
MDRC

MANAGEMENT DECISION
AND RESEARCH CENTER

**National Survey of VA Researchers
2002**

**Volume 2
Facility-Level Results:
VISN 23**

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 23**

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 23

	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 23

Introduction

This third and final section of the 2002 Survey of VA Researchers report presents results at the facility level for VISN 23. 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 23 Facilities

Characteristic	Categories	Iowa City (n=39)	Minneapolis (n=63)	NE/Western IA HCS: Omaha (n=27)	VISN 23 (n=139*)
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Principal Research Affiliation	Medical	79	60	89	71
	Rehabilitation	0	8	4	4
	Health Services	13	19	7	14
	Cooperative Studies	0	6	0	4
	Other	8	6	0	6
Years in VHA	0 to 5	11	21	26	20
	6 to 10	11	25	11	17
	Over 10	79	54	63	63
Clinical Affiliation	Surgery	8	3	15	7
	Rehabilitation	0	8	0	4
	General Internal Medicine	13	15	19	15
	Medical Subspecialty	33	34	41	36
	Psychiatry / Psychology	10	19	7	14
	Dentistry	0	0	0	0
	Other	28	18	0	16
None	8	3	19	8	
Gender	Female	28	34	22	29
Ethnicity	African-American	0	2	4	1
	Asian or Pacific Islander	3	6	11	9
	Hispanic	0	0	0	0
	White	95	92	85	88
	Other	3	0	0	1
Research Project Funding	Any	95	89	96	90
	VA	69	52	56	55
	Other Federal	59	41	44	45
	Foundation	23	30	33	28
	Pharmaceutical / Business	21	35	41	30
Principal Investigator Funding	Any	82	83	100	84
	VA	64	48	59	53
	Other Federal	46	29	44	35
	Foundation	23	22	22	23
	Pharmaceutical / Business	21	27	44	27
Degree	PhD only	22	35	41	31
	MD (MD only or MD/PhD)	78	65	59	69

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

Exhibit 2. VISN 23 Overview: Facility Scores on 2002 Summary Scales

	Research Work	Local Support	VISN Leadership Support	Overall VISN Support	National Research Program	Protected Time for Research
Iowa City, IA	3.76	3.80**	2.69	2.40	3.24	3.30
Minneapolis, MN	3.59	3.40	3.09*	2.63	2.88*	3.09
NE/Western IA HCS: Omaha, NE	3.67	3.29	1.93**	1.92**	2.68*	2.52*
VISN Average	3.63	3.46	2.67	2.36	2.94	2.95
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 23

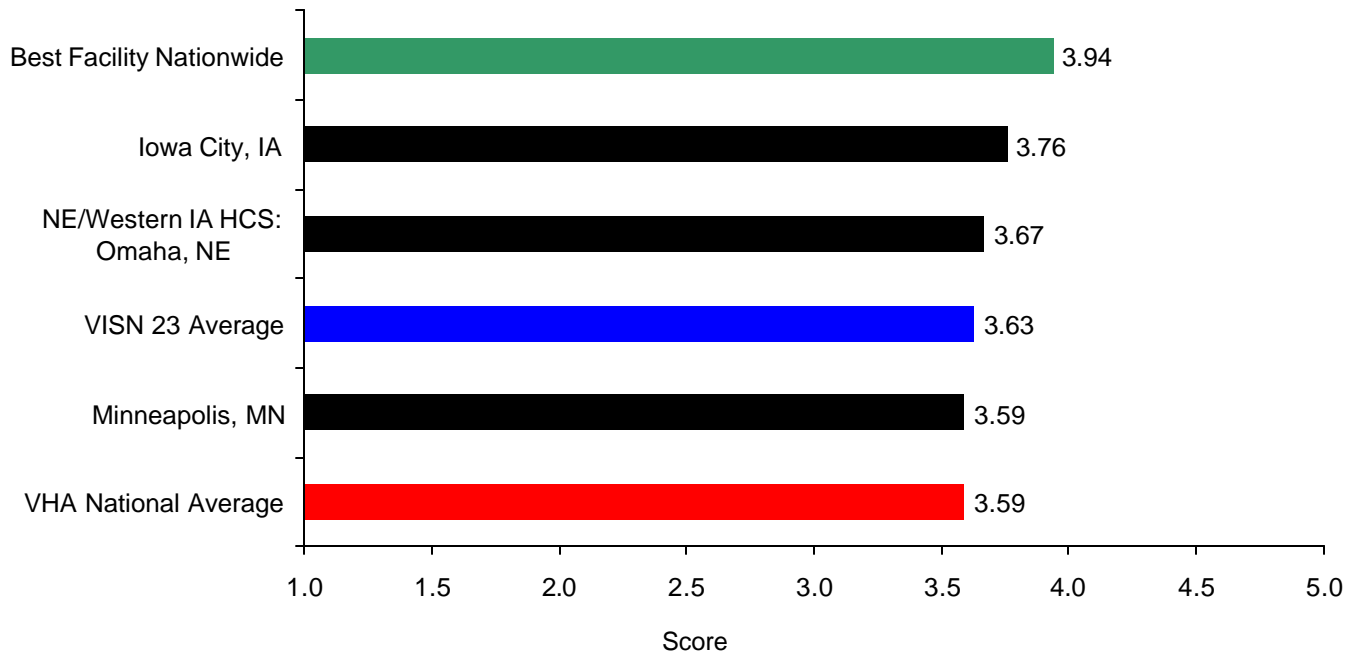
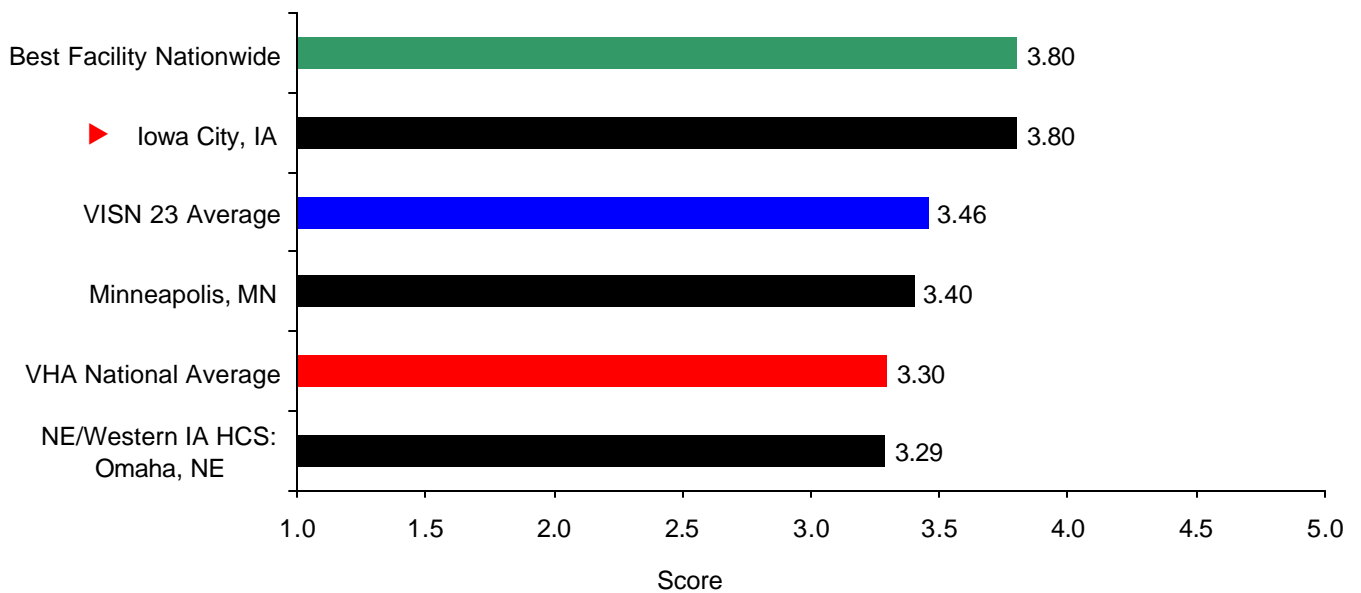


Exhibit 4
Satisfaction with Research Support at the Local Facility
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 23



▶ 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 23

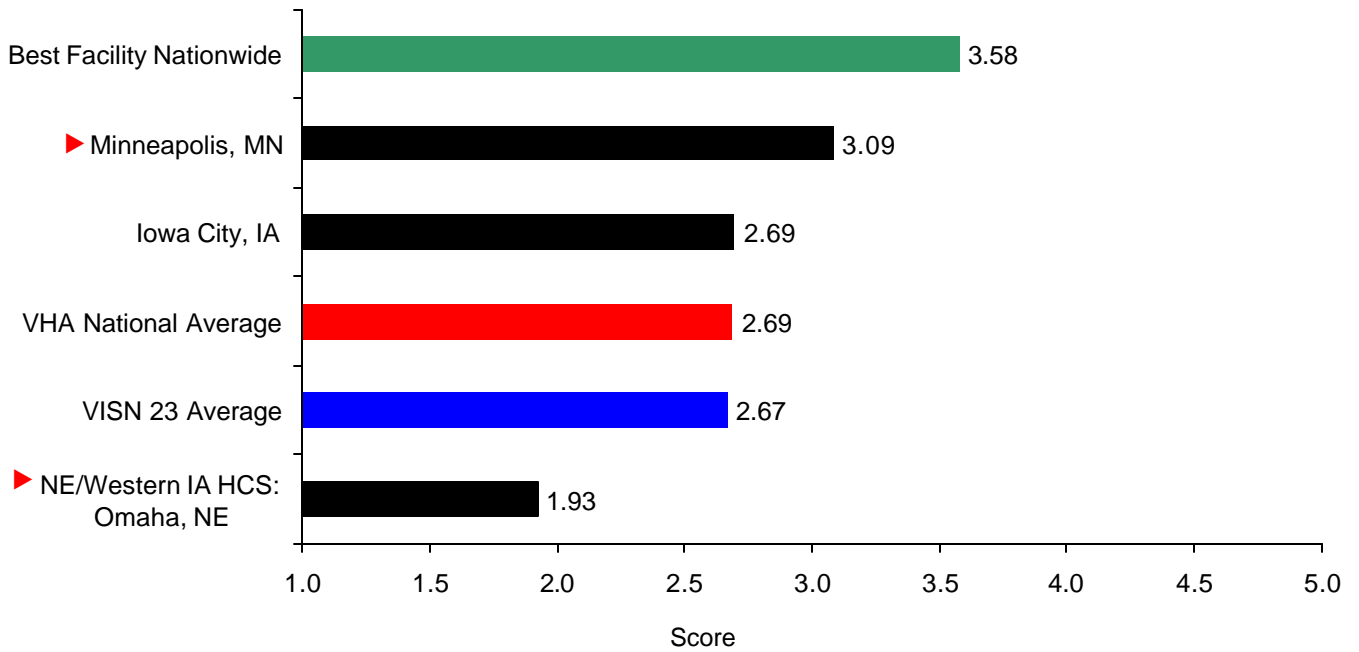
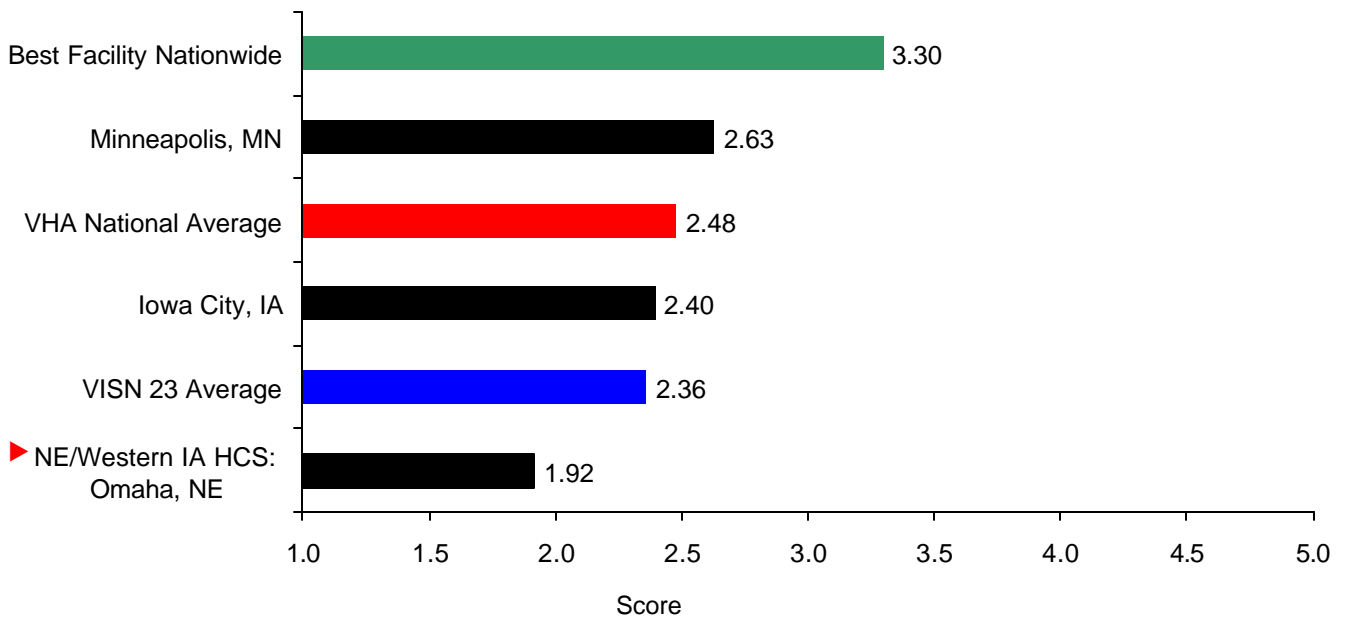


Exhibit 6
Satisfaction with Overall VISN Support
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 23



▶ 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 23

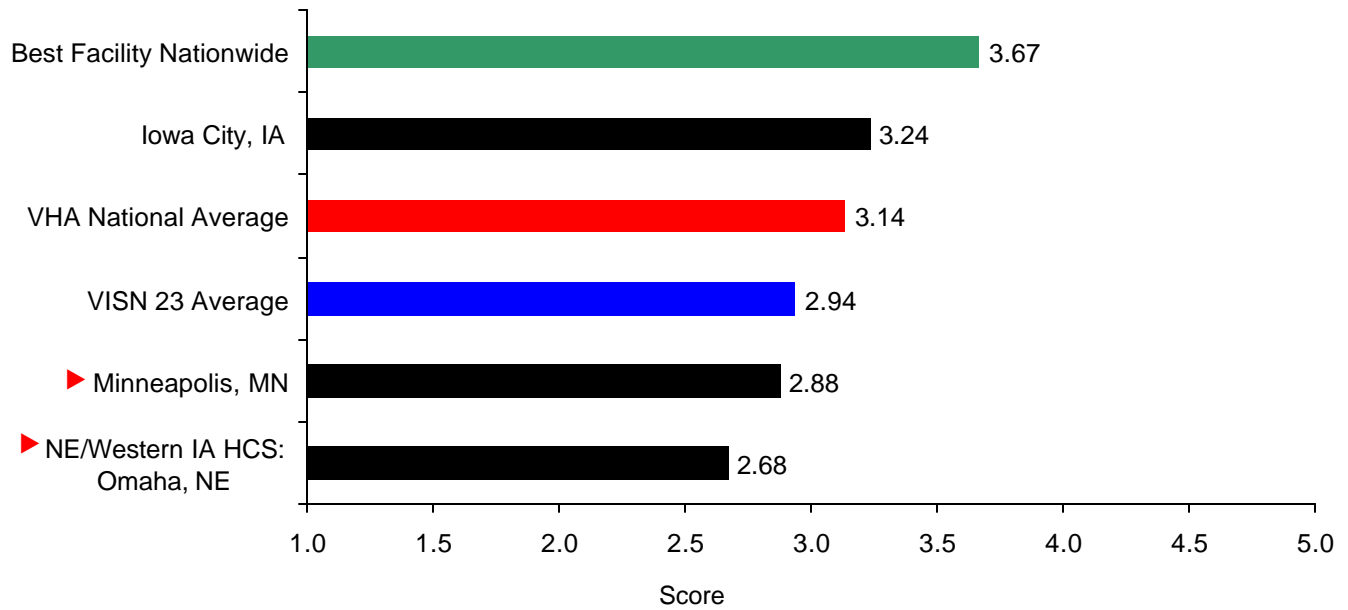
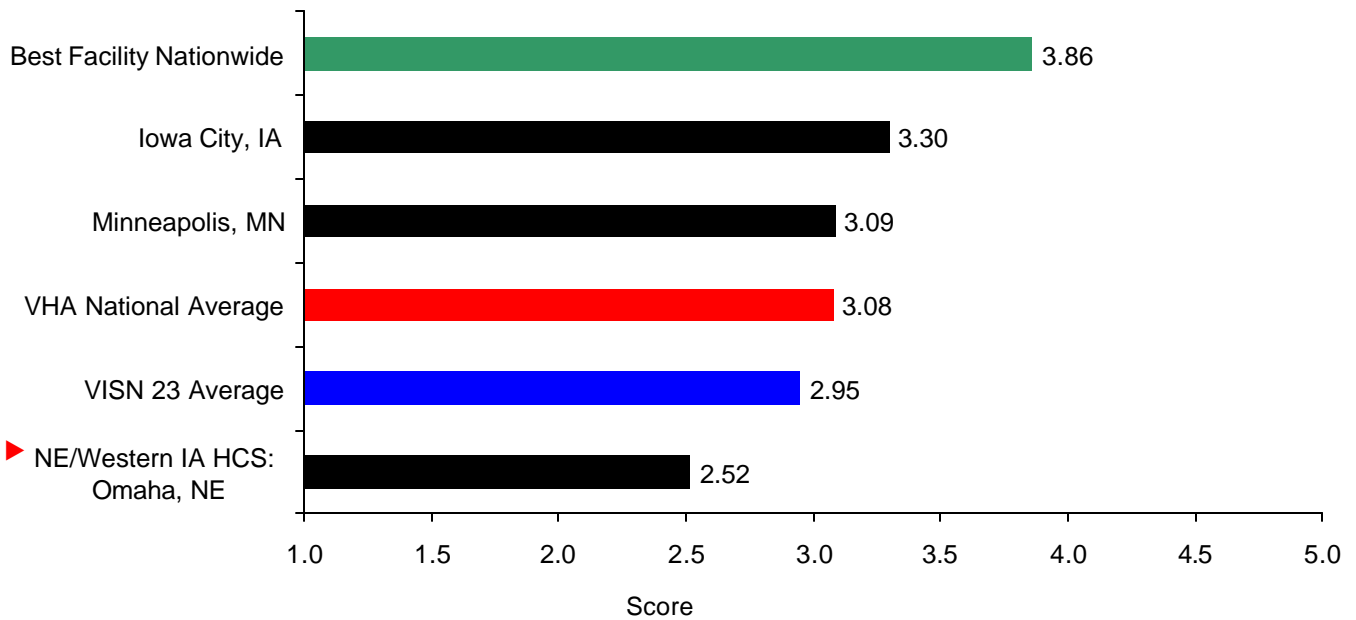


Exhibit 8
Adequacy of Protected Time for Research
2002 Survey of Researchers, VISN 23



▶ 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	Iowa City (n=39) Percent			Minneapolis (n=63) Percent			NE/Western IA HCS: Omaha (n=27) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Availability of RAs / technologists	11	23	66	18	29	54	19	15	67
b Availability of clerical support	28	25	47	45	27	28	56	11	33
c Competence of support staff	0	11	89	20	20	61	15	11	74
d Assistance with research project management	3	5	92	28	20	52	26	15	59
e Availability of collaborators	3	9	89	10	18	72	0	22	78
f Mentoring / collegial support	6	17	78	21	23	56	11	19	70
g Office space / facilities	32	24	45	17	20	63	26	15	59
h Laboratory space / facilities	45	17	38	10	21	69	50	25	25
i Animal care facilities	14	23	64	7	4	89	11	6	83
j Supportiveness of local VA leadership	0	13	87	23	18	59	22	15	63
k Supportiveness of affiliated university	3	14	84	26	30	44	8	24	68
l Adequacy of protected research time	32	14	54	33	21	47	68	4	28
m Computer systems / support	18	21	61	34	18	48	67	11	22
n Libraries	16	22	62	11	17	71	56	22	22

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

Exhibit 10. Satisfaction with Research Work at Local VA

Question 2	Iowa City (n=39) Percent			Minneapolis (n=63) Percent			NE/Western IA HCS: Omaha (n=27) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Salary / fringe benefits	9	29	63	28	26	46	4	15	81
b Future security of research opportunities	29	34	37	49	24	27	30	33	37
n Job security	10	18	72	20	10	70	19	11	70
c Workload	16	45	39	25	37	38	19	26	56
d Level of stress	22	43	35	29	32	40	30	41	30
e Opportunities for creativity	8	21	72	16	21	63	11	22	67
f Opportunities to use my skills	3	23	74	16	16	67	11	11	78
g Opportunities to expand my skills	15	18	67	24	19	56	15	11	74
h Enjoyment of the research	0	15	85	6	8	85	4	7	89
i Autonomy to choose research direction	3	13	85	6	3	90	4	8	88
j Amount of paperwork	54	15	31	60	29	11	59	22	19
k Communication within local research services	10	10	79	26	35	39	26	4	70
l Overall satisfaction with local research environment	8	10	82	18	23	60	22	11	67
m Attractiveness of my position compared to other job opportunities	8	26	67	16	25	59	15	22	63

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

Exhibit 11. Satisfaction with Research Support from the VISN

Question 3	Iowa City (n=39) Percent			Minneapolis (n=63) Percent			NE/Western IA HCS: Omaha (n=27) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VISN leadership	36	56	8	33	31	36	74	22	4
b VISN support for protected time	44	50	6	43	30	26	65	31	4
c VISN educational programs	51	37	11	21	58	21	62	31	8
d VISN support for specific projects	54	37	9	37	35	28	70	26	4
e Opportunities to contribute to decisions	62	32	6	55	35	11	78	19	4
f VISN rewards and recognition for research	66	34	0	50	36	14	67	22	11
g Synergy among researchers in VISN	53	44	3	42	42	16	56	22	22
h VISN recognition of work at university	50	44	6	51	40	9	80	16	4

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

Exhibit 12. Satisfaction with Support from the National Research Office

Question 4	Iowa City (n=39) Percent			Minneapolis (n=63) Percent			NE/Western IA HCS: Omaha (n=27) Percent		
	D*	N*	S*	D	N	S	D	N	S
a Supportiveness of VA research headquarters	21	24	55	30	33	37	44	30	26
b Communications w/VA research headquarters	19	43	38	39	41	20	41	26	33
c VA letter of intent process	10	32	58	21	29	50	27	27	45
d VA grant review process	17	34	49	36	26	38	39	13	48
e Funding level, VA investigator initiated grants	37	23	40	55	12	33	63	22	15

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

Exhibit 13. Attractiveness of VA Position

Questions 6-11, 13 ⁴	Iowa City (n=39)			Minneapolis (n=63)			NE/Western IA HCS: Omaha (n=27)		
	No ¹	Percent Neutral	Yes ²	No ¹	Percent Neutral	Yes ²	No ¹	Percent Neutral	Yes ²
6 If you had to decide all over again, do you think you would choose a career in the VA?	13	21	67	18	25	57	15	19	67
7 Would you recommend a research career in the VA to a colleague?	13	28	59	25	26	49	22	7	70
8 Do you think you will look for a job outside of the VA in the next year?	67	18	15	67	20	13	56	37	7
9 Is it likely that you will retire from the VA in the next five years?	79	10	10	73	13	15	70	11	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?	26	NA	74	34	NA	66	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?	63	NA	37	50	NA	50	37	NA	63
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	77	NA	23	60	NA	40	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