Postdocs who finish their training at Yale are invited to complete a voluntary exit survey. Below is a summary of career outcomes for those who finished their training between January, 2015 and April, 2020.

1. What is your discipline?

The breakdown of survey respondents by discipline did not match the percentage in the Yale postdoc population. All disciplines except the Life Sciences were overrepresented. The Yale postdoctoral population is as shown:

- 75% Life Sciences
- 16% Physical Sciences & Engineering
- 7% Social Sciences
- 2% Humanities
2. What is your visa status?

U.S. citizens comprise 65% of the postdoctoral population, and thus the survey is representative of the breakdown of U.S. to non-U.S. citizens. We do not have data on the percentage of postdocs who were on a given visa between 2015 and 2020.
3. What are your plans after leaving Yale?

These data show that although the overwhelming majority of postdocs had definitive plans upon leaving Yale, roughly 1 in every 7 postdocs was still on the job market when the postdoctoral position ended. The data were also examined by discipline, and the following percentages were employed upon leaving Yale:

- 83% social sciences
- 81% physical sciences and engineering
- 77% life sciences
- 73% humanities
4. Where is your new job located?

The great majority (74%) of postdocs found jobs in the U.S. The top 3 non-U.S. destinations were China, Germany, and the U.K.
5. What is your employment sector?

Contrary to the perception that the majority of Ph.D. holders are not winding up in academia, almost 2/3 of Yale postdocs secured academic positions. As shown in the next figure, however, only a small number entered tenure track positions immediately upon exiting their postdoc positions.
Postdocs entered a very wide array of positions, with 12% in tenure track positions and another 11% in non-tenure and teacher/lecturer positions. Of note is that over 12% entered another postdoctoral position.
7. What is your starting salary?

The median salary range for those who reported salary data was $60,001 - $70,000. Over 90% of the positions that paid $40,000 or less were in non-U.S. locations.
The data show that very few postdocs wait until the last few months of their postdoctoral positions to begin seeking employment, and over 40% begin their job search at least a year in advance of leaving Yale.
Data on when a job offer was accepted was compared to when the same individual's job search began. On average it took postdocs 6 months to find a position.
10. What is the main job search method you used?

The above graph represents the primary method used by postdocs during their job search. Results are for those who found positions.
11. How many applications did you submit to advertised positions?

Results are for those postdocs who found positions.
The Yale Postdoctoral Exit Survey is a voluntary online Qualtrics survey. All postdoctoral appointees who are promoted to another rank or who leave Yale are invited to participate. In the 5 year period covered by this report (Jan, 2015 - Apr, 2020), 778 (30%) of 2,598 eligible postdocs completed the survey.