

---

# MDRC

---

MANAGEMENT DECISION  
AND RESEARCH CENTER

---

**National Survey of VA Researchers  
2002**

**Volume 2  
Facility-Level Results:  
VISN 10**

---

**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 10**

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 10

	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 10**

### **Introduction**

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 10. 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 10 Facilities**

Characteristic	Categories	Brecksville (n=10)	Cincinnati (n=23)	Cleveland (n=17)	Dayton (n=12)	VISN 10 (n=63*)
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	78	70	71	67	71
	Rehabilitation	22	4	0	17	8
	Health Services	0	13	24	0	11
	Cooperative Studies	0	9	6	17	8
	Other	0	4	0	0	2
Years in VHA	0 to 5	33	43	29	17	32
	6 to 10	11	13	24	17	18
	Over 10	56	43	47	67	50
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	0	9	6	0	5
	Rehabilitation	11	0	0	8	3
	General Internal Medicine	0	4	29	25	15
	Medical Subspecialty	33	43	53	25	42
	Psychiatry / Psychology	11	17	0	25	13
	Dentistry	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	0	22	12	0	11
None	44	4	0	17	11	
Gender	Female	11	30	12	50	26
Ethnicity	African-American	0	4	0	9	3
	Asian or Pacific Islander	0	4	6	36	10
	Hispanic	0	4	0	0	2
	White	100	83	94	55	84
	Other	0	4	0	0	2
Research Project Funding	Any	90	87	100	75	89
	VA	90	52	82	25	62
	Other Federal	80	57	41	25	51
	Foundation	0	17	6	8	10
	Pharmaceutical / Business	20	30	35	25	29
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	100	78	88	67	83
	VA	90	43	71	17	54
	Other Federal	70	35	41	25	41
	Foundation	10	13	12	0	10
	Pharmaceutical / Business	20	17	29	25	22
Degree	PhD only	50	13	12	42	27
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	50	88	88	58	73

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

**Exhibit 2. VISN 10 Overview: Facility Scores on 2002 Summary Scales**

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
Brecksville, OH	3.94	3.42	2.78	3.03	3.41	3.25
Cincinnati, OH	3.72	3.42	3.28*	2.71	3.05	3.45
Cleveland, OH	3.66	3.49	3.07	2.66	3.37	3.00
Dayton, OH	2.88*	2.72*	2.80	2.19	2.73	2.45
VISN Average	3.59	3.31	3.06	2.66	3.18	3.09
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 10

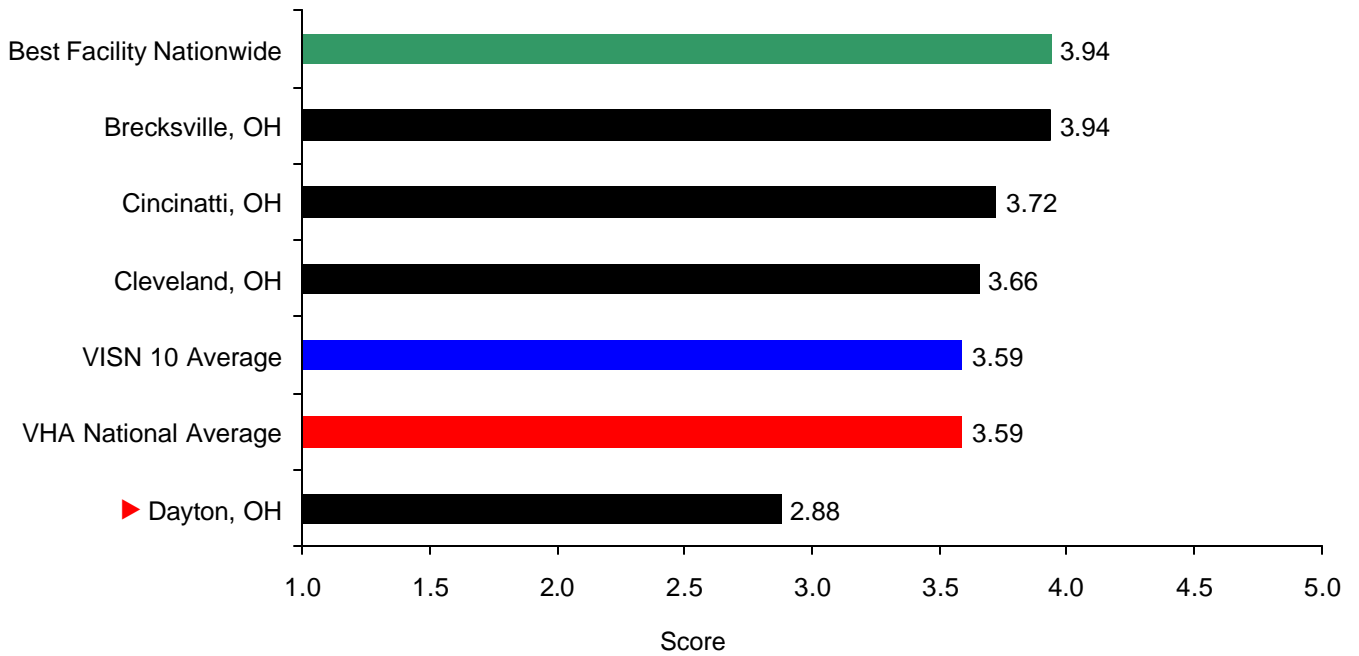
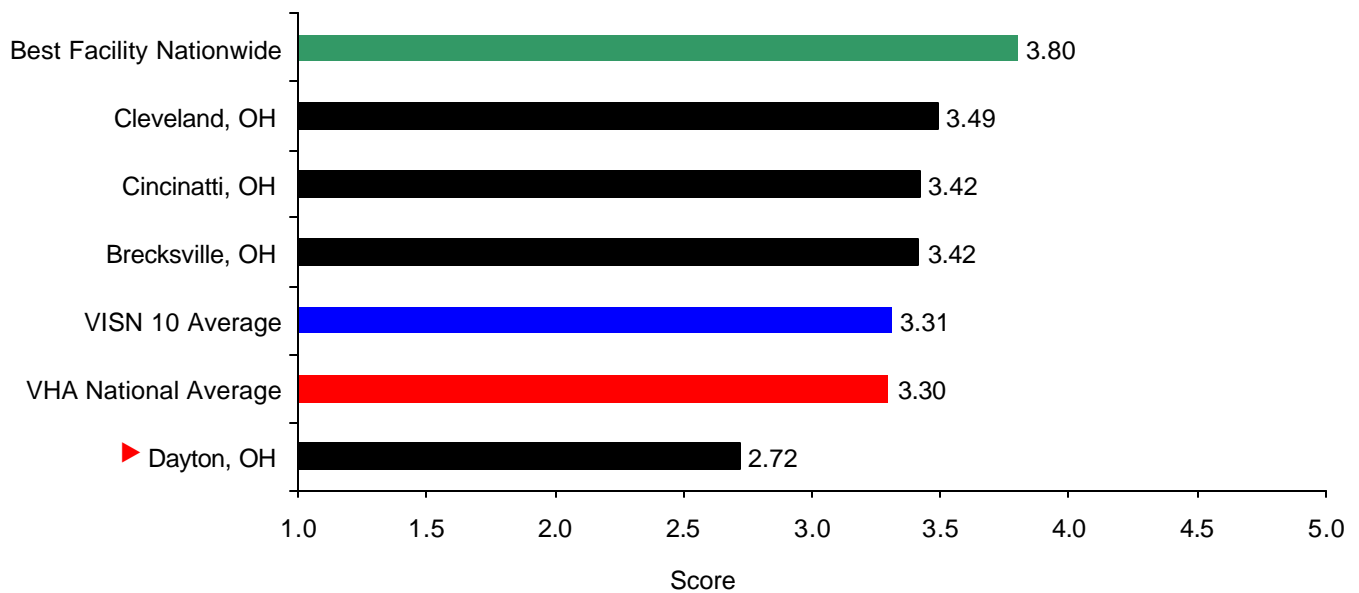


Exhibit 4  
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility  
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 10



▶ 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 10

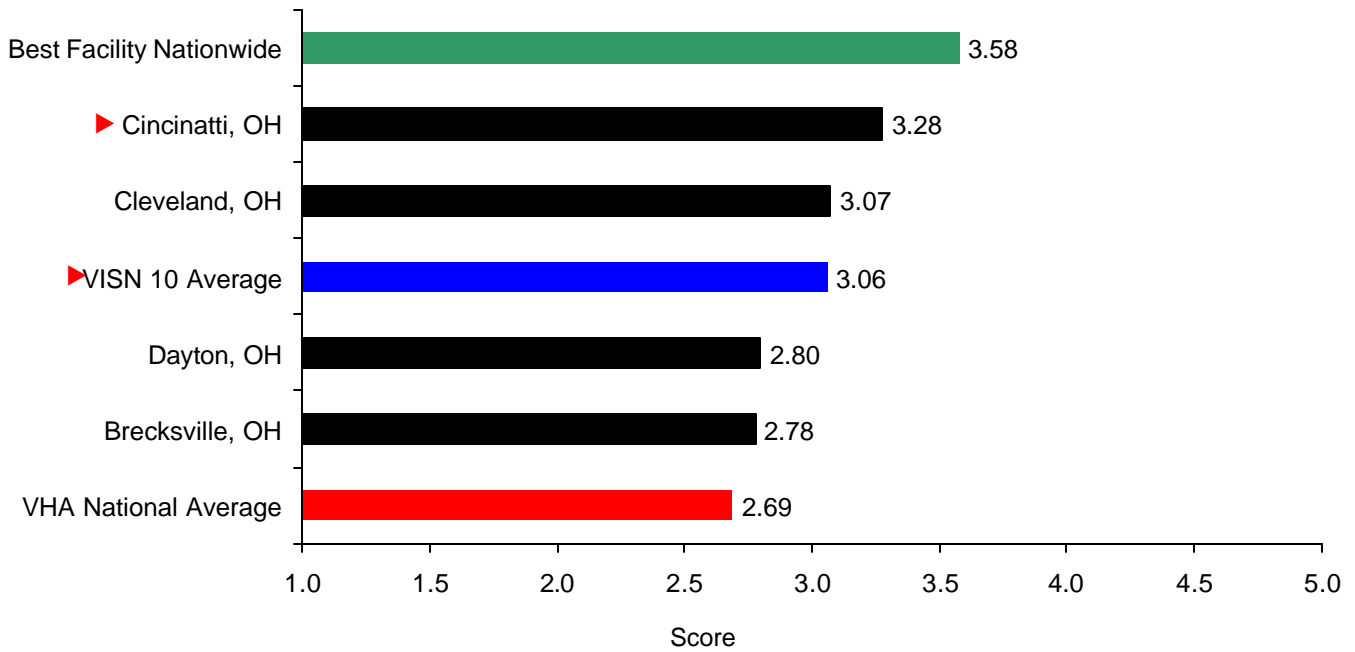
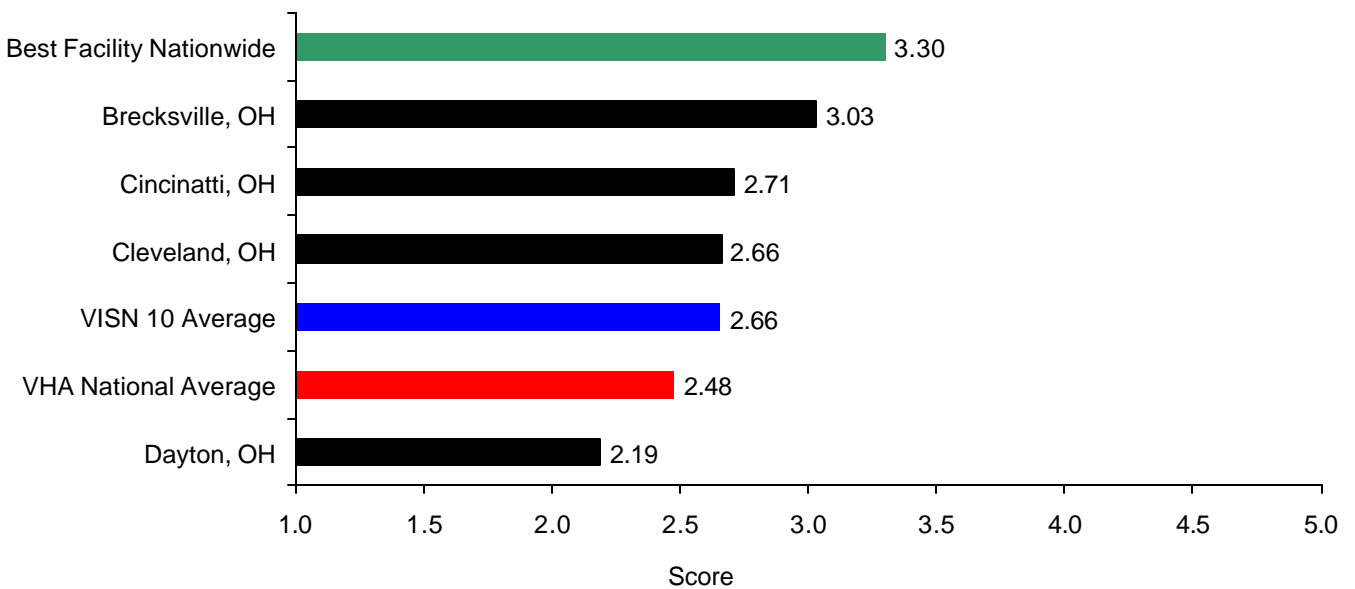


Exhibit 6  
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support  
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 10



▶ 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 10

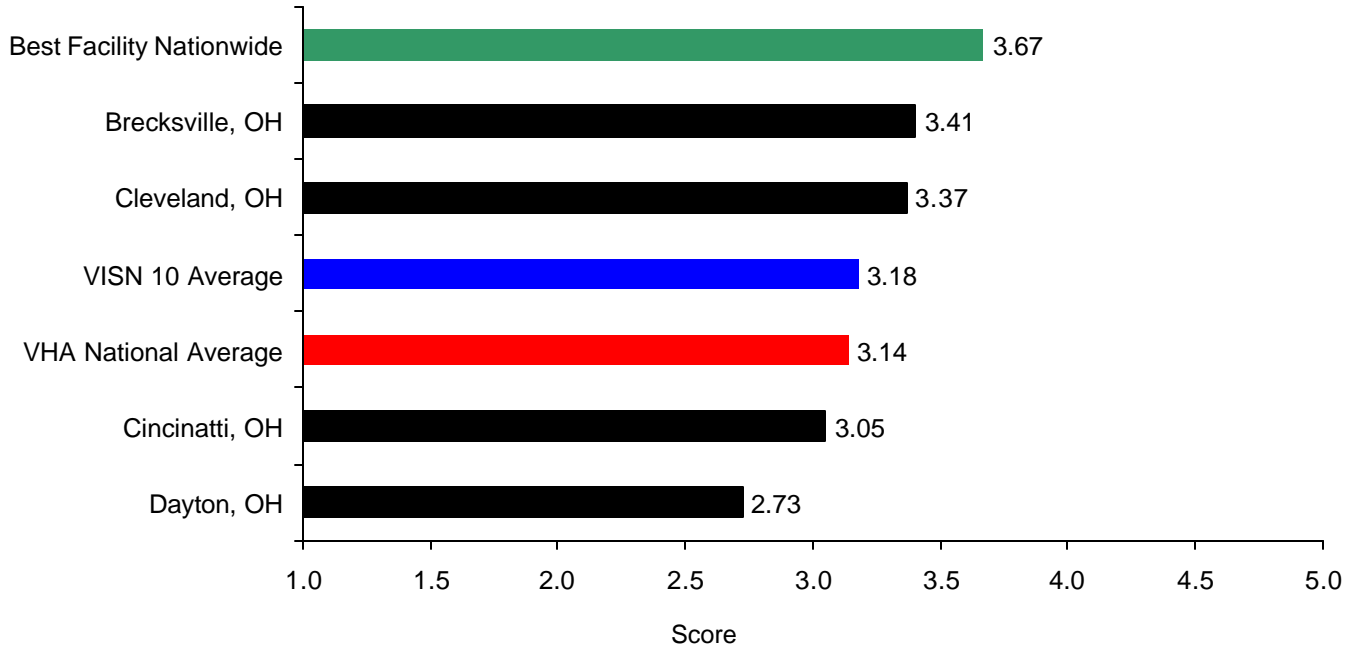
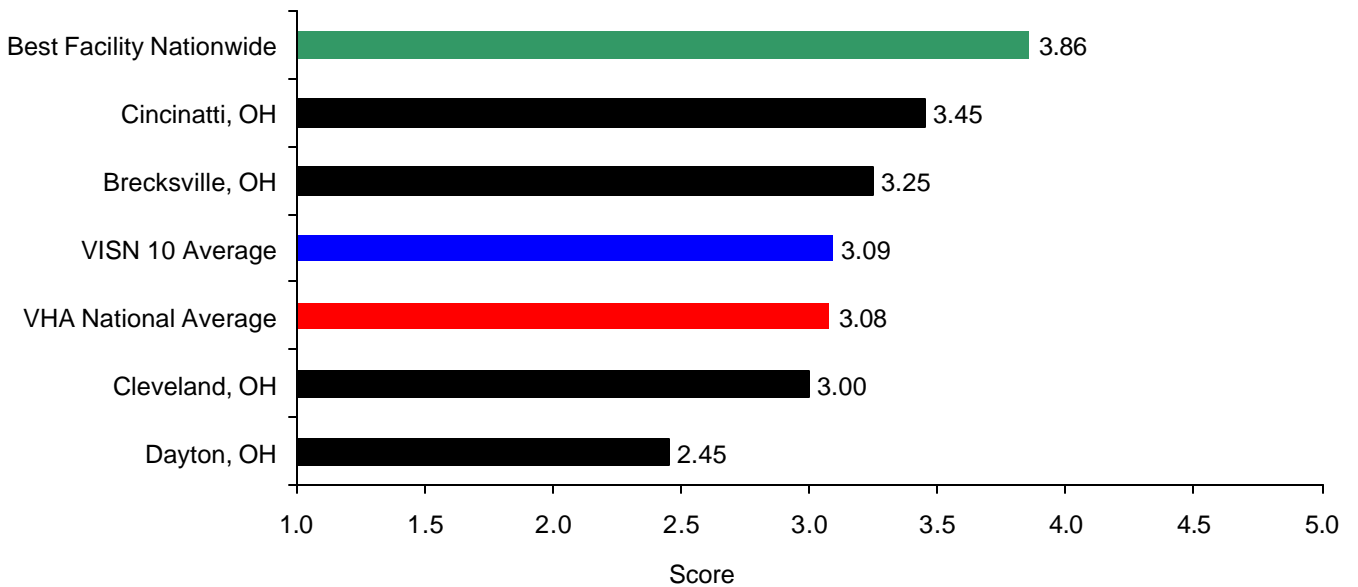


Exhibit 8  
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research  
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 10



► 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	Brecksville (n=10) Percent			Cincinnati (n=23) Percent			Cleveland (n=17) Percent			Dayton (n=12) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Availability of RAs / technologists	22	11	67	17	50	33	24	18	59	64	9	27
b Availability of clerical support	29	14	57	37	26	37	35	24	41	67	25	8
c Competence of support staff	20	20	60	5	26	68	18	18	65	45	27	27
d Assistance with research project management	30	0	70	6	41	53	19	6	75	67	33	0
e Availability of collaborators	10	10	80	10	10	80	6	35	59	50	33	17
f Mentoring / collegial support	10	10	80	10	15	75	20	27	53	40	50	10
g Office space / facilities	44	11	44	32	18	50	35	12	53	36	18	45
h Laboratory space / facilities	20	20	60	47	20	33	21	14	64	27	27	45
i Animal care facilities	0	20	80	60	30	10	0	18	82	0	33	67
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	30	0	70	5	36	59	24	12	65	42	42	17
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	30	30	40	14	33	52	24	29	47	18	27	55
l Adequacy of protected research time	25	25	50	20	20	60	35	29	35	64	9	27
m Computer systems / support	50	20	30	19	24	57	35	18	47	33	17	50
n Libraries	40	20	40	14	19	67	18	6	76	0	25	75

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

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

Question 2	Brecksville (n=10) Percent			Cincinnati (n=23) Percent			Cleveland (n=17) Percent			Dayton (n=12) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Salary / fringe benefits	10	30	60	39	22	39	13	13	75	44	22	33
b Future security of research opportunities	10	30	60	43	10	48	38	25	38	73	18	9
n Job security	0	40	60	14	27	59	13	47	40	18	9	73
c Workload	20	10	70	24	29	48	19	38	44	45	27	27
d Level of stress	10	10	80	36	23	41	25	25	50	55	27	18
e Opportunities for creativity	10	30	60	5	32	64	19	19	63	36	36	27
f Opportunities to use my skills	0	10	90	0	27	73	6	13	81	33	25	42
g Opportunities to expand my skills	10	10	80	10	24	67	31	31	38	25	50	25
h Enjoyment of the research	0	10	90	0	18	82	0	0	100	25	25	50
i Autonomy to choose research direction	0	0	100	0	9	91	0	6	94	9	18	73
j Amount of paperwork	70	10	20	36	36	27	33	20	47	36	18	45
k Communication within local research services	11	44	44	18	27	55	25	19	56	50	25	25
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	10	10	80	14	27	59	25	13	63	33	58	8
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	10	30	60	18	23	59	13	44	44	27	55	18

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

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

Question 3	Brecksville (n=10) Percent			Cincinnati (n=23) Percent			Cleveland (n=17) Percent			Dayton (n=12) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VISN leadership	33	44	22	17	39	44	29	36	36	30	50	20
b VISN support for protected time	29	43	29	24	35	41	29	50	21	38	63	0
c VISN educational programs	14	71	14	29	47	24	23	46	31	42	42	17
d VISN support for specific projects	14	43	43	47	35	18	29	43	29	36	55	9
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	14	71	14	47	35	18	43	29	29	58	33	8
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	25	63	13	39	44	17	50	43	7	36	64	0
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	25	63	13	37	47	16	71	21	7	55	45	0
h VISN recognition of work at university	25	50	25	41	41	18	50	50	0	56	44	0

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

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

Question 4	Brecksville (n=10) Percent			Cincinnati (n=23) Percent			Cleveland (n=17) Percent			Dayton (n=12) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters	10	40	50	33	50	17	13	40	47	27	55	18
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	10	60	30	31	50	19	27	27	47	40	40	20
c VA letter of intent process	20	40	40	12	41	47	17	33	50	13	50	38
d VA grant review process	10	30	60	6	38	56	21	29	50	22	67	11
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	11	11	78	33	27	40	29	7	64	38	50	13

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

**Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position**

Questions 6-11, 13 <sup>4</sup>	Brecksville (n=10) Percent			Cincinnati (n=23) Percent			Cleveland (n=17) Percent			Dayton (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>	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?	10	10	80	17	22	61	6	35	59	27	27	45
7 Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	10	0	90	30	22	48	12	18	71	45	45	9
8 Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	70	0	30	70	17	13	59	6	35	55	0	45
9 Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	90	10	0	70	26	4	71	12	18	60	0	40
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?	0	NA	100	43	NA	57	12	NA	88	45	NA	55
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	52	NA	48	18	NA	82	45	NA	55
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>	100	NA	0	48	NA	52	71	NA	29	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