
MDRC

MANAGEMENT DECISION
AND RESEARCH CENTER

**National Survey of VA Researchers
2002**

**Volume 2
Facility-Level Results:
VISN 20**

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 20**

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2002 Survey of VA Researchers Facility-Level Results: VISN 20

Introduction

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 20. 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 20 Facilities

Characteristic	Categories	Portland (n=59) Percent	Puget Sound HCS: Seattle (n=85) Percent	VISN 20 (n=153*) Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	79	61	69
	Rehabilitation	5	10	7
	Health Services	12	20	16
	Cooperative Studies	2	4	3
	Other	2	6	5
Years in VHA	0 to 5	20	23	21
	6 to 10	15	26	21
	Over 10	64	51	58
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	12	19	15
	Rehabilitation	2	6	4
	General Internal Medicine	7	9	10
	Medical Subspecialty	37	33	34
	Psychiatry / Psychology	19	21	19
	Dentistry	0	0	0
	Other	14	10	12
	None	9	3	6
Gender	Female	32	28	30
Ethnicity	African-American	0	1	1
	Asian or Pacific Islander	5	14	10
	Hispanic	0	0	0
	White	93	78	85
	Other	2	6	4
Research Project Funding	Any	90	92	91
	VA	63	65	65
	Other Federal	51	58	52
	Foundation	42	32	35
	Pharmaceutical / Business	27	35	31
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	90	87	88
	VA	64	54	59
	Other Federal	42	39	39
	Foundation	39	31	32
	Pharmaceutical / Business	22	29	26
Degree	PhD only	36	30	33
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	64	70	67

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

Exhibit 2. VISN 20 Overview: Facility Scores on 2002 Summary Scales

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
Portland, OR	3.70	3.72**	3.21**	2.79*	3.28	3.08
Puget Sound HCS: Seattle, WA	3.73*	3.36	2.93*	2.72*	3.01	3.44*
VISN Average	3.68	3.49	3.02	2.72	3.09	3.26
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 20

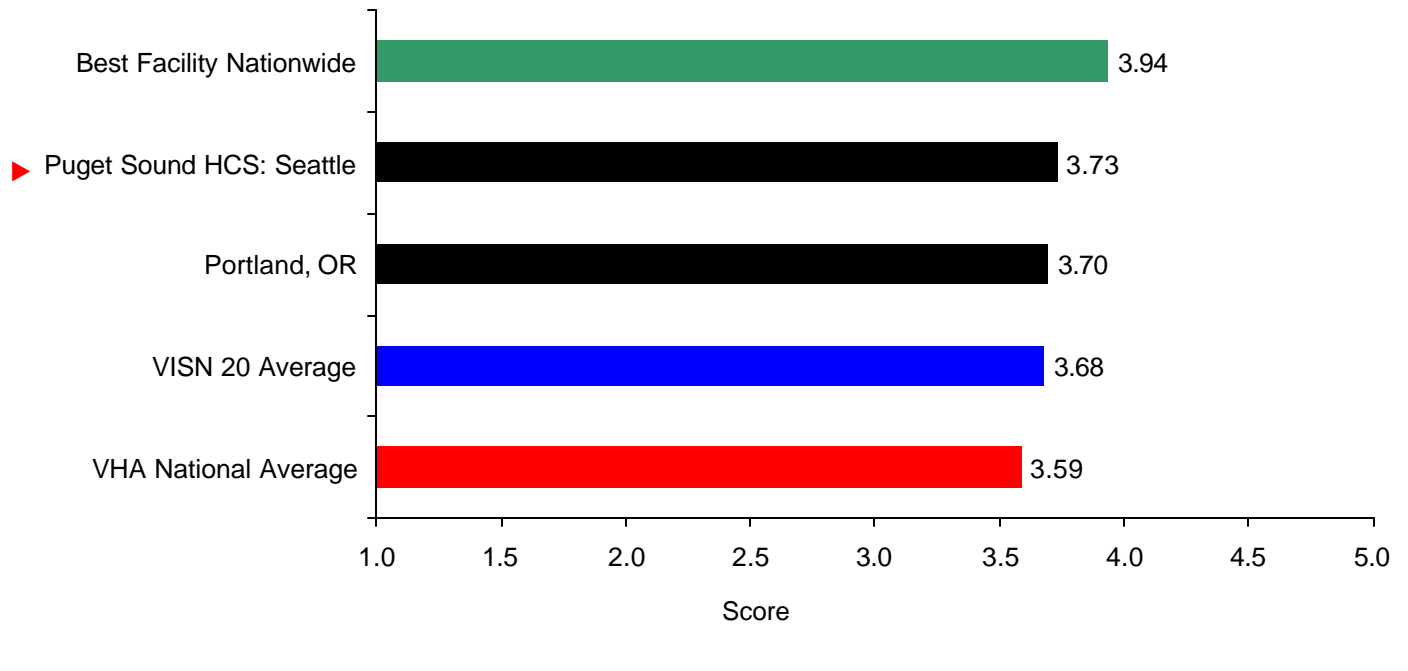
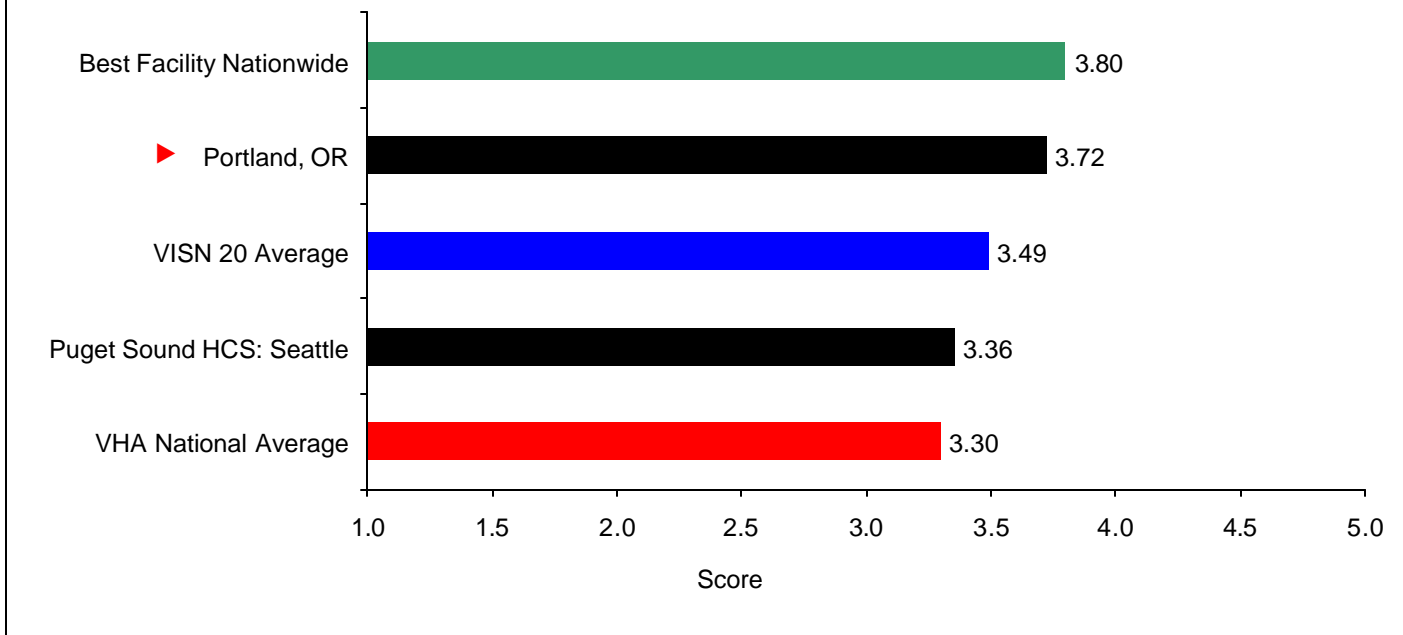


Exhibit 4
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 20



▶ 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 20

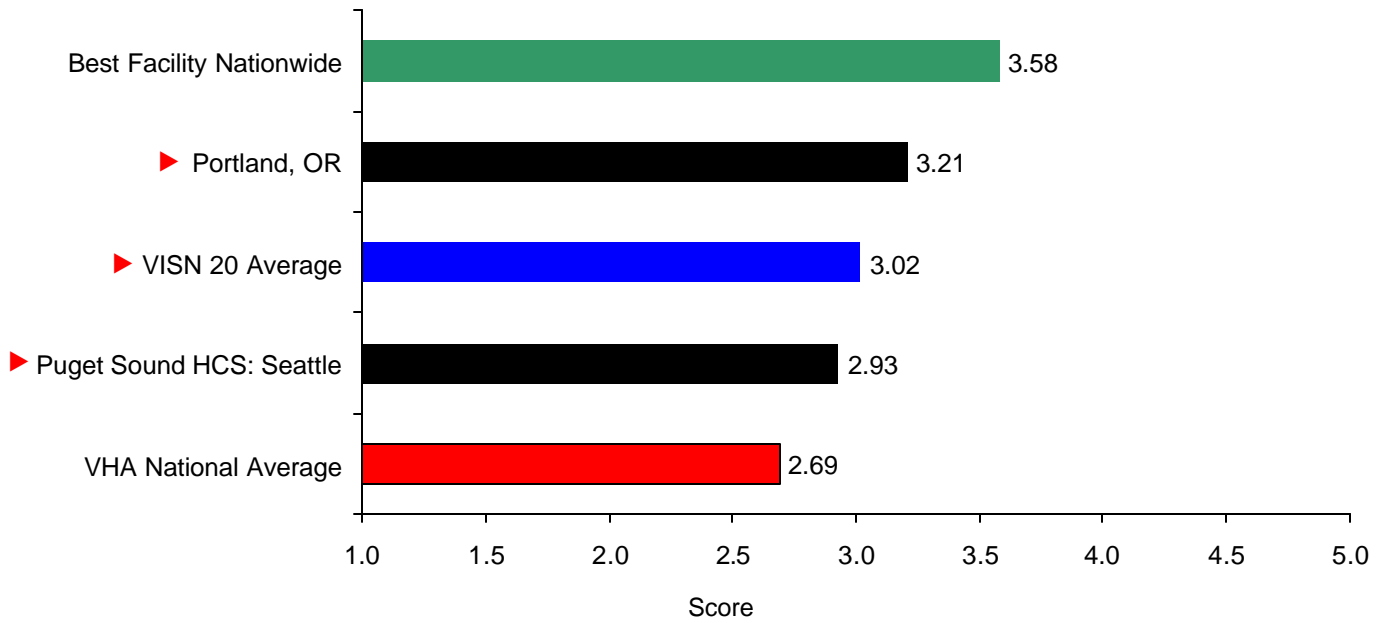
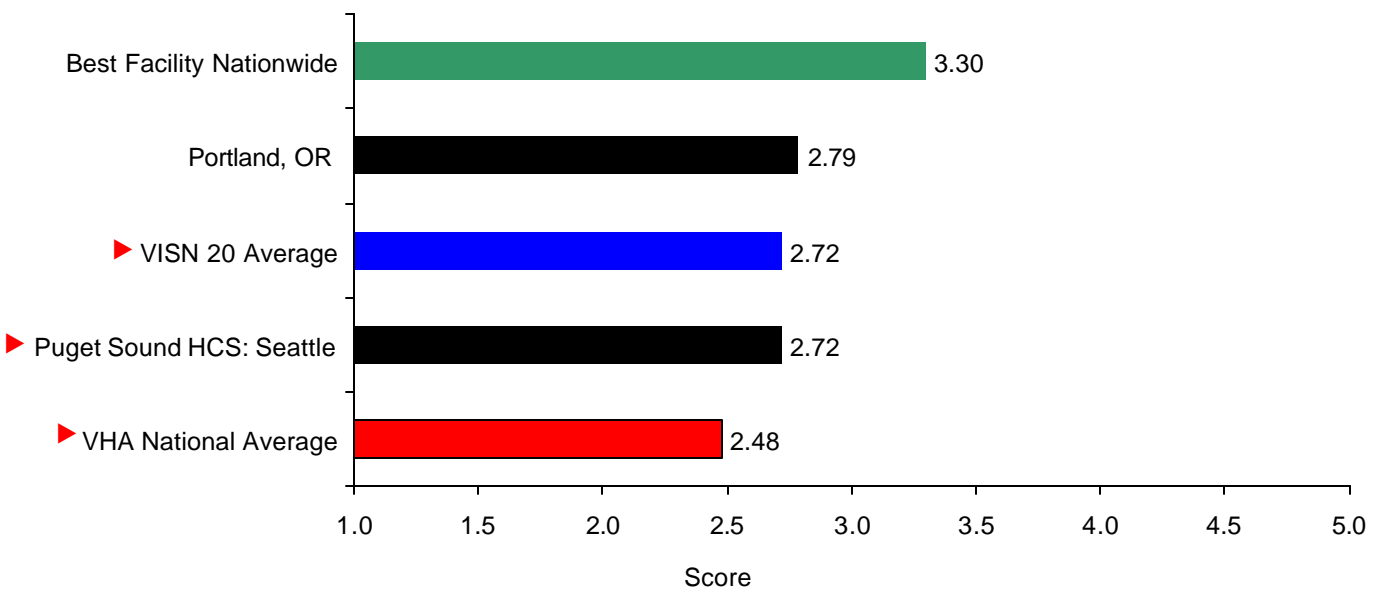


Exhibit 6
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 20



▶ 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 20

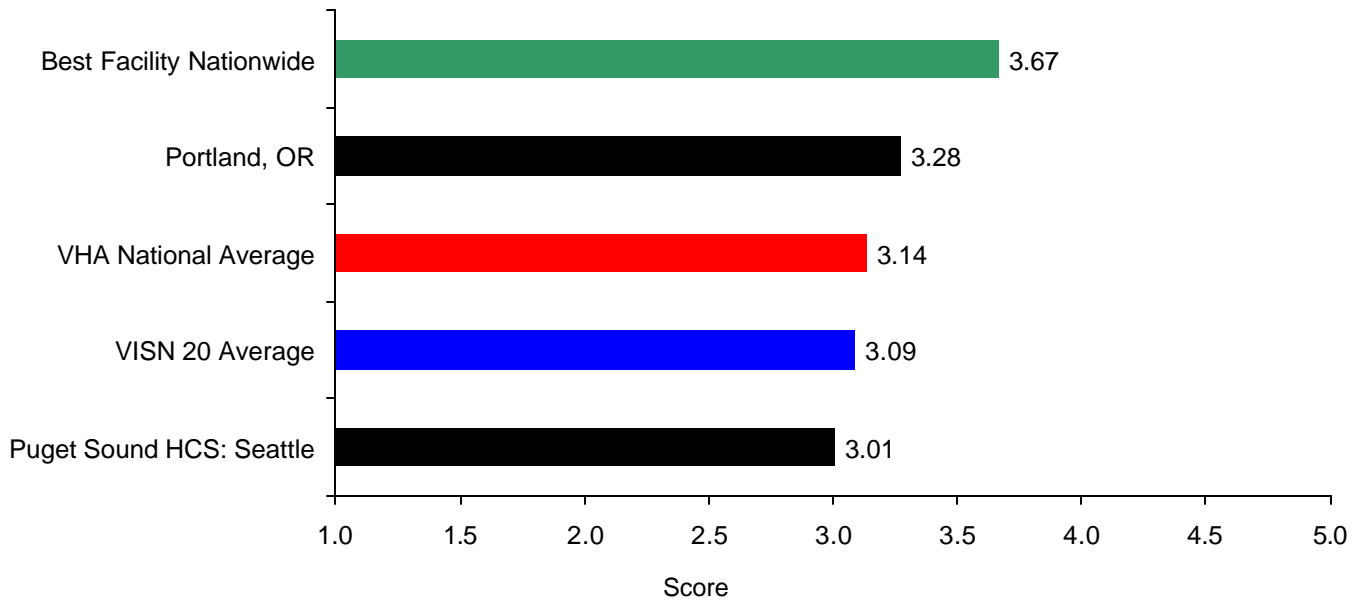
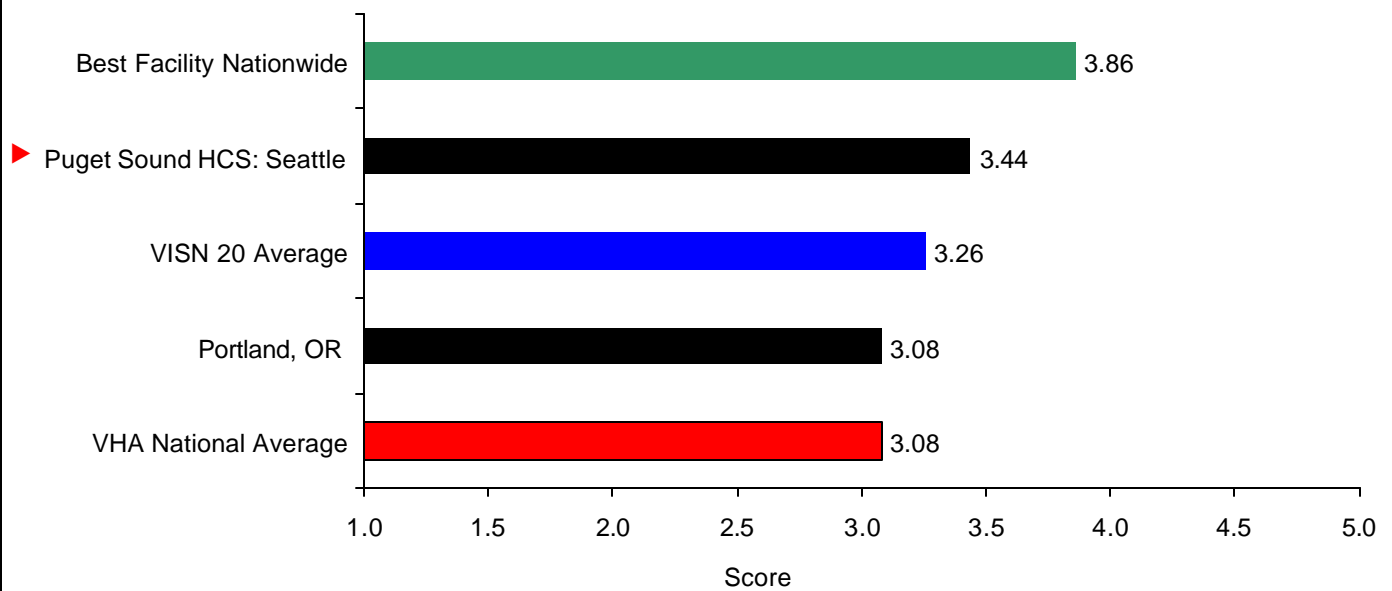


Exhibit 8
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 20



▶ 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	Portland (n=59) Percent			Puget Sound HCS: Seattle (n=85) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Availability of RAs / technologists	14	13	73	23	21	56
b Availability of clerical support	49	32	19	50	33	18
c Competence of support staff	9	16	75	14	28	58
d Assistance with research project management	15	9	76	26	22	52
e Availability of collaborators	7	14	79	11	13	76
f Mentoring / collegial support	11	18	72	14	21	65
g Office space / facilities	23	26	51	37	26	38
h Laboratory space / facilities	13	18	70	44	24	32
i Animal care facilities	10	10	79	15	18	68
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	11	12	77	16	28	57
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	14	33	53	10	19	71
l Adequacy of protected research time	34	22	44	29	15	56
m Computer systems / support	12	28	60	26	22	52
n Libraries	14	19	67	11	15	74

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

Exhibit 10. Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA

Question 2	Portland (n=59) Percent			Puget Sound HCS: Seattle (n=85) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Salary / fringe benefits	26	19	56	33	21	46
b Future security of research opportunities	32	27	41	30	33	37
n Job security	13	23	64	11	16	73
c Workload	18	35	47	22	36	42
d Level of stress	23	40	37	33	31	36
e Opportunities for creativity	18	12	70	7	17	76
f Opportunities to use my skills	10	15	75	7	13	79
g Opportunities to expand my skills	16	24	60	13	20	67
h Enjoyment of the research	7	3	90	2	7	91
i Autonomy to choose research direction	5	7	88	0	8	92
j Amount of paperwork	60	19	21	65	24	12
k Communication within local research services	8	14	78	17	47	36
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	12	5	83	13	27	60
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	14	19	67	14	27	59

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

Exhibit 11. Satisfaction with Research Support from the VISN

Question 3	Portland (n=59) Percent			Puget Sound HCS: Seattle (n=85) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VISN leadership	21	36	43	26	50	24
b VISN support for protected time	33	35	31	35	41	24
c VISN educational programs	22	51	27	23	51	27
d VISN support for specific projects	23	52	25	34	46	20
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	38	50	13	39	48	13
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	38	54	8	49	44	7
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	37	35	27	36	42	22
h VISN recognition of work at university	46	48	7	46	44	10

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

Exhibit 12. Satisfaction with Support from the National Research Office

Question 4	Portland (n=59) Percent			Puget Sound HCS: Seattle (n=85) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters	18	41	41	26	31	43
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	17	38	44	31	44	25
c VA letter of intent process	6	32	62	23	44	33
d VA grant review process	16	33	51	22	34	44
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	31	29	39	47	23	29

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

Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position

Questions 6-11, 13 ⁴		Portland (n=59) Percent			Puget Sound HCS: Seattle (n=85) 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?	12	22	66	12	25	64
7	Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	14	21	65	13	21	66
8	Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	81	9	10	66	14	20
9	Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	72	14	14	68	15	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?	18	NA	82	26	NA	74
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?	52	NA	48	39	NA	61
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	69	NA	31	61	NA	39

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