# 2004 Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Satisfaction Survey

### **Final Report**

### Prepared for the

Surveys and Research Staff
Office of Performance Analysis and Integrity
Veterans Benefits Administration
U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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### **OVERVIEW**

### **Background**

For the last several years, the Surveys and Research Staff, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has undertaken a long-range project to develop customer satisfaction survey instruments and methodologies to provide customer feedback on the processes associated with the various benefit programs VBA administers. This study focuses on the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program. VR&E provides vocational counseling and education services to service-connected disabled veterans who have recently separated from active duty as well as special rehabilitation services to dependents of veterans who meet certain program eligibility requirements.

The full range of VR&E services can take several years to complete. The long time span makes it difficult for a veteran at the end of the program to remember what took place within the initial phases of the program. For this reason, the VR&E program is divided into the following three phases for the purposes of this study:

- Evaluation and Planning;
- · Rehabilitation; and
- Job Ready.

The three questionnaires are structured, for the most part, to ask respondents about their experience with only the phase they have just completed.

This report presents the results of the fifth administration of the Survey of Veterans Satisfaction with the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program. The questionnaires used for this study changed only slightly from those used in previous administrations.

### **Questionnaire Content and Structure**

The initial questionnaire content and structure were based on the results of focus groups with veterans conducted by VBA's Surveys and Research Staff. They are also based on information learned on earlier customer satisfaction projects. Cognitive interviews were conducted with a small number of veterans who were receiving VR&E benefits to obtain their comments on the draft questionnaires and cover letters. The questionnaires and cover letters were revised as a result of these interviews. The questionnaire used in each subsequent study was an outgrowth of this initial work.

The current questionnaires were divided into distinct sections tracing the participants' experience with the VR&E process. These sections included in each questionnaire are



shown below.

### **Evaluation and Planning:**

- Applying for VR&E Benefits;
- Evaluation and Testing;
- Developing a Plan;
- Access to the VR&E Program;
- Current Status in the VR&E Program; and
- Overall Impressions.

#### Rehabilitation:

- Background Information About Your Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program;
- Knowledge and Use of Vocational Rehabilitation Services;
- · Relationship with Your Counselor;
- Contact with Your Counselor;
- Employment Services
- Access to the VR&E Program:
- Current Status in the VR&E Program; and
- Overall Impressions.

### Job Ready:

- Background Information About Your Vocational Rehabilitation Program;
- Knowledge and Use of Employment Services;
- Contact with Your Counselor;
- Current Employment Status;
- Access to the VR&E Program:
- Current Status in the VR&E Program; and
- Overall Impressions.

The questionnaires were prepared in a machine-readable format. Each questionnaire was also prepared in Spanish for use in Puerto Rico, however, the Spanish versions of the questionnaire were not machine readable. Copies of the questionnaires used in the 2004 survey appear in Appendices D, E, and F.

### Sampling

The study design called for 1,000 completed questionnaires for each phase. Since the response rate was estimated to be 50 percent, a minimum of 2,000 cases were included in the mail-out for each phase. The sample for this study was drawn separately for each phase.

For the Evaluation and Planning phase, the sample consisted of 2,000 persons who were in



the application, evaluation or planning phases of the VR&E program, or who had just entered the rehabilitation phase within the previous four months. This included those who had interrupted or discontinued the program at any time between the period the sample was drawn and the data collection was completed. The sample was drawn to be proportionate to the number of cases within each Regional Office (RO), but was not designed to yield data for any one RO specifically. Of the original 2,000 cases, 135 had an inaccurate mail address or were otherwise ineligible. A total of 1,003 completed questionnaires were received from the 1,865 eligible cases for a response rate of 53.8 percent.

The sample for the <u>Rehabilitation phase</u> consisted of 2,000 individuals who were in the rehabilitation phase for longer than four months or who had just completed the rehabilitation phase in the previous four months. As in the sample for the evaluation and planning phase, this included those who had interrupted or discontinued the program at any time between the period the sample was drawn and the data collection was completed. The sample was drawn to be proportionate to the number of cases within each Regional Office (RO), but was not designed to yield data for any one RO specifically. Of the original 2,000 cases, 94 had an inaccurate mail address or were otherwise ineligible. A total of 1,147 completed questionnaires were received from the 1,906 eligible cases for a response rate of 60.2 percent.

The sample for the <u>Job Ready phase</u> consisted of 2,000 individuals who were in this phase or who were deemed rehabilitated within the previous four months. As in the other two samples drawn for this study, this included those who had interrupted or discontinued the program at any time between the period the sample was drawn and the data collection was completed. Again, the sample was drawn to be proportionate to the number of cases within each Regional Office (RO), but was not designed to yield data for any one RO specifically. Of the original 2,000 cases, 125 had an inaccurate mail address or were otherwise ineligible. A total of 1,107 completed questionnaires were received from the 1,875 eligible cases for a response rate of 59.0 percent.

The final disposition of each sample is shown in Appendix G, Table G-2.



### **APPENDIX A**

### EVALUATION AND PLANNING PHASE DETAILED TABLES OF FINDINGS

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TABLE A-1
How did you FIRST learn about VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program?

Base: All participants.

|  | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--|-------|-------|------|
|  | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N   | 2,844 | 2,749 | 978  |
| Pre-discharge briefing (TAP/DTAP)                                      | 32    | 28    | 25   |
| Pre-discharge physical   | 1     | 1     | 1    |
| VA pamphlet/brochure   | 6     | 6     | 6    |
| VA medical facility  | 7     | 6     | 8    |
| Other VA facility/outbased program                                     | 2     | 2     | 3    |
| Letter from VA awarding service connected disability                   | 18    | 21    | 19   |
| Veteran Service Organization (for example, the DAV or American Legion) | 7     | 7     | 8    |
| State Veterans Affairs Offices   | 5     | 6     | 4    |
| Department of Labor  | 1     | 1     | *    |
| State or local vocational or employment offices                        | 2     | 2     | 2    |
| College or University  | 1     | 1     | 2    |
| Friends or Family  | 4     | 4     | 4    |
| Other veterans   | 12    | 14    | 16   |
| Internet   | 1     | 1     | 2    |
| TOTAL  | 100   | 100   | 100  |

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-2
Looking back, how much of what you NEEDED TO KNOW did
you get from this source?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 2,891 | 2,806 | 996  |
| All          | 13    | 13    | 13   |
| Most         | 37    | 35    | 38   |
| Some         | 36    | 37    | 38   |
| Little       | 12    | 13    | 11   |
| None         | 1     | 2     | 1    |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-3
How accurate was the information you received?

Base: All participants.

|                                 | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N                    | 2,883     | 2,797     | 994       |
| Very accurate                   | 42        | 40        | 43        |
| Somewhat accurate               | 43        | 44        | 44        |
| Neither accurate nor inaccurate | 9         | 9         | 9         |
| Somewhat inaccurate             | 4         | 5         | 4         |
| Very inaccurate                 | 2         | 2         | 1         |
| TOTAL                           | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-4
What is the MOST IMPORTANT reason you applied for the VR&E program?

Base: All participants.

|  | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N                                 | 2,807     | 2,736     | 968       |
| To get a job                                 | 7         | 7         | 7         |
| To get a better job                          | 10        | 9         | 10        |
| To further my education                      | 22        | 21        | 20        |
| To get training for a new job                | 16        | 16        | 15        |
| To get a job that accommodated my disability | 40        | 42        | 43        |
| To improve my job-seeking skills             | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| Career counseling                            | 2         | 2         | 3         |
| TOTAL  | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-5
Did you fill out the VR&E (Chapter 31) application form yourself?

Base: All participants.

| = · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·     |       |       |      |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                       | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|                                       | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                          | 2,846 | 2,771 | 985  |
| No, someone else filled it out for me | 15    | 15    | 12   |
| Yes, but someone helped me            | 27    | 24    | 27   |
| Yes, filled it out myself             | 58    | 61    | 61   |
| TOTAL                                 | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-6
What, if anything, did you find to be difficult about the application form?

Base: Those who filled out the application form themselves.

|  | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--|-------|-------|------|
|  | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                                       | 2,348 | 2,328 | 835  |
| Print was hard to read                             | 1     | 1     | 1    |
| It was too long                                    | 6     | 7     | 6    |
| Some questions were not clear                      | 14    | 15    | 14   |
| Some instructions were confusing                   | 11    | 11    | 9    |
| Asked for information VA should have already had   | 20    | 21    | 18   |
| Asked for information that was difficult to supply | 5     | 7     | 6    |
| Nothing especially difficult                       | 57    | 55    | 62   |

Multiple mention.

TABLE A-7
When you submitted your application, how completely did you understand the eligibility requirements for the program?

Base: All participants.

|               | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|---------------|-------|-------|------|
|               | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N  | 2,862 | 2,789 | 995  |
| Completely    | 24    | 23    | 25   |
| Mostly        | 40    | 38    | 36   |
| Somewhat      | 24    | 26    | 27   |
| Only a little | 9     | 10    | 9    |
| Not at all    | 2     | 3     | 3    |
| TOTAL         | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-8
When you submitted your application, how completely did VA explain the steps necessary to qualify for the VR&E program?

Base: All participants.

| ·             | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|---------------|-------|-------|------|
|               | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N  | 2,880 | 2,805 | 992  |
| Completely    | 40    | 38    | 40   |
| Mostly        | 32    | 31    | 30   |
| Somewhat      | 17    | 18    | 18   |
| Only a little | 7     | 8     | 8    |
| Not at all    | 5     | 5     | 5    |
| TOTAL         | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-9
How completely did VA keep you informed of the status of your application?

Base: All participants.

|               | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N  | 2,874     | 2,797     | 997       |
| Completely    | 34        | 34        | 35        |
| Mostly        | 25        | 25        | 26        |
| Somewhat      | 18        | 18        | 16        |
| Only a little | 12        | 13        | 13        |
| Not at all    | 11        | 10        | 9         |
| TOTAL         | 100       | 100       | 100       |

**TABLE A-10** 

## How well was the VR&E staff able to obtain information about your military service, medical records, or disability rating from other parts of VA or the military?

Base: All participants.

|                           | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N              | 2,877     | 2,783     | 980       |
| Much better than expected | 15        | 15        | 16        |
| Better than expected      | 24        | 22        | 23        |
| Just as expected          | 33        | 34        | 34        |
| Worse than expected       | 6         | 5         | 6         |
| Much worse than expected  | 3         | 3         | 2         |
| Don't know                | 19        | 21        | 19        |
| TOTAL                     | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-11

### After you applied, did you attend a group orientation meeting with Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment staff?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 2,874     | 2,773     | 997       |
| Yes          | 47        | 50        | 58        |
| No           | 53        | 50        | 43        |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-12

Did VA send a letter or call you to set up an individual appointment with a counselor?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 2,867 | 2,781 | 983  |
| Yes          | 91    | 90    | 89   |
| No           | 6     | 8     | 10   |
| Don't know   | 2     | 2     | 1    |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-13
How long did it take from the time you applied to the time you were notified about this individual appointment?

Base: Those who notified about an individual appointment.

|                   |  | 2001  | 02 2004 |     |
|-------------------|--|-------|---------|-----|
|                   |  | %     | %       | %   |
| Unweighted N      |  | 2,591 | 2,454   | 863 |
| Less than 2 weeks |  | 12    | 10      | 13  |
| 2 weeks           |  | 10    | 10      | 11  |
| 3 weeks           |  | 10    | 11      | 13  |
| 4 weeks           |  | 12    | 15      | 13  |
| 5 weeks           |  | 4     | 3       | 3   |
| 6 weeks           |  | 6     | 7       | 6   |
| 7 weeks           |  | 1     | 1       | 1   |
| 8 weeks           |  | 6     | 6       | 6   |
| 9 weeks           |  | 1     | 1       | 1   |
| 10 weeks          |  | 2     | 2       | 2   |
| 11 weeks          |  | *     | 1       | *   |
| 12 weeks          |  | 2     | 2       | 3   |
| 13 weeks or more  |  | 8     | 10      | 7   |
| Don't recall      |  | 25    | 22      | 21  |
| TOTAL             |  | 100   | 100     | 100 |

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-14
How REASONABLE was the length of time it took VA to notify you about this individual appointment?

Base: Those who notified about an individual appointment.

|                                     | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                     | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                        | 2,592 | 2,463 | 865  |
| Very reasonable                     | 37    | 38    | 42   |
| Somewhat reasonable                 | 32    | 32    | 32   |
| Neither reasonable nor unreasonable | 16    | 14    | 12   |
| Somewhat unreasonable               | 10    | 10    | 8    |
| Very unreasonable                   | 5     | 6     | 5    |
| TOTAL                               | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-15
Have you had your first individual meeting with a counselor to evaluate whether you are entitled to VR&E services?

Base: All participants.

|                          | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                          | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N             | 2,871 | 2,764 | 978  |
| Yes                      | 93    | 89    | 89   |
| No, but one is scheduled | 2     | 4     | 3    |
| No, not scheduled yet    | 4     | 6     | 7    |
| Don't know               | 2     | 2     | 2    |
| TOTAL                    | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-16
How long did it take from the time VA notified you about the appointment until you had your initial meeting?

Base: Those who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

|                  | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                  | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N     | 2,651 | 2,431 | 864  |
| Less than 1 week | 6     | 6     | 6    |
| 1 week           | 10    | 10    | 12   |
| 2 weeks          | 26    | 26    | 26   |
| 3 weeks          | 11    | 12    | 12   |
| 4 weeks          | 12    | 13    | 11   |
| 5 weeks          | 2     | 2     | 2    |
| 6 weeks          | 3     | 4     | 3    |
| 7 weeks          | *     | *     | 1    |
| 8 weeks or more  | 4     | 5     | 5    |
| Don't recall     | 26    | 21    | 22   |
| TOTAL            | 100   | 100   | 100  |

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

TABLE A-17
How REASONABLE was the length of time it took to have this initial meeting once VA notified you about the appointment?

Base: Those who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

| Unweighted N                        | <b>2001</b> % 2,646 | <b>2002</b> % 2,440 | <b>2004</b><br>%<br>861 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Very reasonable                     | 43                  | 45                  | 46                      |
| Somewhat reasonable                 | 33                  | 32                  | 35                      |
| Neither reasonable nor unreasonable | 15                  | 13                  | 11                      |
| Somewhat unreasonable               | 6                   | 6                   | 5                       |
| Very unreasonable                   | 3                   | 3                   | 3                       |
| TOTAL                               | 100                 | 100                 | 100                     |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-18
Who was your primary counselor during the initial evaluation?

Base: Those who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

|                                    | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N                       | 2,661     | 2,445     | 863       |
| A VA staff counselor               | 54        | 61        | 65        |
| A counselor under contract with VA | 35        | 27        | 24        |
| Don't know                         | 11        | 12        | 10        |
| TOTAL                              | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-19
In general, how convenient was the LOCATION of this evaluation?

Base: Those who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

|                                     | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                     | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                        | 2,666 | 2,452 | 867  |
| Very convenient                     | 38    | 38    | 40   |
| Somewhat convenient                 | 31    | 31    | 31   |
| Neither convenient nor inconvenient | 10    | 10    | 11   |
| Somewhat inconvenient               | 14    | 14    | 13   |
| Very inconvenient                   | 7     | 7     | 5    |
| TOTAL                               | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-20
In general, how convenient was the TIME scheduled for this evaluation?

Base: Those who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

|                                     | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>%           | 2004<br>%         |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Unweighted N                        | 2,662     | 7 <b>0</b><br>2,446 | 7 <b>0</b><br>869 |
| Very convenient                     | 46        | 47                  | 49                |
| Somewhat convenient                 | 33        | 33                  | 33                |
| Neither convenient nor inconvenient | 12        | 11                  | 12                |
| Somewhat inconvenient               | 7         | 6                   | 5                 |
| Very inconvenient                   | 2         | 3                   | 2                 |
| TOTAL                               | 100       | 100                 | 100               |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-21

Did you take any tests as part of your evaluation?

Base: Those who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 2,660     | 2,447     | 864       |
| Yes          | 79        | 74        | 75        |
| No           | 21        | 26        | 25        |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-22

Did the counselor explain the purpose of these tests?

Base: Those who met with a counselor and took an evaluation test.

|              | 200<br>% | 1 2002<br>% | 2 2004<br>% |
|--------------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| Unweighted N | 2,074    | 1,779       | 634         |
| Yes          | 94       | 94          | 94          |
| No           | 6        | 6           | 6           |
| TOTAL        | 100      | 100         | 100         |

TABLE A-23

Did the tests seem appropriate to you for your evaluation?

Base: Those who met with a counselor and took an evaluation test.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 2,070 | 1,779 | 635  |
| Yes          | 70    | 71    | 73   |
| No           | 19    | 17    | 17   |
| Don't know   | 11    | 12    | 10   |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-24
Did the counselor explain the test results in a way you could understand?

Base: Those who met with a counselor and took an evaluation test.

|                | 2   | 001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------|-----|------|-------|------|
|                |     | %    | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N   | 2,  | ,067 | 1,779 | 636  |
| Yes            |     | 86   | 86    | 84   |
| No             |     | 11   | 10    | 11   |
| No results yet |     | 2    | 4     | 6    |
| TOTAL          | 1 1 | 100  | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-25
How completely did the results of the initial evaluation match your particular skills and abilities?

Base: Those who had the results of the evaluation test explained by their counselor.

|               | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|---------------|-------|-------|------|
|               | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N  | 1,994 | 1,685 | 599  |
| Completely    | 20    | 19    | 22   |
| Mostly        | 42    | 44    | 42   |
| Somewhat      | 26    | 26    | 22   |
| Only a little | 7     | 5     | 9    |
| Not at all    | 5     | 5     | 5    |
| TOTAL         | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-26

During the evaluation, how confident or sure were you that your counselor gave you good information and advice?

Base: Those who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

| , and the second | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--|-------|-------|------|
|  | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N   | 2,659 | 2,438 | 866  |
| Very confident   | 41    | 43    | 45   |
| Somewhat confident   | 35    | 34    | 31   |
| Neither  | 9     | 8     | 9    |
| Somewhat unsure  | 7     | 7     | 6    |
| Very unsure  | 6     | 6     | 6    |
| Don't know   | 2     | 2     | 2    |
| TOTAL  | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-27

During the evaluation, how well did you feel your counselor understood your feelings and concerns?

Base: Those who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

|               | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|---------------|-------|-------|------|
|               | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N  | 2,663 | 2,445 | 863  |
| Completely    | 34    | 35    | 38   |
| Mostly        | 32    | 31    | 30   |
| Somewhat      | 19    | 18    | 17   |
| Only a little | 8     | 8     | 9    |
| Not at all    | 7     | 8     | 6    |
| TOTAL         | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-28

## Overall, did the EVALUATION process reflect the courtesy, compassion, and respect you would expect as a veteran of the United States?

Base: Those who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 2,653     | 2,441     | 863       |
| Yes          | 84        | 83        | 84        |
| No           | 16        | 17        | 16        |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

TABLE A-29
Aside from scheduled visits, what is the PRIMARY method you use to contact your evaluation counselor?

Base: Those who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

|                                       | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                       | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                          | 2,629 | 2,395 | 850  |
| Phone, 1-800 number                   | 18    | 15    | 15   |
| Phone, long-distance number           | 20    | 18    | 15   |
| Phone, local number                   | 45    | 45    | 46   |
| Fax                                   | *     | *     | *    |
| E-mail (computer)                     | 4     | 6     | 7    |
| Letter                                | 3     | 3     | 4    |
| Unannounced visit                     | 3     | 3     | 4    |
| Did not need additional communication | 7     | 9     | 9    |
| TOTAL                                 | 100   | 100   | 100  |

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-30
How responsive was the counselor to your contact through this method?

Base: Those who needed to contact their counselor.

|                                     | 2001  | 2002     | 2004     |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|
| University of N                     | %     | <b>%</b> | %<br>761 |
| Unweighted N                        | 2,451 | 2,176    | 761      |
| Very responsive                     | 55    | 56       | 55       |
| Somewhat responsive                 | 29    | 28       | 30       |
| Neither responsive nor unresponsive | 6     | 7        | 5        |
| Somewhat unresponsive               | 6     | 6        | 6        |
| Very unresponsive                   | 3     | 4        | 4        |
| TOTAL                               | 100   | 100      | 100      |

TABLE A-31
Were you generally able to get the information you needed on the first call or contact?

Base: Those who needed to contact their counselor.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 2,449 | 2,171 | 760  |
| Yes          | 70    | 71    | 76   |
| No           | 30    | 29    | 31   |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-32

Did you have to repeat the same information to more than one person during the evaluation process?

Base: Those who needed to contact their counselor.

|              | 200  |       | 02 2004<br>% % |
|--------------|------|-------|----------------|
| Unweighted N | 2,44 | 9 2,1 | 67 759         |
| Yes          | 33   | 3     | 2 31           |
| No           | 67   | 6     | 8 69           |
| TOTAL        | 100  | ) 10  | 00 100         |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-33
Were you able to access voice mail in order to leave your counselor a message?

Base: Those who needed to contact their counselor.

|                                      | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                      | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                         | 2,435 | 2,169 | 758  |
| Yes, counselor returned call         | 62    | 60    | 64   |
| Yes, counselor did not return call   | 10    | 12    | 13   |
| No, wasn't able to access voice mail | 6     | 5     | 6    |
| Never tried                          | 22    | 23    | 18   |
| TOTAL                                | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-34
After the initial evaluation, did VA notify you that you were entitled to VR&E services?

Base: Those who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

|                  | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N     | 2,648     | 2,434     | 854       |
| Yes, entitled    | 86        | 82        | 82        |
| No, not entitled | 7         | 9         | 8         |
| Don't know yet   | 7         | 10        | 10        |
| TOTAL            | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-35

Did VA explain why you were NOT entitled to VR&E services?

Base: Those who were not entitled to VR&E services.

|              | 2001 | 2002 | 2004 |
|--------------|------|------|------|
|              | %    | %    | %    |
| Unweighted N | 186  | 211  | 68   |
| Yes          | 75   | 72   | 84   |
| No           | 25   | 28   | 16   |
| TOTAL        | 100  | 100  | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-36
When you were found NOT ENTITLED, which (if any) of the following resources or programs did VA inform you of?

Base: Those who were not entitled to VR&E services.

|  | 2001 | 2002 | 2004 |
|--|------|------|------|
|  | %    | %    | %    |
| Unweighted N   | 174  | 200  | 65   |
| Other VA educational assistance programs (such as the Montgomery GI Bill)    | 16   | 16   | 17   |
| State tuition assistance programs  | 6    | 6    | 2    |
| State rehabilitation programs  | 7    | 10   | 6    |
| State employment programs (such as DVOP- Disabled Veterans Outreach Program) | 9    | 8    | 6    |
| On-the-job/apprenticeship programs   | 1    | 4    |      |
| SBA (Small Business Administration) programs                                 | 2    | 4    | 2    |
| Scholarships or grants (such as Pell Grant)                                  | 4    | 4    | 6    |
| Other, please specify  | 8    | 12   | 9    |
| None   | 68   | 58   | 65   |

-- None.

Multiple mention.

# TABLE A-37 Once you had your initial meeting with a counselor, how long did it take for VA to determine whether you were entitled to VR&E services?

Base: Those who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

|                   | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                   | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N      | 2,393 | 2,189 | 808  |
| Less than 2 weeks | 32    | 36    | 40   |
| 2 weeks           | 11    | 12    | 10   |
| 3 weeks           | 10    | 10    | 9    |
| 4 weeks           | 17    | 15    | 15   |
| 5 weeks           | 4     | 3     | 3    |
| 6 weeks           | 6     | 6     | 5    |
| 7 weeks           | 1     | 1     | 1    |
| 8 weeks           | 7     | 6     | 6    |
| 9 weeks           | 1     | 1     | 1    |
| 10 weeks          | 1     | 1     | 1    |
| 11 weeks          | *     | *     | *    |
| 12 to 16 weeks    | 4     | 4     | 4    |
| 17 weeks or more  | 5     | 5     | 7    |
| TOTAL             | 100   | 100   | 100  |

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

#### **TABLE A-38**

## How REASONABLE was the length of time it took VA to determine whether you were entitled to VR&E services, once you had your initial meeting with your counselor?

Base: Those who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

|                                     | 2 | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------|-------|------|
|                                     |   | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                        | 2 | 2,456 | 2,189 | 842  |
| Very reasonable                     |   | 46    | 49    | 48   |
| Somewhat reasonable                 |   | 30    | 28    | 26   |
| Neither reasonable nor unreasonable |   | 11    | 9     | 11   |
| Somewhat unreasonable               |   | 7     | 7     | 6    |
| Very unreasonable                   |   | 5     | 7     | 9    |
| TOTAL                               |   | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-39
Overall, how satisfied are you with the way the vocational rehabilitation EVALUATION process was handled?

Base: Those who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

|                                    | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N                       | 2,471     | 2,197     | 853       |
| Very satisfied                     | 48        | 48        | 47        |
| Somewhat satisfied                 | 27        | 27        | 24        |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 9         | 8         | 9         |
| Somewhat dissatisfied              | 9         | 8         | 10        |
| Very dissatisfied                  | 8         | 9         | 10        |
| TOTAL                              | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-40
Who was/is your primary counselor during the planning phase of your program?

Base: Those entitled to VR&E services and who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

|                                    | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                    | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                       | 2,244 | 1,941 | 680  |
| A VA staff counselor               | 67    | 73    | 71   |
| A counselor under contract with VA | 24    | 18    | 21   |
| Don't know                         | 9     | 10    | 8    |
| TOTAL                              | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-41
Is this the same counselor who conducted your initial evaluation?

Base: Those entitled to VR&E services and who had their first individual meeting with a counselor.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 2,235 | 2,003 | 678  |
| Yes          | 53    | 61    | 63   |
| No           | 47    | 39    | 37   |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-42
Have you and your counselor developed a plan of services for your rehabilitation?

Base: Those entitled to VR&E services.

|   | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|---|-------|-------|------|
|   | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                                    | 2,238 | 1,957 | 687  |
| Yes, includes an educational/training phase     | 78    | 74    | 69   |
| Yes, but went directly into employment services | 3     | 3     | 3    |
| No, but in the process of developing a plan     | 9     | 13    | 14   |
| No  | 9     | 11    | 13   |
| TOTAL   | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-43
You actively participated in developing the plan.

Base: Those with a plan for rehabilitation services.

|                            | 200  |         | 2004 |
|----------------------------|------|---------|------|
|                            | %    | %       | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 1,80 | 7 1,475 | 495  |
| Strongly agree             | 53   | 57      | 57   |
| Agree                      | 37   | 34      | 35   |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 7    | 5       | 5    |
| Disagree                   | 2    | 2       | 2    |
| Strongly disagree          | 1    | 1       | 1    |
| TOTAL                      | 100  | 100     | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE A-44
The plan reflects individualized services which meet your specific needs.

Base: Those with a plan for rehabilitation services.

|                            | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                            | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 1,812 | 1,476 | 492  |
| Strongly agree             | 45    | 49    | 50   |
| Agree                      | 39    | 37    | 38   |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 10    | 8     | 7    |
| Disagree                   | 3     | 4     | 3    |
| Strongly disagree          | 3     | 2     | 2    |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-45
Your counselor spent adequate time and resources in developing the plan.

|                            | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>%           | 2004<br>%   |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------|
| Unweighted N               | 1,810     | 7 <b>6</b><br>1,474 | <b>4</b> 96 |
| Strongly agree             | 42        | 47                  | 49          |
| Agree                      | 36        | 33                  | 33          |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 13        | 12                  | 9           |
| Disagree                   | 5         | 4                   | 6           |
| Strongly disagree          | 4         | 3                   | 2           |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100                 | 100         |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE A-46
The plan reflects your intentions and expectations for rehabilitation .

Base: Those with a plan for rehabilitation services.

|                            | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                            | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 1,809 | 1,477 | 493  |
| Strongly agree             | 47    | 51    | 51   |
| Agree                      | 37    | 36    | 35   |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 9     | 7     | 7    |
| Disagree                   | 4     | 3     | 3    |
| Strongly disagree          | 3     | 3     | 4    |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-47
The plan is appropriate to achieve your vocational goals.

| ·                          | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N               | 1,812     | 1,477     | 491       |
| Strongly agree             | 47        | 51        | 50        |
| Agree                      | 35        | 35        | 36        |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 9         | 8         | 7         |
| Disagree                   | 5         | 4         | 3         |
| Strongly disagree          | 3         | 2         | 4         |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE A-48
The plan was designed to minimize aggravation of your disability.

Base: Those with a plan for rehabilitation services.

|                            |    | 001 | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------------------|----|-----|-------|------|
|                            |    | %   | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 1, | 797 | 1,457 | 487  |
| Strongly agree             |    | 46  | 51    | 52   |
| Agree                      |    | 35  | 34    | 35   |
| Neither agree nor disagree |    | 13  | 10    | 8    |
| Disagree                   |    | 4   | 3     | 3    |
| Strongly disagree          |    | 2   | 3     | 2    |
| TOTAL                      | /  | 00  | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-49
The plan adequately reflects your interests, aptitudes, and abilities.

|                            | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N               | 1,817     | 1,471     | 492       |
| Strongly agree             | 47        | 52        | 49        |
| Agree                      | 37        | 34        | 37        |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 9         | 9         | 7         |
| Disagree                   | 4         | 3         | 4         |
| Strongly disagree          | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE A-50
The plan reflects current conditions and characteristics of the job market.

Base: Those with a plan for rehabilitation services.

|                            | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                            | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 1,788 | 1,455 | 483  |
| Strongly agree             | 41    | 44    | 44   |
| Agree                      | 38    | 37    | 38   |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 15    | 14    | 12   |
| Disagree                   | 4     | 3     | 4    |
| Strongly disagree          | 2     | 2     | 2    |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-51
The plan was designed with potential employment/employers in mind.

|                            | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N               | 1,771     | 1,443     | 480       |
| Strongly agree             | 41        | 47        | 45        |
| Agree                      | 37        | 36        | 37        |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 15        | 12        | 11        |
| Disagree                   | 4         | 3         | 4         |
| Strongly disagree          | 3         | 2         | 2         |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE A-52
In general, how convenient was the LOCATION where this PLAN was developed or is being developed?

Base: Those with or developing a plan for rehabilitation services.

|                                     | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                     | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                        | 2,616 | 1,720 | 592  |
| Very convenient                     | 38    | 41    | 42   |
| Somewhat convenient                 | 36    | 34    | 35   |
| Neither convenient nor inconvenient | 11    | 11    | 9    |
| Somewhat inconvenient               | 12    | 11    | 9    |
| Very inconvenient                   | 4     | 3     | 5    |
| TOTAL                               | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-53
In general, how convenient was the TIME scheduled for developing this PLAN?

Base: Those with or developing a plan for rehabilitation services.

|                                     | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>%           | 2004<br>%         |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Unweighted N                        | 2,096     | 7 <b>0</b><br>1.715 | 7 <b>6</b><br>592 |
| Very convenient                     | 41        | 45                  | 45                |
| Somewhat convenient                 | 39        | 38                  | 37                |
| Neither convenient nor inconvenient | 12        | 11                  | 11                |
| Somewhat inconvenient               | 5         | 5                   | 5                 |
| Very inconvenient                   | 3         | 2                   | 2                 |
| TOTAL                               | 100       | 100                 | 100               |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-54
Aside from scheduled visits, what is the PRIMARY method you used to contact your planning counselor?

Base: Those with or developing a plan for rehabilitation services.

|                                       | 2001  | 2001 2002 | 2004 |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-----------|------|
|                                       | %     | %         | %    |
| Unweighted N                          | 1,930 | 1,665     | 584  |
| Phone, 1-800 number                   | 17    | 14        | 13   |
| Phone, long-distance number           | 21    | 19        | 17   |
| Phone, local number                   | 48    | 50        | 52   |
| Fax                                   | *     | *         | 1    |
| E-mail (computer)                     | 5     | 8         | 8    |
| Letter                                | 2     | 2         | 3    |
| Unannounced visit                     | 3     | 3         | 2    |
| Did not need additional communication | 4     | 5         | 5    |
| TOTAL                                 | 100   | 100       | 100  |

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

TABLE A-55
How responsive was the counselor to your contact through this method?

Base: Those who had additional contact with their counselor.

|                                     | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N                        | 1,906     | 1,574     | 545       |
| Very responsive                     | 61        | 63        | 61        |
| Somewhat responsive                 | 29        | 26        | 27        |
| Neither responsive nor unresponsive | 4         | 5         | 6         |
| Somewhat unresponsive               | 3         | 4         | 4         |
| Very unresponsive                   | 2         | 2         | 2         |
| TOTAL                               | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-56
Were you generally able to get the information you needed on the first call or contact?

Base: Those who had additional contact with their counselor.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 1,902 | 1,568 | 543  |
| Yes          | 76    | 77    | 76   |
| No           | 24    | 23    | 24   |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-57

Did you have to repeat the same information to more than one person during the planning process?

Base: Those who had additional contact with their counselor.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 1,903 | 1,567 | 541  |
| Yes          | 28    | 24    | 24   |
| No           | 72    | 76    | 76   |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-58
Were you able to access voice mail in order to leave your counselor a message?

Base: Those who had additional contact with their counselor.

|                                      | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                      | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                         | 1,897 | 1,565 | 541  |
| Yes, counselor returned call         | 68    | 67    | 70   |
| Yes, counselor did not return call   | 9     | 9     | 10   |
| No, wasn't able to access voice mail | 4     | 4     | 4    |
| Never tried                          | 19    | 20    | 16   |
| TOTAL                                | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-59

Overall, did the PLANNING process reflect the courtesy, compassion, and respect you would expect as a veteran of the

United States?

Base: Those with or developing a plan for rehabilitation services.

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 2,005     | 1,711     | 585       |
| Yes          | 90        | 90        | 91        |
| No           | 10        | 10        | 9         |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

**TABLE A-60** 

## Overall, how satisfied are you with the way your vocational rehabilitation PLAN of services was developed or is being developed?

Base: Those with or developing a plan for rehabilitation services.

|                                    | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                    | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                       | 2,013 | 1,714 | 586  |
| Very satisfied                     | 53    | 54    | 57   |
| Somewhat satisfied                 | 30    | 29    | 26   |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 6     | 7     | 6    |
| Somewhat dissatisfied              | 6     | 6     | 5    |
| Very dissatisfied                  | 4     | 4     | 5    |
| TOTAL                              | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-61
Looking back to your contacts with the VR&E program thus far, which methods of contact did you EVER use?

Base: All participants.

|                              | 2001              | 2002              | 2004            |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Unweighted N                 | <b>%</b><br>2.832 | <b>%</b><br>2,747 | <b>%</b><br>590 |
| Onweighted iv                | 2,032             | 2,747             | 590             |
| In-person visit              | 75                | 72                | 76              |
| Phone, 1-800 number          | 35                | 31                | 31              |
| Phone, long-distance number  | 28                | 24                | 23              |
| Phone, local number          | 47                | 46                | 51              |
| Fax                          | 13                | 10                | 12              |
| Internet, e-mail, or website | 16                | 21                | 29              |
| Letter                       | 26                | 24                | 24              |

Multiple mention.

TABLE A-62
In general, how easy was it for you to obtain information from the VR&E program?

Base: All participants.

|                            | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                            | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 2,839 | 2,749 | 966  |
| Very easy                  | 34    | 34    | 35   |
| Somewhat easy              | 38    | 35    | 36   |
| Neither easy nor difficult | 14    | 15    | 15   |
| Somewhat difficult         | 10    | 10    | 10   |
| Very difficult             | 4     | 6     | 5    |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-63
Which method of contact with the VR&E program would you prefer, if you could get the same degree of service?

Base: All participants.

|                              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                 | 2,697 | 2,623 | 924  |
| In-person visit              | 52    | 53    | 52   |
| Phone, 1-800 number          | 16    | 14    | 14   |
| Phone, long-distance number  | 2     | 1     | 1    |
| Phone, local number          | 16    | 17    | 17   |
| Fax                          | *     | *     |      |
| Internet, e-mail, or website | 11    | 12    | 13   |
| Letter                       | 3     | 3     | 4    |
| TOTAL                        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

<sup>--</sup> None.

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-64
How would you best describe your CURRENT status with regard to the VA VR&E program?

Base: All participants.

|                                      | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                      | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                         | 2,713 | 2,614 | 920  |
| VA requested I interrupt program     | 5     | 5     | 5    |
| VA requested I withdraw from program | 3     | 5     | 5    |
| I voluntarily interrupted program    | 11    | 9     | 10   |
| I voluntarily withdrew from program  | 6     | 6     | 6    |
| I am currently pursuing program      | 75    | 76    | 74   |
| TOTAL                                | 100   | 100   | 100  |

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

TABLE A-65
Did VA tell you the reasons why you were interrupted or withdrawn from the program?

Base: Those who VA requested to interrupt or withdraw from program.

|              | 2001 | 2002 | 2004 |
|--------------|------|------|------|
|              | %    | %    | %    |
| Unweighted N | 217  | 251  | 92   |
| Yes          | 79   | 77   | 75   |
| No           | 12   | 15   | 12   |
| Don't know   | 9    | 8    | 13   |
| TOTAL        | 100  | 100  | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-66
Why did you interrupt or withdraw from the VR&E program?

Base: Those who interrupted or withdrew from program.

| ,  | 2001 | 2002 | 2004 |
|--|------|------|------|
|  | %    | %    | %    |
| Unweighted N   | 664  | 614  | 226  |
| Medical problems   | 28   | 28   | 31   |
| Disability   | 25   | 24   | 31   |
| Found ineligible or non-entitled to program              | 10   | 13   | 12   |
| VA requested that I interrupt or withdraw from program   | 10   | 13   | 11   |
| VA took too long to determine eligibility or entitlement | 5    | 9    | 7    |
| Location of counselor's office                           | 6    | 7    | 6    |
| Financial difficulties                                   | 21   | 18   | 15   |
| Took job   | 17   | 16   | 12   |
| Too much red tape  | 9    | 12   | 8    |
| Moved/planning to move                                   | 8    | 8    | 8    |
| Used GI Bill (Chapter 30) benefits instead               | 3    | 6    | 4    |
| Family responsibilities/difficulties                     | 23   | 18   | 20   |
| Program did not meet my needs                            | 13   | 13   | 13   |
| Problems with counselor                                  | 10   | 11   | 11   |

Multiple mention.

TABLE A-67

Do you plan to complete your rehabilitation program now or at some later date?

|                      | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                      | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N         | 2,752 | 2,649 | 911  |
| Yes, now             | 60    | 60    | 60   |
| Yes, at a later date | 26    | 23    | 22   |
| No                   | 3     | 4     | 4    |
| Not sure             | 12    | 13    | 15   |
| TOTAL                | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-68
Thus far, how well has the program met your expectations?

Base: All participants.

|                           | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                           | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N              | 2,839 | 2,749 | 964  |
| Much better than expected | 23    | 21    | 21   |
| Better than expected      | 26    | 23    | 25   |
| Just as expected          | 23    | 22    | 22   |
| Worse than expected       | 11    | 13    | 12   |
| Much worse than expected  | 9     | 9     | 8    |
| Don't know                | 9     | 11    | 12   |
| TOTAL                     | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-69
During the Evaluation and Planning phase, do you feel that there was sufficient focus on your future employment?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 2,832 | 2,734 | 956  |
| Yes          | 60    | 58    | 58   |
| No           | 25    | 24    | 24   |
| Don't know   | 15    | 18    | 18   |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-70
Have your EDUCATIONAL goals been raised, lowered, or unaffected as a result of your interaction with the VR&E program?

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 2,829 | 2,732 | 961  |
| Raised       | 50    | 45    | 44   |
| Lowered      | 11    | 12    | 11   |
| Unaffected   | 28    | 29    | 30   |
| Don't know   | 11    | 14    | 15   |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-71

Are your educational goals more realistic as a result of the program?

Base: All participants.

| ·            | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 2,832     | 2,725     | 958       |
| Yes          | 60        | 55        | 55        |
| No           | 21        | 22        | 22        |
| Don't know   | 19        | 23        | 23        |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-72
Have your CAREER goals been raised, lowered, or unaffected as a result of your interaction with the VR&E program?

Base: All participants.

|              | <br>2001 | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|----------|-------|------|
|              | %        | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 2,817    | 2,718 | 960  |
| Raised       | 48       | 44    | 44   |
| Lowered      | 12       | 13    | 11   |
| Unaffected   | 27       | 28    | 29   |
| Don't know   | 13       | 15    | 16   |
| TOTAL        | 100      | 100   | 100  |

TABLE A-73
Are your career goals more realistic as a result of the program?

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 2,817 | 2,710 | 956  |
| Yes          | 59    | 54    | 54   |
| No           | 21    | 23    | 23   |
| Don't know   | 19    | 24    | 23   |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE A-74
Would you recommend this program to other disabled veterans?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 2,831     | 2,742     | 966       |
| Yes          | 83        | 80        | 80        |
| No           | 6         | 7         | 7         |
| Don't know   | 11        | 13        | 13        |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

### **APPENDIX B**

# REHABILITATION PHASE DETAILED TABLES OF FINDINGS

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TABLE B-1
How long has it been since you developed a vocational plan of services with your counselor?

|                                       | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                       | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N                          | 3,325 | 3,424 | 1,127 |
| Less than 6 months                    | 26    | 24    | 26    |
| 7 months to 1 year                    | 24    | 26    | 27    |
| More than 1 year to 2 years           | 28    | 28    | 28    |
| More than 2 years to 3 years          | 11    | 11    | 11    |
| More than 3 years to 4 years          | 4     | 4     | 4     |
| More than 4 years                     | 4     | 4     | 2     |
| Not sure                              | 2     | 2     | 2     |
| Never developed a rehabilitation plan | 1     | *     | 1     |
| TOTAL                                 | 100   | 100   | 100   |

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-2
How satisfied are you with the occupational/vocational goal you and your counselor selected?

Base: All participants who had a vocational plan.

|                                    | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N                       | 3,241     | 3,360     | 1,087     |
| Very satisfied                     | 61        | 62        | 64        |
| Somewhat satisfied                 | 25        | 25        | 24        |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 5         | 6         | 7         |
| Somewhat dissatisfied              | 5         | 5         | 5         |
| Very dissatisfied                  | 4         | 2         | 2         |
| TOTAL                              | 100       | 100       | 100       |

TABLE B-3
Do (Did) you have a vocational rehabilitation specialist or counselor assigned to you during the training or educational phase of your program?

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 3,315     | 3,418     | 1,131     |
| Yes          | 96        | 96        | 97        |
| No           | 2         | 2         | 1         |
| Don't know   | 2         | 2         | 2         |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-4
Who is (was) your primary specialist or counselor assigned during this rehabilitation phase?

Base: Was assigned a vocational rehabilitation specialist.

|                                    | 2001  | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N                       | 3,135 | 3,252     | 1,086     |
| A VA staff counselor               | 67    | 75        | 80        |
| A counselor under contract with VA | 25    | 16        | 11        |
| Don't know                         | 7     | 9         | 9         |
| TOTAL                              | 100   | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-5
Is this the same counselor who prepared your plan of services?

Base: Was assigned a vocational rehabilitation specialist.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
|              | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N | 3,174 | 3,281 | 1,092 |
| Yes          | 43    | 43    | 49    |
| No           | 52    | 54    | 48    |
| Don't know   | 5     | 4     | 4     |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100   |

TABLE B-6
How completely did your counselor explain all the benefits and services available to you during your rehabilitation program?

Base: Was assigned a vocational rehabilitation specialist.

|               | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N  | 3,170     | 3,277     | 1,087     |
| Completely    | 47        | 48        | 51        |
| Mostly        | 31        | 32        | 29        |
| Somewhat      | 13        | 13        | 12        |
| Only a little | 7         | 5         | 6         |
| Not at all    | 2         | 2         | 2         |
| TOTAL         | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-7
Which of the following types of counseling or referrals has your counselor provided?

Base: Was assigned a vocational rehabilitation specialist.

| Bass. Tras acoigned a resaliental remasimation op                  | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
|  | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N   | 3,170 | 3,275 | 1,088 |
| Assistance in enrolling in an educational/training program         | 72    | 73    | 71    |
| Career counseling  | 42    | 44    | 43    |
| Personal counseling  | 20    | 20    | 19    |
| Financial counseling   | 14    | 13    | 14    |
| General support and encouragement                                  | 42    | 44    | 45    |
| Problem solving techniques   | 10    | 9     | 9     |
| Referral to medical services                                       | 33    | 31    | 28    |
| Referral to dental services  | 29    | 29    | 30    |
| Referral to optical (eye) services                                 | 23    | 22    | 22    |
| Referral to other counseling program                               | 8     | 7     | 7     |
| Referral to Veteran Service Organization (for example the American | 10    | 10    | 8     |
| Legion or DAV)   |       |       |       |
| None   | 7     | 7     | 8     |

Multiple mention.

TABLE B-8
Which of the following benefits have you received during your rehabilitation program?

|                             | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                             | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N                | 3,331 | 3,413 | 1,128 |
| Tuition                     | 91    | 95    | 95    |
| Subsistence allowance       | 88    | 90    | 92    |
| Books                       | 91    | 95    | 96    |
| Supplies                    | 82    | 86    | 85    |
| Computer equipment/software | 30    | 38    | 47    |
| Medical services            | 29    | 28    | 27    |
| Dental services             | 26    | 25    | 26    |
| Optical (eye) services      | 23    | 22    | 21    |
| Tutoring                    | 12    | 12    | 11    |
| Loans                       | 8     | 7     | 9     |
| None                        | 2     | 1     | *     |

Multiple mention.

TABLE B-9
Which of the following benefits would you have liked to receive during your rehabilitation program, but did not?

Base: All participants.

|                             | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                             | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N                | 3,101 | 3,173 | 1,072 |
| Tuition                     | 6     | 4     | 3     |
| Subsistence allowance       | 7     | 6     | 6     |
| Books                       | 6     | 4     | 3     |
| Supplies                    | 8     | 7     | 6     |
| Computer equipment/software | 47    | 42    | 36    |
| Medical services            | 10    | 10    | 10    |
| Dental services             | 26    | 27    | 30    |
| Optical (eye) services      | 19    | 18    | 21    |
| Tutoring                    | 19    | 17    | 20    |
| Loans                       | 20    | 18    | 20    |
| None                        | 23    | 28    | 28    |

Multiple mention.

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

TABLE B-10

Have you found anything to be difficult about obtaining any of these benefits?

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | <br>3,309 | 3,385     | 1,115     |
| Yes          | 36        | 32        | 34        |
| No           | 59        | 64        | 62        |
| Don't know   | 5         | 4         | 4         |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-11
What specifically do you find to be difficult about obtaining any of these benefits?

Base: Found something difficult in obtaining benefits.

|   | 2  | 001 | 2002  | 2004 |
|---|----|-----|-------|------|
|   |    | %   | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                                  | 1, | 165 | 1,048 | 368  |
| Don't know what benefits are available        |    | 46  | 41    | 43   |
| Payments do not arrive when needed            |    | 22  | 18    | 23   |
| Payments are incorrect                        |    | 12  | 10    | 12   |
| Counselor not responsive to needs             |    | 30  | 26    | 35   |
| Supplies/services not available when needed   |    | 20  | 17    | 20   |
| Too much red tape to obtain supplies/services |    | 48  | 40    | 49   |
| Supplies/services of poor quality             |    | 6   | 4     | 8    |
| Supplies/services inadequate                  |    | 16  | 12    | 17   |

Multiple mention.

#### TABLE B-12

# Have you ever had to borrow or pay out-of-pocket expenses in order to ENROLL or stay enrolled in training or education BECAUSE VA DID NOT PROVIDE PAYMENTS ON TIME?

Base: All participants.

| 2000.7 pa    |       |       |       |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|              | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N | 3,291 | 3,384 | 1,114 |
| Yes          | 16    | 14    | 15    |
| No           | 84    | 86    | 85    |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100   |

TABLE B-13

# Have you ever had to borrow or pay out-of-pocket expenses in order to obtain needed SUPPLIES or benefits BECAUSE VA DID NOT PROVIDE THEM WHEN NEEDED?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
|              | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N | 3,286 | 3,382 | 1,122 |
| Yes          | 36    | 35    | 37    |
| No           | 64    | 65    | 63    |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-14
Have you had the same counselor since you developed your vocational rehabilitation plan for services?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 3,321     | 3,409     | 1,128     |
| Yes          | 47        | 42        | 46        |
| No           | 51        | 56        | 52        |
| Don't know   | 2         | 2         | 2         |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-15
Do you have a clear understanding of the respective responsibilities and obligations of yourself and your counselor?

Base: All participants

|              | 200  |       |          |
|--------------|------|-------|----------|
| Unweighted N | 3,32 | 0 3,3 | 96 1,124 |
| Yes          | 74   | 74    | 4 76     |
| No           | 19   | 18    | 8 18     |
| Don't know   | 7    | 8     | 6        |
| TOTAL        | 100  | ) 10  | 0 100    |

TABLE B-16
Your counselor gives you good information and advice.

|                            | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N               | 3,286     | 3,379     | 1,127     |
| Strongly agree             | 35        | 36        | 39        |
| Agree                      | 36        | 38        | 33        |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 16        | 16        | 17        |
| Disagree                   | 6         | 6         | 7         |
| Strongly disagree          | 5         | 4         | 4         |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE B-17
Your counselor is knowledgeable regarding VA's vocational rehabilitation program.

Base: All participants.

| ·                          | 200  |         |       |
|----------------------------|------|---------|-------|
|                            | %    |         | %     |
| Unweighted N               | 3,29 | 2 3,383 | 1,117 |
| Strongly agree             | 43   | 43      | 48    |
| Agree                      | 36   | 38      | 32    |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 14   | 15      | 14    |
| Disagree                   | 4    | 3       | 3     |
| Strongly disagree          | 2    | 1       | 3     |
| TOTAL                      | 100  | 100     | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-18
Your counselor has provided assistance according to your individual needs.

|                            | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N               | 3,275     | 3,377     | 1,114     |
| Strongly agree             | 38        | 37        | 42        |
| Agree                      | 34        | 37        | 32        |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 14        | 14        | 14        |
| Disagree                   | 8         | 8         | 7         |
| Strongly disagree          | 6         | 4         | 5         |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE B-19
When your counselor makes a decision regarding your program, the reason for the decision is clearly explained.

Base: All participants.

|                            | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                            | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N               | 3,139 | 3,247 | 1,075 |
| Strongly agree             | 36    | 37    | 40    |
| Agree                      | 34    | 33    | 33    |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 18    | 20    | 18    |
| Disagree                   | 7     | 7     | 6     |
| Strongly disagree          | 4     | 3     | 3     |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Your counselor shows a caring and compassionate attitude toward you.

|                            | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                            | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N               | 3,286 | 3,370 | 1,118 |
| Strongly agree             | 40    | 40    | 43    |
| Agree                      | 30    | 31    | 27    |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 18    | 17    | 16    |
| Disagree                   | 6     | 6     | 7     |
| Strongly disagree          | 6     | 6     | 6     |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE B-21
Your counselor shows genuine interest in your progress.

Base: All participants.

| ,                          | 2 | 001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------------------|---|------|-------|------|
|                            |   | %    | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 3 | ,284 | 3,378 | 118  |
| Strongly agree             |   | 38   | 38    | 41   |
| Agree                      |   | 29   | 30    | 27   |
| Neither agree nor disagree |   | 19   | 20    | 17   |
| Disagree                   |   | 7    | 7     | 8    |
| Strongly disagree          |   | 6    | 6     | 6    |
| TOTAL                      |   | 100  | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-22
Your counselor has a communication style that is easy to understand.

|                            | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                            | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N               | 3,288 | 3,377 | 1,119 |
| Strongly agree             | 40    | 39    | 41    |
| Agree                      | 35    | 36    | 33    |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 14    | 15    | 13    |
| Disagree                   | 6     | 5     | 7     |
| Strongly disagree          | 5     | 5     | 6     |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE B-23
Your counselor is responsive to your needs.

Base: All participants.

|                            | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                            | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N               | 3,277 | 3,383 | 1,120 |
| Strongly agree             | 38    | 36    | 40    |
| Agree                      | 33    | 35    | 30    |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 16    | 16    | 16    |
| Disagree                   | 7     | 7     | 8     |
| Strongly disagree          | 7     | 6     | 6     |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE B-24
Your counselor listens to your feelings and concerns.

Base: All participants.

| I Invesigated N            | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N               | 3,242     | 3,337     | 1,108     |
| Strongly agree             | 36        | 36        | 39        |
| Agree                      | 34        | 34        | 31        |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 18        | 18        | 19        |
| Disagree                   | 6         | 6         | 5         |
| Strongly disagree          | 6         | 5         | 6         |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-25
Your counselor is available when needed.

|                            | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N               | 3,286     | 3,384     | 1,120     |
| Strongly agree             | 27        | 29        | 30        |
| Agree                      | 34        | 34        | 33        |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 19        | 19        | 18        |
| Disagree                   | 11        | 11        | 11        |
| Strongly disagree          | 8         | 8         | 9         |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE B-26
Do you have scheduled in-person meetings with your counselor?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 3,319     | 3,414     | 1,126     |
| Yes          | 73        | 72        | 71        |
| No           | 27        | 28        | 29        |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-27
Are the number and length of these sessions adequate to meet your counseling needs?

Base: Had scheduled in-person meetings with counselor.

|                                       | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N                          | 2,421     | 2,453     | 791       |
| Yes                                   | 82        | 83        | 84        |
| No, too little contact with counselor | 17        | 16        | 16        |
| No, too much contact with counselor   | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| TOTAL                                 | 100       | 100       | 100       |

TABLE B-28
In general, how much of what you NEEDED TO KNOW did you get from these meetings?

Base: Had scheduled in-person meetings with counselor.

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 2,421     | 2,457     | 798       |
| All          | 31        | 31        | 34        |
| Most         | 43        | 44        | 42        |
| Some         | 18        | 17        | 15        |
| Little       | 7         | 6         | 7         |
| None         | 1         | 2         | 2         |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-29
How convenient is the LOCATION where these meetings are held?

Base: Had scheduled in-person meetings with counselor.

|                                     | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                     | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                        | 2,422 | 2,461 | 797  |
| Very convenient                     | 57    | 59    | 54   |
| Somewhat convenient                 | 27    | 25    | 27   |
| Neither convenient nor inconvenient | 6     | 6     | 8    |
| Somewhat inconvenient               | 7     | 7     | 7    |
| Very inconvenient                   | 2     | 3     | 4    |
| TOTAL                               | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-30
In general, how convenient is the TIME scheduled for these meetings?

Base: Had scheduled in-person meetings with counselor.

|                                     | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N                        | 2,423     | 2,459     | 797       |
| Very convenient                     | 52        | 54        | 52        |
| Somewhat convenient                 | 34        | 31        | 32        |
| Neither convenient nor inconvenient | 7         | 7         | 8         |
| Somewhat inconvenient               | 6         | 6         | 6         |
| Very inconvenient                   | 2         | 2         | 2         |
| TOTAL                               | 100       | 100       | 100       |

TABLE B-31
Aside from scheduled visits, what is the primary method you use to contact your counselor?

|                                       | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                       | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N                          | 3,012 | 3,073 | 1,029 |
| Phone, 1-800 number                   | 16    | 14    | 11    |
| Phone, long-distance number           | 20    | 19    | 17    |
| Phone, local number                   | 43    | 43    | 44    |
| Fax                                   | *     | 1     | *     |
| E-mail (computer)                     | 11    | 15    | 22    |
| Letter                                | 1     | 1     | 1     |
| Unannounced visit                     | 4     | 3     | 4     |
| Did not need additional communication | 4     | 3     | 1     |
| TOTAL                                 | 100   | 100   | 100   |

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-32
How responsive was your counselor to your contact through this method?

Base: Contacted counselor other than scheduled visits.

|                                     | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                     | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                        | 2,888 | 2,955 | 997  |
| Very responsive                     | 56    | 57    | 58   |
| Somewhat responsive                 | 29    | 29    | 26   |
| Neither responsive nor unresponsive | 6     | 5     | 5    |
| Somewhat unresponsive               | 5     | 5     | 7    |
| Very unresponsive                   | 3     | 3     | 3    |
| TOTAL                               | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE B-33
In general, how much of what you NEEDED TO KNOW did you get from this method of contact?

Base: Contacted counselor other than scheduled visits.

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 2,887     | 2,956     | 995       |
| All          | 30        | 32        | 33        |
| Most         | 41        | 39        | 41        |
| Some         | 18        | 18        | 15        |
| Little       | 8         | 8         | 8         |
| None         | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-34
Were you generally able to get the information you needed on the first call or contact?

Base: Contacted counselor other than scheduled visits.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 2,884 | 2,445 | 998  |
| Yes          | 64    | 66    | 68   |
| No           | 36    | 34    | 32   |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-35
Were you able to access voice mail in order to leave your counselor a message?

Base: Contacted counselor other than scheduled visits.

|                                      | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                      | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                         | 2,881 | 1,945 | 997  |
| Yes, counselor returned call         | 69    | 71    | 69   |
| Yes, counselor did not return call   | 12    | 13    | 16   |
| No, wasn't able to access voice mail | 5     | 3     | 3    |
| Never tried.                         | 13    | 13    | 12   |
| TOTAL                                | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE B-36

Does your counselor fully address all your questions, concerns, or complaints?

|                  | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                  | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N     | 3,299 | 3,401 | 1,121 |
| Yes              | 75    | 77    | 77    |
| No               | 19    | 17    | 19    |
| Did not have any | 5     | 5     | 4     |
| TOTAL            | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-37
Which of the following types of employment services did you need?

Base: All participants.

|  | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
|  | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N   | 3,159 | 3,236 | 1,087 |
| Resume preparation or development                              | 21    | 21    | 20    |
| Interview skills   | 14    | 13    | 12    |
| Help in obtaining licenses or certificates                     | 18    | 17    | 19    |
| Job hunting strategies   | 19    | 17    | 16    |
| Grooming/personal appearance tips                              | 3     | 3     | 4     |
| Setting up informational interviews with prospective employers | 17    | 15    | 16    |
| Didn't need any of the above from counselor                    | 63    | 64    | 67    |

Multiple mention.

TABLE B-38
Which of the following types of employment services have you been provided?

Base: All participants.

|  | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N   | 3,208     | 3,285     | 1,095     |
| Resume preparation or development                              | 9         | 10        | 9         |
| Interview skills   | 6         | 6         | 4         |
| Help in obtaining licenses or certificates                     | 8         | 8         | 9         |
| Job hunting strategies   | 9         | 9         | 9         |
| Grooming/personal appearance tips                              | 3         | 2         | 2         |
| Setting up informational interviews with prospective employers | 4         | 5         | 4         |
| None   | 80        | 80        | 80        |

Multiple mention.

TABLE B-39
From which, if any, of the following have you received employment services?

|   | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
|   | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N  | 3,197 | 3,280 | 1,102 |
| Vocational rehabilitation counselor                   | 21    | 22    | 24    |
| Employment specialist                                 | 8     | 7     | 7     |
| A Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) counselor | 5     | 5     | 5     |
| Other, please specify                                 | 6     | 7     | 7     |
| No employment services received                       | 66    | 66    | 67    |

Multiple mention.

TABLE B-40
Your counselor/specialist(s) are knowledgeable regarding employment markets.

Base: Received employment services.

|                            | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                            | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 2,253 | 1,053 | 327  |
| Strongly agree             | 16    | 22    | 20   |
| Agree                      | 29    | 38    | 39   |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 43    | 32    | 32   |
| Disagree                   | 7     | 5     | 6    |
| Strongly disagree          | 5     | 3     | 3    |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

All respondents included for 2001.

TABLE B-41
Your counselor/specialist(s) understand your occupational/vocational goals.

Base: Received employment services.

|                            | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N               | 2,880     | 1,147     | 355       |
| Strongly agree             | 27        | 32        | 33        |
| Agree                      | 42        | 44        | 42        |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 21        | 17        | 16        |
| Disagree                   | 6         | 5         | 6         |
| Strongly disagree          | 5         | 2         | 3         |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

All respondents included for 2001.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE B-42
Your counselor/specialist(s) help you focus on your employment goal.

Base: Received employment services.

|                            | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                            | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 2,553 | 1,101 | 349  |
| Strongly agree             | 22    | 27    | 29   |
| Agree                      | 31    | 39    | 38   |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 33    | 26    | 23   |
| Disagree                   | 9     | 6     | 8    |
| Strongly disagree          | 7     | 2     | 3    |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

All respondents included for 2001.

TABLE B-43
Your counselor/specialist(s) are concerned about the quality
of your job placement.

Base: Received employment services.

| . ,                        | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N               | 2,404     | 1,073     | 344       |
| Strongly agree             | 23        | 28        | 31        |
| Agree                      | 28        | 34        | 36        |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 35        | 28        | 23        |
| Disagree                   | 8         | 7         | 7         |
| Strongly disagree          | 6         | 3         | 3         |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

All respondents included for 2001.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE B-44
How satisfied are you with the employment services you've received during your program?

Base: Received employment services.

|                                    | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                    | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                       | 2,955 | 1,136 | 362  |
| Very satisfied                     | 29    | 32    | 34   |
| Somewhat satisfied                 | 23    | 23    | 21   |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 31    | 28    | 31   |
| Somewhat dissatisfied              | 9     | 9     | 9    |
| Very dissatisfied                  | 7     | 8     | 6    |
| TOTAL                              | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

All respondents included for 2001.

TABLE B-45
Looking back to your contacts with the VR&E program thus far, which methods of contact did you EVER use?

|                              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                              | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N                 | 3,242 | 3,346 | 1,114 |
| In-person visit              | 80    | 82    | 82    |
| Phone, 1-800 number          | 37    | 36    | 35    |
| Phone, long-distance number  | 31    | 30    | 29    |
| Phone, local number          | 45    | 48    | 53    |
| Fax                          | 16    | 18    | 20    |
| Internet, e-mail, or website | 25    | 32    | 42    |
| Letter                       | 29    | 28    | 29    |

Multiple mention.

TABLE B-46
In general, how easy was it for you to obtain information from the VR&E program?

Base: All participants.

|                            | 2  | 001 | 2004      |           |
|----------------------------|----|-----|-----------|-----------|
|                            | l  | %   | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
| Unweighted N               | 3, | 245 | 3,360     | 1,120     |
| Very easy                  |    | 32  | 34        | 38        |
| Somewhat easy              | :  | 36  | 36        | 34        |
| Neither easy nor difficult |    | 17  | 16        | 15        |
| Somewhat difficult         |    | 11  | 11        | 11        |
| Very difficult             |    | 4   | 3         | 3         |
| TOTAL                      | 1  | 00  | 100       | 100       |

TABLE B-47
Which method of contact with the VR&E program would you prefer, if you could get the same degree of service?

|                              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                              | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N                 | 2,845 | 2,954 | 1,002 |
| In-person visit              | 49    | 47    | 42    |
| Phone, 1-800 number          | 17    | 15    | 13    |
| Phone, long-distance number  | 1     | 1     | 1     |
| Phone, local number          | 14    | 17    | 18    |
| Fax                          | *     | *     |       |
| Internet, e-mail, or website | 17    | 19    | 25    |
| Letter                       | 1     | 1     | 2     |
| TOTAL                        | 100   | 100   | 100   |

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-48
How would you best describe your CURRENT status with regard to the VA VR&E program?

Base: All participants.

|   | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
|   | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N  | 3,215 | 3,344 | 1,111 |
| VA requested I interrupt program                                      | 2     | 2     | 1     |
| VA requested I withdraw from program                                  | 1     | 1     | *     |
| I voluntarily interrupted program                                     | 7     | 7     | 6     |
| I voluntarily withdrew from program                                   | 2     | 1     | 1     |
| I am currently pursuing program, still in training/educational phase  | 73    | 76    | 82    |
| I am currently pursuing program, completed training/educational phase | 15    | 13    | 9     |
| TOTAL   | 100   | 100   | 100   |

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

<sup>--</sup> None.

TABLE B-49
Did the VA tell you the reasons why you were interrupted or withdrawn from the program?

Base: VA requested interruption or withdrawal from program.

| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | <br> |      |      |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|
|                                       | 2001 | 2002 | 2004 |
|                                       | %    | %    | %    |
| Unweighted N                          | 89   | 87   | 16   |
| Yes                                   | 73   | 79   | 82   |
| No                                    | 19   | 16   | 6    |
| Don't know                            | 8    | 5    | 13   |
| TOTAL                                 | 100  | 100  | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-50
Why did you interrupt or withdraw from the training or education phase of your plan?

Base: Interrupted or withdrew from program.

|  | 2001 | 2002 | 2004 |
|--|------|------|------|
|  | %    | %    | %    |
| Unweighted N   | 386  | 381  | 97   |
| Medical problems   | 38   | 32   | 40   |
| Disability   | 21   | 18   | 28   |
| Financial difficulties   | 26   | 20   | 30   |
| Took a job   | 20   | 16   | 22   |
| VA requested that I interrupt or withdraw from program           | 12   | 9    | 9    |
| Lost interest  | 3    | 4    | 7    |
| Transportation problems  | 11   | 5    | 9    |
| Schools/classes were too far away                                | 7    | 4    | 5    |
| Program/classes were too difficult                               | 10   | 6    | 12   |
| Moved/planning to move   | 12   | 7    | 10   |
| Family responsibilities/difficulties                             | 29   | 25   | 41   |
| Didn't think the training or education would meet my needs       | 7    | 4    | 6    |
| Problems with counselor  | 10   | 6    | 16   |
| Too much red tape with VR&E program                              | 8    | 6    | 7    |
| Could not see training or education leading to future employment | 10   | 8    | 10   |
| Summer/semester break  | 5    | 3    | 11   |

Multiple mention.

TABLE B-51

Do you plan to complete your rehabilitation program now or at a later date?

|                      | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                      | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N         | 3,173 | 3,308 | 1,090 |
| Yes, now             | 70    | 72    | 73    |
| Yes, at a later date | 23    | 22    | 21    |
| No                   | 1     | 1     | 1     |
| Not sure             | 6     | 5     | 5     |
| TOTAL                | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-52

Do you feel that the VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program has treated you as an individual, not just a case to be managed?

Base: All participants.

|                    | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N       | 3,314     | 3,407     | 1,128     |
| Yes, an individual | 68        | 71        | 70        |
| No                 | 24        | 21        | 22        |
| Don't know         | 8         | 8         | 8         |
| TOTAL              | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-53
Overall, has the REHABILITATION process reflected the courtesy, compassion, and respect you would expect as a veteran of the United States?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 3294      | 3,396     | 1,128     |
| Yes          | 78        | 81        | 80        |
| No           | 22        | 19        | 20        |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

TABLE B-54
Thus far, how well has the program met your EXPECTATIONS?

|                           | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                           | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N              | 3,313 | 3,408 | 1,130 |
| Much better than expected | 25    | 25    | 27    |
| Better than expected      | 32    | 34    | 34    |
| Just as expected          | 26    | 27    | 27    |
| Worse than expected       | 11    | 9     | 8     |
| Much worse than expected  | 3     | 3     | 2     |
| Don't know                | 3     | 2     | 2     |
| TOTAL                     | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-55
Thus far, how well has the program met your training or educational NEEDS?

Base: All participants.

|                           | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                           | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N              | 3,317 | 3,411 | 1,130 |
| Much better than expected | 25    | 27    | 29    |
| Better than expected      | 33    | 33    | 34    |
| Just as expected          | 28    | 30    | 27    |
| Worse than expected       | 8     | 7     | 6     |
| Much worse than expected  | 3     | 1     | 1     |
| Don't know                | 3     | 2     | 2     |
| TOTAL                     | 100   | 100   | 100   |

TABLE B-56
Have your EDUCATIONAL goals been raised, lowered, or unaffected as a result of your interaction with the VR&E program?

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
|              | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N | 3,311 | 3,412 | 1,129 |
| Raised       | 59    | 60    | 64    |
| Lowered      | 8     | 6     | 5     |
| Unaffected   | 28    | 29    | 26    |
| Don't know   | 5     | 5     | 4     |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-57
Are your educational goals more realistic as a result of the program?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
|              | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N | 3,309 | 3,411 | 1,128 |
| Yes          | 72    | 74    | 77    |
| No           | 17    | 16    | 13    |
| Don't know   | 11    | 9     | 10    |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-58

Have your CAREER goals been raised, lowered, or unaffected as a result of your interaction with the VR&E program?

Base: All participants.

|              |  | 2001              | 2002              | 2004              |
|--------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Unweighted N |  | <b>%</b><br>3,312 | <b>%</b><br>3,416 | <b>%</b><br>1,130 |
| Onweighted N |  | 3,312             | 3,410             | 1,130             |
| Raised       |  | 60                | 60                | 62                |
| Lowered      |  | 8                 | 7                 | 6                 |
| Unaffected   |  | 26                | 27                | 26                |
| Don't know   |  | 7                 | 6                 | 7                 |
| TOTAL        |  | 100               | 100               | 100               |

TABLE B-59

Are your career goals more realistic as a result of the program?

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
|              | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N | 3,300 | 3,395 | 1,118 |
| Yes          | 69    | 71    | 75    |
| No           | 17    | 16    | 14    |
| Don't know   | 13    | 13    | 11    |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-60
Overall, how satisfied are you with the TRAINING OR EDUCATION phase of your plan?

Base: All participants.

|                                    | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                    | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N                       | 3,300 | 3,406 | 1,118 |
| Very satisfied                     | 56    | 57    | 60    |
| Somewhat satisfied                 | 27    | 29    | 27    |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 8     | 6     | 6     |
| Somewhat dissatisfied              | 6     | 6     | 5     |
| Very dissatisfied                  | 3     | 2     | 2     |
| TOTAL                              | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE B-61
Would you recommend this program to other disabled veterans?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
|              | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N | 3,282 | 3,389 | 1,116 |
| Yes          | 95    | 97    | 97    |
| No           | 5     | 3     | 3     |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100   |

## **APPENDIX C**

# JOB READY PHASE DETAILED TABLES OF FINDINGS

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TABLE C-1
Did your vocational rehabilitation program include an educational/training phase?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001  | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 2,901 | 3,576     | 1,010     |
| Yes          | 90    | 91        | 88        |
| No           | 10    | 9         | 12        |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-2
What type of education/training was this?

Base: Participants whose program included an educational/training phase.

|                                  | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                  | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                     | 2,580 | 3,180 | 902  |
| College or university classes    | 71    | 70    | 76   |
| Technical or vocational training | 27    | 28    | 23   |
| On-the-job training              | 2     | 2     | 1    |
| TOTAL                            | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-3
Have you completed the educational/training phase of your program?

Base: Participants whose program included an educational/training phase.

|              | <br>  |       |      |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 2,627 | 3,258 | 934  |
| Yes          | 91    | 94    | 92   |
| No           | 9     | 6     | 8    |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE C-4

How long has it been since you completed the educational/training phase of your vocational rehabilitation program?

Base: Participants who completed the educational/training phase.

|                                | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                   | 2,380 | 3,036 | 850  |
| Less than 3 months             | 1     | 2     | 4    |
| 3 months to 6 months           | 24    | 22    | 29   |
| More than 6 months to 1 year   | 45    | 44    | 32   |
| More than 1 year to 18 months  | 19    | 19    | 17   |
| More than 18 months to 2 years | 6     | 6     | 9    |
| More than 2 years to 3 years   | 3     | 4     | 6    |
| More than 3 years              | 3     | 3     | 3    |
| TOTAL                          | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-5
How satisfied are you with the occupational/vocational goal you and your counselor selected during the planning phase of your program?

Base: All participants.

|                                    | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                    | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N                       | 2,910 | 3,600 | 1,043 |
| Very satisfied                     | 54    | 53    | 54    |
| Somewhat satisfied                 | 23    | 23    | 22    |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 8     | 8     | 9     |
| Somewhat dissatisfied              | 8     | 9     | 9     |
| Very dissatisfied                  | 7     | 7     | 6     |
| TOTAL                              | 100   | 100   | 100   |

TABLE C-6
Who is (was) your primary counselor or employment specialist assigned to you during the job ready phase of your program?

Base: All participants.

|   | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
|   | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N  | 2,217 | 3,549 | 1,026 |
| A VA staff counselor                                  | NA    | 52    | 57    |
| A VA staff employment specialist                      | 49    | 8     | 10    |
| A counselor under contract with VA                    | NA    | 15    | 8     |
| An employment specialist under contract with VA       | 34    | 6     | 7     |
| A Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) counselor | 7     | 3     | 4     |
| Don't know  | 9     | 12    | 10    |
| Don't have a counselor or specialist assigned         | NA    | 3     | 3     |
| TOTAL   | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Question was revised after 2001.

NA Not Asked.

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

**TABLE C-7** 

# Is this the same specialist/counselor who was assigned to you during the training or educational phase of your program?

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|  | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--|-------|-------|------|
|  | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                           | 2,052 | 3,300 | 946  |
| Yes                                    | 48    | 53    | 52   |
| No                                     | 43    | 36    | 37   |
| Don't know                             | 4     | 6     | 4    |
| Didn't have training/educational phase | 5     | 5     | 6    |
| TOTAL                                  | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE C-8
How completely did your counselor explain all the benefits and services available to you during the job ready phase of your program?

|               | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|---------------|-------|-------|------|
|               | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N  | 2,041 | 3,296 | 938  |
| Completely    | 46    | 46    | 49   |
| Mostly        | 26    | 23    | 25   |
| Somewhat      | 16    | 17    | 15   |
| Only a little | 8     | 8     | 6    |
| Not at all    | 4     | 6     | 5    |
| TOTAL         | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-9
Have you and your counselor developed a plan (Individualized Employment Assistance Plan) to guide you in your job search?

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|  | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--|-------|-------|------|
|  | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                                     | 2,028 | 3,285 | 931  |
| Yes  | 57    | 54    | 58   |
| No, but in the process of developing such a plan | 4     | 4     | 5    |
| No   | 33    | 37    | 31   |
| Don't know                                       | 5     | 5     | 5    |
| TOTAL  | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE C-10
Which of the following types of employment services did you need?

|  | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--|-------|-------|------|
|  | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N   | 2,028 | 3,260 | 936  |
| Resume preparation or development                              | 30    | 27    | 29   |
| Interview skills   | 17    | 15    | 16   |
| Help in obtaining licenses or certificates                     | 18    | 19    | 20   |
| Job hunting strategies   | 30    | 26    | 29   |
| Grooming/personal appearance tips                              | 5     | 3     | 4    |
| Setting up informational interviews with prospective employers | 20    | 18    | 19   |
| Didn't need any of the above from counselor                    | 45    | 47    | 47   |

Multiple mention.

TABLE C-11
Which of the following types of employment services has your counselor provided?

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|  | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--|-------|-------|------|
|  | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N   | 2,018 | 3,257 | 934  |
| Resume preparation or development                              | 28    | 21    | 26   |
| Interview skills   | 14    | 11    | 14   |
| Help in obtaining licenses or certificates                     | 14    | 13    | 14   |
| Job hunting strategies   | 30    | 25    | 28   |
| Grooming/personal appearance tips                              | 5     | 4     | 5    |
| Setting up informational interviews with prospective employers | NA    | NA    | 10   |
| None   | 49    | 55    | 49   |

Multiple mention.

NA Not Asked.

TABLE C-12
Which of the following potential employment opportunities or referrals has your counselor provided?

|   | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|---|-------|-------|------|
|   | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N  | 2,000 | 3,240 | 932  |
| Referrals to state rehabilitation and employment agencies | 29    | 25    | 24   |
| Referrals to private employment specialists               | 12    | 10    | 10   |
| Referrals to potential employers                          | 22    | 16    | 18   |
| Referrals to federal job market                           | 19    | 17    | 19   |
| References to an electronic job bank on the Internet      | 25    | 22    | 26   |
| Referrals to other sources of assistance                  | 15    | 13    | 15   |
| Direct job placement                                      | 5     | 4     | 3    |
| None  | 39    | 47    | 44   |

Multiple mention.

TABLE C-13
Other than your counselor, which other sources of employment information have you used?

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|                                       | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                       | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                          | 2,025 | 3,264 | 937  |
| VHA (Veterans Health Administration)  | 9     | 9     | 10   |
| VET Center                            | 8     | 7     | 8    |
| DVOP (Disabled Vets Outreach Program) | 7     | 7     | 7    |
| DOD (Department of Defense)           | 13    | 13    | 16   |
| SBA (Small Business Administration)   | 3     | 3     | 4    |
| State rehabilitation agencies         | 7     | 5     | 5    |
| State employment agencies             | 45    | 43    | 44   |
| Private employment specialists        | 16    | 14    | 13   |
| Internet job searches                 | 57    | 58    | 61   |
| Newspaper/help-wanted advertisements  | 55    | 52    | 53   |
| Job fairs                             | 45    | 43    | 42   |
| College/university or school          | 38    | 34    | 36   |
| Personal/professional contacts        | 48    | 45    | 47   |
| Federal job listings                  | 43    | 46    | 49   |
| None                                  | 6     | 8     | 7    |

Multiple mention.

TABLE C-14
Your counselor gives you good information and advice.

|                            | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N               | 2,012     | 3,226     | 930       |
| Strongly agree             | 33        | 32        | 34        |
| Agree                      | 36        | 35        | 37        |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 17        | 17        | 17        |
| Disagree                   | 7         | 8         | 6         |
| Strongly disagree          | 7         | 7         | 7         |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE C-15
Your counselor is knowledgeable regarding job search methods and techniques.

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|                            | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                            | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 1,896 | 3,010 | 883  |
| Strongly agree             | 30    | 27    | 30   |
| Agree                      | 35    | 32    | 34   |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 23    | 27    | 24   |
| Disagree                   | 7     | 8     | 8    |
| Strongly disagree          | 6     | 6     | 5    |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-16
Your counselor is knowledgeable regarding employment markets.

|                            | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N               | 1,091     | 3,013     | 882       |
| Strongly agree             | 25        | 22        | 26        |
| Agree                      | 32        | 30        | 32        |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 28        | 32        | 27        |
| Disagree                   | 8         | 9         | 9         |
| Strongly disagree          | 6         | 7         | 6         |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE C-17
Your counselor has provided assistance according to your individual needs.

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|                            | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                            | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 1,988 | 3,209 | 911  |
| Strongly agree             | 32    | 31    | 34   |
| Agree                      | 32    | 31    | 32   |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 17    | 17    | 16   |
| Disagree                   | 10    | 11    | 10   |
| Strongly disagree          | 9     | 10    | 9    |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-18
Your counselor understands your vocational goals.

|                            | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N               | 2,001     | 3,208     | 929       |
| Strongly agree             | 33        | 33        | 34        |
| Agree                      | 37        | 36        | 37        |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 16        | 15        | 15        |
| Disagree                   | 7         | 9         | 7         |
| Strongly disagree          | 6         | 7         | 6         |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE C-19
Your counselor shows a caring and compassionate attitude toward you.

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|                            | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                            | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 2,005 | 3,240 | 931  |
| Strongly agree             | 39    | 38    | 39   |
| Agree                      | 32    | 31    | 34   |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 17    | 17    | 15   |
| Disagree                   | 6     | 6     | 5    |
| Strongly disagree          | 6     | 8     | 7    |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE C-20
Your counselor listens to your needs and concerns.

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|                            | 200  | 01 20  | 02 2004 |
|----------------------------|------|--------|---------|
|                            | %    | 9      | %       |
| Unweighted N               | 2,00 | 00 3,2 | 930 930 |
| Strongly agree             | 37   | 7 3    | 6 37    |
| Agree                      | 38   | 3      | 4 37    |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 16   | 3 1    | 6 14    |
| Disagree                   | 6    | 7      | 7 6     |
| Strongly disagree          | 6    | 7      | 7 6     |
| TOTAL                      | 10   | 0 10   | 00 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-21
Your counselor has a communication style that is easy to understand.

|                            | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                            | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 1,995 | 3,235 | 928  |
| Strongly agree             | 37    | 36    | 37   |
| Agree                      | 38    | 36    | 40   |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 16    | 15    | 14   |
| Disagree                   | 5     | 6     | 5    |
| Strongly disagree          | 5     | 6     | 4    |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE C-22
Your counselor is flexible.

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|                            | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N               | 1,993     | 3,218     | 922       |
| Strongly agree             | 33        | 31        | 34        |
| Agree                      | 33        | 33        | 34        |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 21        | 21        | 20        |
| Disagree                   | 7         | 8         | 7         |
| Strongly disagree          | 6         | 7         | 6         |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE C-23
Your counselor is resourceful.

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|                            | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N               | 1,982     | 3,185     | 919       |
| Strongly agree             | 30        | 29        | 30        |
| Agree                      | 29        | 29        | 29        |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 27        | 27        | 27        |
| Disagree                   | 8         | 8         | 7         |
| Strongly disagree          | 7         | 7         | 7         |
| TOTAL                      | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-24
Your counselor is available when needed.

|                            | 2001  |       | 2004 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                            | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 1,992 | 3,228 | 926  |
| Strongly agree             | 26    | 26    | 28   |
| Agree                      | 36    | 34    | 35   |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 20    | 21    | 21   |
| Disagree                   | 10    | 11    | 9    |
| Strongly disagree          | 8     | 8     | 8    |
| TOTAL                      | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE C-25
Your counselor is concerned about the quality of your job placement.

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|                            | 20  | 2001 | 2001 2002 | 2004 |
|----------------------------|-----|------|-----------|------|
|                            | 9   | 6    | %         | %    |
| Unweighted N               | 1,9 | 64   | 3,167     | 910  |
| Strongly agree             | 3   | 1    | 29        | 30   |
| Agree                      | 2   | 8    | 29        | 31   |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 2   | 3    | 22        | 23   |
| Disagree                   | 1 1 | 0    | 10        | 7    |
| Strongly disagree          |     | 9    | 11        | 9    |
| TOTAL                      | 10  | 00   | 100       | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cases where respondents marked "Not applicable" are excluded from the calculations.

TABLE C-26

Do you have scheduled in-person meetings with your counselor?

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 2,035 | 3,283 | 941  |
| Yes          | 71    | 66    | 66   |
| No           | 29    | 34    | 34   |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE C-27
Are the number and length of these sessions adequate to meet your counseling needs?

Base: Had in-person meetings with VA staff or contract counselor.

|                                       | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                       |           |           |           |
| Unweighted N                          | 1,439     | 2,155     | 618       |
| Yes                                   | 79        | 79        | 80        |
| No, too little contact with counselor | 19        | 21        | 18        |
| No, too much contact with counselor   | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| TOTAL                                 | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-28
In general, how much of what you NEEDED TO KNOW did you get from these meetings?

Base: Had in-person meetings with VA staff or contract counselor.

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 1,440     | 2,159     | 618       |
| All          | 24        | 25        | 25        |
| Most         | 38        | 38        | 42        |
| Some         | 24        | 22        | 20        |
| Little       | 10        | 11        | 10        |
| None         | 4         | 3         | 3         |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-29
How convenient is the LOCATION where these meetings are held?

Base: Had in-person meetings with VA staff or contract counselor.

|                                     | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                     | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                        | 1,441 | 2,158 | 618  |
| Very convenient                     | 51    | 49    | 46   |
| Somewhat convenient                 | 28    | 31    | 33   |
| Neither convenient nor inconvenient | 8     | 8     | 7    |
| Somewhat inconvenient               | 9     | 8     | 9    |
| Very inconvenient                   | 4     | 4     | 5    |
| TOTAL                               | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE C-30
In general, how convenient is the TIME scheduled for these meetings?

Base: Had in-person meetings with VA staff or contract counselor.

|                                     | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                     | 1,440     | 2,161     | 619       |
| Very convenient                     | 50        | 49        | 51        |
| Somewhat convenient                 | 34        | 36        | 32        |
| Neither convenient nor inconvenient | 9         | 8         | 10        |
| Somewhat inconvenient               | 6         | 5         | 7         |
| Very inconvenient                   | 2         | 2         | 2         |
| TOTAL                               | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-31
Aside from scheduled visits, what is the primary method you use to contact your counselor?

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|                                       | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                       | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                          | 1,691 | 2,385 | 732  |
| Phone, 1-800 number                   | 17    | 16    | 15   |
| Phone, long-distance number           | 17    | 17    | 17   |
| Phone, local number                   | 44    | 42    | 41   |
| Fax                                   | *     | *     | *    |
| E-mail (computer)                     | 10    | 13    | 20   |
| Letter                                | 1     | 1     | 1    |
| Unannounced visit                     | 3     | 3     | 3    |
| Did not need additional communication | 8     | 7     | 4    |
| TOTAL                                 | 100   | 100   | 100  |

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

TABLE C-32
How responsive was your counselor to your contact through this method?

Base: Participants who contacted their VA or contract counselor.

|                                     | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                     | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                        | 1,547 | 2,562 | 773  |
| Very responsive                     | 58    | 56    | 58   |
| Somewhat responsive                 | 29    | 29    | 28   |
| Neither responsive nor unresponsive | 5     | 6     | 6    |
| Somewhat unresponsive               | 4     | 5     | 4    |
| Very unresponsive                   | 3     | 3     | 4    |
| TOTAL                               | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-33
In general, how much of what you NEEDED TO KNOW did you get from this method of contact?

Base: Participants who contacted their VA or contract counselor.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 1,545 | 2,580 | 771  |
| All          | 23    | 25    | 21   |
| Most         | 39    | 39    | 43   |
| Some         | 23    | 21    | 20   |
| Little       | 10    | 10    | 12   |
| None         | 4     | 5     | 3    |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-34
Were you generally able to get the information you needed on the first call or contact?

Base: Participants who contacted their VA or contract counselor.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 1,542 | 2,559 | 773  |
| Yes          | 69    | 65    | 66   |
| No           | 31    | 35    | 34   |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE C-35
Were you able to access voice mail in order to leave your counselor a message?

Base: Participants who contacted their VA or contract counselor.

|                                      | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N                         | 1,541     | 2,556     | 771       |
| Yes, counselor returned call         | 76        | 75        | 75        |
| Yes, counselor did not return call   | 9         | 11        | 11        |
| No, wasn't able to access voice mail | 4         | 3         | 3         |
| Never tried                          | 11        | 11        | 11        |
| TOTAL                                | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

**TABLE C-36** 

# Did your counselor fully address all your questions, concerns, or complaints?

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|                  | 20           | 01         | 2002  | 2004 |
|------------------|--------------|------------|-------|------|
|                  |              | %          | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N     | 1,           | 384        | 3,087 | 931  |
| Yes              | <del>7</del> | <b>'</b> 4 | 71    | 73   |
| No               | 2            | 22         | 24    | 21   |
| Did not have any |              | 4          | 5     | 6    |
| TOTAL            | 1            | 00         | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-37
Did your counselor provide assistance throughout your job search?

Base: Counselor or employment specialist was VA staff or under contract to VA.

|                                    | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N                       | 2,024     | 3,281     | 936       |
| Yes                                | 48        | 41        | 44        |
| No                                 | 27        | 30        | 29        |
| Did not need job search assistance | 24        | 29        | 26        |
| TOTAL                              | 100       | 100       | 100       |

TABLE C-38

Did your counselor monitor your progress throughout your job search?

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 1,991 | 3,215 | 924  |
| Yes          | 65    | 58    | 62   |
| No           | 35    | 42    | 38   |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-39
How satisfied are you with the employment services provided, once you began actively seeking employment?

Base: All participants.

|                                    | 2001  | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N                       | 2,722 | 3,563     | 1,033     |
| Very satisfied                     | 31    | 27        | 23        |
| Somewhat satisfied                 | 19    | 17        | 17        |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 23    | 13        | 13        |
| Somewhat dissatisfied              | 12    | 11        | 14        |
| Very dissatisfied                  | 15    | 18        | 15        |
| Didn't need services               | NA    | 15        | 18        |
| TOTAL                              | 100   | 100       | 100       |

NA Not Asked.

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-40
What is your current employment status?

Base: All participants.

|   | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
|   | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N  | 2,898 | 3,591 | 1,052 |
| Currently employed <sup>+</sup> , not looking for a different job | 47    | 45    | 42    |
| Currently employed <sup>+</sup> , but looking for a different job | 34    | 33    | 35    |
| Not working but looking for work                                  | 16    | 19    | 19    |
| Not working and not looking for work                              | 3     | 3     | 4     |
| TOTAL   | 100   | 100   | 100   |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>+</sup> Includes full-time, part-time, or self-employed.

TABLE C-41
Has the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation Program determined that you are suitably employed?

Base: Currently employed.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 2,326 | 2,797 | 796  |
| Yes          | 57    | 61    | 62   |
| No           | 10    | 9     | 12   |
| Don't know   | 33    | 30    | 26   |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-42
How long did it take from the time you completed the educational/training phase of your vocational rehabilitation program until you started your current job?

Base: Currently employed.

|  | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--|-------|-------|------|
|  | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N   | 2,307 | 2,758 | 785  |
| Less than 1 month  | 18    | 18    | 15   |
| 1 month to 2 months  | 11    | 11    | 10   |
| More than 2 months to 3 months                                   | 7     | 8     | 7    |
| More than 3 months to 4 months                                   | 6     | 5     | 4    |
| More than 4 months to 5 months                                   | 3     | 3     | 3    |
| More than 5 months to 6 months                                   | 5     | 4     | 4    |
| More than 6 months to 1 year                                     | 9     | 10    | 10   |
| More than 1 year to 18 months                                    | 4     | 4     | 7    |
| More than 18 months to 2 years                                   | 2     | 2     | 2    |
| More than 2 years to 3 years                                     | 2     | 2     | 2    |
| More than 3 years  | 2     | 1     | 1    |
| Started current job before completing educational/training phase | 23    | 25    | 25   |
| Never completed educational/training phase                       | 3     | 3     | 3    |
| Never had educational/training phase                             | 5     | 5     | 5    |
| TOTAL  | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE C-43
How REASONABLE was the length of time it took you to find a job?

Base: Currently employed.

|                                     | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N                        | 2,285     | 2,738     | 780       |
| Very reasonable                     | 42        | 44        | 42        |
| Somewhat reasonable                 | 22        | 20        | 16        |
| Neither reasonable nor unreasonable | 19        | 19        | 21        |
| Somewhat unreasonable               | 10        | 9         | 11        |
| Very unreasonable                   | 7         | 8         | 9         |
| TOTAL                               | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-44

Does this job meet your rehabilitation needs?

Base: Currently employed.

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 2,298     | 2,749     | 783       |
| Yes          | 71        | 69        | 66        |
| No           | 29        | 31        | 34        |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-45

Does this job suit your skills and abilities?

Base: Currently employed.

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 2,311     | 2,755     | 785       |
| Yes          | 75        | 73        | 71        |
| No           | 25        | 27        | 29        |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

TABLE C-46

Does this job match the occupational/vocational goal you and your counselor selected during the planning phase of your program?

Base: Currently employed.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
|              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N | 2,297 | 2,753 | 783  |
| Yes          | 60    | 59    | 56   |
| No           | 40    | 41    | 44   |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-47
How helpful was your employment specialist/counselor in helping you find your current job?

Base: Currently employed.

|                               | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                               | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                  | 2,295 | 2,767 | 788  |
| Very helpful                  | 12    | 12    | 12   |
| Somewhat helpful              | 9     | 11    | 10   |
| Neither helpful nor unhelpful | 18    | 16    | 18   |
| Somewhat unhelpful            | 1     | 1     | 2    |
| Not at all helpful            | 21    | 20    | 19   |
| Didn't need help              | 39    | 40    | 39   |
| TOTAL                         | 100   | 100   | 100  |

TABLE C-48
Looking back to your contacts with the VR&E program thus far, which methods of contact did you EVER use?

Base: All participants.

|                              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                              | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N                 | 2,922 | 3,589 | 1,040 |
| In-person visit              | 81    | 80    | 81    |
| Phone, 1-800 number          | 37    | 35    | 31    |
| Phone, long-distance number  | 29    | 30    | 29    |
| Phone, local number          | 45    | 49    | 49    |
| Fax                          | 17    | 18    | 20    |
| Internet, e-mail, or website | 28    | 37    | 49    |
| Letter                       | 29    | 29    | 29    |
| None                         | 3     | 3     | 2     |

Multiple mention.

TABLE C-49
In general, how easy was it for you to obtain information from the VR&E program?

Base: All participants.

|                            | partioiparito. |      |       |       |
|----------------------------|----------------|------|-------|-------|
|                            | 2              | 001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|                            |                | %    | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N               | 2              | ,899 | 3,591 | 1,034 |
| Very easy                  |                | 33   | 35    | 38    |
| Somewhat easy              |                | 35   | 32    | 34    |
| Neither easy nor difficult |                | 17   | 18    | 17    |
| Somewhat difficult         |                | 11   | 11    | 8     |
| Very difficult             |                | 5    | 4     | 4     |
| TOTAL                      |                | 100  | 100   | 100   |

TABLE C-50
Which method of contact with the VR&E program would you prefer, if you could get the same degree of service?

Base: All participants.

|                              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                              | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                 | 2,594 | 3,207 | 945  |
| In-person visit              | 56    | 54    | 50   |
| Phone, 1-800 number          | 15    | 14    | 13   |
| Phone, long-distance number  | 1     | 1     | 2    |
| Phone, local number          | 12    | 12    | 13   |
| Fax                          | *     | *     | *    |
| Internet, e-mail, or website | 15    | 17    | 20   |
| Letter                       | 1     | 1     | 1    |
| TOTAL                        | 100   | 100   | 100  |

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-51
How would you best describe your CURRENT status with regard to the VA VR&E program?

Base: All participants.

|                                      | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                      | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N                         | 2,856 | 3,499 | 1,017 |
| VA requested I interrupt program     | 3     | 2     | 2     |
| VA requested I withdraw from program | 2     | 2     | 3     |
| I voluntarily interrupted program    | 5     | 4     | 4     |
| I voluntarily withdrew from program  | 4     | 3     | 4     |
| I am currently pursuing program      | 12    | 13    | 17    |
| I have completed the program         | 74    | 76    | 70    |
| TOTAL                                | 100   | 100   | 100   |

TABLE C-52

Did the VA tell you the reasons why you were interrupted or withdrawn from the VR&E employment services program?

Base: VA requested participant interrupt or withdraw from program.

|              | <u> </u> |  |      |      |      |
|--------------|----------|--|------|------|------|
|              |          |  | 2001 | 2002 | 2004 |
|              |          |  | %    | %    | %    |
| Unweighted N |          |  | 141  | 152  | 53   |
| Yes          |          |  | 65   | 71   | 77   |
| No           |          |  | 18   | 19   | 11   |
| Don't know   |          |  | 16   | 11   | 11   |
| TOTAL        |          |  | 100  | 100  | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-53
Why did you interrupt or withdraw from the VR&E employment services program?

Base: Interrupted or withdrew from program.

|  | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N   | 391       | 382       | 134       |
| Medical problems                                       | 17        | 19        | 24        |
| Disability   | 16        | 12        | 18        |
| Financial difficulties                                 | 16        | 19        | 21        |
| VA requested that I interrupt or withdraw from program | 14        | 21        | 16        |
| Found job on my own                                    | 51        | 45        | 50        |
| Too much red tape                                      | 8         | 8         | 10        |
| Employment services were not helpful                   | 19        | 19        | 18        |
| Moved/planning to move                                 | 7         | 7         | 7         |
| Family responsibilities/difficulties                   | 17        | 17        | 19        |
| Program did not meet my needs                          | 14        | 16        | 8         |
| Problems with counselor                                | 10        | 11        | 6         |

Multiple mention.

TABLE C-54

Do you plan to complete your rehabilitation program now or at some later date?

Base: Interrupted or withdrew from program.

|              | 2001 | 2002 | 2004 |
|--------------|------|------|------|
|              | %    | %    | %    |
| Unweighted N | 399  | 372  | 135  |
| Yes          | 50   | 48   | 45   |
| No           | 12   | 12   | 13   |
| Not sure     | 38   | 40   | 42   |
| TOTAL        | 100  | 100  | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-55
Thus far, how well has the VA's VR&E program met your expectations?

Base: All participants.

|                           | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                           | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N              | 2,882 | 3,509 | 1,033 |
| Much better than expected | 24    | 22    | 23    |
| Better than expected      | 26    | 25    | 25    |
| Just as expected          | 28    | 28    | 27    |
| Worse than expected       | 16    | 18    | 14    |
| Much worse than expected  | 6     | 6     | 7     |
| Don't know                | NA    | NA    | 4     |
| TOTAL                     | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

NA Not Asked.

TABLE C-56
Overall, did the VR&E program meet your rehabilitation needs?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
|              | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N | 2,875 | 3,547 | 1,029 |
| Yes          | 71    | 71    | 70    |
| No           | 29    | 29    | 30    |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100   |

TABLE C-57
Have your CAREER goals been raised, lowered, or unaffected as a result of your interaction with the VR&E program?

Base: All participants.

|               | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>%           | 2004<br>%           |
|---------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Unweighted N  | 2.907     | 7 <b>0</b><br>3.577 | 7 <b>0</b><br>1.037 |
| onworghted 14 | 2,001     | 0,011               | 1,007               |
| Raised        | 55        | 56                  | 58                  |
| Lowered       | 13        | 14                  | 13                  |
| Unaffected    | 32        | 30                  | 29                  |
| TOTAL         | 100       | 100                 | 100                 |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-58
Are your career goals more realistic as a result of the program?

Base: All participants.

|              | ; | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|--------------|---|-------|-------|-------|
|              |   | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N |   | 2,903 | 3,579 | 1,035 |
| Yes          |   | 59    | 59    | 60    |
| No           |   | 26    | 25    | 23    |
| Don't know   |   | 15    | 15    | 17    |
| TOTAL        |   | 100   | 100   | 100   |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TABLE C-59
At this time, would you say that your career goals have been met?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N | 2,911     | 3,580     | 1,035     |
| Yes          | 35        | 35        | 36        |
| No           | 59        | 58        | 59        |
| Don't know   | 6         | 7         | 6         |
| TOTAL        | 100       | 100       | 100       |

TABLE C-60
Overall, how satisfied are you with VA's VR&E program?

Base: Participants who had either completed or withdrew from the program.

|                                    | 2001  | 2002  | 2004 |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                    | %     | %     | %    |
| Unweighted N                       | 2,289 | 2,799 | 772  |
| Very satisfied                     | 50    | 51    | 53   |
| Somewhat satisfied                 | 27    | 26    | 26   |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 8     | 8     | 8    |
| Somewhat dissatisfied              | 10    | 9     | 10   |
| Very dissatisfied                  | 5     | 6     | 3    |
| TOTAL                              | 100   | 100   | 100  |

Sum may not add to 100% due to rounding.

### **TABLE C-61**

# Which of the following VR&E services were the most helpful?

Base: All participants.

|   | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>%           |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| Unweighted N  | 2.916     | 3,579     | 7 <b>6</b><br>1.032 |
| onweighted iv   | 2,310     | 3,073     | 1,002               |
| Evaluation, testing, and planning your rehabilitation program         | 32        | 30        | 32                  |
| Payment of tuition, fees, books, supplies, and/or monthly subsistence | 85        | 86        | 85                  |
| Personal contact with counselor(s)                                    | 41        | 39        | 42                  |
| Identification of medical and other rehabilitation issues             | 24        | 25        | 23                  |
| Education/training  | 59        | 55        | 56                  |
| Help in finding a job   | 11        | 11        | 12                  |
| None  | 5         | 5         | 6                   |

Multiple mention.

TABLE C-62

# Which of the following VR&E services did you need the most?

Base: All participants.

|   | 2001<br>% | 2002<br>% | 2004<br>% |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unweighted N  | 2,911     | 3,571     | 1,031     |
| Evaluation, testing, and planning your rehabilitation program         | 21        | 20        | 22        |
| Payment of tuition, fees, books, supplies, and/or monthly subsistence | 82        | 82        | 83        |
| Personal contact with counselor(s)                                    | 27        | 26        | 29        |
| Identification of medical and other rehabilitation issues             | 23        | 22        | 21        |
| Education/training  | 58        | 56        | 55        |
| Help in finding a job   | 28        | 29        | 30        |
| None  | 1         | 1         | *         |

Multiple mention.

TABLE C-63
Would you recommend this program to other disabled veterans?

Base: All participants.

|              | 2001  | 2002  | 2004  |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
|              | %     | %     | %     |
| Unweighted N | 2,894 | 3,508 | 1,022 |
| Yes          | 92    | 92    | 93    |
| No           | 8     | 8     | 7     |
| TOTAL        | 100   | 100   | 100   |

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 0.5%.

# APPENDIX G METHODOLOGY



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#### METHODOLOGY

## **Questionnaire Mailing Protocol**

The mailing protocol, in accordance with the Dillman methodology, required that up to five mailings be made to every person in the sample. The entire sample was sent an advance, or pre-notification, letter informing the recipient that they had been selected for this study and would shortly be receiving the questionnaire. As shown in Table G-1, this letter was sent out in late October 2004.

Additionally, the purpose of the first letter was also to assure them this was a bona fide study sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to convey to them the importance VA placed on the study (it was hoped this would increase participation) and a postscript inviting the recipient to visit the VBA website dealing with benefits as well as an invitation to visit another website to learn about customer satisfaction surveys (see Figure G-1, page G-3).

Residents of Puerto Rico received individually addressed letters in both English and Spanish. The Spanish version of the advance letter can be seen in Figure G-2, page G-4.

TABLE G-1
Survey Mailing Schedule

| Item Mailed                         | Audience         | Date of Mailing   |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Advance Letter                      | Total Sample     | October 29, 2004  |
| First Mailing of the Questionnaire  | Total Sample     | November 5, 2004  |
| Reminder Post Card                  | Total Sample     | November 17, 2004 |
| Second Mailing of the Questionnaire | Remaining Sample | December 3, 2004  |
| Final Reminder Post Card            | Remaining Sample | December 13, 2004 |
| End of Field Period                 |                  | January 17, 2005  |

Letters addressed to individuals no longer living at the address on the sampling file were handled differently, depending on the situation.

 Valid forwarding address on file with the post office: letter forwarded by post office, SRBI informed of new address, and address file updated;



- Forwarding order expired, new address known by post office: letter returned as undeliverable, letter re-mailed to the corrected address, and address file updated; and
- Forwarding order expired, new address not known by post office: letter returned as undeliverable and name removed from the active sample file.

The advance letter was followed 7 days later with a large envelope containing a cover letter, the appropriate questionnaire for that segment of the sample, and a pre-addressed postage-paid return envelope. This package went to the entire sample. Returned mail was handled with the same procedure as described above. The names of respondents were removed from the active sample as questionnaires were returned. The cover letter included with the questionnaire, also signed by the Under Secretary for Benefits, reiterated the same points as the advance letter (see Figure G-3, page G-6).

Again, residents of Puerto Rico received copies of the cover letter and the questionnaire in both English and Spanish. The Spanish version of the cover letter for the first mailing can be seen in Figure G-4, page G-7.

A reminder card was sent to the entire sample 10 days after the questionnaire mailing which asked them to complete and return the questionnaire as soon as possible (both English and Spanish version shown in Figure G-5, page G-8). At this point there was not a large enough return to eliminate those that had returned their questionnaires.

In turn, this was followed by a second mailing of the questionnaire about three weeks after the follow-up card. The cover letter, in both English and Spanish, again stressed that completing and returning the questionnaire would not affect the respondent's current or future benefits (see Figures G-8 and 9, pages G-9 and 10).

Lastly, about 10 days after the second copy of the questionnaire was mailed, a final reminder card in both English and Spanish was sent to those who had not yet responded (see Figure G10, page G11).



## **Response Rates**

The final disposition of the sample is shown in Table G-2. The final response rate for this study was 57.7 percent. The response rate by phase ranged from a low of 53.8 percent for the Evaluation and Planning to a high of 60.2 percent for Rehabilitation with Job Ready only slightly lower at 59.0 percent.

TABLE G-4
Final Sample Disposition by Phase

| Status             | Evaluation & Planning |       | Rehabilitation |       | Job Ready |       | Total |       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|----------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
|                    | #                     | %     | #              | %     | #         | %     | #     | %     |
| Mailed             | 2,000                 | 100.0 | 2,000          | 100.0 | 2,000     | 100.0 | 6,000 | 100.0 |
| Ineligible         | 65                    | 3.3   | 33             | 1.7   | 60        | 3.0   | 158   | 2.6   |
| Bad Address        | 69                    | 3.5   | 61             | 3.1   | 65        | 3.3   | 195   | 3.3   |
| Deceased           | 1                     | 0.1   |                | 0.0   |           | 0.0   | 1     | 0.0   |
| FP 11.1            | 1,865                 | 93.3  | 1,906          | 95.3  | 1,875     | 93.8  | 5,646 | 94.1  |
| Eligible<br>Sample |                       |       |                |       |           |       |       |       |
| Gumpic             | 1,865                 | 100.0 | 1,906          | 100.0 | 1,875     | 100.0 | 5,646 | 100.0 |
| Refusal            | 4                     | 0.2   | 2              | 0.1   | 3         | 0.2   | 9     | 0.2   |
| Away               |                       | 0.0   | 2              | 0.1   |           | 0.0   | 2     | 0.0   |
| Total<br>Complete  | 1,003                 | 53.8  | 1,147          | 60.2  | 1,107     | 59.0  | 3,257 | 57.7  |

## **Spanish Language Questionnaires**

Both questionnaires used for this project were translated into Spanish. These questionnaires were sent to respondents in Puerto Rico along with the English version. The respondents were able to select the questionnaire they felt most comfortable completing. As was discussed earlier, the cover letters and the reminder cards were also translated. Due to the small number of questionnaires being sent to Puerto Rico, it was not cost-effective to produce machine readable Spanish questionnaires. Responses received using the Spanish versions of the questionnaire were transferred to a machine readable version prior to scanning into the final data set.



Table G-3 shows the number of Spanish language questionnaires that were distributed and the number that were returned.

TABLE G-3
Disposition of Spanish Language Questionnaires Sent to
Respondents in Puerto Rico

| Phase                   | Total<br>Sent | Total<br>Returned | Spanish<br>Returned | Percent<br>Spanish |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Evaluation and Planning | 14            | 8                 | 4                   | 50.0%              |
| Rehabilitation          | 12            | 9                 | 2                   | 22.2%              |
| Job Ready               | 14            | 8                 | 6                   | 75.0%              |
| TOTAL                   | 40            | 25                | 12                  | 48.0%              |

Overall, the response rate from Puerto Rico was 62.5 percent. All most half of the respondents from Puerto Rico chose to respond using the Spanish questionnaire. There was a different usage rate of the three Spanish versions of the questionnaire. The numbers are too small to give an indication if there is an underlying reason for this or if it is just a statistical anomaly. With half the respondents completing the Spanish questionnaire, it is clear that the Spanish versions should continue to be used.

