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INTRODUCTION

This report is designed to review Rotary Youth Exchange activity for the 2013-14 Rotary year. The statistics, trends, issues, and qualitative feedback from program administrators in this document are based on the responses received from the annual survey, which was sent to Youth Exchange district and multidistrict chairs in December 2014. The information in this report is impacted by the percentage of districts reporting in any given country or geographical area.

*Please note that **districts must submit inbound student data**, usually found on the students' Guarantee Form, for all types of exchanges (long- and short-term) to RI before or shortly after the exchange commences (RCOP 41.060.6) and as any of the data changes, including updates in host family information. Responding to the annual survey does not fulfill this data submission requirement.*

SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

The Rotary International Youth Exchange team received survey responses from only 307 of 451 certified districts. Of these survey responses, 70% (217) were completed by individual districts, and 30% (91) by multidistricts. This resulted in a 68% response rate, which is a **5% decrease in response rate** from the 2012-13 program survey. The geographic areas referred to in this report are listed below along with survey response rates. The most significant changes were seen in Asia (decrease by 23%), North America (decrease by 13%), and Europe (increase by 10%).

Geographic Area	% certified districts responding to survey
Asia (Zones 1-6, 9, and 10)	45%
Oceania (Zones 7 and 8)	63%
Europe (Zones 11-19 and 20B)	80%
Africa (Zone Section 20A)	71%
North America (Zones 21A – Mexico only, 21B, and 24-34)	67%
South America (Zones 21A – excluding Mexico, 22, and 23)	74%

OVERALL PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

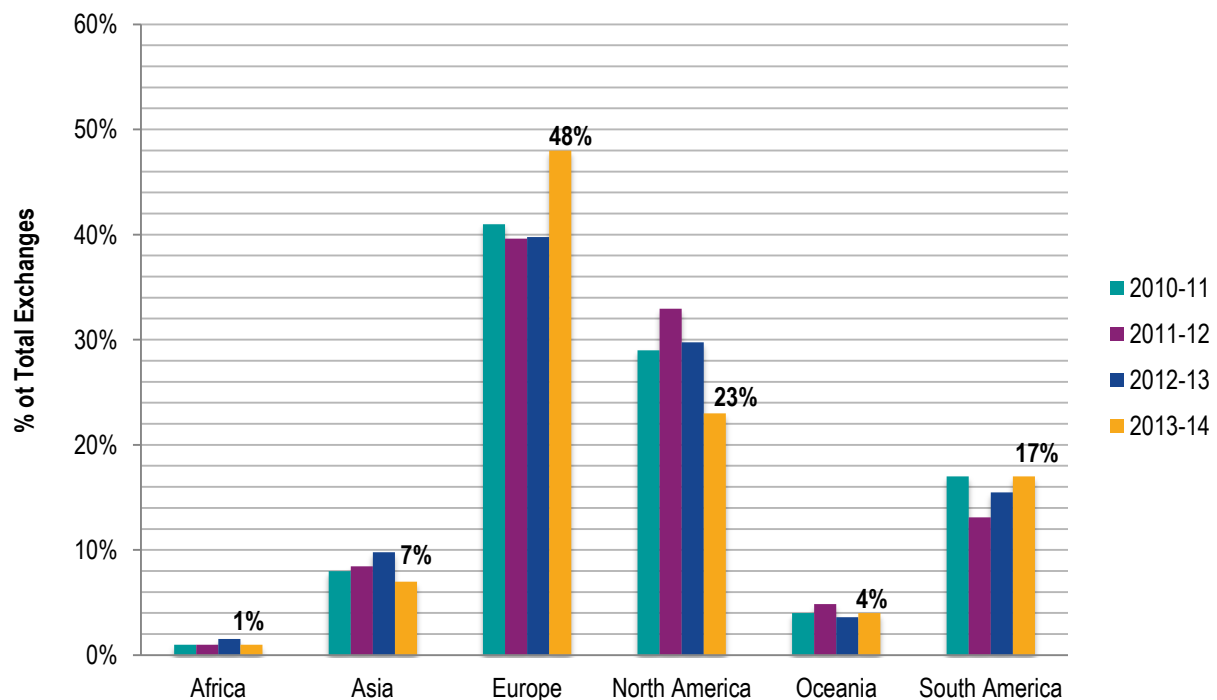
Districts reported 7,460 Youth Exchange program participants during the 2013-14 Rotary year, which is a 2% decline from recent years. Given the lower response rate, it is likely that exchange activity remains on par with that of previous years. While the number of long-term exchanges decreased, the number of short-term exchanges increased by 208.

Type of Exchange	Exchanges Reported	% of Total Exchanges
Long-term	5,139	69%
Short-term	2,321	31%
Total	7,460	100%

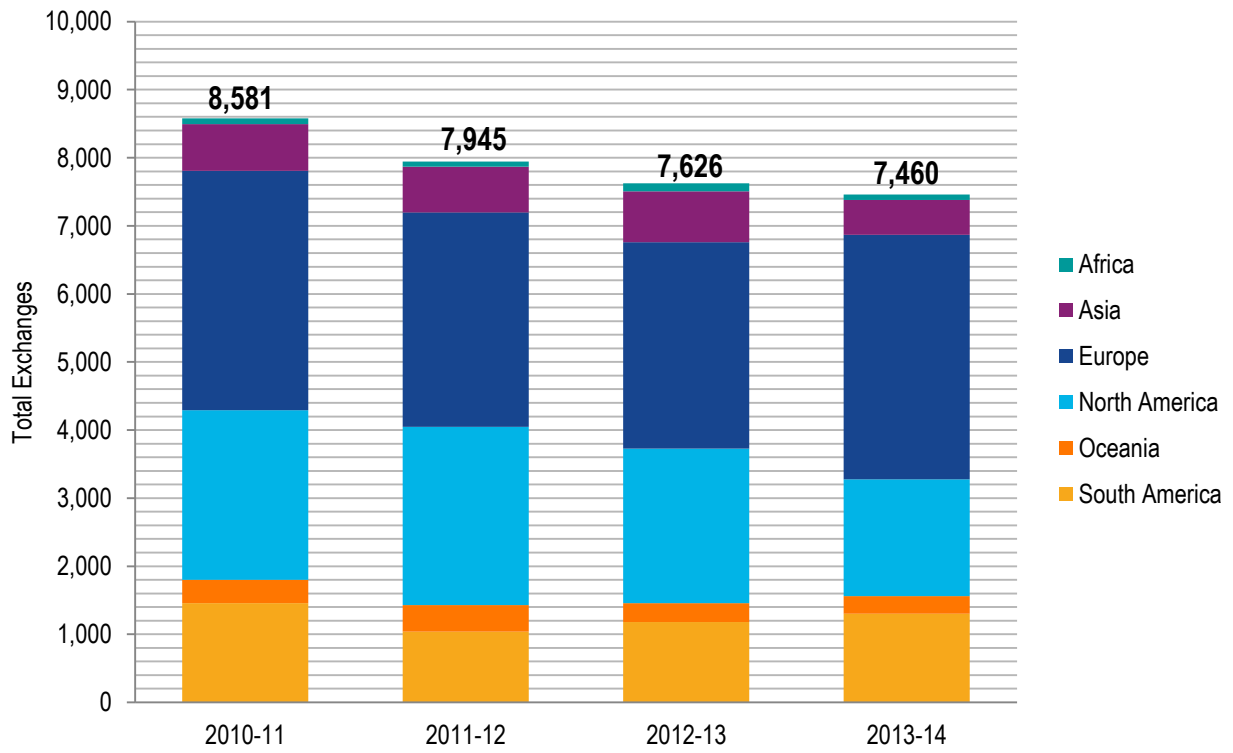
Exchanges in 2013-14 had a similar geographic distribution to previous years, with Europe having the greatest number of total exchanges, followed by North America and South America.

Geographic Area	Total Exchanges Reported	% of Total Exchanges
Africa	81	1%
Asia	513	7%
Europe	3,588	48%
North America	1,716	23%
Oceania	262	4%
South America	1,300	17%
Total	7,460	100%

2010-2014 Historical Analysis: Percent of Total Exchanges by Geographic Area



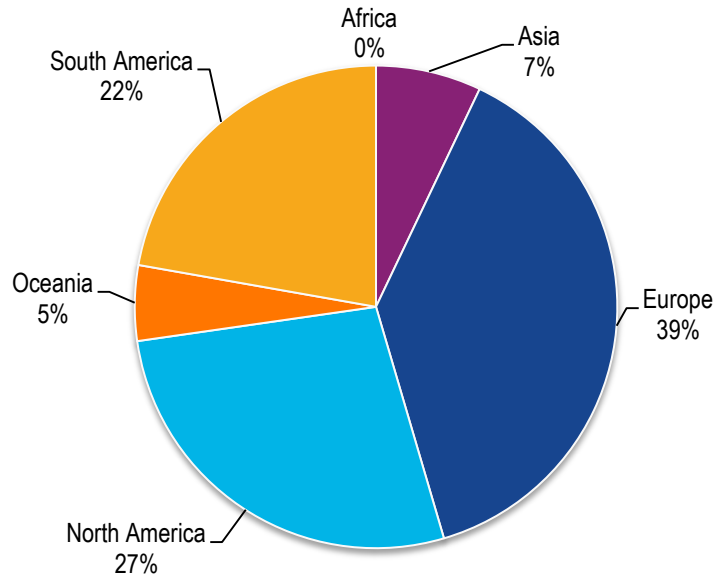
2010-2014 Historical Analysis: Geographic Distribution of Total Exchanges by Year



LONG-TERM EXCHANGES

Districts reported 5,139 long-term exchange participants, which constituted 69% of all Youth Exchange activity. This is relatively consistent with totals from previous years, though the number of exchanges reported decreased by 374 as compared to the 2012-13 data. Europe (39%) and North America (27%) hosted the most long-term exchanges, which is also consistent with data from previous years.

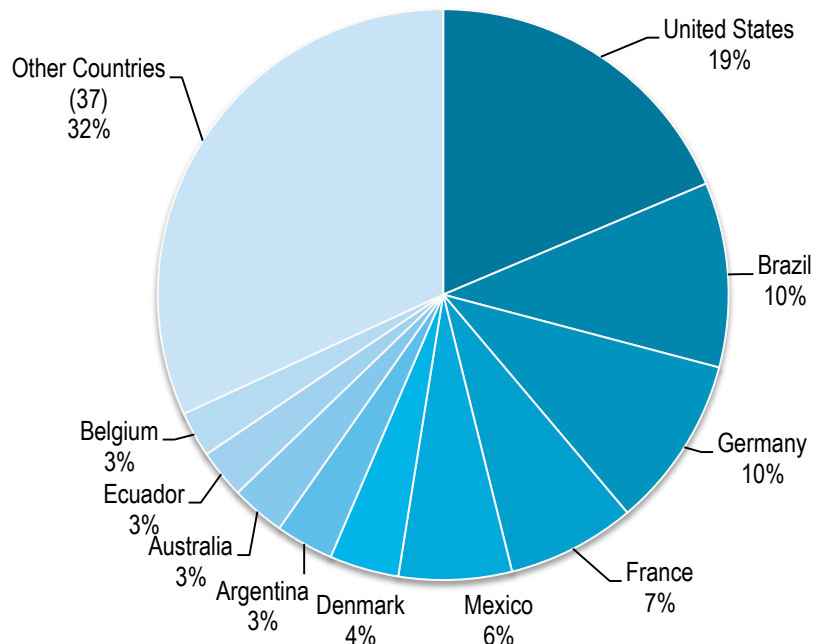
2013-14 Long-term Exchanges Worldwide



Long-term Exchanges by Country

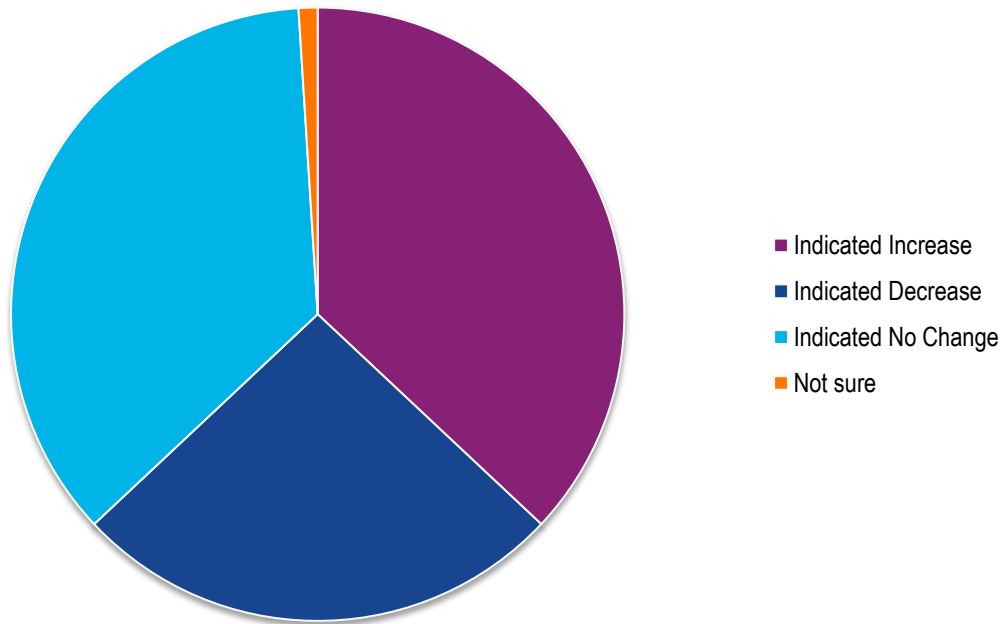
The table and chart below show the ten countries that reported the highest number of inbound long-term exchange participants in 2013-14, representing 68% of the total participation in the long-term exchange program. The United States reported the highest number of long-term exchanges with 958 participants.

Country	Inbound Long-term Exchanges
United States	958
Brazil	538
Germany	500
France	374
Mexico	329
Denmark	202
Argentina	169
Australia	157
Ecuador	142
Belgium	133
Other	1,637
Total	5,139



Long-term Exchange Trends and Challenges

District and multidistrict chairs also provided feedback on emerging trends and challenges in the long-term exchange program in 2013-14. The chart below indicates how many districts reported an increase (37%), decrease (26%) in long-term exchanges, or that the number remained the same (36%).



Overall Trends:

- Many respondents cited increased promotion, especially with local schools, and increased club participation as reasons for increased participation in long-term exchanges.
- Similar to previous years, strong relationships with clubs was a key success factor. When district committees maintain close contact with clubs, the clubs help promote the program, nominate participants, and recruit strong host families.
- Many districts noted increase in long-term activity as a result of networking with new districts worldwide. New partnerships were created through travel to district and multidistrict conferences, the International Assembly, and Rotary Convention.
- Some districts attract participants by incorporating language classes, cultural tours, and service projects into their long-term exchange programs.

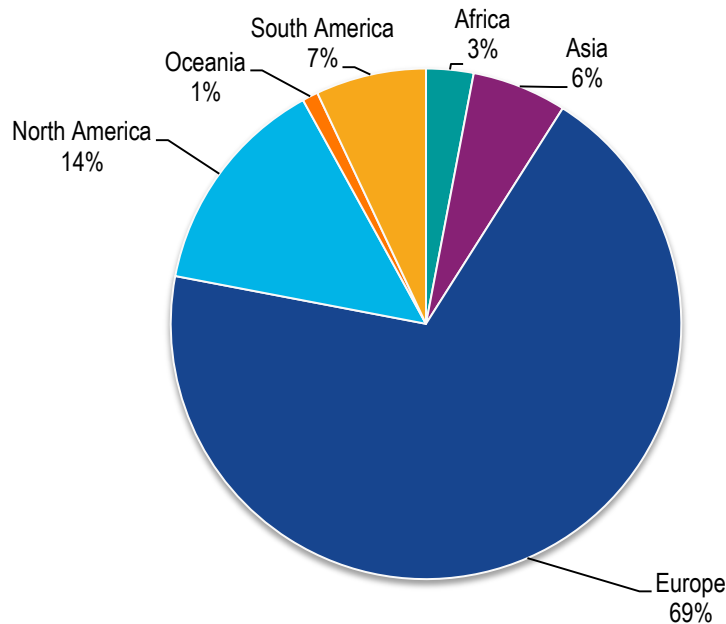
Challenges:

- Responding districts cited a lack of interest from Rotary clubs, youth, and host families as top reasons for both the decline in number of exchanges hosted and why some districts chose not to participate in long-term exchanges.

SHORT-TERM EXCHANGES

Districts reported 2,321 short-term exchanges, which constituted 31% of all exchanges. This number increased by 208 (10%) over short-term exchanges reported in 2012-13. Consistent with previous years, these exchanges were most common in Europe, which hosted 69% of the total short-term exchanges.

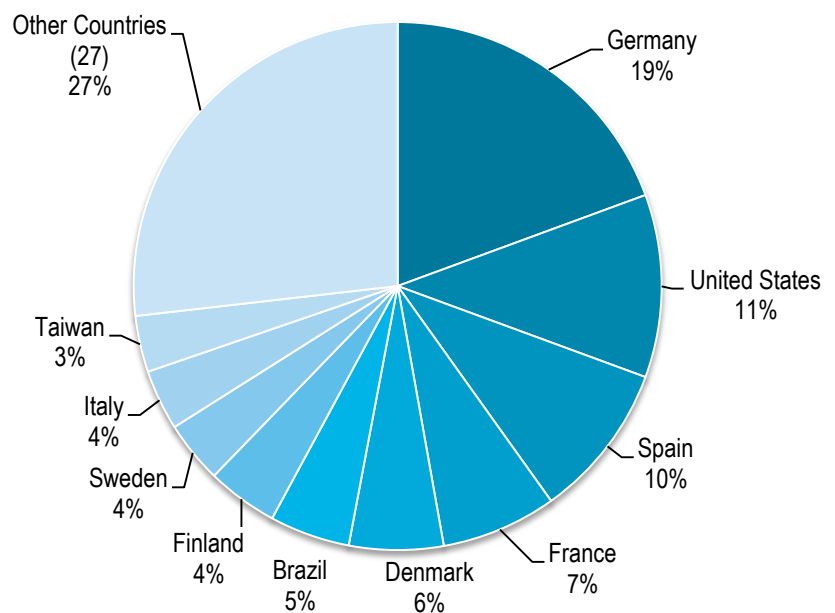
2013-14 Short-term Exchanges Worldwide



Short-term Exchanges by Country

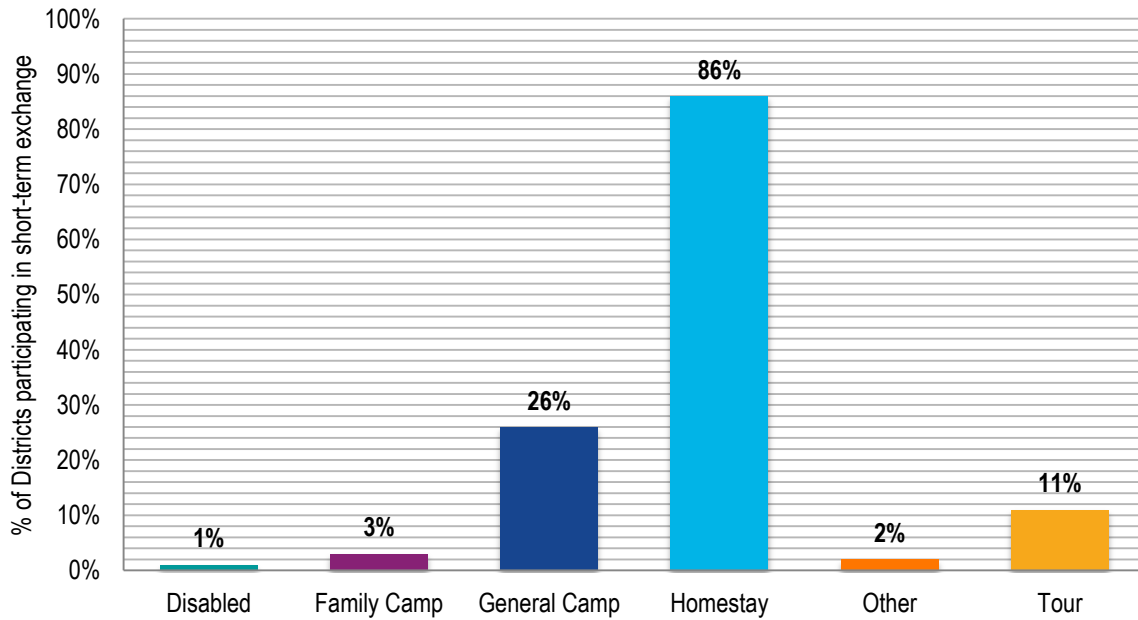
The table and chart below show the ten countries that reported the highest number of inbound short-term exchange participants in 2013-14, representing 73% of the total participation in the short-term exchange program. Germany reported the most short-term exchanges with 450 participants.

Country	Inbound Long-term Exchanges
Germany	450
United States	260
Spain	221
France	164
Denmark	135
Brazil	114
Finland	101
Sweden	88
Italy	86
Taiwan	80
Other	622
Total	2,321



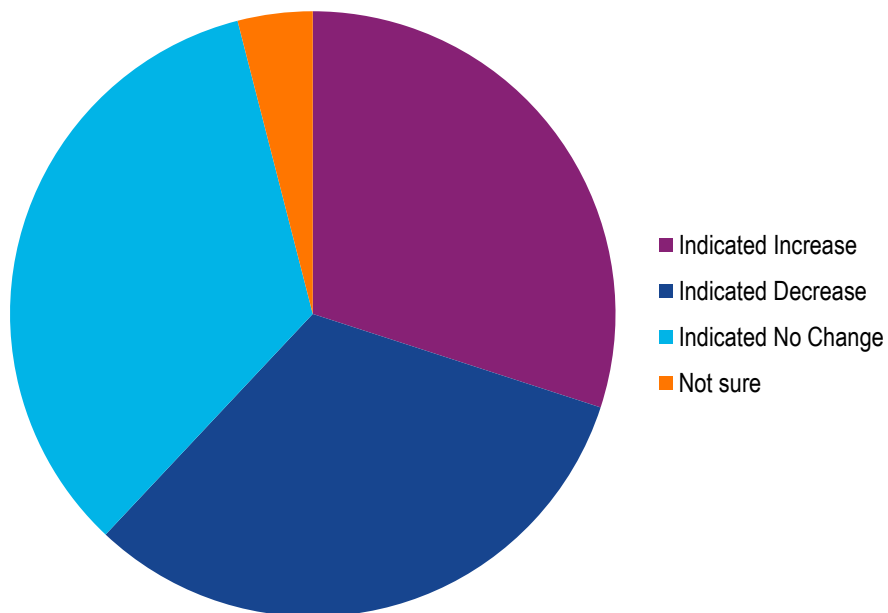
District Participation by Type of Short-term Exchange

A total of 213 districts reported participating in short-term exchanges during the 2013-14 year. Homestay continued to be the most common type of short-term exchange: 86% of districts participated in this type of program. General camps (26%) and tours (11%) were the second and third most popular types of short-term exchanges.



Short-term Exchange Trends and Challenges

Along with program statistics, the annual survey asked for feedback regarding trends and challenges in the short-term exchange program. The chart below indicates the percentage of districts that reported an increase (30%), decrease (32%) in short-term exchanges, or that the number remained the same (34%).



Trends:

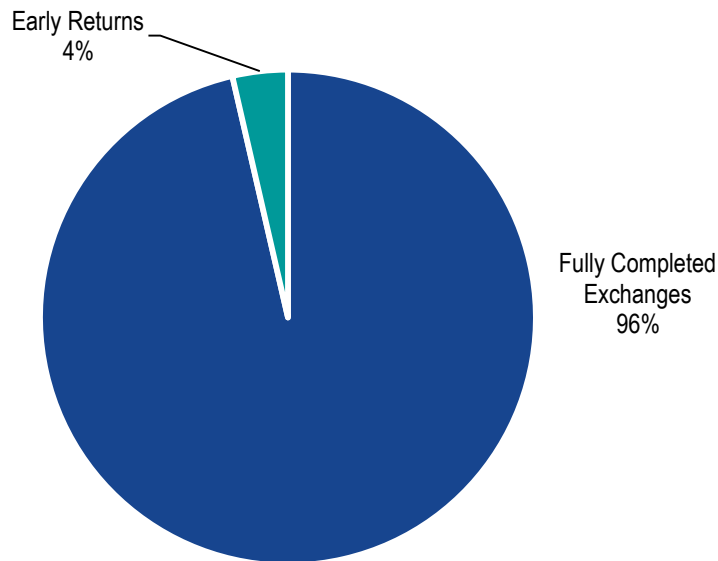
- Many districts attribute increases in exchange activity to increased promotion, new connections with districts globally, and an increase in demand for shorter programs.
- Districts also noted that adventures, tours, and unique experiences were large incentives for program participants.
- Several districts indicated that they hosted short-term exchanges for the first time in 2013-14 and plan to continue to grow their programs.

Challenges:

- The most frequently cited reasons for a decline in short-term exchanges were lack of interest from Rotary clubs and lack of interest from youth.
- Some respondents report that the short-term exchange program is not well known in their districts.
- Many districts do not have enough committee members or support to administer the short-term exchange program in addition to long-term activities.
- Short-term exchanges can be particularly challenging in countries with extensive passport, visa, and other government requirements.

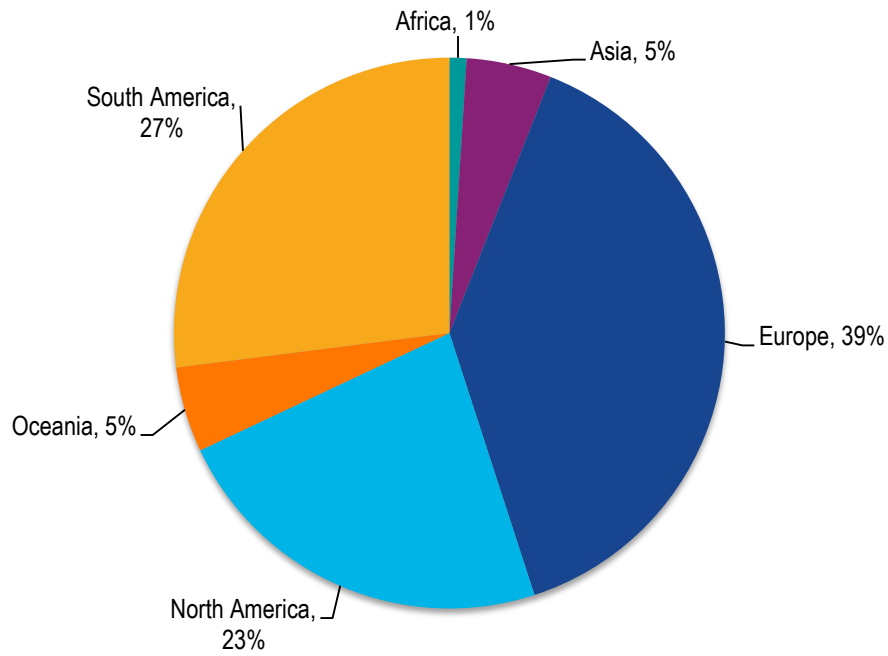
EARLY RETURNS

Districts and multidistricts reported 264 early returns in 2013-14, comprising 4% of all exchanges. This represents a slight decrease overall, with 11 fewer returns (a 4% decrease) than in 2012-13. Ninety-nine percent of the early returns occurred within the long-term exchange program, and the remaining one percent occurred within the short-term exchange program.



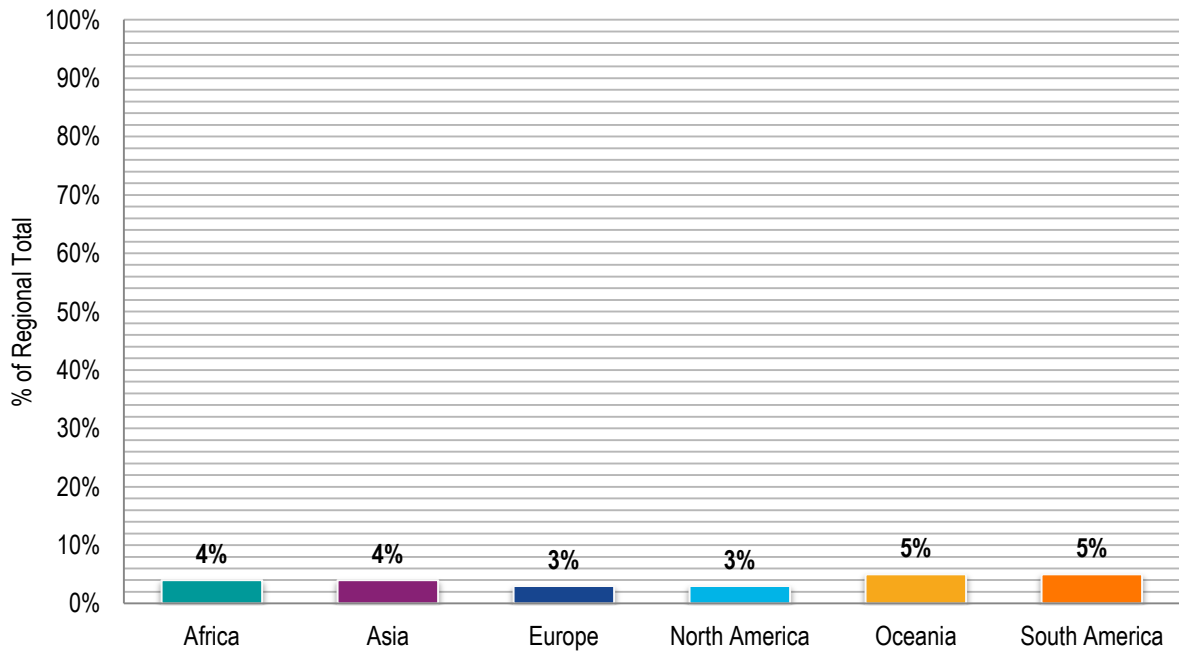
The geographic distribution of early returns largely mirrors the geographic distribution of total exchange activity. Areas with the highest numbers of total exchanges also had the greatest percentage of early returns: Europe, North America, and South America.

2013-14 Early Returns Worldwide by Region



When the early returns for each region are analyzed as a percentage of that region’s total exchanges, the percentage of early returns is roughly even. Within each region, between 2% and 5% of exchange participants returned home early.

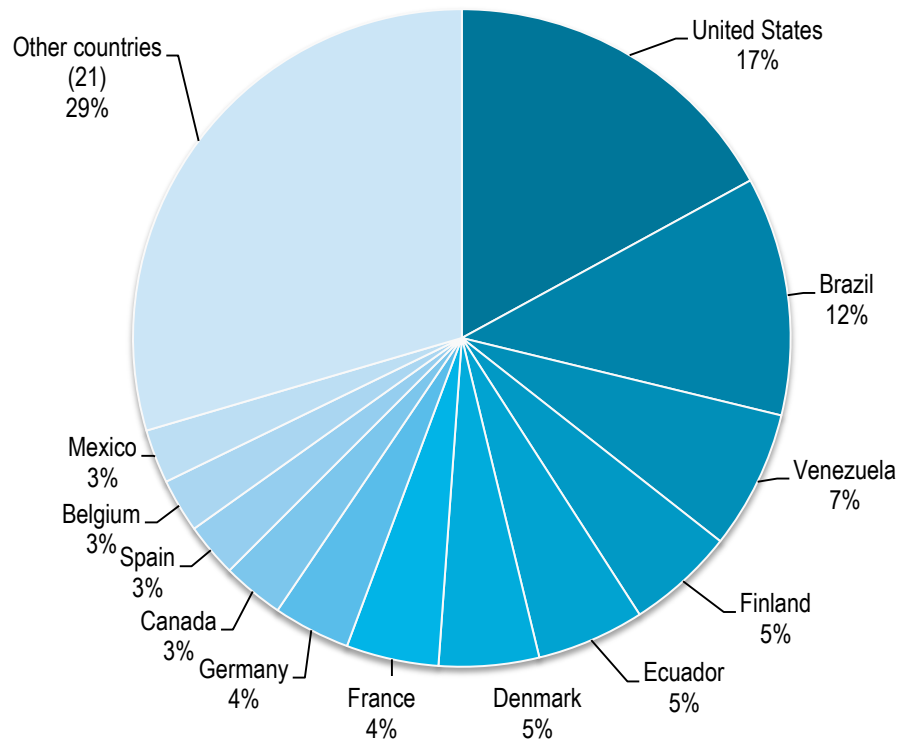
2013-14 Early Returns as Percent of Regional Totals



Early Returns by Country

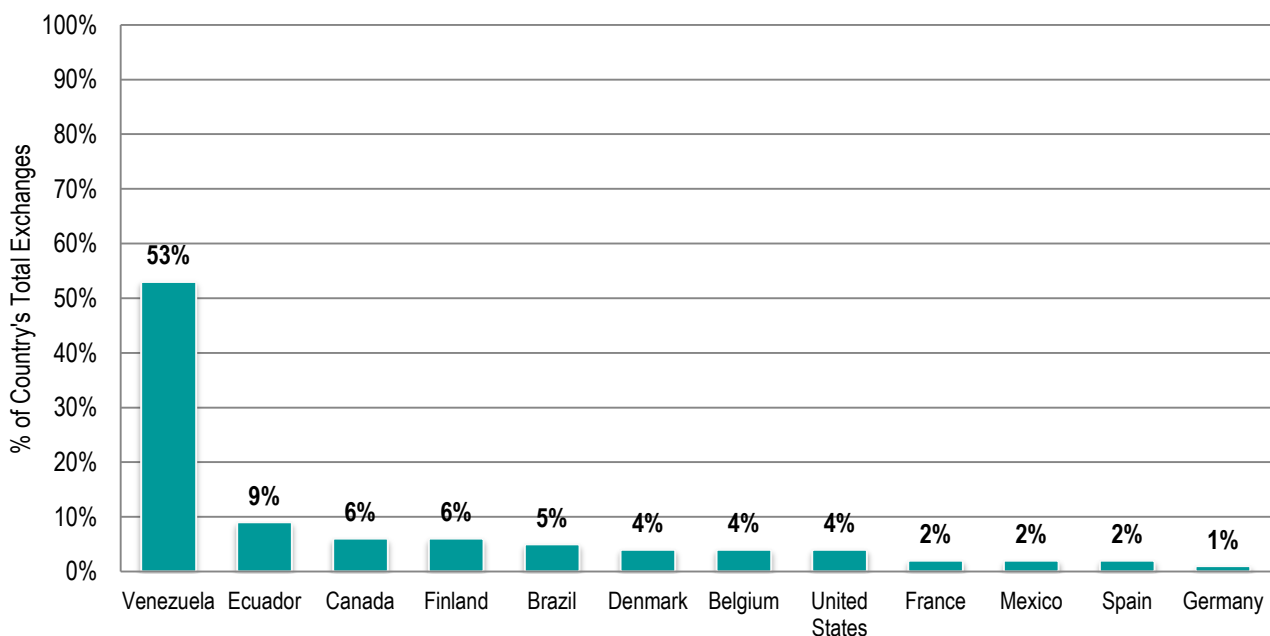
The table and chart below show the 12 countries that reported the highest number of early returns in 2013-14, representing 71% of all early returns. Responding districts from the United States reported the highest number of early returns with 45.

Country	Early Returns Reported
United States	45
Brazil	31
Venezuela	18
Finland	14
Ecuador	14
Denmark	13
France	12
Germany	10
Canada	8
Belgium	7
Spain	7
Mexico	7
Other	78
Total	264



Early Returns as Percent of Country Totals

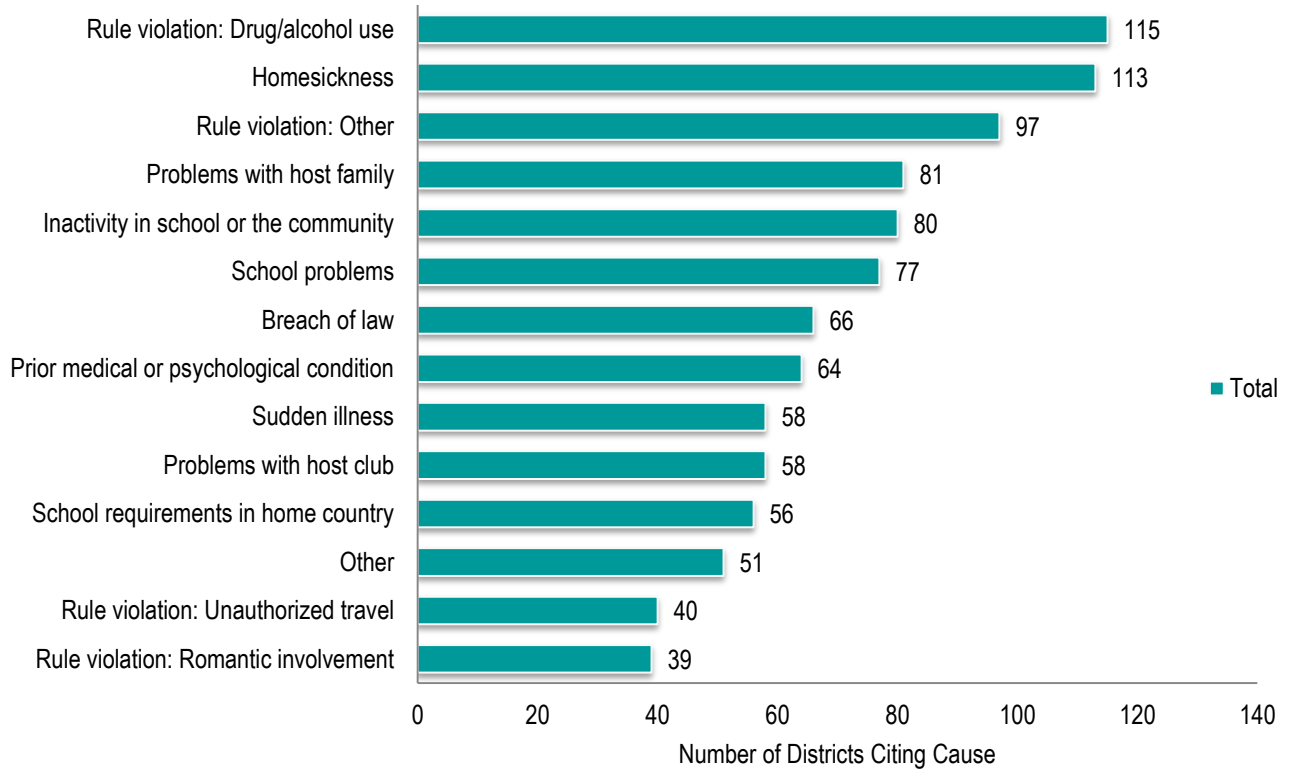
The chart below shows the countries that reported the highest percentage of early returns in 2013-14. The percentage of early returns is relatively consistent across these countries, with most reporting that 2% to 6% of their participants returned home early. The higher percentage of early returns reported from Venezuela is largely due to known issues surrounding political unrest in the country during the 2013-14 Rotary year.



Causes for Early Returns

In 2013-14, districts and multidistricts reported a number of causes for students' early returns. The following two graphs display the same data with emphasis on two different factors. The first graph presents the causes of early returns in order of frequency.

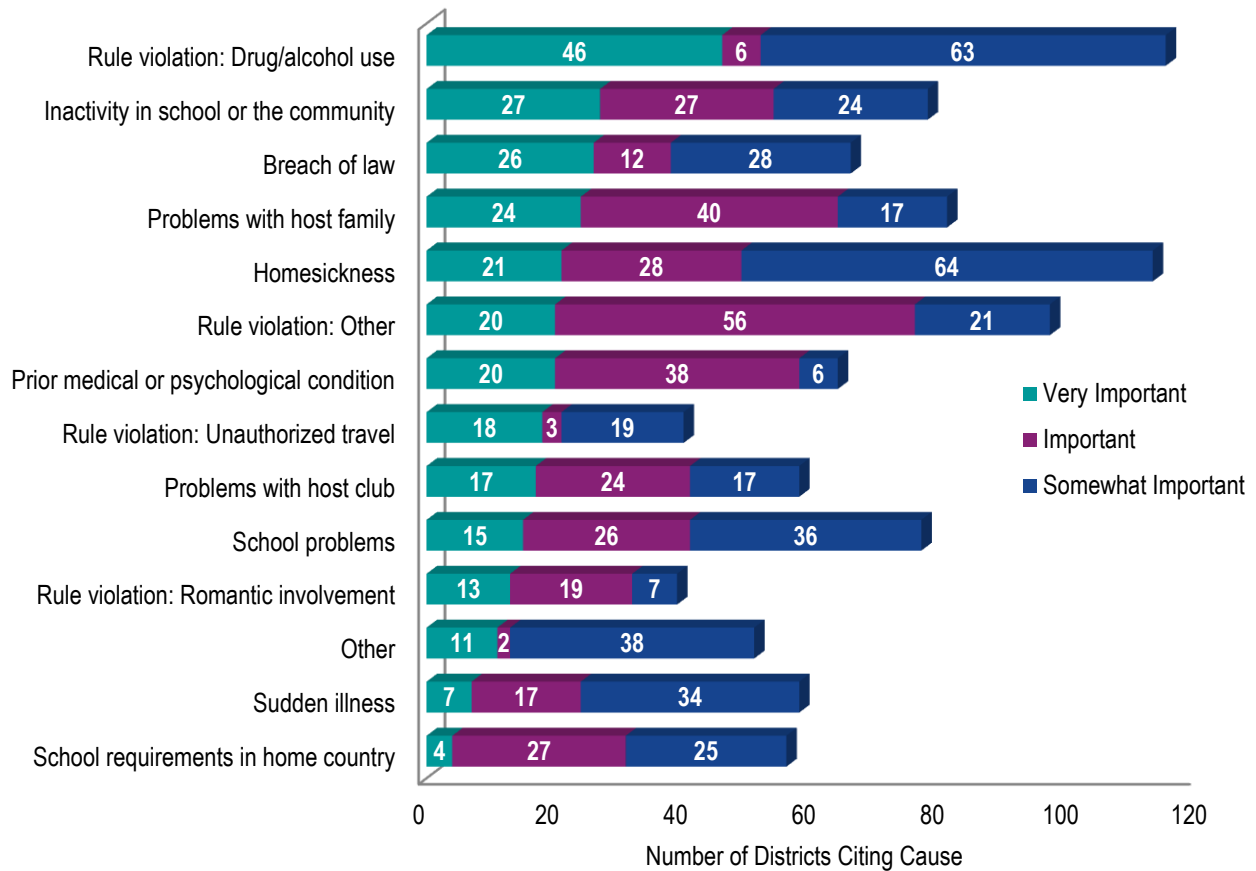
Early Return Causes in Order of Frequency



In order of *frequency*, or how often a particular reason is reported to be involved in determining an early return, drug and alcohol use, homesickness, and other rule violations were cited most often as the causes for early returns in 2012-13. Other early return causes cited included family emergencies in the home country, inadequate orientation, and disinterest of participants to complete their exchange. Additionally, eighteen of the 51 early returns related to “other” causes can be attributed to those exchanges that ended early due to political unrest in Venezuela.

The second graph displays those same causes in the order of their importance or significance in determining early returns, as reported by the districts.

Early Return Causes in Order of Importance



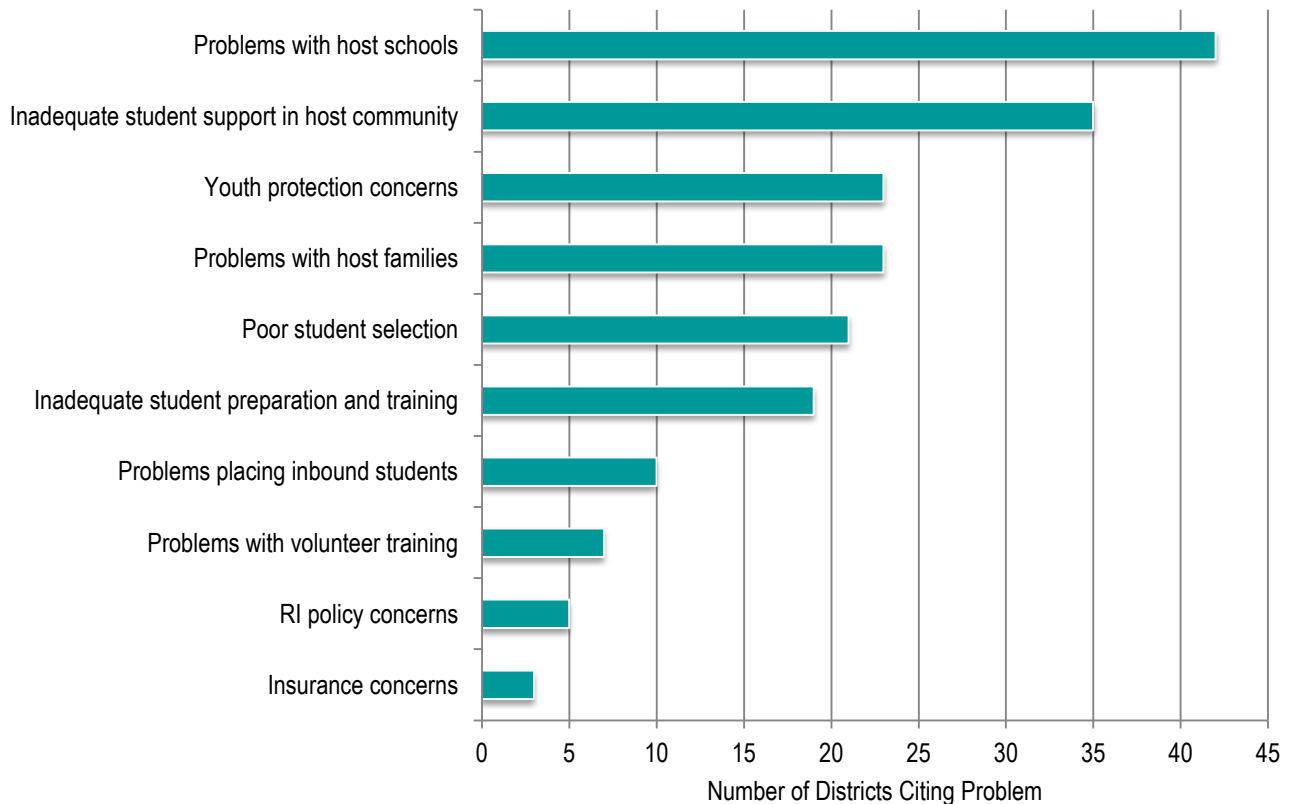
When examining the reported *importance* of each reason in determining early returns, some additional causes stand out. Districts rank drug and alcohol use as the most important cause of early returns, followed by inactivity in the school or community, and then breach of the law. Homesickness, ranked most important in the 2012-13 report, dropped significantly in the 2013-14, with 64 districts indicating it was “somewhat important.” Many districts noted a stronger focus on establishing support systems in the host families and communities, which could have largely impacted this decrease.

A number of districts indicated that they have amended their exchange practices or policies in order to reduce the number of early returns, including an increased emphasis on training for host families, host clubs, and inbound exchange students. Districts also reported being more selective with their outbound student applications, especially when considering the prospective students’ grades, and also emphasized rules and regulations during the orientation process.

EXCHANGE PARTNER INTERACTIONS

Survey respondents were asked about challenges they experienced with their exchange partner districts in 2013-14. Of the 307 responding districts, 98 indicated they had challenges with their partners, which represents a 12% increase from 2012-13. The most common problems with partner districts reported in 2013-14 were problems with host schools, inadequate student support in the host community, and youth protection concerns.

Common Problems with Exchange Partners



When compared with 2012-13 data, the following trends emerged:

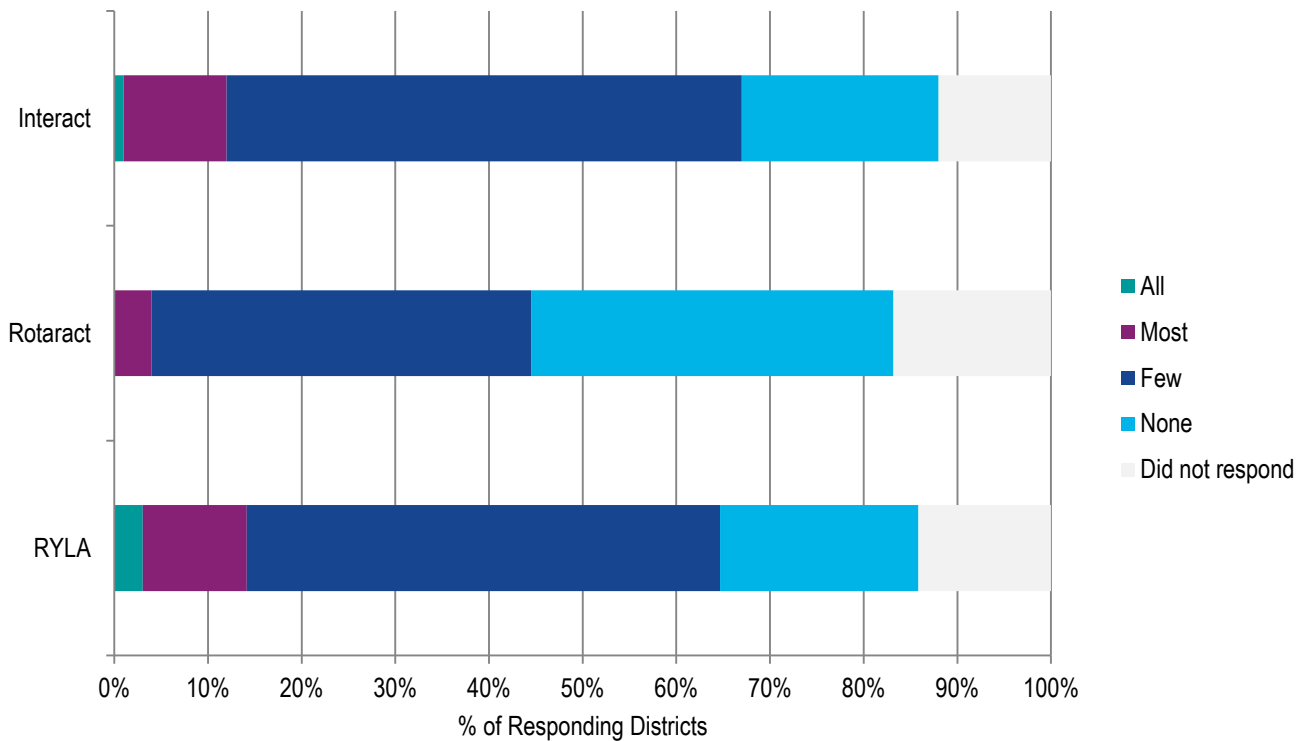
- The most significant change is the increase of problems with host schools, moving from the least common problem in 2012-13 to the most common problem this year.
- Districts reported significantly fewer problems with student preparation, student selection, and host families.
- Reports of insurance concerns, RI policy concerns, and problems with volunteer training remained low.

Any district with concerns about the handling of a specific youth protection incident or potential violation of RI policy should contact the Youth Exchange team directly at youthexchange@rotary.org.

CROSS-PROMOTION WITH OTHER ROTARY YOUTH PROGRAMS

Survey respondents were asked to provide information about crossover with other Rotary youth programs. Sixty-seven percent of responding districts indicated their participants were either current or former RYLA participants, 65% were either current or former Interact participants, and 45% were either current or former Rotaract participants. This represents a slight increase in the overlap from each program as compared to the 2012-13 year. The chart below shows the degree of overlap between Rotary Youth Exchange and Rotary's other youth programs in 2013-14.

Participation of Rotary Youth Exchange Students in other Rotary Youth Programs



RI encourages all districts to consider ways of keeping former students involved with Rotary after they return from their exchange. Resources with tips and ideas for keeping alumni connected may be found at <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/alumni>.

CONCLUSION

The Rotary Youth Exchange program provides unique opportunities for thousands of young adults each year as they explore new cultures, enhance personal and professional development, and promote international understanding and service. Though there was a slight decrease in the total number of exchanges reported, the overall data suggests program participation remains strong. Over 7,400 young adults traveled world-wide through Rotary Youth exchange, creating valuable connections with Rotarian mentors and leaders world-wide.

Responses to the 2013-14 survey indicate a slight decrease in the number of long-term exchanges, most significantly due to a lack of interest from clubs, youth, and host families. However, this decrease may be related to the lower survey response rate, as many responding districts reported their programs growing rather than declining. Districts reporting an increase in long-term exchanges cited a stronger focus on program promotion and awareness as the main cause, suggesting this is a valuable use of resources for districts wanting to grow their programs. An increase in promotion was an important factor in expanding short-term exchange programs as well.

The majority (96%) of all exchanges were fully completed with no need for early return. Drug and alcohol usage was reported as both the most frequent and most important cause among all early returns. Homesickness was ranked 2nd in terms of frequency, but 5th in terms of importance, suggesting that it may be a strong contributing factor in collaboration with other causes viewed as more important. While some early exchanges are unavoidable, increased student training, preparation, and orientation in vulnerable areas may lead to a continued decrease in the overall number of early exchanges.

Two-thirds of all responding districts reported no challenges with their exchange partners, indicating that these relationships remain strong overall. At the same time, the number of concerns with partner districts increased, indicating a need for partner districts to ensure expectations are confirmed well in advance of embarking on an exchange. Several districts noted the creation of new partnerships through networking at conferences and other Rotary events, which yielded more exchange opportunities for young adults.

Additionally, districts reported significantly fewer problems with student preparation, student selection, and host families, indicating a stronger focus on selecting the best possible candidates. Many of reported problems appear to be related to poor communication between partner districts, which may be alleviated with clearly set expectations and the use of partner exchange agreements.