

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Background .....1  
 Survey Responses .....1  
 Total Program Participation ..... 2  
 Long-term Exchanges ..... 4  
 Short-term Exchanges ..... 6  
 Early Returns ..... 8  
 Exchange Partner Interactions ..... 8  
 Conclusion..... 9

**BACKGROUND**

The Annual Youth Exchange Report reflects exchange activity for the 2016-17 Rotary year. Respondents were asked about the number of students hosted in their district, early returns and exchange partner interactions. This includes data for both long- and short-term exchanges. The report is shared with district and multidistrict leaders, media outlets, and people interested in the Youth Exchange program.

**SURVEY RESPONSES**

Youth Exchange district and multidistrict chairs responded to the Annual Survey using Qualtrics, an online survey platform, in December 2017. They were asked to provide information about inbound exchanges for the 2016-17 Rotary year.

The Youth Exchange team received survey responses from **357** of **474** certified districts—a total **75%** response rate. 243 districts responded individually and multidistricts responded on behalf of 114 districts.

The following table contains district response rates for both 2016-17 and 2015-16. South America had a higher response rate by +13% and North America by +3% from 2015-16. All other regions had lower response rates including Asia, which declined by -15%.

Geographic Area	District Response Rate 2016-2017	District Response Rate 2015-16
Asia	53%	68%
Oceania	70%	75%
Europe	77%	85%
Africa	80%	87%
North America	82%	79%
South America	88%	75%

## TOTAL PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

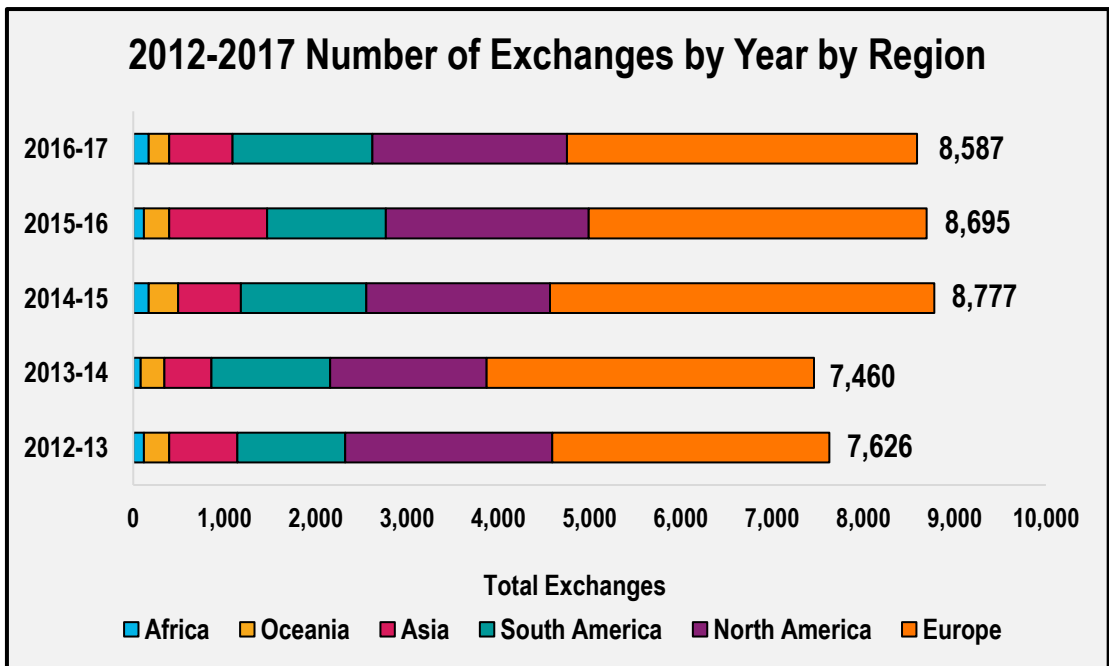
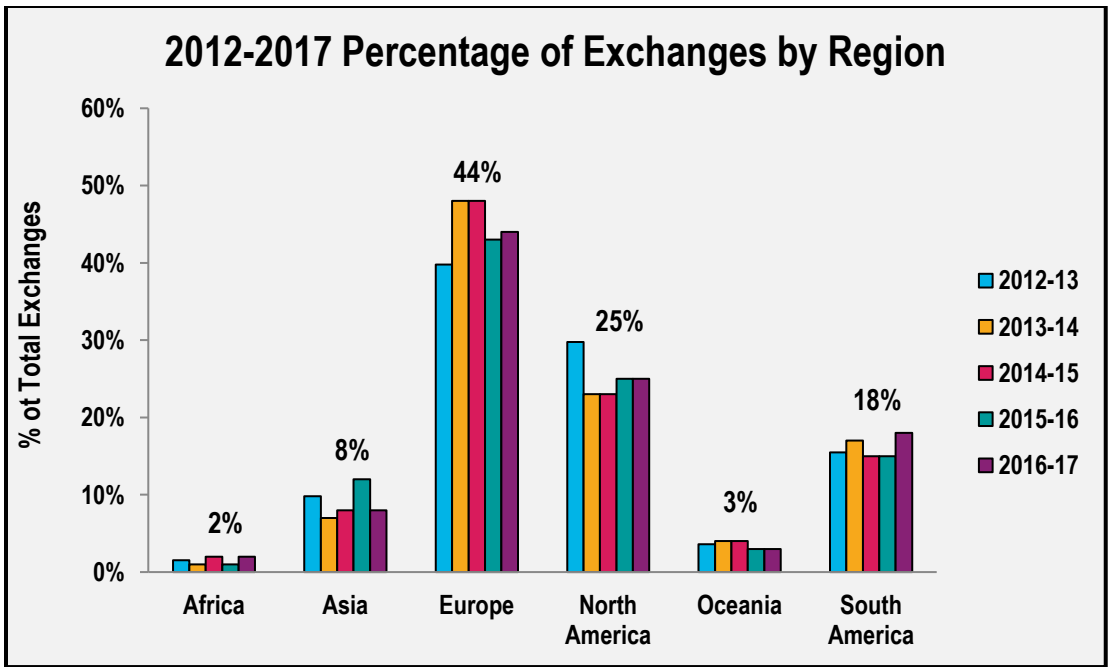
Districts reported a total of **8,587** exchanges. This is a 179 fewer long-term exchanges and 71 more short-term exchanges than reported for the 2015-16 Rotary year.

Type of Exchange	Exchanges Reported	Percent of Total Exchanges
Long-term	5,986	70%
Short-term	2,601	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,587</b>	<b>100%</b>

Exchanges in 2016-17 were similar in geographic distribution as previous years. Europe had the highest number of total exchanges followed by North America then South America. Both Africa and South America reported a higher number of exchanges in both the long and short-term programs. Asia reported 381 fewer exchanges than in 2015-16.

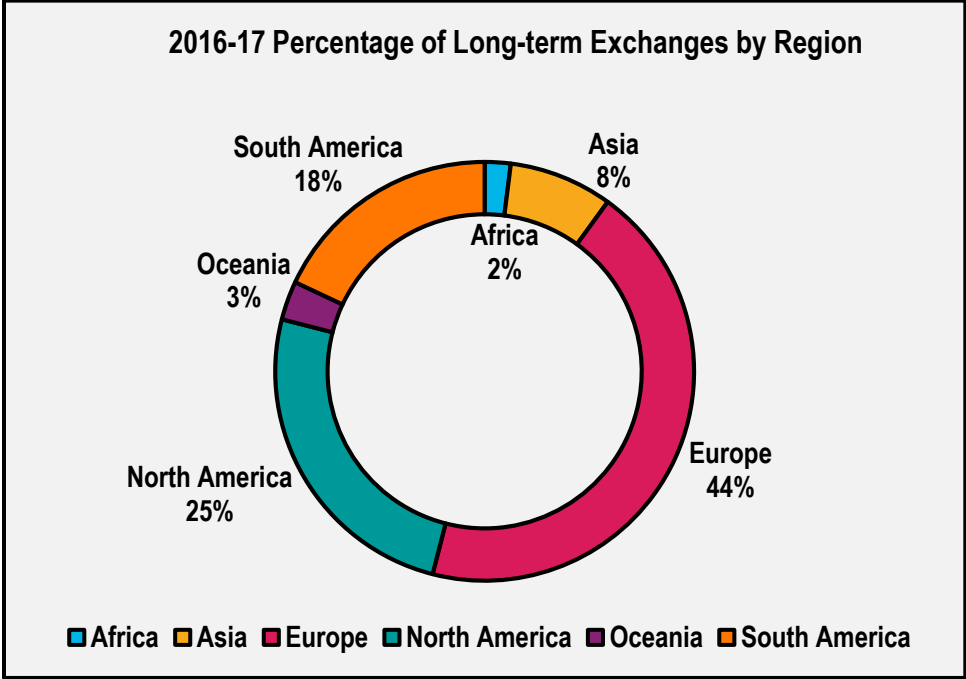
Geographic Area	2016-17 Total Exchanges Reported	2016-17 Percentage of Total Exchanges	2015-16 Total Exchanges Reported	2015-16 Percentage of Total Exchanges Reported
Africa	168	2%	117	1%
Asia	693	8%	1,074	12%
Europe	3,835	44%	3,704	43%
North America	2,132	25%	2,225	25%
Oceania	226	3%	276	3%
South America	1,534	18%	1,299	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,587</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8,695</b>	<b>100%</b>

The next two charts show exchange activity since 2012. The first chart includes the percentage of exchanges by regions. The second includes the total number of exchanges by regions.



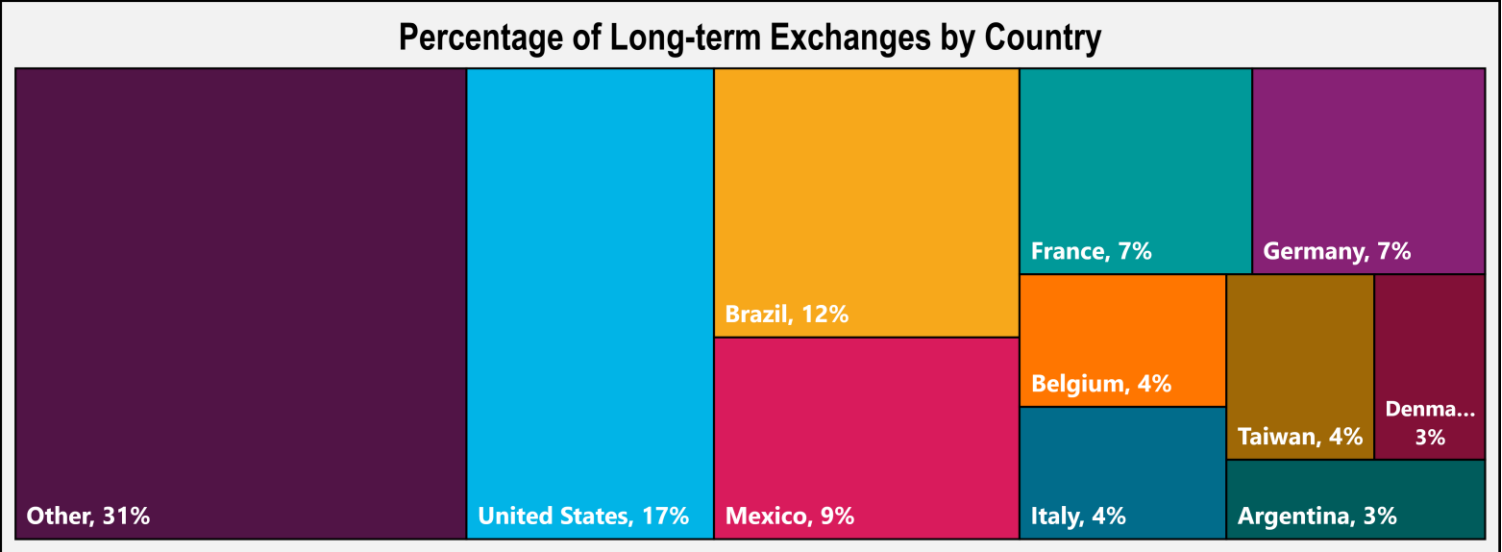
## LONG-TERM EXCHANGES

357 districts hosted **5,986 long-term exchanges**, representing **70%** of all Youth Exchange activity. This is a decrease of 179 exchanges from the 2015-16 Rotary year. Europe hosted the majority of all long-term exchanges, followed by North America. This chart displays the percentage of exchanges by region.



### Long-term Exchanges by Country

The 10 countries with the highest number of long-term exchanges represent 69% of total long-term activity. This tree map displays the percentage total for these 10 countries and all other countries aggregated as *Other*.

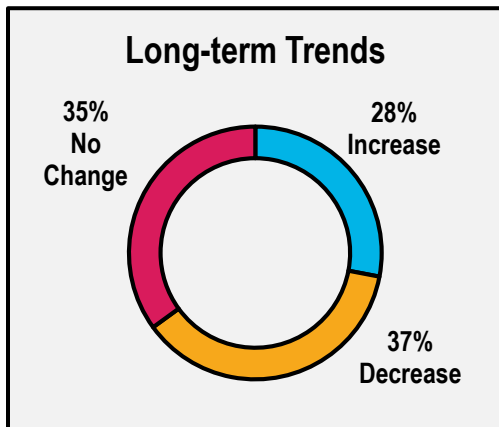


Below are country long-term totals for all survey respondents. The bolded countries are included in the tree map.

COUNTRY	LONG-TERM	COUNTRY	LONG-TERM
<b>United States</b>	<b>1,045</b>	South Korea	49
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>697</b>	Czech Republic	48
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>559</b>	Switzerland	48
<b>France</b>	<b>416</b>	Netherlands	42
<b>Germany</b>	<b>392</b>	Bolivia	40
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>233</b>	New Zealand	35
<b>Italy</b>	<b>215</b>	Norway	33
<b>Taiwan</b>	<b>211</b>	Paraguay	31
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>201</b>	Indonesia	30
<b>Argentina</b>	<b>187</b>	Turkey	18
Australia	168	Lithuania	13
Canada	152	South Africa	13
Finland	129	Romania	8
Chile	127	Ecuador	7
Spain	127	Venezuela	6
Thailand	99	Iceland	5
Japan	98	Philippines	5
Colombia	95	Bermuda	4
Peru	91	Estonia	3
Austria	65	Portugal	2
Sweden	65	Latvia	1
Poland	64	Namibia	1
India	57	Uruguay	1
Slovakia	50	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,986</b>

**Long-term Exchange Trends and Challenges**

Districts were asked to compare the number of long-term exchanges in 2016-17 with previous years. The majority of districts reported a decrease in activity.



**Top 3 Reasons for Decrease in Long-term Exchanges**

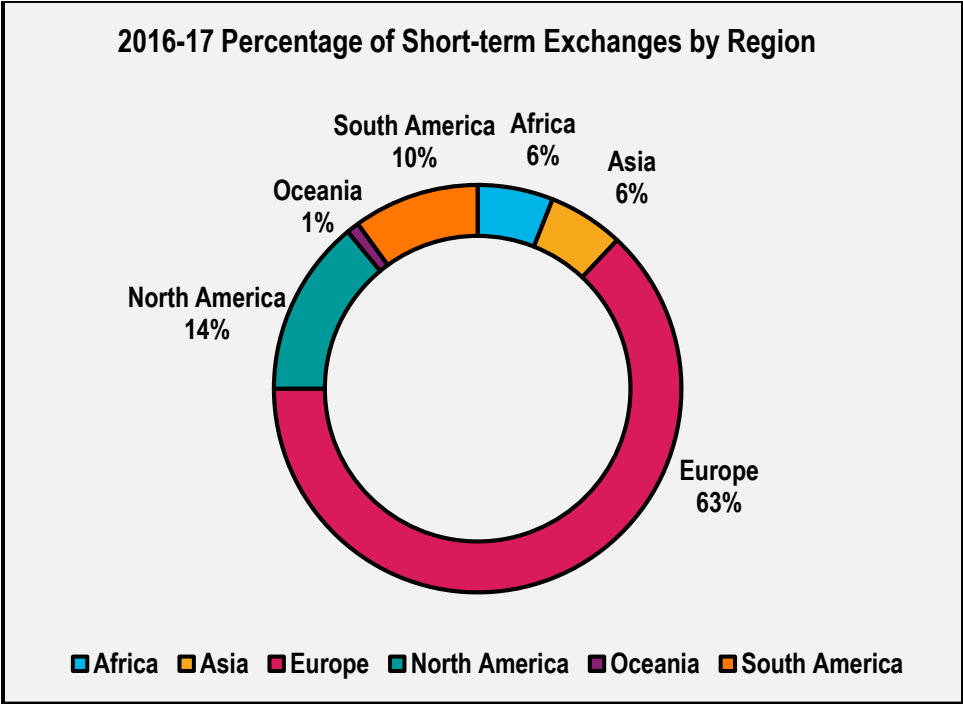
1. Lack of interest from Rotary clubs
2. Lack of interest from youth
3. Lack of interested host families

**Top 3 Reasons for Increase in Long-term Exchanges**

1. Increased interest from clubs
2. Increased interest from youth
3. Networking with new districts

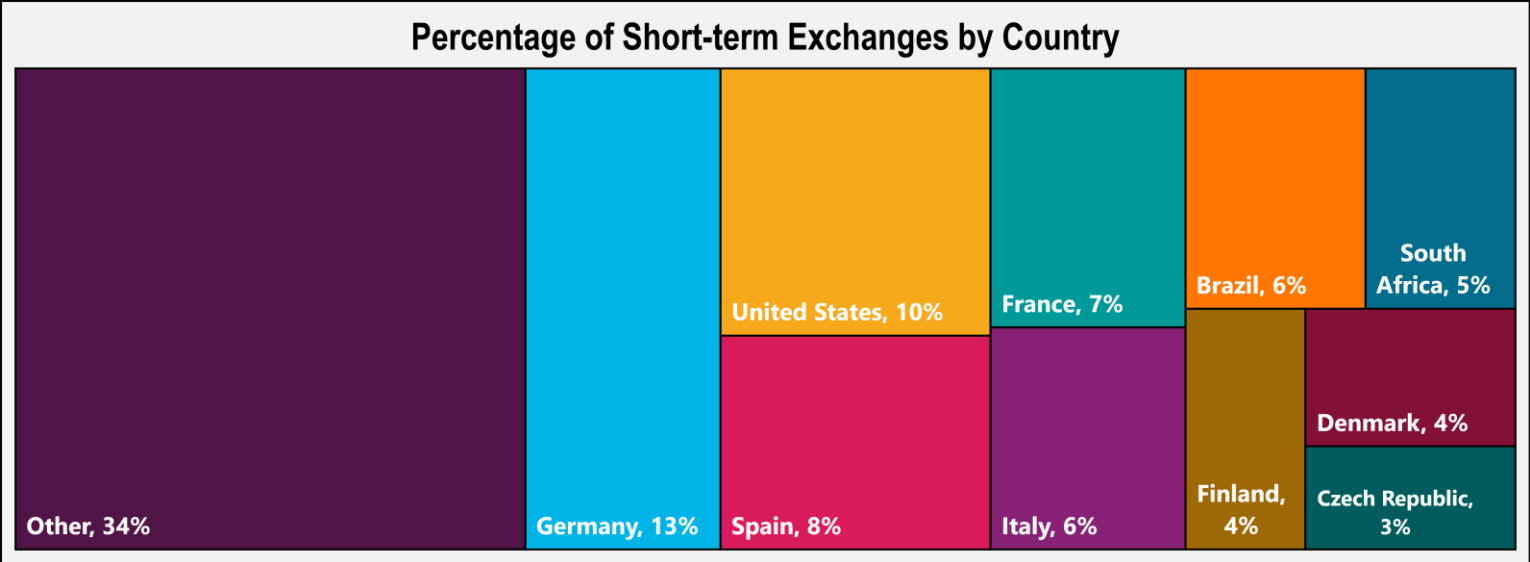
## SHORT-TERM EXCHANGES

**262** districts hosted **2,601 short-term exchanges** representing 30% of all Youth Exchange activity. This is an increase of 71 exchanges from the 2015-16 Rotary year. Europe hosted the majority of all short-term exchanges, followed by North America. This chart displays the percentage of exchanges by region.



### Short-term Exchanges by Country

The 10 countries with the highest number of short-term exchanges represent 66% of total short-term activity. This tree map displays the percentage total for these 10 countries and all other countries aggregated as *Other*.



Below are country short-term totals for all survey respondents. The bolded countries are included in the tree map.

COUNTRY	SHORT-TERM	COUNTRY	SHORT-TERM
<b>Germany</b>	<b>345</b>	Slovakia	29
<b>United States</b>	<b>271</b>	Australia	23
<b>Spain</b>	<b>196</b>	Israel	20
<b>France</b>	<b>176</b>	Norway	20
<b>Italy</b>	<b>160</b>	India	19
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>157</b>	Botswana	17
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>132</b>	Japan	17
<b>Finland</b>	<b>116</b>	Portugal	15
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>107</b>	Ecuador	14
Czech Republic	89	Lithuania	13
Netherlands	77	Thailand	10
Mexico	74	Colombia	5
Taiwan	74	Chile	3
Romania	70	Ireland	3
Argentina	64	Paraguay	3
Belgium	63	Peru	3
Austria	50	Bolivia	2
Turkey	50	Indonesia	2
Poland	45	South Korea	2
England	32	San Marin	1
Canada	31	Venezuela	1
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,601</b>

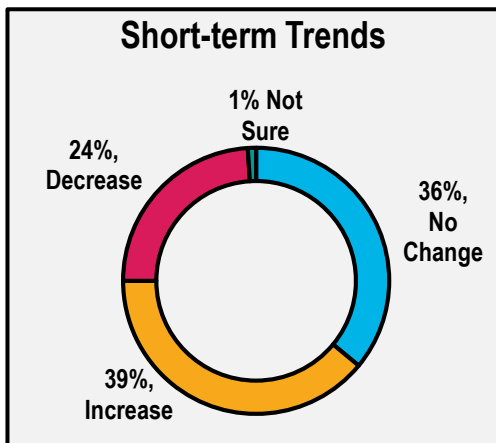
### ***Types of Short-term Exchanges***

Respondents were asked which types of short-term exchanges were hosted in their district. Homestay exchanges comprised 72% of total exchanges. As in 2015-16, homestays were the most common type of short-term exchange followed by general camps.

Type of Short-term Exchange	Number of Districts
Homestay	118
General Camp	22
Other	13
Tour	12

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

Districts were asked if the number of exchanges decreased or increased. The majority of districts, 39%, increased their participation, while 36% of districts did not experience any change in program size.



### Top 3 Reasons for Increase in Short-term Exchanges

1. Increased interest from youth
2. Increased interest in host families
3. Attending regional conferences

### Top 3 Reasons for Decrease in Short-term Exchanges

1. Lack of interest from youth
2. Lack of interest from partner districts
3. Competition from other programs

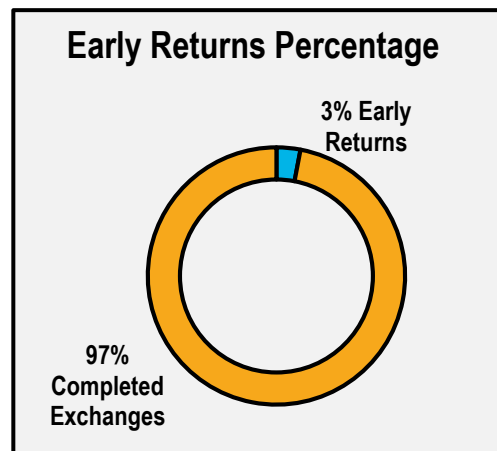
## EARLY RETURNS

Districts reported **280 early returns** in 2016-17, comprising **3%** of all exchanges. 99% were long-term early returns and 1% were short-term early returns.

### Causes for Early Returns

Respondents were asked to select the causes for each early return. As in 2015-16, drug/alcohol use and homesickness were the most common causes for early returns.

Early Return Causes	Count
Drug or alcohol use	75
Homesickness	61
Other	28
Prior medical condition	18
Romantic involvement	18
School requirements in home country	16
Problems with host family	13
Inactivity in school or community	12
Sudden illness	10
Unauthorized travel	10
Breach of law	8
Problems at school	8
Problems with host club	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>



## EXCHANGE PARTNER INTERACTIONS

Respondents were asked about challenges they experienced with their partner districts. Of the 355 districts that responded to this question, 92 districts, or 26%, indicated they had challenges with their partners. This is an increase of 13% from the 2015-16 Rotary year. 263 districts, or 74%, indicated they did not have any problems with exchange partners. As reported in 2015-16, inadequate student preparation and quality of student selection process were the most common challenges.



Cause	Count
Inadequate student preparation and training	32
Quality of student selection process	19
Problems with host families	17
Inadequate student support in host community	14
Other	10
Youth protection concerns	7
Problems placing inbound students (in host families or host clubs)	6
RI policy concerns	5
Student travel insurance concerns	3
Problems with host school(s)	3
Problems with volunteer training	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>

## CONCLUSION

The 2016-17 survey data indicates a decrease in long-term program activity and growth in the short-term program. Although this year's total number of exchanges reported was less than last year, Europe, South America, and Africa all reported program growth. North America and Oceania reported fewer exchanges but remained at 25% and 3% of total exchanges. As Asia's response rate fell 15%, their total number of exchanges dropped by 39%.

Those districts that reported an increase in long-term program activity cited increased club interest as the most common cause for program growth. Districts reporting a decrease in long-term program activity cited decreased club interest as the most common cause for smaller programs. This indicates that club support is vital for sustaining a long-term exchange program.

Districts that reported an increase in short-term program activity cited an increase in student interest as the most common cause for program growth. Districts reporting a decrease in short-term program activity cited decreased interest from youth as the most common cause for a smaller program. As such the size of the short-term exchange program is highly reliant on the interest from students

For the last seven years, most exchanges, 97%, were fully completed. As in previous years, drug/alcohol use and homesickness were listed as the most frequent causes of early returns. Many early returns are unavoidable and may be in the best interest of the student. However, strengthening the student selection process and providing adequate student preparation and support through the exchange may help decrease the number of early returns.

74% of districts reported no challenges with their exchange partners. However, 26% of districts did report challenges, which is 13% more than reported in 2015-16. Inadequate student preparation and the quality of the student selection process remain the most common challenges between partner districts.

As a reminder, districts with youth protection concerns should contact the Youth Exchange team at [youthexchange@rotary.org](mailto:youthexchange@rotary.org).