
MDRC

MANAGEMENT DECISION
AND RESEARCH CENTER

**National Survey of VA Researchers
2002**

**Volume 2
Facility-Level Results:
VISN 16**

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 16**

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 16

	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 16

Introduction

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 16. 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 16 Facilities

Characteristic	Categories	Houston (n=62)	Jackson (n=12)	Little Rock (n=44)	New Orleans (n=16)	Oklahoma City (n=22)	VISN 16 (n=173*)
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	68	75	72	80	50	68
	Rehabilitation	8	0	2	7	10	6
	Health Services	15	17	21	7	20	16
	Cooperative Studies	5	8	2	7	15	6
	Other	3	0	2	0	5	5
Years in VHA	0 to 5	27	8	28	7	35	23
	6 to 10	17	33	35	33	5	23
	Over 10	57	58	37	60	60	53
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	12	0	9	13	5	10
	Rehabilitation	7	0	2	0	5	4
	General Internal Medicine	17	8	16	27	5	15
	Medical Subspecialty	42	33	28	20	40	34
	Psychiatry / Psychology	5	33	19	33	20	17
	Dentistry	3	0	0	0	0	1
	Other	14	25	21	0	20	15
None	0	0	5	7	5	4	
Gender	Female	32	50	32	33	25	32
Ethnicity	African-American	0	0	2	0	0	2
	Asian or Pacific Islander	13	17	5	0	0	8
	Hispanic	5	8	2	7	0	4
	White	78	67	84	93	95	81
	Other	3	8	7	0	5	5
Research Project Funding	Any	94	75	93	75	77	85
	VA	61	67	57	50	55	57
	Other Federal	50	50	52	38	23	43
	Foundation	31	8	30	31	18	25
Pharmaceutical / Business	39	33	43	31	14	34	
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	90	83	86	88	82	85
	VA	58	67	55	56	59	57
	Other Federal	40	33	43	38	18	34
	Foundation	19	8	23	25	9	18
Pharmaceutical / Business	37	33	41	19	27	34	
Degree	PhD only	20	42	20	31	32	26
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	80	58	80	69	68	74

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

Exhibit 2. VISN 16 Overview: Facility Scores on 2002 Summary Scales

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
Houston, TX	3.60	3.39	2.63	2.45	3.19	3.09
Jackson, MS	3.83	3.41	3.58**	3.30*	3.65	2.75
Little Rock, AR	3.77	3.63*	3.00	2.78	3.08	2.93
New Orleans, LA	3.62	3.14	3.00	2.68	3.01	3.19
Oklahoma City, OK	3.14*	3.14	2.62	2.59	3.01	2.50*
VISN Average	3.60	3.38	2.90	2.66	3.14	2.93
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 16

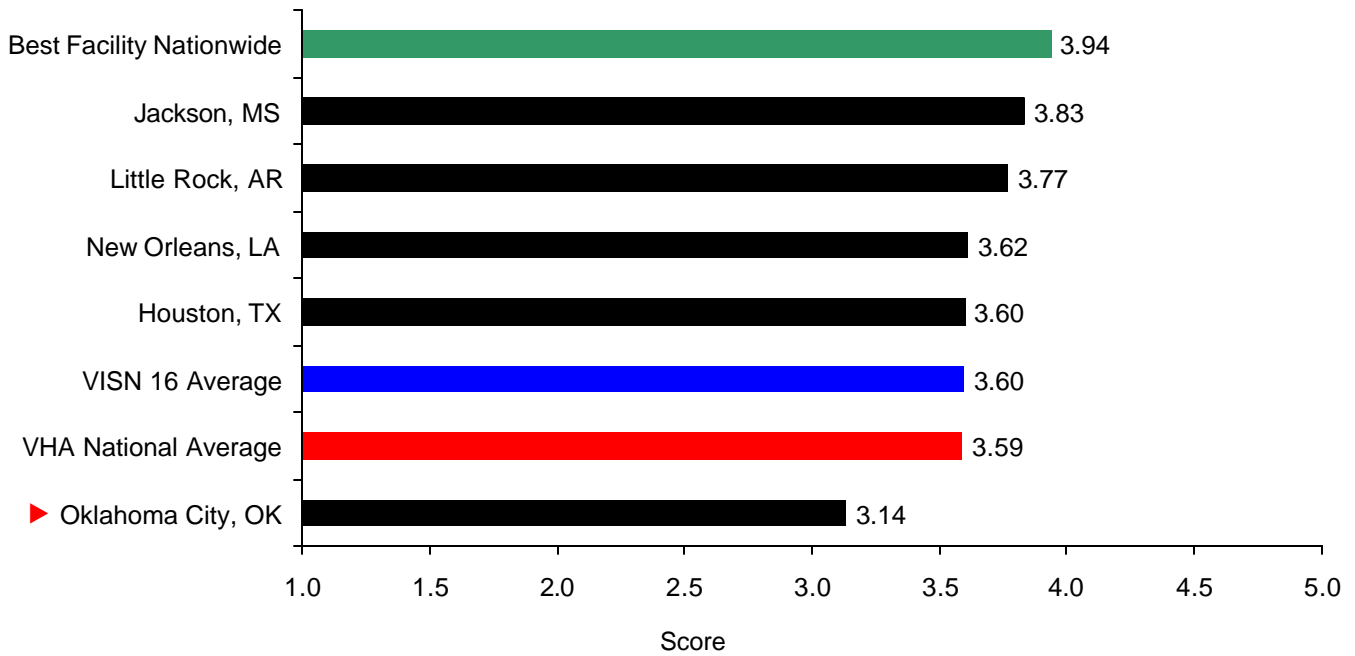
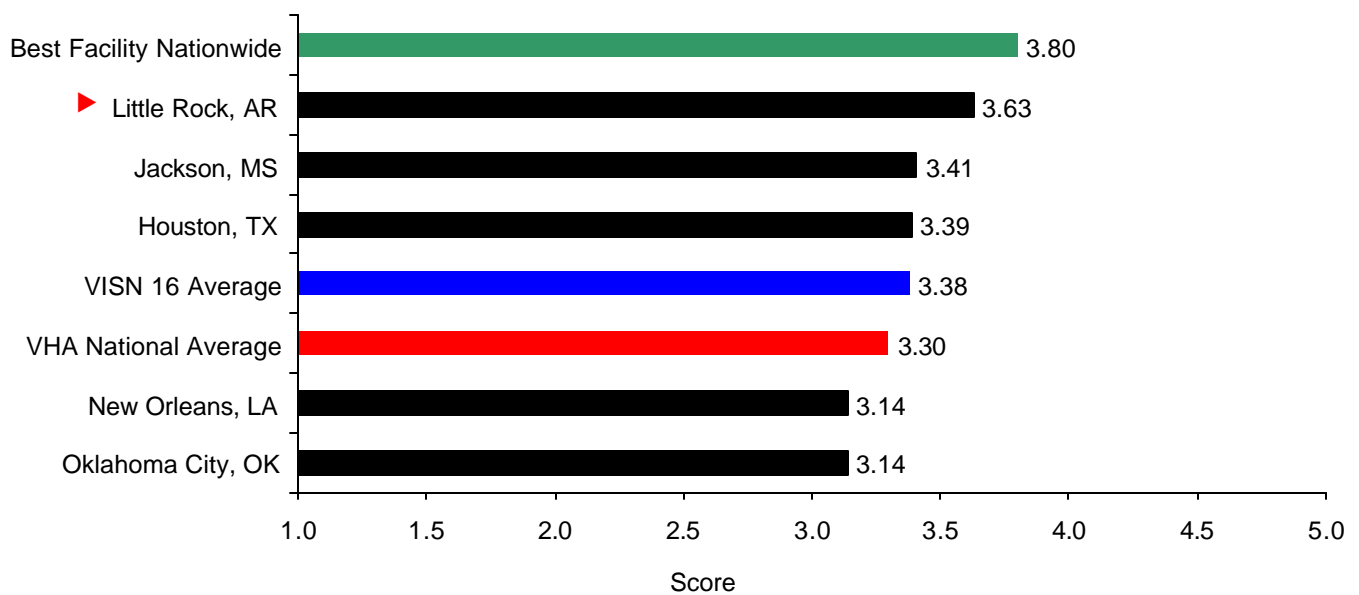


Exhibit 4
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 16



▶ 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 16

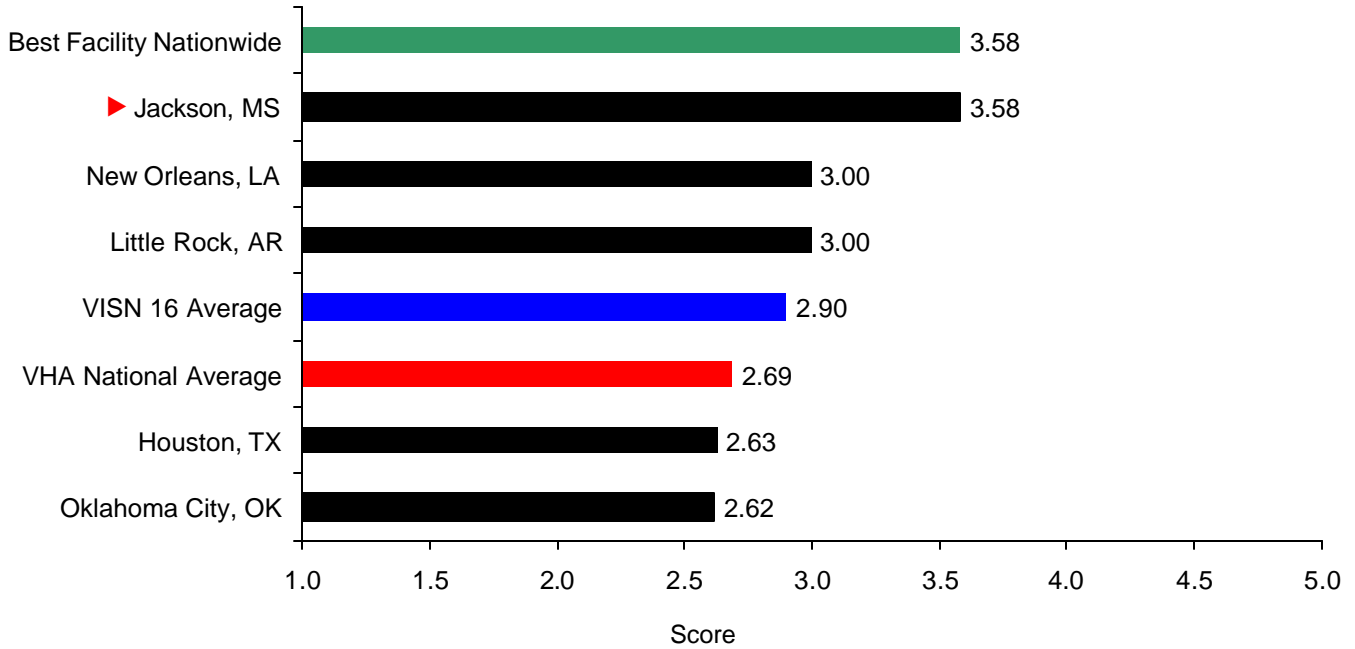
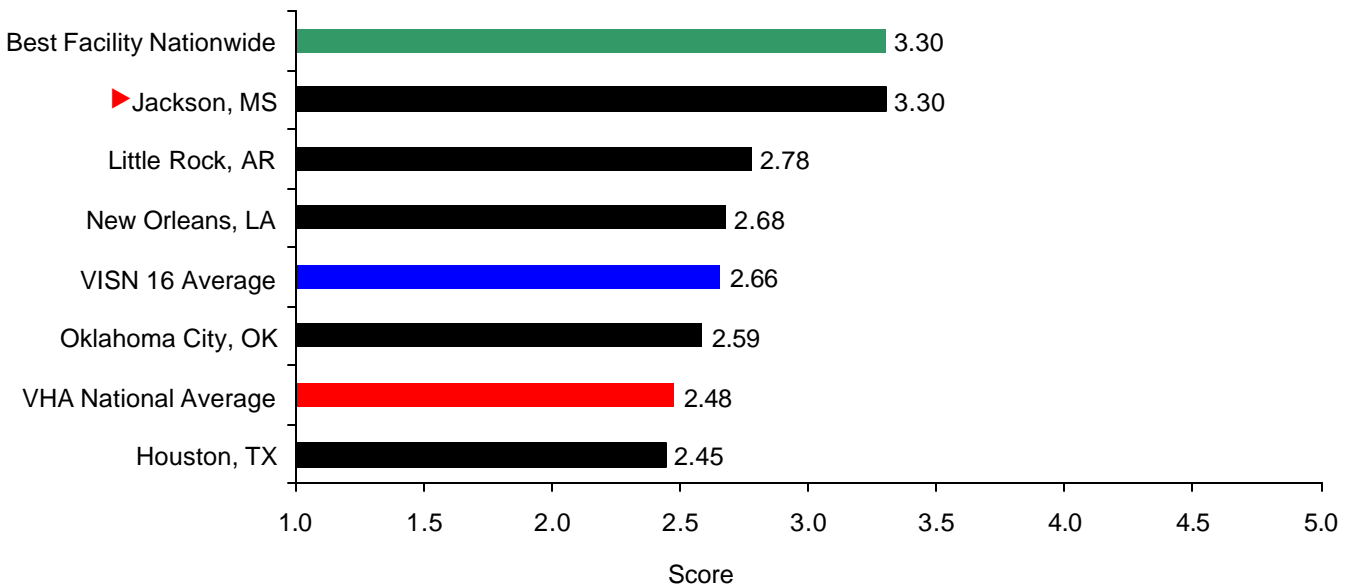


Exhibit 6
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 16



▶ 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 16

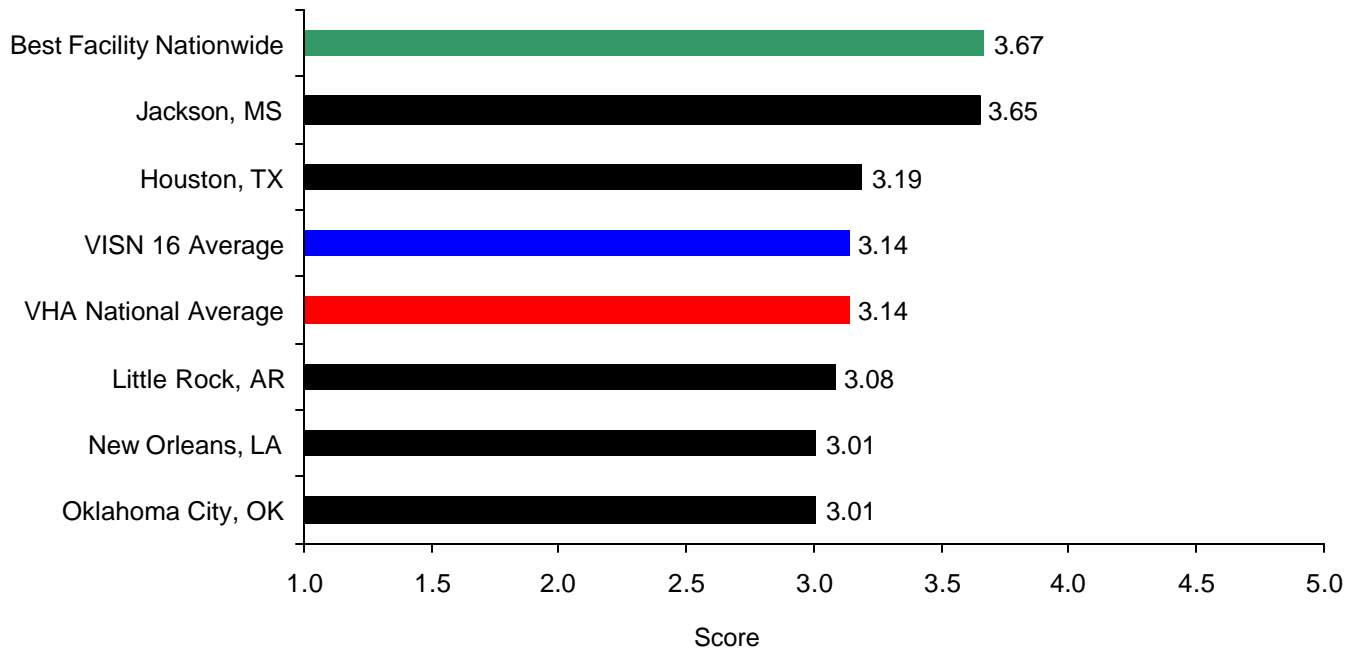
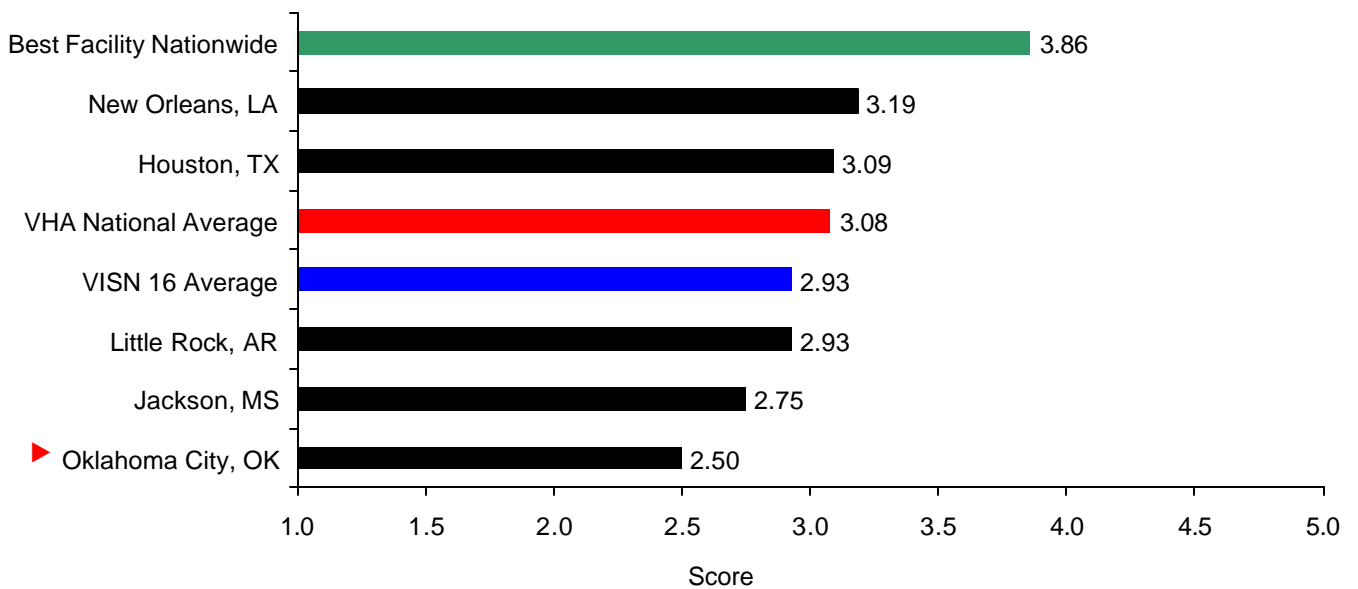


Exhibit 8
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 16



▶ 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	Houston (n=62) Percent			Jackson (n=12) Percent			Little Rock (n=44) Percent			New Orleans (n=16) Percent			Oklahoma City (n=22) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Availability of RAs / technologists	30	21	49	82	9	9	29	27	44	40	47	13	52	19	29
b Availability of clerical support	56	14	31	64	18	18	43	14	43	63	19	19	55	25	20
c Competence of support staff	22	29	49	17	50	33	15	15	70	44	31	25	26	26	47
d Assistance with research project management	18	25	57	17	17	67	26	19	55	54	15	31	28	17	56
e Availability of collaborators	8	13	78	9	55	36	14	9	77	13	27	60	25	15	60
f Mentoring / collegial support	13	21	66	27	36	36	21	16	63	7	21	71	24	38	38
g Office space / facilities	31	14	56	25	17	58	24	14	62	56	0	44	30	35	35
h Laboratory space / facilities	33	23	44	0	22	78	32	23	45	14	7	79	24	41	35
i Animal care facilities	28	24	48	50	0	50	0	13	88	0	0	100	17	33	50
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	38	22	40	17	25	58	12	14	74	56	13	31	19	19	62
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	14	28	59	8	50	42	12	14	74	6	13	81	19	24	57
l Adequacy of protected research time	27	31	42	33	42	25	50	10	40	44	19	38	55	20	25
m Computer systems / support	10	26	64	25	8	67	22	12	66	56	19	25	24	38	38
n Libraries	12	15	73	8	17	75	7	11	82	13	50	38	27	23	50

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

Exhibit 10. Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA

Question 2	Houston (n=62) Percent			Jackson (n=12) Percent			Little Rock (n=44) Percent			New Orleans (n=16) Percent			Oklahoma City (n=22) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Salary / fringe benefits	23	26	51	9	18	73	23	35	43	36	21	43	52	19	29
b Future security of research opportunities	43	23	33	17	42	42	26	35	40	25	44	31	43	29	29
n Job security	17	23	60	0	17	83	7	16	77	27	7	67	19	24	57
c Workload	34	29	37	25	33	42	28	28	44	20	33	47	52	29	19
d Level of stress	32	32	35	25	17	58	19	42	40	27	27	47	43	38	19
e Opportunities for creativity	21	16	63	0	25	75	9	21	70	13	20	67	41	14	45
f Opportunities to use my skills	11	18	71	0	17	83	14	14	72	13	20	67	50	5	45
g Opportunities to expand my skills	19	16	65	8	25	67	21	12	67	13	40	47	43	19	38
h Enjoyment of the research	10	3	87	0	0	100	2	2	95	6	6	88	9	18	73
i Autonomy to choose research direction	2	10	89	0	17	83	0	5	95	6	13	81	14	23	64
j Amount of paperwork	50	24	26	42	33	25	51	14	35	67	20	13	59	18	23
k Communication within local research services	23	29	48	17	25	58	19	28	53	25	25	50	23	32	45
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	25	26	49	17	25	58	11	25	64	25	31	44	41	9	50
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	25	33	43	0	33	67	16	20	64	13	47	40	24	29	48

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

Exhibit 11. Satisfaction with Research Support from the VISN

Question 3	Houston (n=62) Percent			Jackson (n=12) Percent			Little Rock (n=44) Percent			New Orleans (n=16) Percent			Oklahoma City (n=22) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VISN leadership	46	35	19	0	42	58	38	23	38	29	43	29	48	33	19
b VISN support for protected time	45	37	18	25	33	42	45	37	18	38	46	15	57	33	10
c VISN educational programs	42	42	15	0	55	45	31	36	33	23	62	15	29	43	29
d VISN support for specific projects	47	45	8	0	50	50	38	33	28	40	40	20	33	43	24
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	59	30	11	0	64	36	40	38	23	38	38	23	50	35	15
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	58	36	5	9	82	9	43	38	19	23	69	8	55	30	15
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	50	29	21	18	45	36	37	37	27	38	38	23	45	35	20
h VISN recognition of work at university	54	33	13	10	60	30	46	30	24	31	54	15	53	32	16

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

Exhibit 12. Satisfaction with Support from the National Research Office

Question 4	Houston (n=62) Percent			Jackson (n=12) Percent			Little Rock (n=44) Percent			New Orleans (n=16) Percent			Oklahoma City (n=22) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters	20	44	36	0	56	44	28	41	31	19	38	44	20	40	40
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	27	41	32	0	67	33	36	41	23	44	31	25	30	30	40
c VA letter of intent process	16	42	42	10	40	50	18	44	38	40	30	30	18	59	24
d VA grant review process	13	32	55	0	38	63	35	25	40	18	18	64	17	39	44
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	32	35	33	22	44	33	33	38	28	46	15	38	39	33	28

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

Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position

Questions 6-11, 13 ⁴	Houston (n=62) Percent			Jackson (n=12) Percent			Little Rock (n=44) Percent			New Orleans (n=16) Percent			Oklahoma City (n=22) Percent		
	No ¹	Neutral	Yes ²	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?	18	37	45	8	58	33	9	28	63	25	25	50	41	9	50
7 Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	24	26	50	17	42	42	12	29	60	38	25	38	41	9	50
8 Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	48	25	28	75	17	8	73	25	2	50	38	13	55	14	32
9 Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	66	15	20	75	8	17	77	11	11	80	13	7	68	9	23
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	33	NA	67	34	NA	66	25	NA	75	50	NA	50
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?	48	NA	52	42	NA	58	86	NA	14	38	NA	63	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	68	NA	32	67	NA	33	55	NA	45	69	NA	31	50	NA	50

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