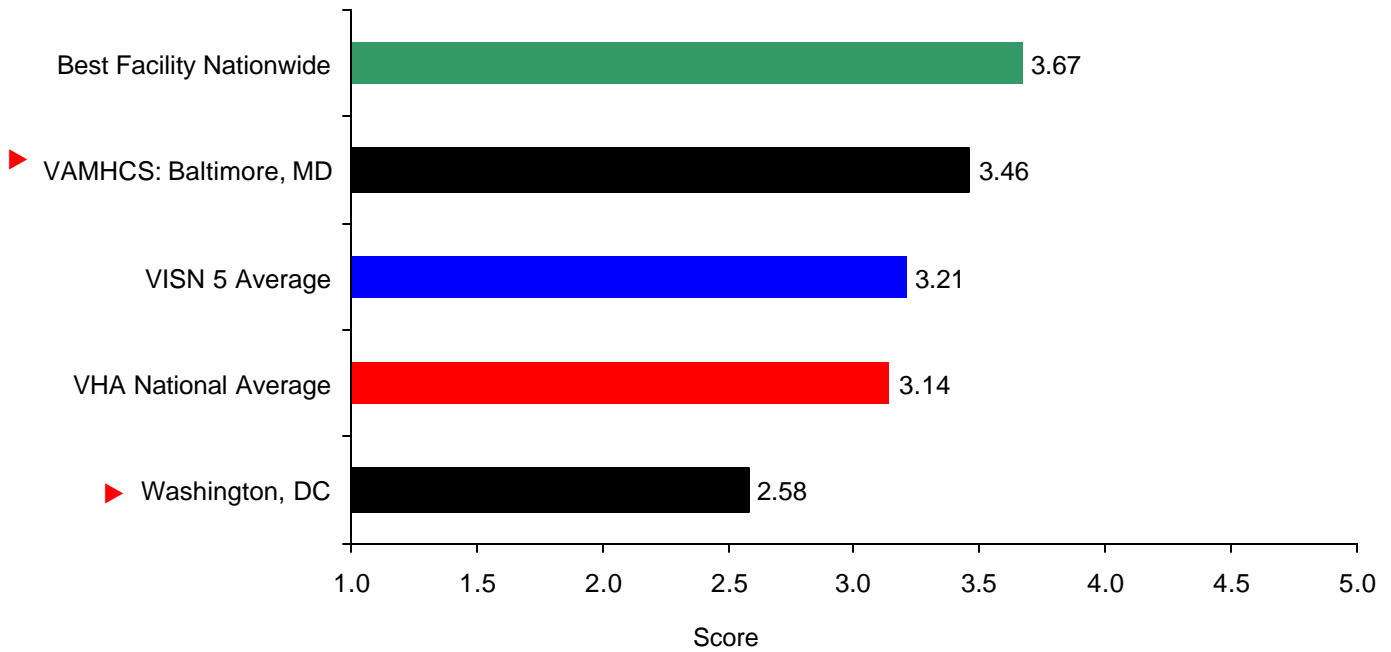
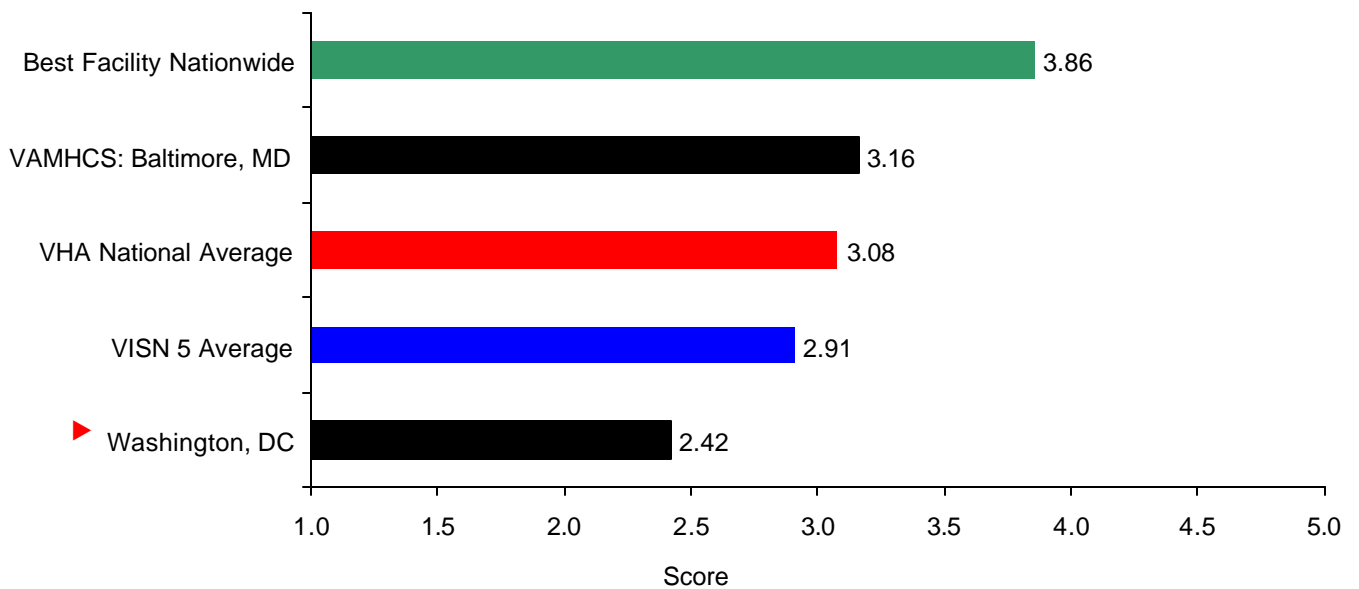


Exhibit 8  
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research  
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 5



▶ 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	VAMHCS: Baltimore (n=39) Percent			Washington (n=19) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Availability of RAs / technologists	32	18	50	72	22	6
b Availability of clerical support	53	13	34	84	11	5
c Competence of support staff	11	37	53	58	16	26
d Assistance with research project management	16	18	66	61	17	22
e Availability of collaborators	5	26	69	21	42	37
f Mentoring / collegial support	11	24	65	42	16	42
g Office space / facilities	37	13	50	26	32	42
h Laboratory space / facilities	34	25	41	23	15	62
i Animal care facilities	0	11	89	14	43	43
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	5	8	87	53	21	26
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	8	21	72	64	14	21
l Adequacy of protected research time	37	18	45	63	21	16
m Computer systems / support	31	31	38	37	16	47
n Libraries	10	28	62	5	26	68

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

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

Question 2	VAMHCS: Baltimore (n=39) Percent			Washington (n=19) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Salary / fringe benefits	24	24	53	21	21	57
b Future security of research opportunities	41	28	31	44	56	0
n Job security	19	22	59	0	22	78
c Workload	21	33	46	56	22	22
d Level of stress	26	38	36	39	39	22
e Opportunities for creativity	10	15	74	44	22	33
f Opportunities to use my skills	15	10	74	28	39	33
g Opportunities to expand my skills	18	31	51	28	44	28
h Enjoyment of the research	5	8	87	11	33	56
i Autonomy to choose research direction	8	10	82	6	17	78
j Amount of paperwork	44	38	18	61	28	11
k Communication within local research services	5	21	74	33	28	39
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	10	15	74	44	33	22
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	16	30	54	28	39	33

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

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

Question 3	VAMHCS: Baltimore (n=39) Percent			Washington (n=19) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VISN leadership	47	25	28	63	32	5
b VISN support for protected time	50	28	22	84	11	5
c VISN educational programs	21	65	15	63	26	11
d VISN support for specific projects	41	41	18	67	33	0
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	50	36	14	56	39	6
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	53	31	17	83	17	0
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	24	51	24	61	28	11
h VISN recognition of work at university	63	23	14	85	15	0

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

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

Question 4	VAMHCS: Baltimore (n=39) Percent			Washington (n=19) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters	14	22	65	50	44	6
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	21	18	62	44	44	11
c VA letter of intent process	9	32	59	20	53	27
d VA grant review process	22	14	64	31	50	19
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	27	30	43	50	36	14

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

**Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position**

Questions 6-11, 13 <sup>4</sup>		VAMHCS: Baltimore (n=39) Percent			Washington (n=19) Percent		
		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?	16	22	62	21	16	63
7	Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	19	22	59	42	21	37
8	Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	53	26	21	68	21	11
9	Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	82	5	13	61	17	22
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?	34	NA	66	53	NA	47
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?	53	NA	47	37	NA	63
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>	72	NA	28	47	NA	53

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