
MDRC

MANAGEMENT DECISION
AND RESEARCH CENTER

**National Survey of VA Researchers
2002**

**Volume 2
Facility-Level Results:
VISN 19**

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 19**

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2002 National Survey of VA Researchers

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2002 Survey of VA Researchers Facility-Level Results: VISN 19

Introduction

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 19. 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 19 Facilities

Characteristic	Categories	E Colorado HCS: Denver (n=28)	Salt Lake City (n=43)	VISN 19 (n=71*)
		Percent	Percent	Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	81	76	78
	Rehabilitation	7	2	4
	Health Services	7	14	12
	Cooperative Studies	4	5	4
	Other	0	2	1
Years in VHA	0 to 5	30	14	20
	6 to 10	19	14	16
	Over 10	52	72	64
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	0	10	6
	Rehabilitation	0	0	0
	General Internal Medicine	7	12	10
	Medical Subspecialty	48	50	49
	Psychiatry / Psychology	19	10	13
	Dentistry	0	0	0
	Other	15	12	13
None	11	7	9	
Gender	Female	37	12	22
Ethnicity	African-American	0	0	0
	Asian or Pacific Islander	0	10	6
	Hispanic	0	0	0
	White	100	85	91
	Other	0	5	3
Research Project Funding	Any	82	95	90
	VA	68	51	58
	Other Federal	50	44	46
	Foundation	29	35	32
	Pharmaceutical / Business	32	28	30
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	89	91	90
	VA	75	47	58
	Other Federal	43	26	32
	Foundation	29	33	31
	Pharmaceutical / Business	32	33	32
Degree	PhD only	32	24	27
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	68	76	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 19 Overview: Facility Scores on 2002 Summary Scales

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
E Colorado HCS: Denver	3.73	3.33	2.52	2.46	3.46*	3.00
Salt Lake City, UT	3.18**	2.92**	2.20*	2.10*	2.81*	2.41**
VISN Average	3.39	3.09	2.32	2.23	3.07	2.64
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 19

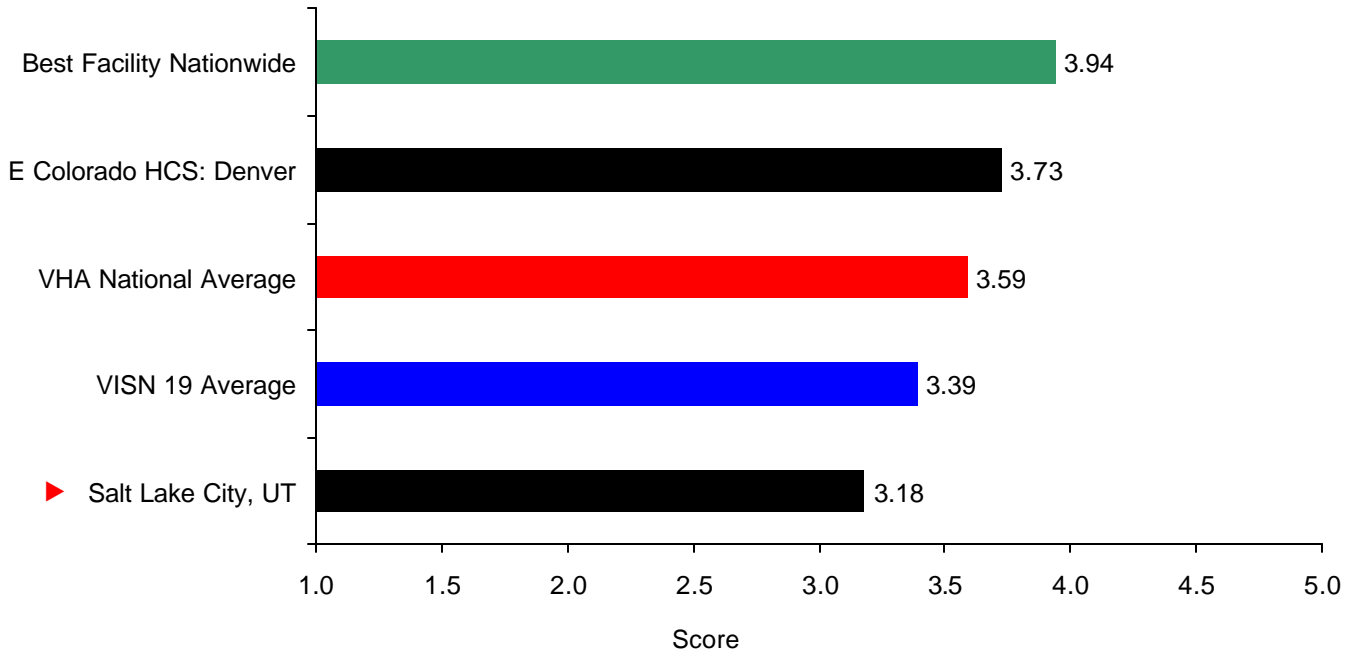
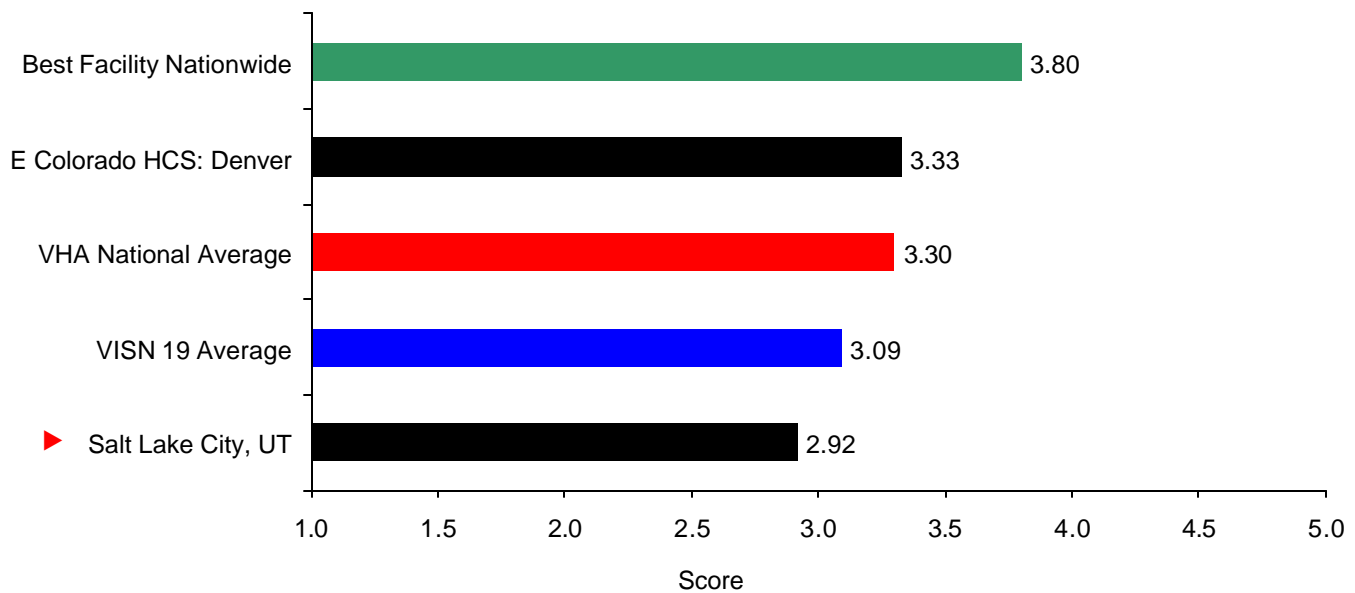


Exhibit 4
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 19



▶ 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 19

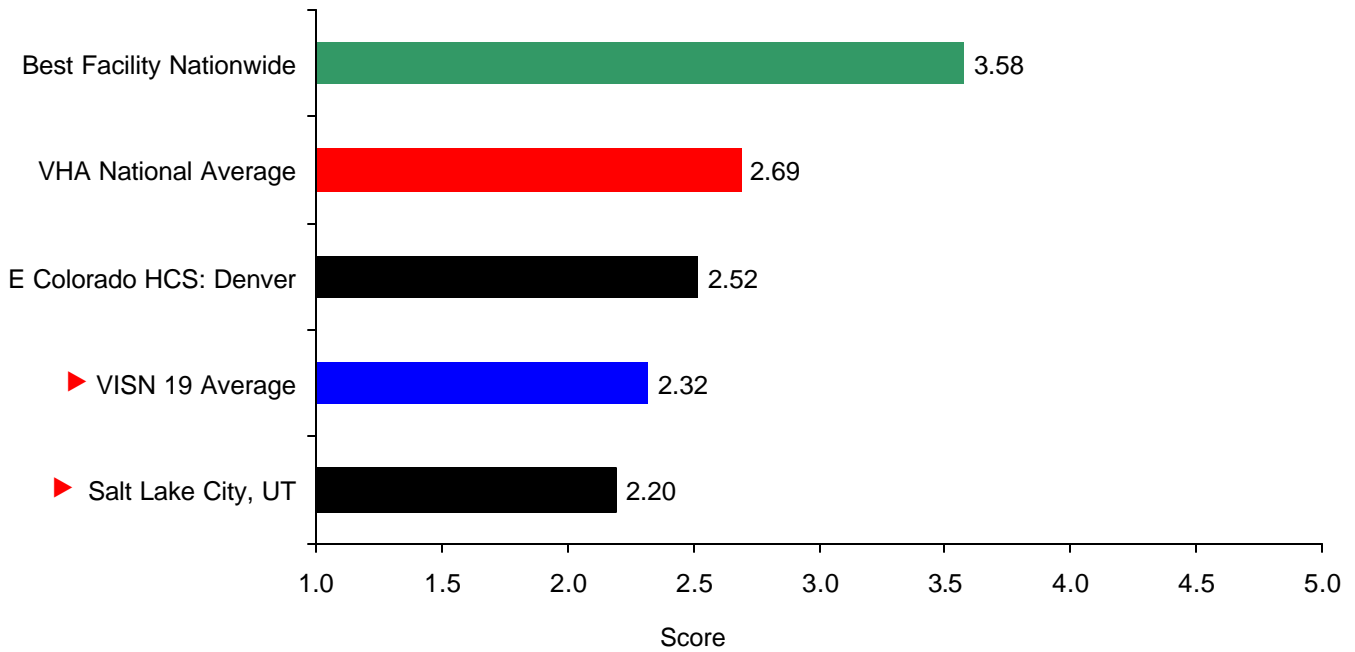
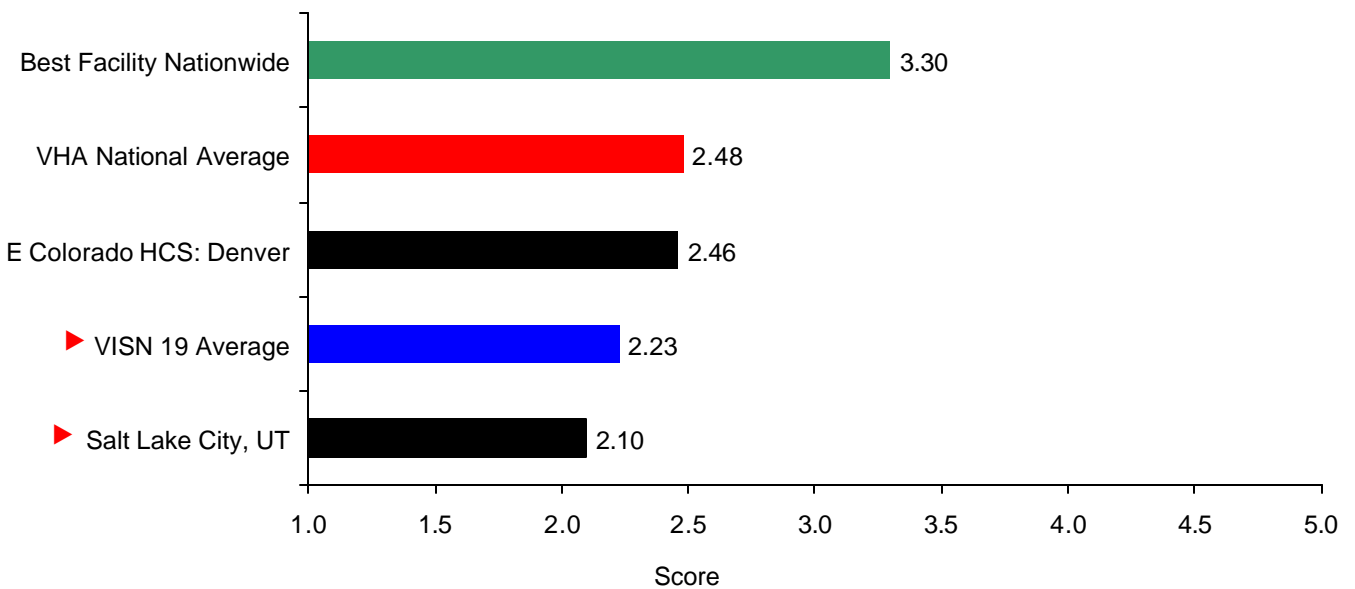


Exhibit 6
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 19



▶ 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 19

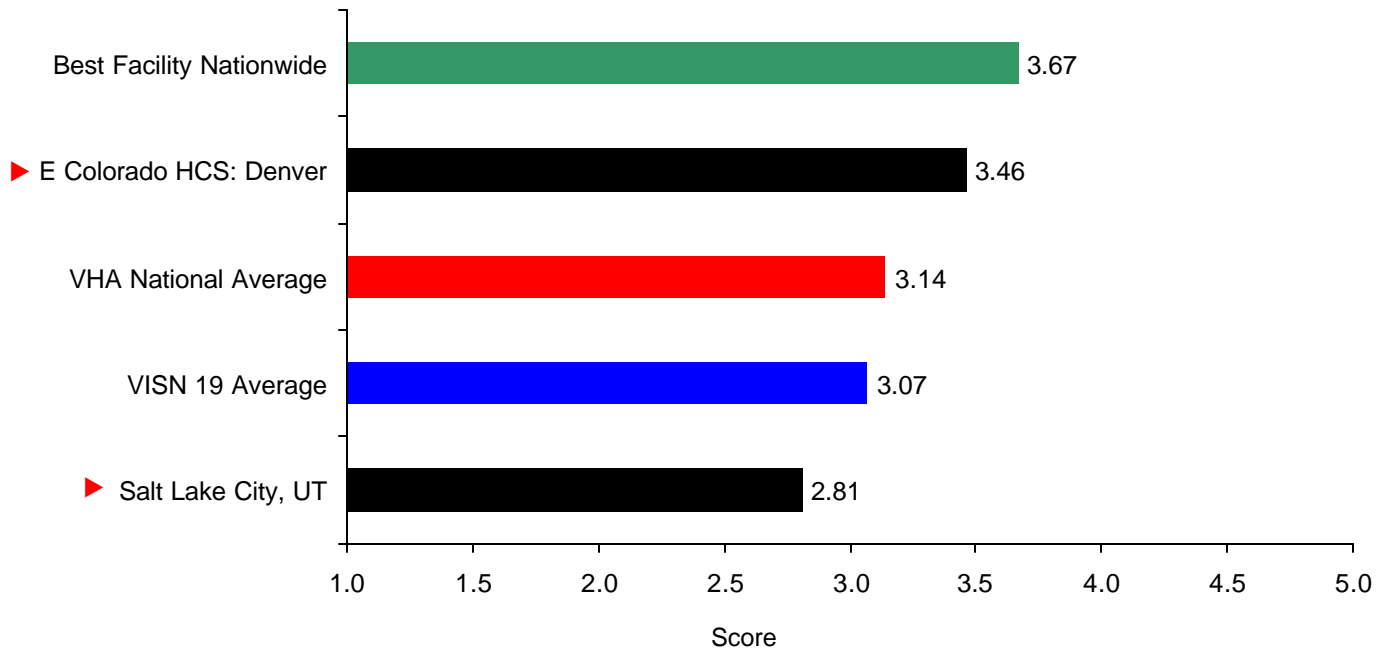
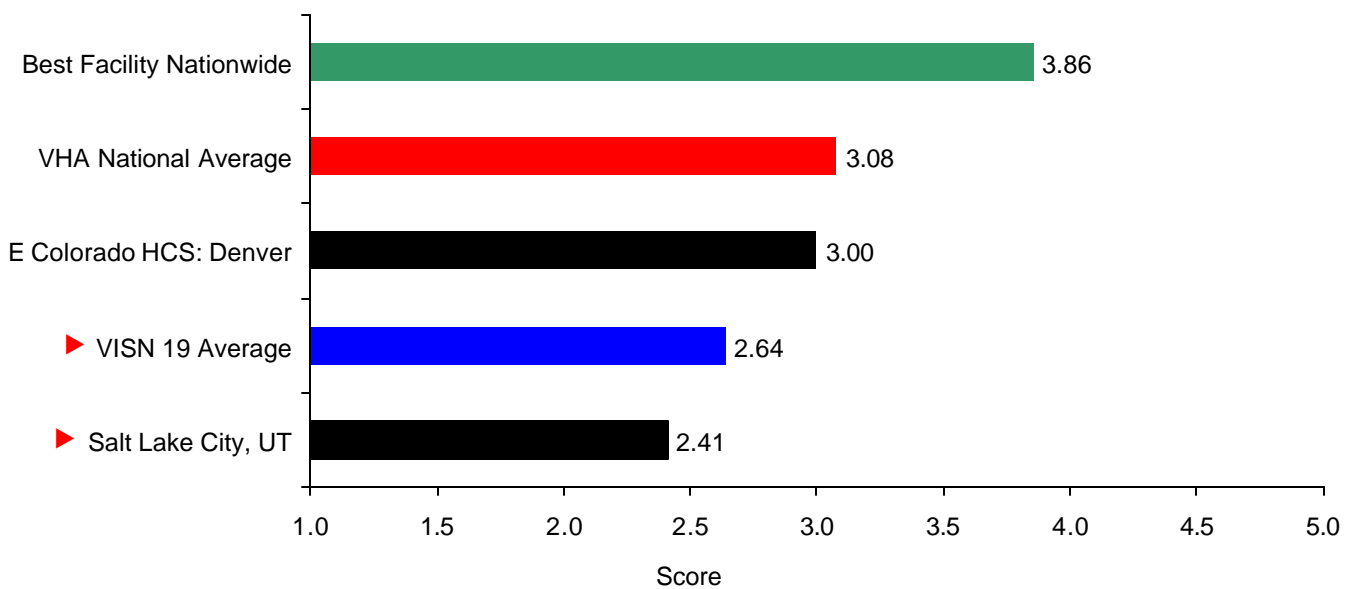


Exhibit 8
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 19



▶ 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	E Colorado HCS: Denver (n=28) Percent			Salt Lake City (n=43) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Availability of RAs / technologists	8	35	58	50	15	35
b Availability of clerical support	56	19	26	59	15	27
c Competence of support staff	15	22	63	21	33	45
d Assistance with research project management	19	11	70	37	24	39
e Availability of collaborators	0	18	82	40	15	45
f Mentoring / collegial support	15	15	69	43	24	33
g Office space / facilities	43	32	25	32	20	49
h Laboratory space / facilities	54	21	25	38	16	46
i Animal care facilities	5	20	75	31	31	38
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	18	21	61	42	28	30
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	14	29	57	28	28	44
l Adequacy of protected research time	40	16	44	61	20	20
m Computer systems / support	26	26	48	34	32	34
n Libraries	32	40	28	31	38	31

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

Exhibit 10. Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA

Question 2	E Colorado HCS: Denver (n=28) Percent			Salt Lake City (n=43) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Salary / fringe benefits	29	21	50	16	50	34
b Future security of research opportunities	36	50	14	57	29	14
n Job security	15	22	63	20	37	44
c Workload	15	37	48	44	34	22
d Level of stress	33	19	48	45	26	29
e Opportunities for creativity	26	11	63	35	19	47
f Opportunities to use my skills	11	15	74	30	26	44
g Opportunities to expand my skills	19	26	56	33	26	42
h Enjoyment of the research	4	4	93	9	23	67
i Autonomy to choose research direction	4	7	89	5	9	86
j Amount of paperwork	44	26	30	70	14	16
k Communication within local research services	11	37	52	40	21	38
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	14	29	57	49	16	35
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	18	29	54	40	24	36

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

Exhibit 11. Satisfaction with Research Support from the VISN

Question 3	E Colorado HCS: Denver (n=28) Percent			Salt Lake City (n=43) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VISN leadership	52	28	20	66	20	15
b VISN support for protected time	67	14	19	65	28	8
c VISN educational programs	43	38	19	48	40	13
d VISN support for specific projects	56	28	16	60	30	10
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	56	32	12	66	29	5
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	62	27	12	71	21	7
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	52	30	17	62	24	14
h VISN recognition of work at university	60	16	24	65	28	8

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

Exhibit 12. Satisfaction with Support from the National Research Office

Question 4	E Colorado HCS: Denver (n=28) Percent			Salt Lake City (n=43) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters	15	31	54	29	48	24
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	19	27	54	36	45	19
c VA letter of intent process	15	35	50	8	70	22
d VA grant review process	12	27	62	32	39	29
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	27	27	46	60	28	13

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

Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position

Questions 6-11, 13 ⁴		E Colorado HCS: Denver (n=28) Percent			Salt Lake City (n=43) 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?	7	25	68	30	26	44
7	Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	25	11	64	44	16	40
8	Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	57	14	29	47	37	16
9	Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	86	4	11	58	26	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?	32	NA	68	35	NA	65
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?	29	NA	71	51	NA	49
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	79	NA	21	67	NA	33

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