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MANAGEMENT DECISION  
AND RESEARCH CENTER

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**National Survey of VA Researchers  
2002**

**Volume 2  
Facility-Level Results:  
VISN 9**

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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  
2002**

**Volume 2  
Facility-Level Results:  
VISN 9**

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## 2002 National Survey of VA Researchers

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## **2002 Survey of VA Researchers Facility-Level Results: VISN 9**

### **Introduction**

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 9. 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 9 Facilities**

Characteristic	Categories	Lexington (n=15)	Louisville (n=12)	Memphis (n=32)	Mountain Home (n=12)	TN Valley HCS: Nashville (n=31)	VISN 9 (n=105*)
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	87	100	75	58	81	80
	Rehabilitation	0	0	3	33	13	9
	Health Services	7	0	9	0	6	6
	Cooperative Studies	7	0	6	8	0	4
	Other	0	0	6	0	0	2
Years in VHA	0 to 5	0	8	16	8	19	12
	6 to 10	7	0	3	42	16	11
	Over 10	93	92	81	50	65	76
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	7	25	9	0	6	9
	Rehabilitation	0	0	0	17	0	2
	General Internal Medicine	13	8	16	8	3	10
	Medical Subspecialty	53	42	38	8	48	42
	Psychiatry / Psychology	0	8	6	33	3	8
	Dentistry	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	20	8	13	33	32	21
None	7	8	19	0	6	10	
Gender	Female	7	0	16	42	19	17
Ethnicity	African-American	0	0	3	0	0	1
	Asian or Pacific Islander	0	9	16	0	10	9
	Hispanic	7	0	0	0	0	1
	White	87	91	81	92	90	87
	Other	7	0	0	8	0	2
Research Project Funding	Any	93	100	88	92	100	94
	VA	40	75	69	58	77	65
	Other Federal	67	17	59	0	71	50
	Foundation	13	67	28	8	13	23
	Pharmaceutical / Business	67	50	34	50	35	43
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	93	100	94	83	84	89
	VA	40	75	66	50	74	62
	Other Federal	60	25	56	0	58	46
	Foundation	13	50	22	8	13	19
	Pharmaceutical / Business	60	33	31	50	29	37
Degree	PhD only	20	25	34	67	29	32
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	80	75	66	33	71	68

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

## Exhibit 2. VISN 9 Overview: Facility Scores on 2002 Summary Scales

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
Lexington, KY	3.58	3.20	2.38	2.31	2.96	2.73
Louisville, KY	3.52	3.26	1.91*	1.89*	3.27	2.67
Memphis, TN	3.66	3.46	2.50	2.22	3.04	3.17
Mountain Home, TN	3.23	2.97	1.73*	1.45**	3.39	3.08
TN Valley HCS: Nashville, TN	3.71	3.16	2.14*	2.14*	3.17	3.50
VISN Average	3.58	3.25	2.20	2.07	3.12	3.10
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 9

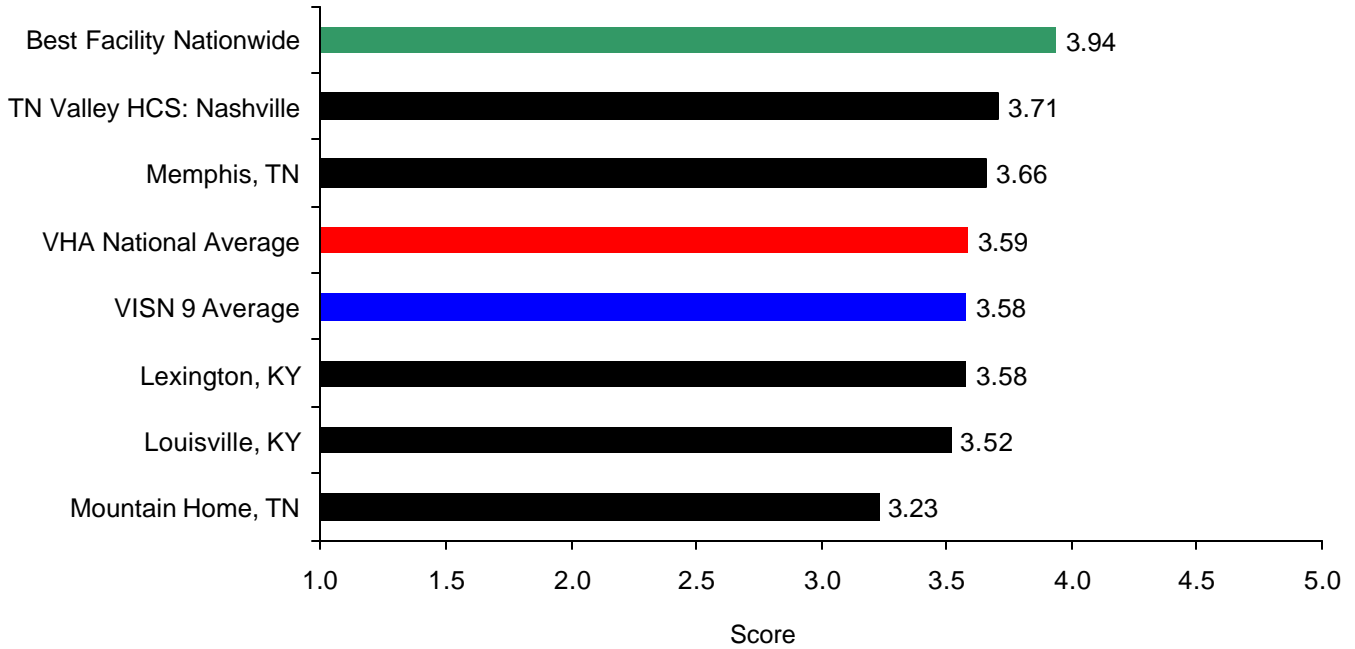
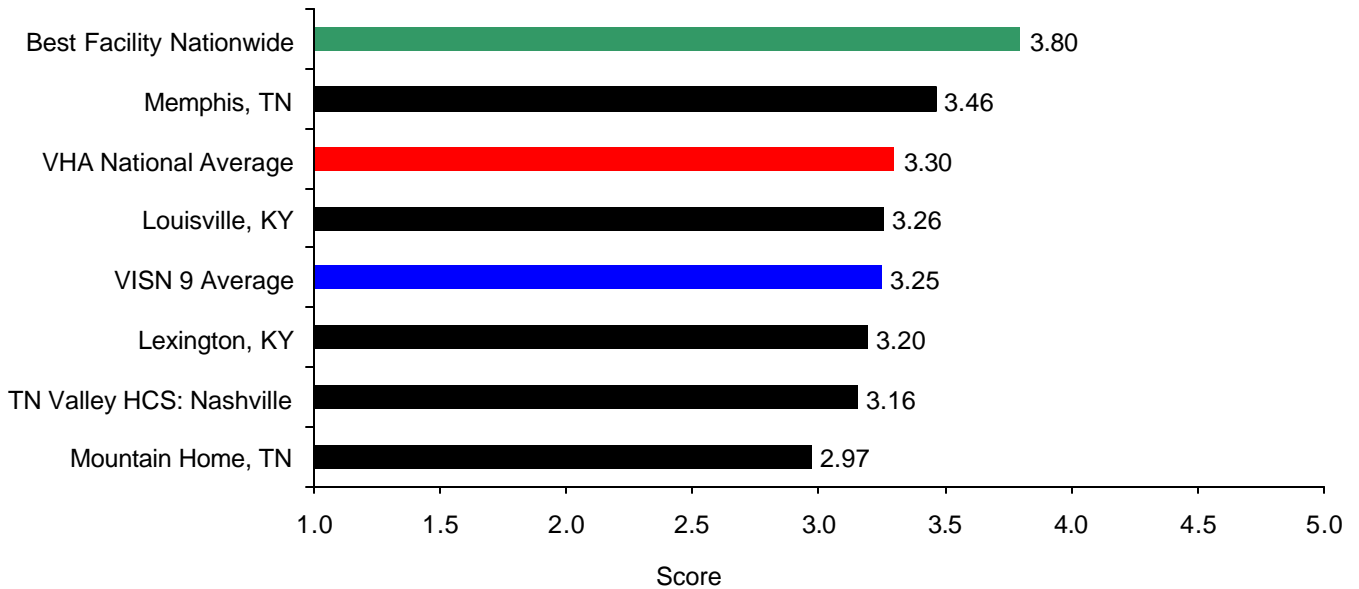


Exhibit 4  
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility  
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 9



► 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 9

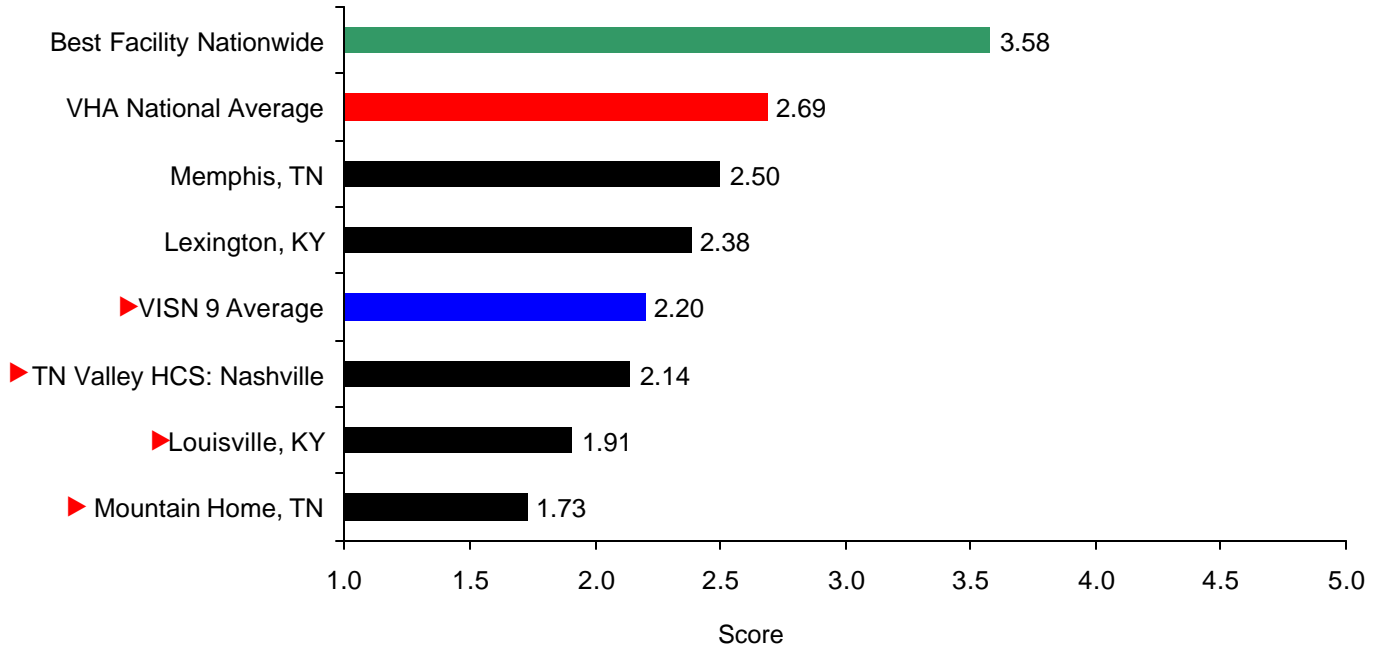
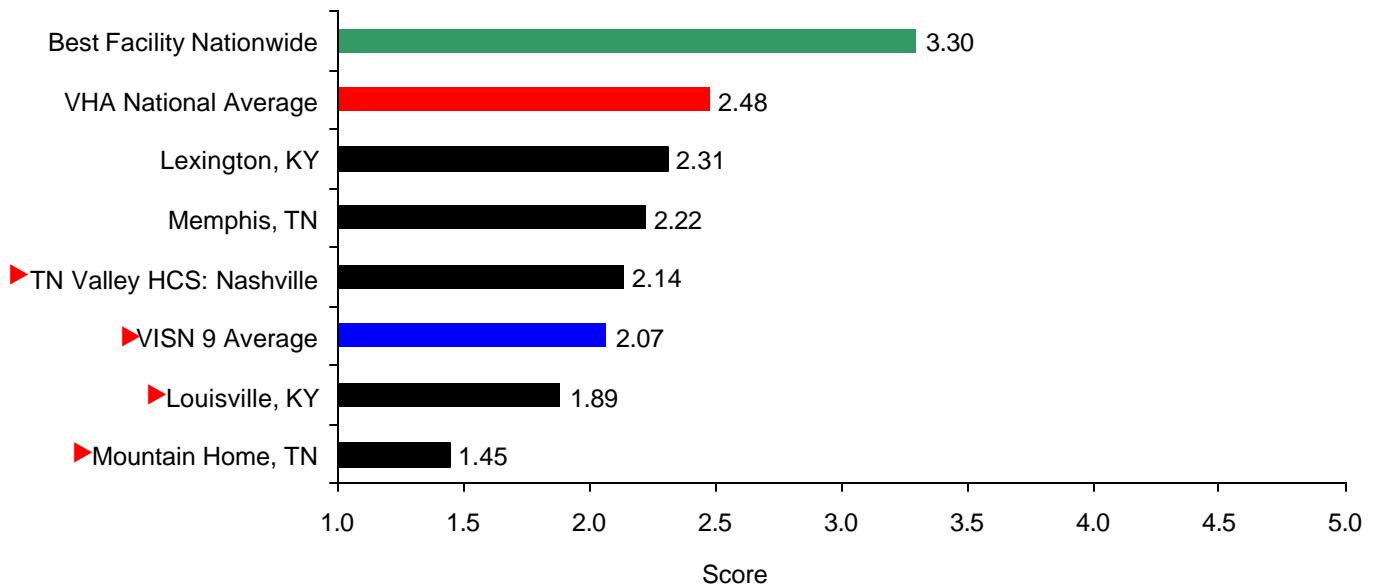


Exhibit 6  
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support  
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 9



▶ 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 9

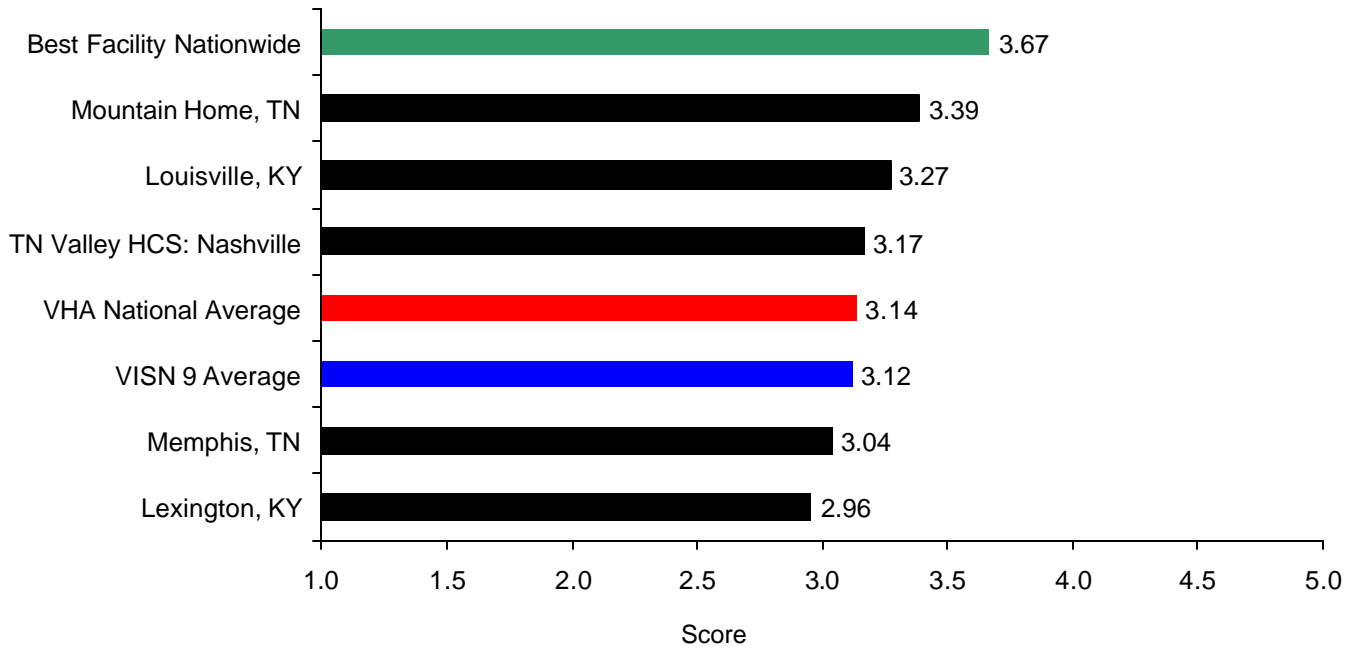
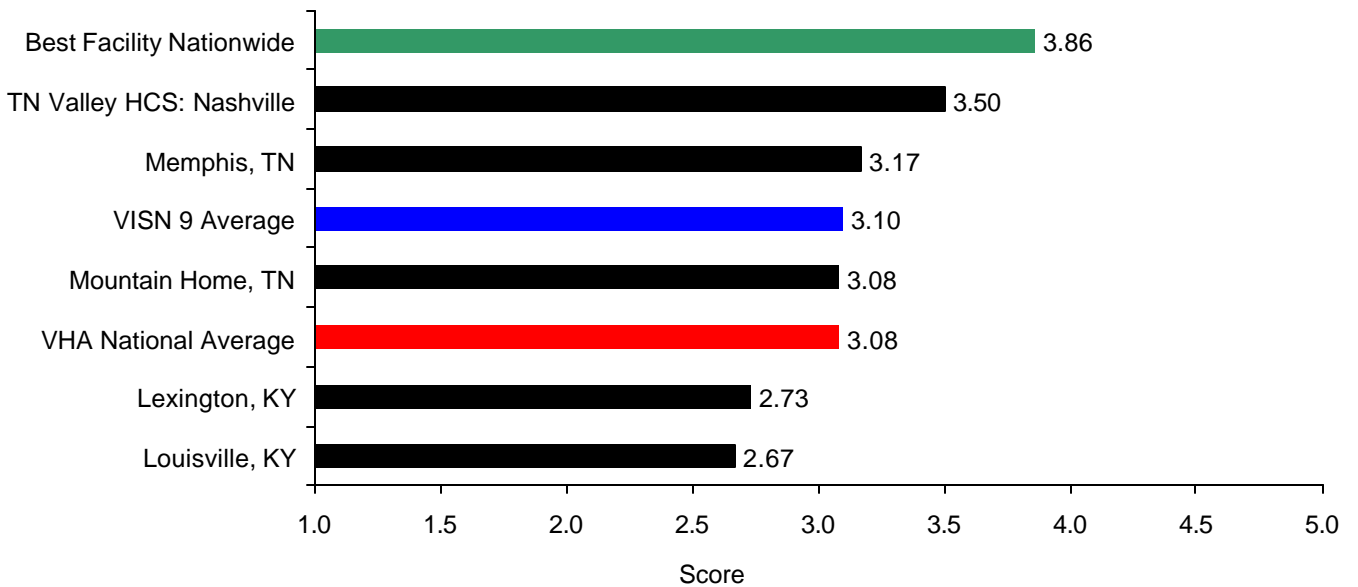


Exhibit 8  
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research  
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 9



► 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	Lexington (n=15)			Louisville (n=12)			Memphis (n=32)			Mountain Home (n=12)			TN Valley HCS: Nashville (n=31)		
	Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Availability of RAs / technologists	21	36	43	27	55	18	48	24	28	58	17	25	30	30	41
b Availability of clerical support	40	27	33	33	17	50	52	13	35	50	33	17	53	30	17
c Competence of support staff	20	27	53	0	17	83	10	13	77	22	44	33	17	20	63
d Assistance with research project management	29	36	36	8	17	75	17	21	62	9	45	45	17	17	67
e Availability of collaborators	29	7	64	42	42	17	16	13	71	18	45	36	10	0	90
f Mentoring / collegial support	25	33	42	36	36	27	28	10	62	50	25	25	0	17	83
g Office space / facilities	43	7	50	36	9	55	28	16	56	50	8	42	52	13	35
h Laboratory space / facilities	7	14	79	70	10	20	23	15	62	42	8	50	63	22	15
i Animal care facilities	13	13	73	44	0	56	9	14	77	50	50	0	37	26	37
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	40	13	47	36	18	45	20	37	43	50	25	25	23	26	52
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	33	27	40	27	9	64	19	29	52	8	17	75	16	6	77
l Adequacy of protected research time	47	20	33	67	0	33	33	17	50	42	8	50	27	10	63
m Computer systems / support	20	27	53	33	42	25	29	26	45	27	27	45	58	16	26
n Libraries	27	13	60	25	50	25	34	22	44	8	8	83	38	21	41

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

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

Question 2	Lexington (n=15)			Louisville (n=12)			Memphis (n=32)			Mountain Home (n=12)			TN Valley HCS: Nashville (n=31)		
	Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Salary / fringe benefits	27	13	60	10	40	50	24	24	52	40	10	50	39	19	42
b Future security of research opportunities	47	40	13	36	55	9	48	34	17	50	42	8	42	32	26
n Job security	20	33	47	8	25	67	20	13	67	27	18	55	10	39	52
c Workload	21	36	43	42	42	17	26	19	55	55	27	18	13	42	45
d Level of stress	47	33	20	8	83	8	23	35	42	42	42	17	23	35	42
e Opportunities for creativity	13	13	73	9	55	36	16	13	71	17	33	50	10	26	65
f Opportunities to use my skills	13	13	73	20	20	60	13	13	73	8	33	58	13	16	71
g Opportunities to expand my skills	20	13	67	33	33	33	19	16	65	17	58	25	19	13	68
h Enjoyment of the research	7	0	93	0	0	100	3	6	90	17	8	75	0	13	87
i Autonomy to choose research direction	0	7	93	0	0	100	6	0	94	25	8	67	0	13	87
j Amount of paperwork	67	27	7	58	25	17	55	35	10	58	25	17	32	39	29
k Communication within local research services	33	27	40	0	50	50	10	29	61	17	17	67	26	23	52
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	33	20	47	18	55	27	13	19	68	42	25	33	23	16	61
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	13	53	33	25	33	42	7	43	50	42	25	33	23	26	52

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

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

Question 3	Lexington (n=15)			Louisville (n=12)			Memphis (n=32)			Mountain Home (n=12)			TN Valley HCS: Nashville (n=31)		
	Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VISN leadership	69	15	15	82	18	0	46	46	8	73	27	0	61	25	14
b VISN support for protected time	69	15	15	73	18	9	61	35	4	82	18	0	46	38	15
c VISN educational programs	17	58	25	55	45	0	48	43	9	91	9	0	50	43	7
d VISN support for specific projects	58	25	17	82	18	0	54	42	4	100	0	0	59	30	11
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	69	23	8	64	27	9	68	32	0	100	0	0	65	35	0
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	69	23	8	73	18	9	72	20	8	82	18	0	67	33	0
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	69	23	8	64	36	0	67	29	4	100	0	0	52	33	15
h VISN recognition of work at university	77	15	8	73	27	0	72	24	4	100	0	0	59	30	11

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

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

Question 4	Lexington (n=15)			Louisville (n=12)			Memphis (n=32)			Mountain Home (n=12)			TN Valley HCS: Nashville (n=31)		
	Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent			Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters	23	31	46	9	45	45	17	50	33	18	27	55	27	40	33
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	45	18	36	9	55	36	17	45	38	18	36	45	29	32	39
c VA letter of intent process	17	42	42	0	70	30	20	36	44	0	50	50	14	41	45
d VA grant review process	31	15	54	25	8	67	18	36	46	10	40	50	14	41	45
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	62	23	15	50	25	25	57	25	18	30	20	50	34	38	28

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

**Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position**

Questions 6-11, 13 <sup>4</sup>	Lexington (n=15)			Louisville (n=12)			Memphis (n=32)			Mountain Home (n=12)			TN Valley HCS: Nashville (n=31)		
	No <sup>1</sup>	Percent Neutral	Yes <sup>2</sup>	No <sup>1</sup>	Percent Neutral	Yes <sup>2</sup>	No <sup>1</sup>	Percent Neutral	Yes <sup>2</sup>	No <sup>1</sup>	Percent Neutral	Yes <sup>2</sup>	No <sup>1</sup>	Percent 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?	13	33	53	33	33	33	3	44	53	17	25	58	19	16	65
7 Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	40	13	47	50	33	17	22	22	56	64	18	18	26	16	58
8 Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	67	7	27	75	17	8	72	19	9	42	33	25	65	23	13
9 Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	67	13	20	50	0	50	59	16	25	50	8	42	71	10	19
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?	33	NA	67	33	NA	67	34	NA	66	25	NA	75	19	NA	81
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?	60	NA	40	42	NA	58	63	NA	38	67	NA	33	65	NA	35
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>	67	NA	33	83	NA	17	56	NA	44	42	NA	58	68	NA	32

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