

# Youth Exchange 2010-11 Annual Report

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## INTRODUCTION

Every year, RI produces a report on Youth Exchange activity including statistical information on program participation and feedback from program administrators. This report is designed to review program activity for the 2010-11 Rotary year (1 July 2010 through 30 June 2011).

The statistics, trends, and issues contained in this document are based on the responses received from the annual survey sent to Youth Exchange district and multidistrict chairs in September 2011. This is a change from the 2009-10 report, which based its statistical information on inbound student data (Guarantee Forms) submitted to RI throughout the year. As a result, more complete inbound exchange data was obtained for 2010-11, providing a better picture of Youth Exchange activity and making the resulting statistics more comparable to pre-2009 figures.

*Please note that **districts must submit inbound student data**, usually found on the students' Guarantee Form, to RI before or shortly after the exchange commences (RCOP 41.060.05).*

## SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

The 2010-11 program survey was completed by 374 districts or multidistricts responding on their behalf, resulting in a 80% response rate from 469 certified RI districts. Similar to previous years, 58% of respondents completed the survey for an individual district and 42% for a multidistrict organization.

The geographic areas referred to in this report are listed below (using the zone structure established as of 1 July 2009) along with survey response rates. North American districts continued their high rate of survey response, with South American districts notably increasing their response rate from previous years.

Geographic Area	% certified districts responding to survey
Asia (Zones 1-6, 9, and 10)	60%
Oceania (Zones 7 and 8)	75%
Europe (Zones 11-19 and 20B)	79%
Africa (Zone Section 20A)	50%
North America (Zones 21A (Mexico only), 21B, and 24-34)	91%
South America (Zones 21A (excluding Mexico), 22, and 23)	81%

## OVERALL PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

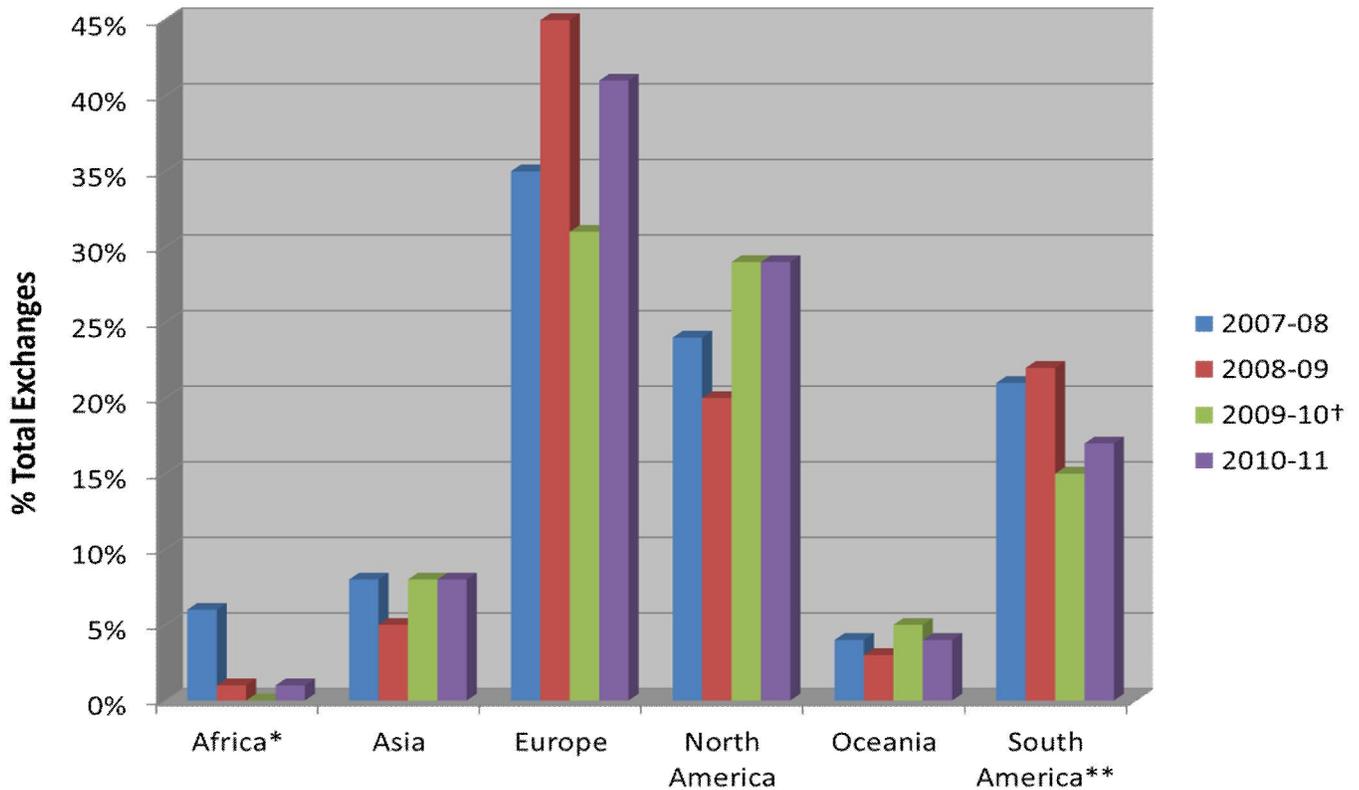
For the 2010-11 Rotary year, districts reported **8,581** Youth Exchange program participants. This is comparable with the estimated 6,200-10,000 exchanges reported in 2009-10 and 8,755 reported in 2008-09. Long-term exchanges continue to be the most popular, comprising 70% of the total, with short-term exchanges at 27% and New Generations exchanges at 3%.

Type of Exchange	Exchanges Reported in 2010-11
Long-term	6,047
Short-term	2,299
New Generations	235
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,581</b>

Exchanges in 2010-11 had a similar geographic distribution to previous years, with Europe having the greatest number of total exchanges, followed by North America and South America.

Due to a change in the methodology of the annual report this year the share of total exchanges increased in three of the six regions. Recent data shows an upward trend in the share of exchanges held by North American districts while districts in Europe and South America show slight decreases. This shift could be the result of higher survey response rates experienced in North America for 2010-11.

### 2007-2011 Historical Analysis of Total Exchanges



\* Due to changes in RI zone structures, regional statistics for Africa prior to 2008-09 include Portugal, Spain and parts of Eastern Europe.

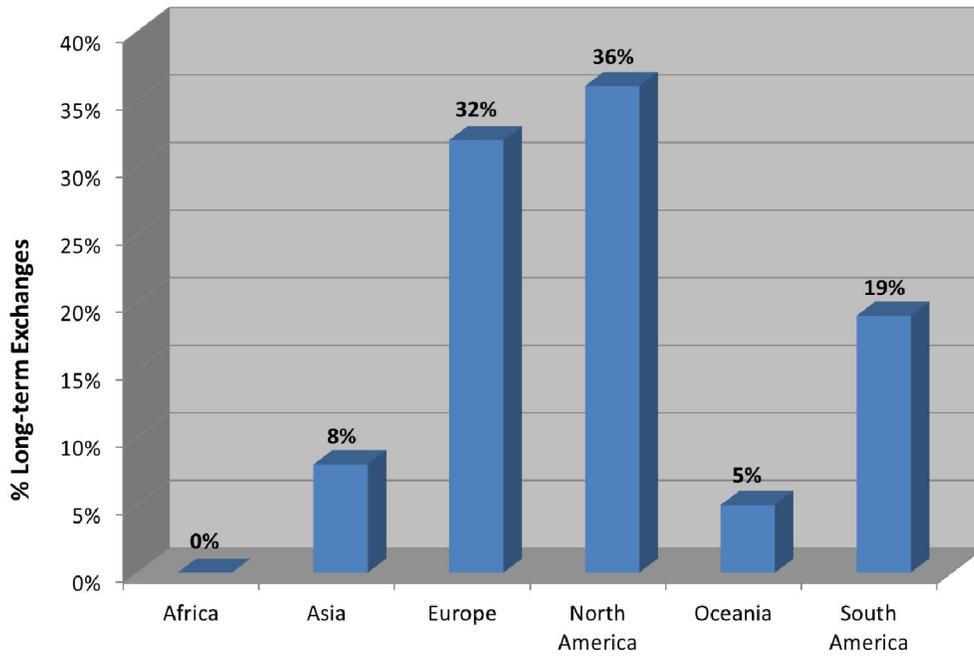
\*\* Similarly, statistics for South America prior to 2008-09 include Mexico.

† Due to incomplete or illegible records, 11% of 2009-10 inbound student data could not be assigned to any region.

## LONG-TERM EXCHANGES

In 2010-11, districts reported **6,047** long-term exchanges program participants, comprising **70%** of all Youth Exchange activity. This figure is relatively unchanged from 2008-09 and earlier figures. North America had the most long-term exchanges (36%), followed by Europe (32%) and South America (19%).

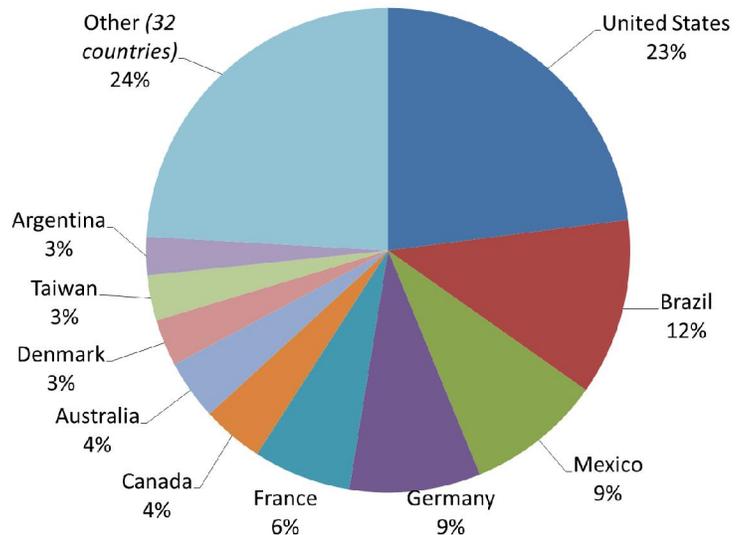
### 2010-11 Long-term Exchanges Worldwide



### Long-term Exchanges by Country

The table and chart below show the ten countries that reported the highest number of inbound long-term exchange participants in 2010-11, representing 76% of the total. The United States reported the highest number of long-term exchanges with 1,389 participants.

Country	Inbound Long-term Exchanges
United States	1,389
Brazil	714
Mexico	546
Germany	530
France	395
Canada	248
Australia	241
Denmark	190
Taiwan	183
Argentina	155
Other	1,456
<b>ALL COUNTRIES</b>	<b>6,047</b>



### ***Long-term Exchange Trends and Challenges***

District and multidistrict chairs also provided feedback on the emerging trends and challenges in the long-term exchange program during 2010-11.

#### Trends:

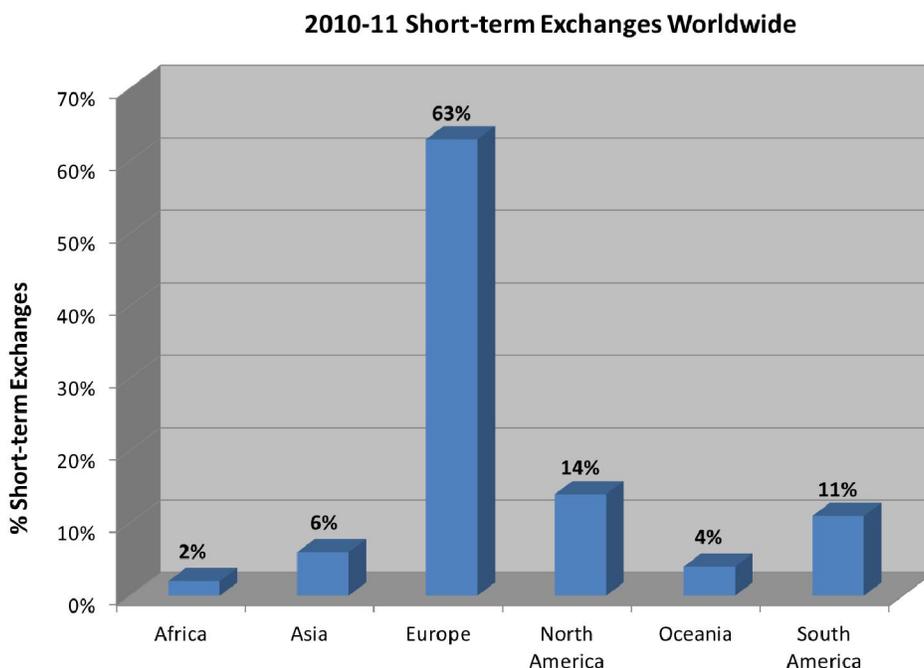
- The average age of long-term exchange students is increasing.
- The outbound student selection and orientation processes are improving in many districts.
- Students are increasingly interested in long-term exchange and aware of its many benefits.
- In many districts, participation in long-term exchange has invigorated Rotary clubs and helped increase membership and retention.

#### Challenges:

- Administrative and visa requirements of host countries can place strains on the long-term program and reduce the number of interested volunteers and host families.
- The global economic crisis has made it more difficult to recruit host families and clubs.
- Students' expectations and behaviors have changed: some think of long-term exchange as a vacation and not an educational and intercultural opportunity.
- Some districts have trouble recruiting long-term inbound exchanges due to perceptions of instability and/or violence in their partners' countries.

## **SHORT-TERM EXCHANGES**

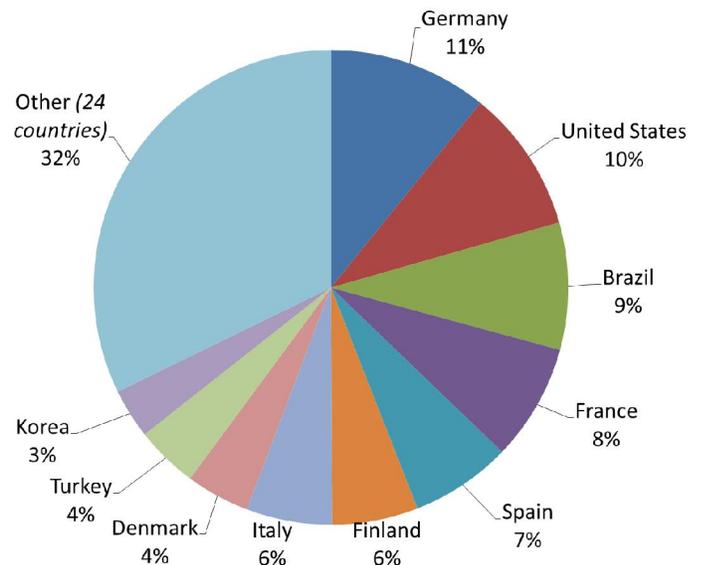
In 2010-11, **2,299** short-term exchanges were reported, comprising **27%** of all exchanges. This is consistent with an estimated 1,400-2,500 from the previous year but a 9% decline compared to the 2008-09 survey. Short-term exchange participation was reported in 255 districts, representing 54% of all certified districts. Short-term exchanges were most common in Europe, with 63% of the total.



### Short-term Exchanges by Country

Germany reported the most short-term exchanges with 249 exchange participants. The table and chart below show the top ten countries that participated in short-term exchanges, representing 68% of the total participation in the short-term program.

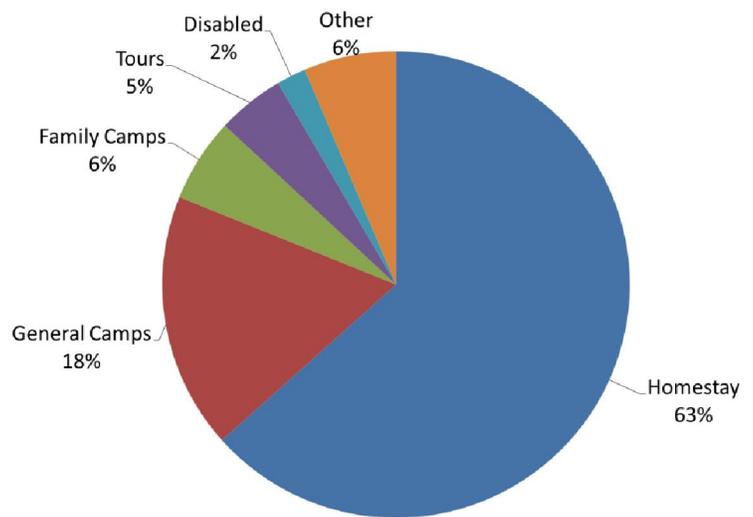
Country	Inbound Short-term Exchanges
Germany	249
United States	224
Brazil	199
France	183
Spain	158
Finland	135
Italy	134
Denmark	100
Turkey	98
Korea	78
Other	741
<b>ALL COUNTRIES</b>	<b>2,299</b>



### Short-term Exchanges by Type

Homestay was the most popular type of short-term exchange with 63% of the total, followed by general camps with 18%. Please note that responding districts may have participated in more than one type of short-term exchange.

Type	Inbound Short-term Exchanges
Homestay	218
General Camp	61
Family Camp	20
Tours	16
Disabled	7
Other	22



### ***Short-term Exchange Trends and Challenges***

Along with program statistics, the annual survey asked for feedback regarding trends and challenges of short-term exchange program.

#### Trends:

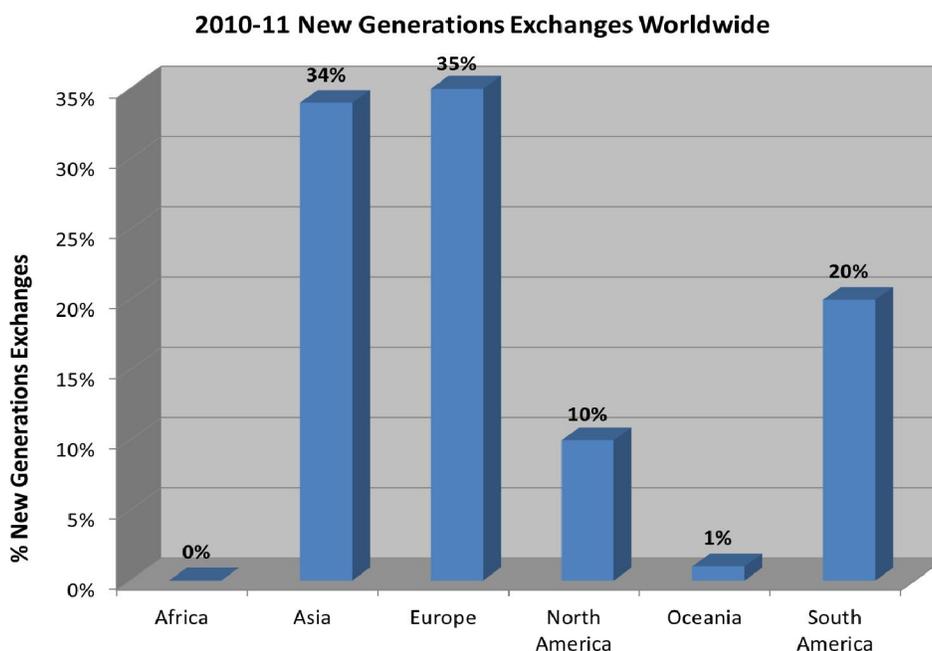
- Short-term exchanges are increasingly popular with both students and host Rotary clubs due to flexible duration and timing, less significant commitment, easier visa requirements, and lower costs.
- Some districts are extending the time period for short-term exchanges to attract more students.
- Some districts are using short-term exchanges as a way to develop or expand relationships with partner districts.

#### Challenges:

- In some regions, the global economic crisis has impacted the number of students and families participating in short-term exchange.
- Many Rotary clubs still lack knowledge about short-term exchange.
- It remains challenging to ensure the students have a successful intercultural experience; some students never get past the initial homesickness or develop language fluency before the exchange concludes.

## **NEW GENERATIONS EXCHANGES**

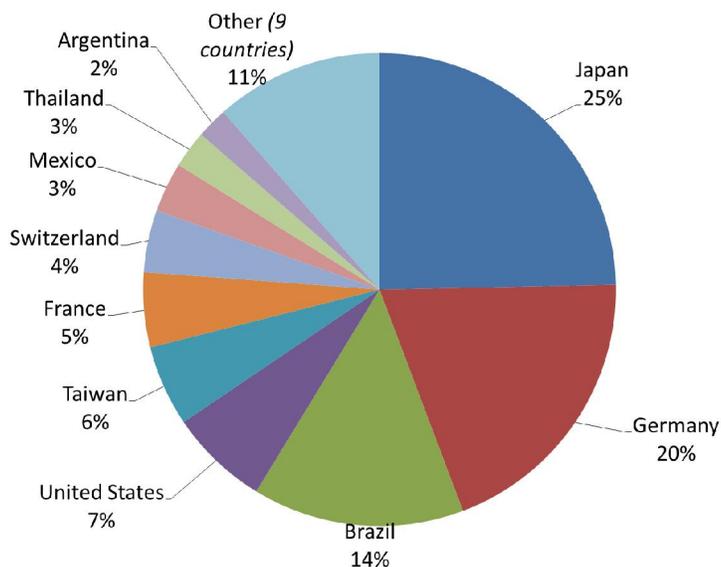
In 2010-11, **235** New Generations exchange participants were reported, comprising **3%** of all exchanges. While very little data was available on this type of exchange in 2009-10, this is a 75% increase over the survey responses gathered in 2008-09. Sixty-one (61) districts indicated participation in New Generations exchanges, representing 13% of all certified districts. Europe (35%) and Asia (34%) reported the highest percentage share of global participation.



### *New Generations Exchanges by Country*

Japan reported the most New Generations exchanges with 58. The table and chart below show the top ten New Generations exchange countries, representing 89% of the total.

Country	Inbound New Generations Exchanges
Japan	58
Germany	46
Brazil	34
United States	16
Taiwan	13
France	12
Switzerland	10
Mexico	8
Thailand	6
Argentina	5
Other	27
<b>ALL COUNTRIES</b>	<b>235</b>



### *New Generations Exchange Trends and Issues*

Survey respondents provided the following feedback regarding trends and challenges of New Generations exchanges:

#### Trends:

- There is increasing interest from young adults looking for short-term overseas vocational and service learning opportunities who might otherwise do a gap year with a commercial organization.
- As more Rotary clubs and districts become aware of New Generations exchanges, participation has increased.
- New Generations exchange participants are more mature, have a better understanding of Rotary, and are self-motivated.

#### Challenges:

- RI Youth Exchange guidelines are designed for minors, not young adults. This makes administration of New Generations exchanges difficult.
- To be successful, both districts must agree on the structure and purpose of the exchange.
- Awareness of New Generations exchanges is low and requires additional promotional efforts.

## EARLY RETURNS

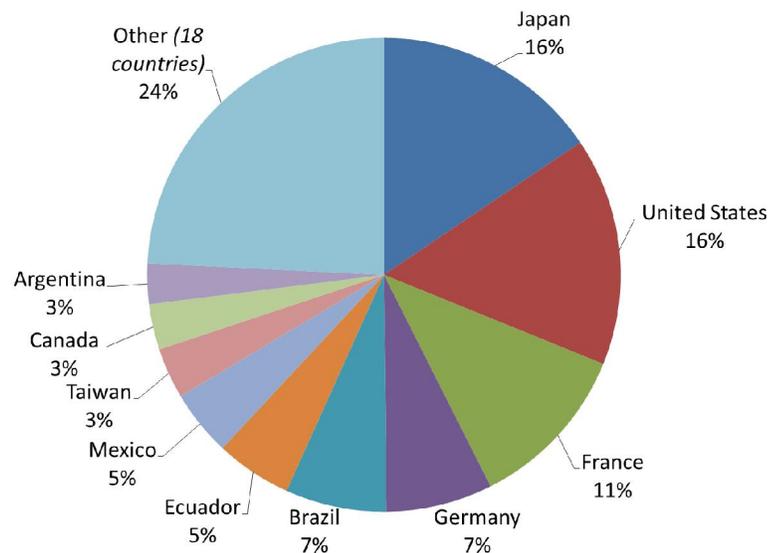
Districts and multidistricts reported **289** early returns in 2010-11, comprising **3%** of all exchanges. While this is a notable increase over the incomplete data received in 2009-10, it is a 35% decrease from 2008-09 figures.



### *Early Returns by Country*

Responding districts from Japan and the United States reported the most early returns with 45 each. Additional reports indicate that as many as 105 students hosted in Japan ended their exchanges early as a result of the extraordinary earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis that prompted a voluntary recall of these students in March 2011. The table and chart below show the top ten countries reporting early returns, representing 76% of the total.

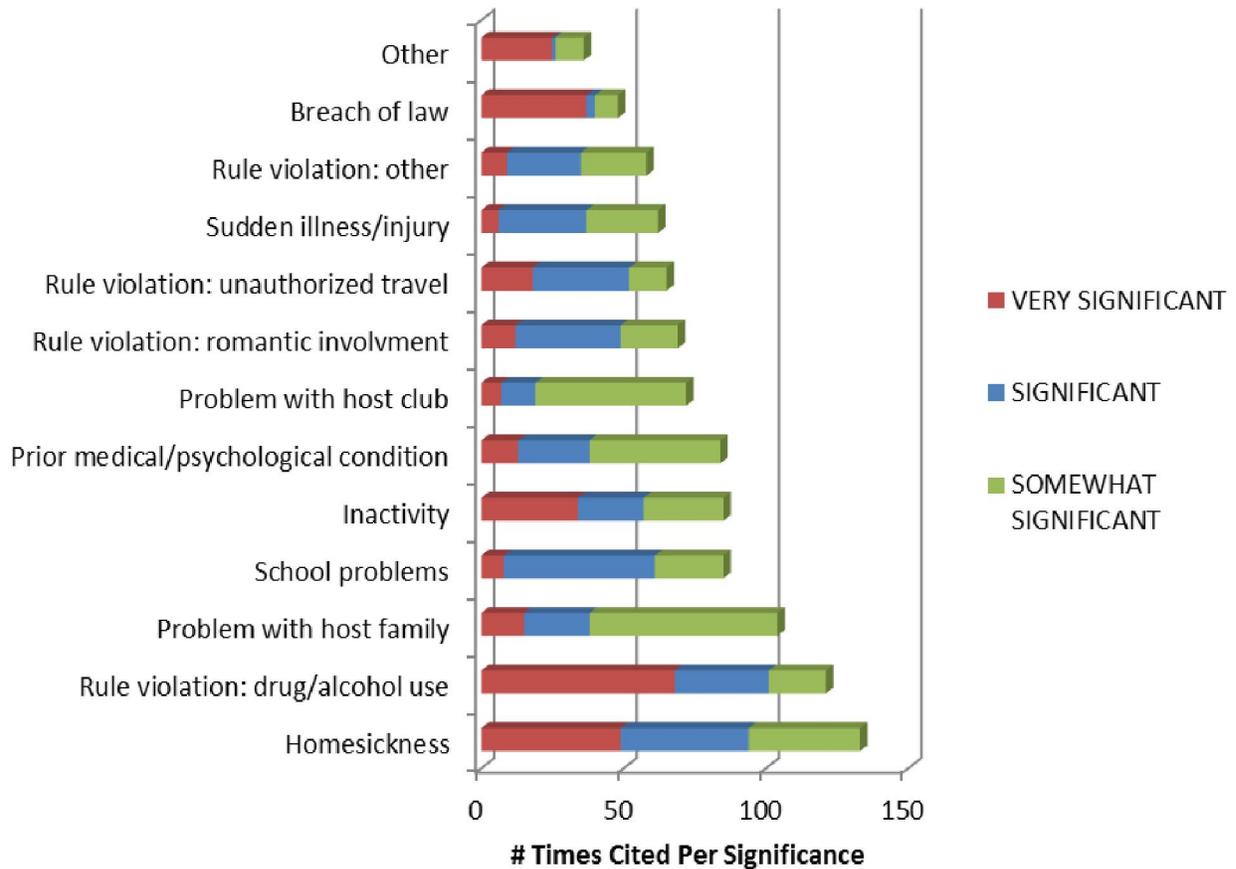
Country	Early Returns Reported
Japan	45
United States	45
France	33
Germany	21
Brazil	20
Ecuador	15
Mexico	13
Taiwan	10
Canada	9
Argentina	8
Other	70
<b>ALL COUNTRIES</b>	<b>289</b>



### *Causes for Early Returns*

In 2010-11, districts and multidistricts reported a number of causes for students' early returns with varying levels of significance.

## 2010-11 Early Return Causes



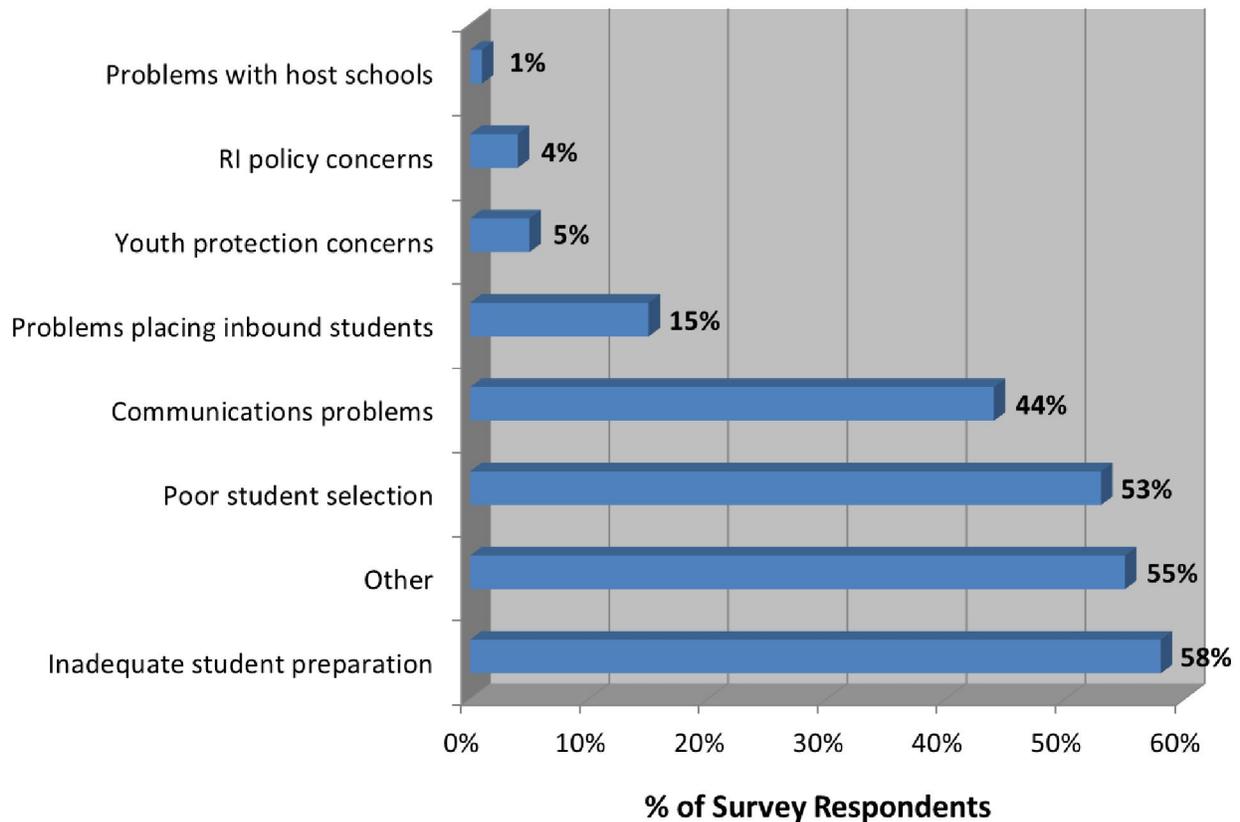
In order, homesickness, drug and alcohol use, and problems with the host family were cited most often as the causes for early returns in 2010-11. This is similar to the early return causes reported to RI in recent years.

However, when examining the reported importance of each reason, a somewhat different order emerges. Respondents put drug and alcohol use first among “very significant” causes of early returns, followed by homesickness and breach of law. The top “significant” and “somewhat significant” causes include school problems, homesickness, romantic involvement, problems with the host family, problems with the host club, and prior medical/psychological conditions. Ultimately, while many factors can result in the termination of an exchange, it appears that some play a larger role than others.

## EXCHANGE PARTNER INTERACTIONS

Survey respondents were asked about challenges they experienced with their exchange partner districts in 2010-11. Seventy-three (73) districts indicated they had challenges with their partners, comprising 20% of the total respondents.

### Common Problems with Exchange Partners



The most common problems reported in 2010-11 were inadequate student preparation, poor student selection, and communications problems, all of which experienced notable increases from the 2009-10 figures. In contrast, the number of districts that reported youth protection or RI policy concerns declined in 2010-11 from previous years.

Under “other”, some of the details provided by responding districts were:

- The Japanese tsunami and the voluntary recall of exchange participants from Japan
- Slow partner district administration
- Unilateral district rules/guidelines
- Visa problems
- Insurance issues

## CONCLUSION

Every year, Youth Exchange provides thousands of young people with the opportunity to meet people from other countries and immerse themselves in new cultures, fostering a lifetime of international understanding.

The information compiled in this report illustrates the current state of the program worldwide. The reduced number of districts reporting problems involving youth protection and RI policy concerns indicates widespread awareness of youth protection efforts and successful district ownership of the quality of exchange programs. However, there is also a need for programs to strengthen student selection and preparation practices, setting clear expectations for student behavior and the overall purpose of the exchange. Districts should also consider using exchange partner agreements and other tools to reach consensus on the frequency, means, and timeliness of communication between partnering districts to avoid such problems throughout the exchange.

We hope the information on global participation, trends, and issues contained in this report will help you strengthen and expand the Youth Exchange program in your area. If you have questions about any of the information in this report, please feel free to contact [youthexchange@rotary.org](mailto:youthexchange@rotary.org).