



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE 2012-13 ANNUAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

This report is designed to review Rotary Youth Exchange activity for the 2012-13 Rotary year (1 July 2012 through 30 June 2013). The statistics, trends, and issues contained in this document are based on the responses received from the annual survey that was sent to Youth Exchange district and multidistrict chairs in November 2013. The report includes statistical information on program participation as well as qualitative feedback from program administrators.

*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 41.060.5) and as any of the data changes, including updates in host family information.*

SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

The 2012-13 program survey was completed by 348 districts or multidistricts responding on their behalf, resulting in a 73% response rate from 477 certified RI districts. This is an **11% decrease in response rate** as compared to that of the 2011-12 program survey. Seventy-four percent of respondents completed the survey as an individual district and 26% percent as a multidistrict organization.

The geographic areas referred to in this report are listed below along with survey response rates. A decrease of 11% or more in response rate is seen across all regions except for Africa and South America, which increased from their 2011-12 reporting rate.

Geographic Area	% certified districts responding to survey
Asia (Zones 1-6, 9, and 10)	68%
Oceania (Zones 7 and 8)	61%
Europe (Zones 11-19 and 20B)	70%
Africa (Zone Section 20A)	75%
North America (Zones 21A – Mexico only, 21B, and 24-34)	80%
South America (Zones 21A – excluding Mexico, 22, and 23)	72%

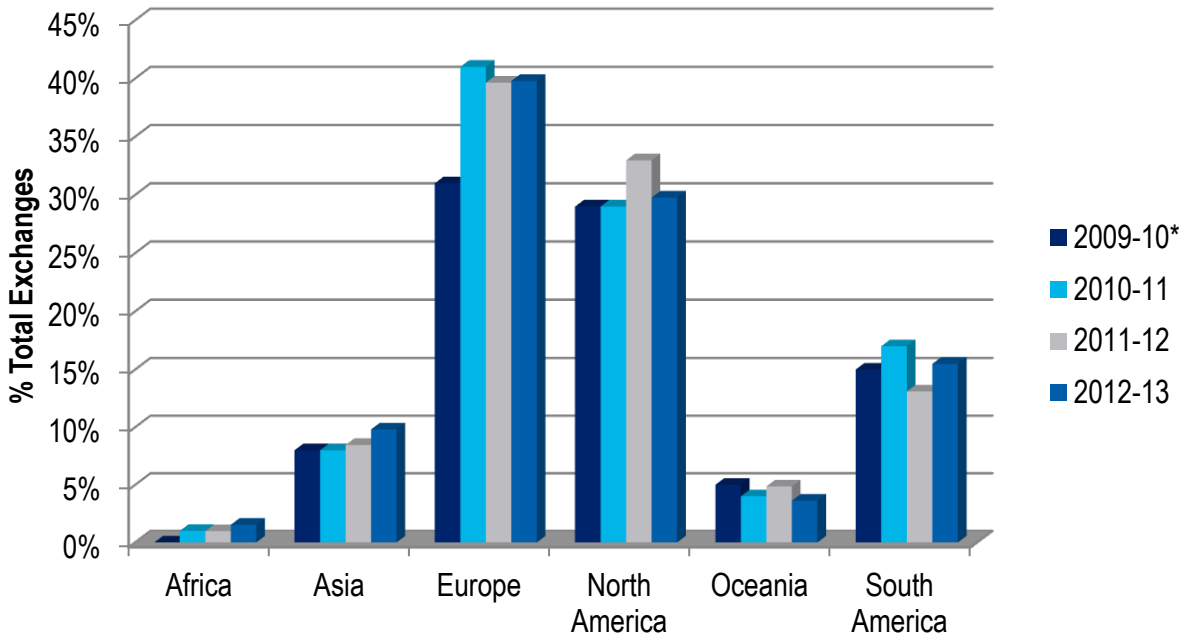
OVERALL PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

For the 2012-13 Rotary year, districts reported 7,626 Youth Exchange program participants. This is a slight decline from recent years. However, given the lower response rate, it is likely that exchange activity is on par with that of previous years. Long-term exchanges comprise 72% of the total, with short-term exchanges at 28%.

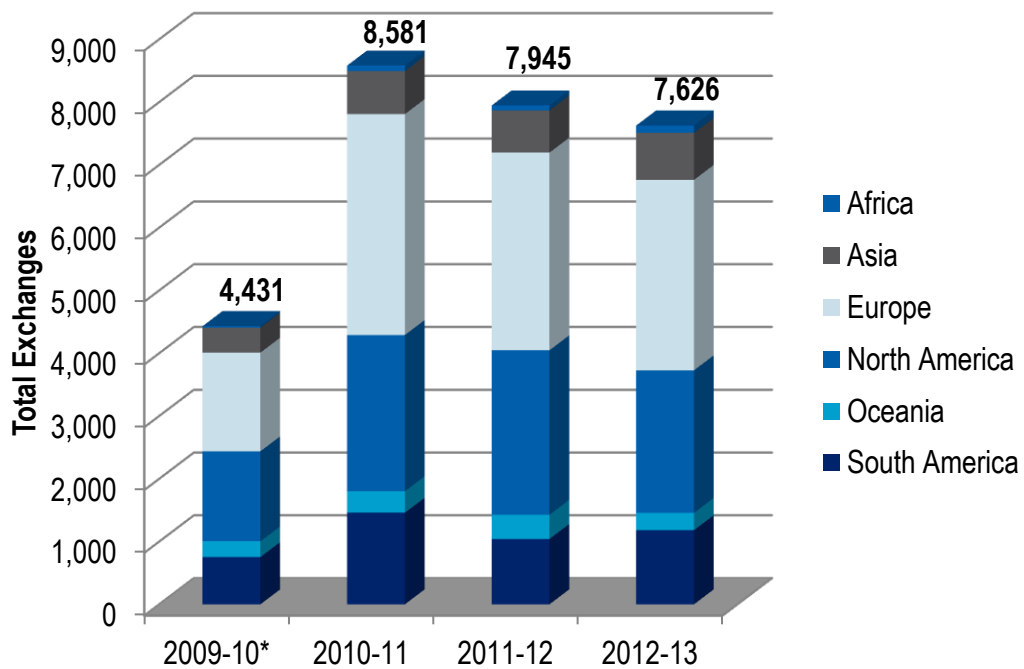
Type of Exchange	Exchanges Reported in 2012-13
Long-term	5,513
Short-term	2,113
TOTAL	7,626

Exchanges in 2012-13 had a similar geographic distribution to previous years, with Europe having the greatest number of total exchanges (both long- and short-term), followed by North America and South America.

2009-2013 Historical Analysis: Percent of Total Exchanges by Geographic Area



2009-2013 Historical Analysis: Geographic Distribution of Total Exchanges by Year

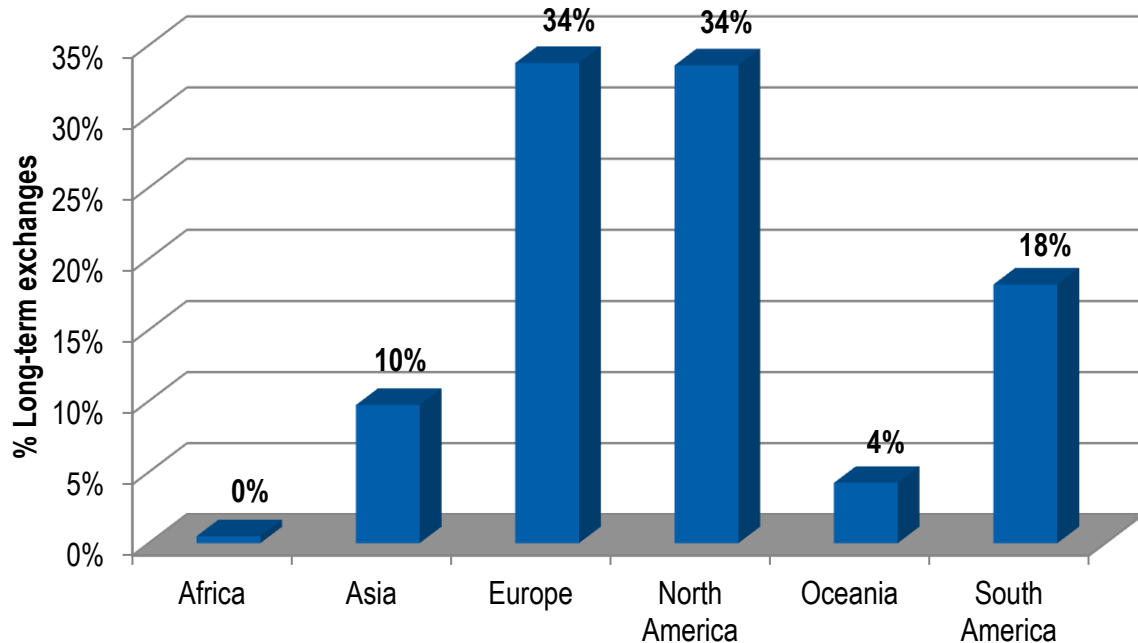


**Due to incomplete or illegible records, 11% of 2009-10 inbound student data could not be assigned to any region.*

LONG-TERM EXCHANGES

In 2012-13, districts reported 5,513 long-term exchange program participants, comprising 72% of all Youth Exchange activity. This is relatively consistent with totals from previous years, representing a slight decrease of 78 from 2011-12. Europe and North America hosted the most long-term exchanges, each with 34% of the total. South America reported the greatest percentage increase in long-term exchange activity with 3% more of the worldwide total than in 2011-12.

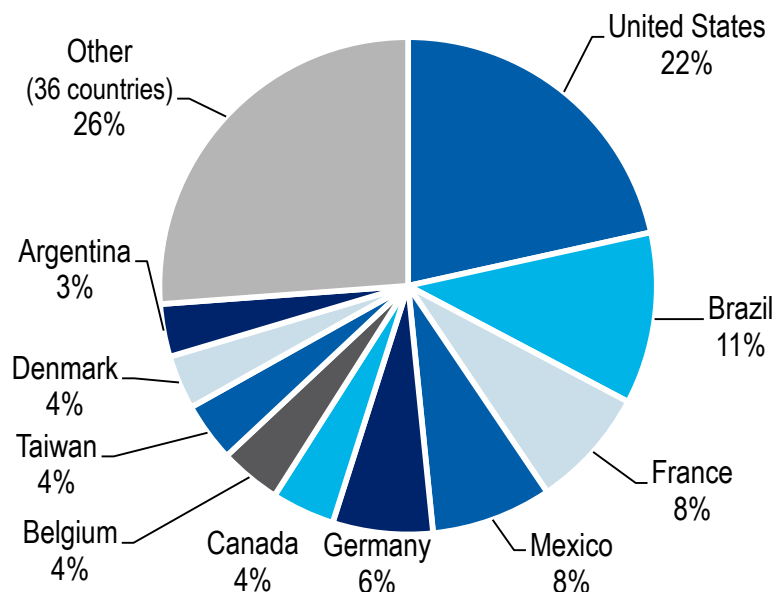
2012-13 Long-term Exchanges Worldwide



Long-term Exchanges by Country

The table and chart below show the countries that reported the highest number of inbound long-term exchange participants in 2012-13, representing 74% of the total participation in the long-term exchange program. The United States reported the highest number of long-term exchanges with 1,188 participants.

Country	Inbound Long-term Exchanges
United States	1,188
Brazil	616
France	432
Mexico	432
Germany	359
Canada	227
Belgium	220
Taiwan	213
Denmark	194
Argentina	189
Other	1,443
ALL COUNTRIES	5,513



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 2012-13.

Trends:

- About a third of districts that host long-term exchanges report an increase in the number of students hosted for this exchange type.
- Many respondents emphasize strong relationships with clubs as 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 attribute their increase in long-term activity to positive word-of-mouth from previous participants; students speak highly of the program upon their return home, which builds interest and confidence in their program.
- Some districts attract participants by incorporating language classes, cultural tours, and service projects into their long-term exchange programs.

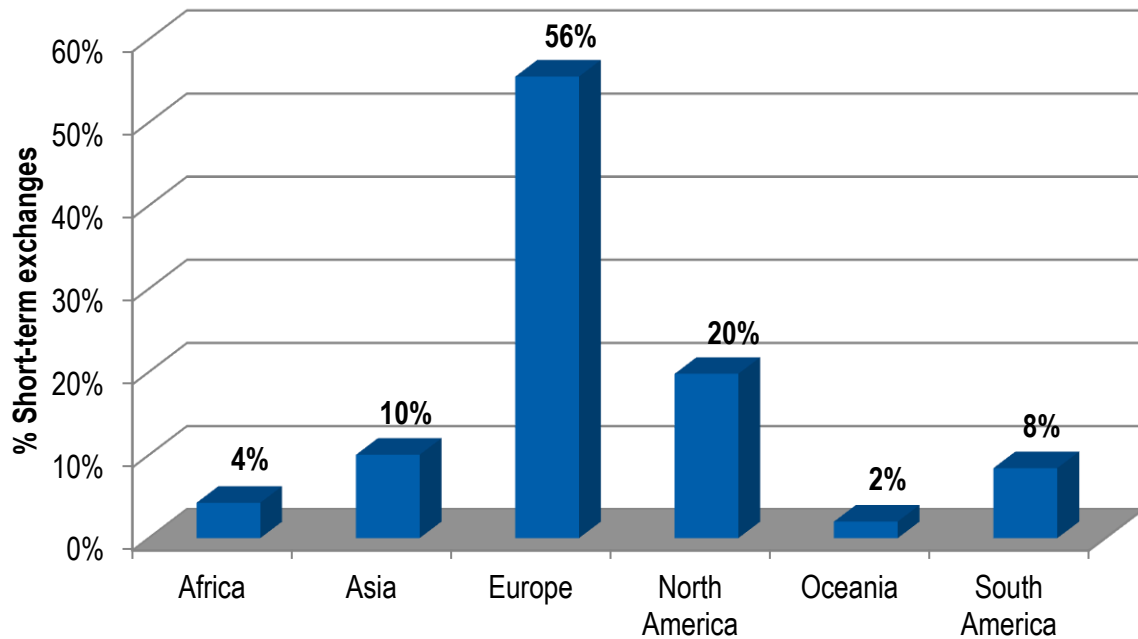
Challenges:

- About 20% of districts report a decrease in the number of long-term exchanges hosted.
- The most frequently cited reason for a decrease in the number of exchanges hosted was lack of interest from Rotary clubs, followed by lack of interested host families.
- The 2011 earthquake and nuclear crisis in Japan continues to limit exchange activity in the country. However, a few Japanese districts reported a slight increase in students hosted as recovery continues.
- Visa requirements of host countries and scheduling conflicts with school exams were the most common reasons why some districts did not participate in the long-term exchange program.

SHORT-TERM EXCHANGES

In 2012-13, 2,113 short-term exchanges were reported, comprising 28% of all exchanges. This represents a slight increase of 88 from short-term exchanges reported in 2011-12. Consistent with previous years, short-term exchanges were most common in Europe, with 56% of the total.

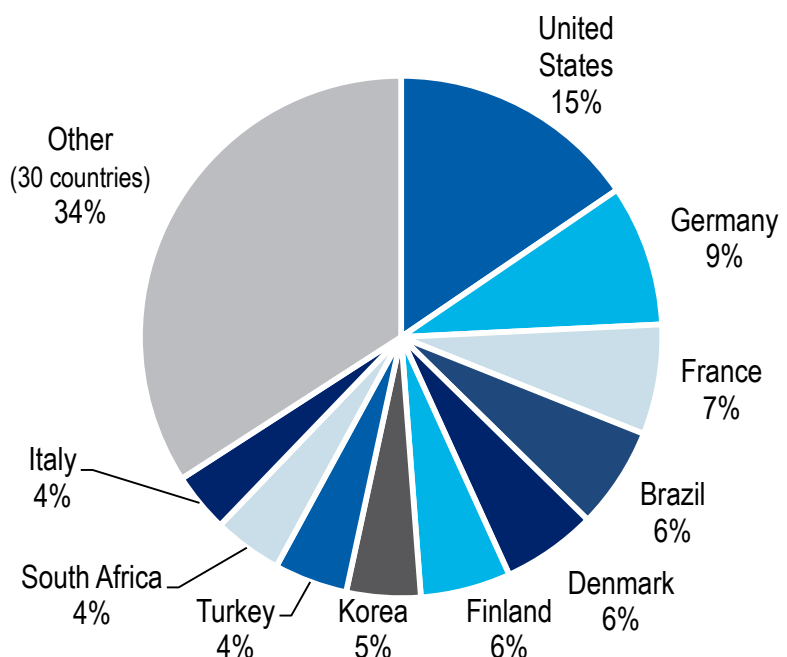
2012-13 Short-term Exchanges Worldwide



Short-term Exchanges by Country

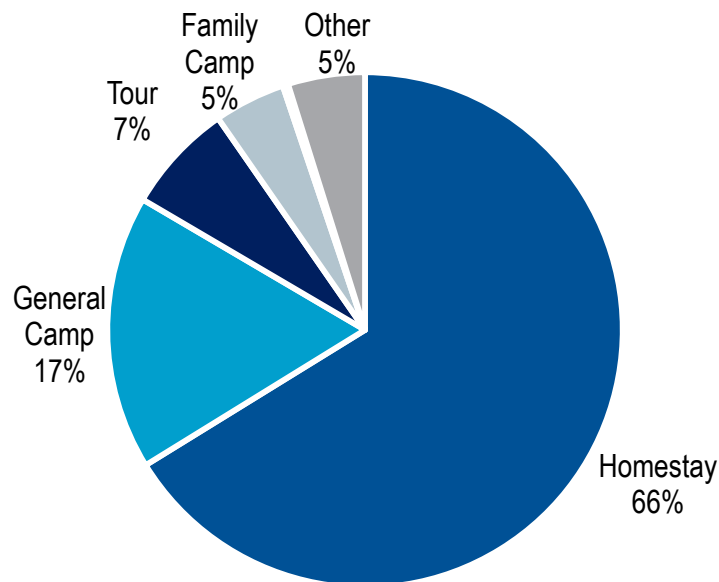
The table and chart below show the countries that reported the highest number of inbound short-term exchange participants in 2012-13, representing 66% of the total participation in the short-term exchange program. The United States reported the most short-term exchanges with 327 participants.

Country	Inbound Short-term Exchanges
United States	327
Germany	185
France	144
Brazil	133
Denmark	124
Finland	118
Korea	97
Turkey	96
South Africa	90
Italy	78
Other	721
ALL COUNTRIES	2,113



Short-term Exchanges by Type

Homestay continued to be the most common type of short-term exchange with 66% of districts participating in this type of program, followed by general camps with 17% of districts participating.



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.

Trends:

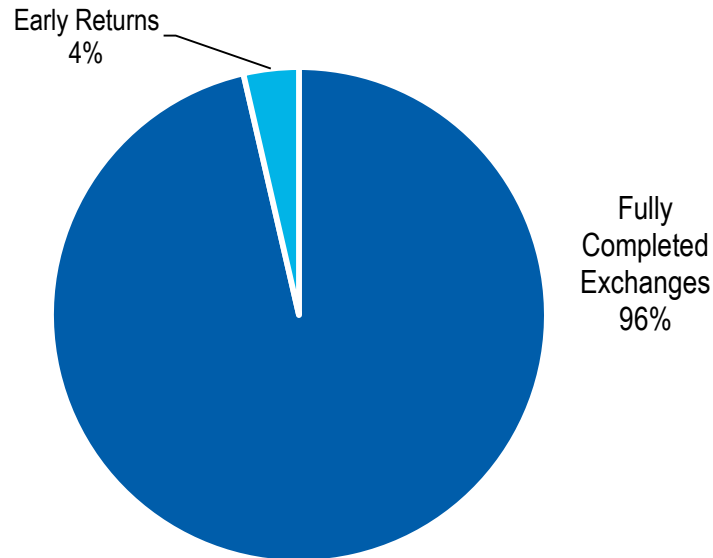
- About a third of districts that host short-term exchanges report an increase in the number of students hosted for this exchange type.
- Many districts attribute increases in exchange activity to increased promotion in clubs, communities, and schools.
- Several districts indicated that they hosted short-term exchanges for the first time in 2012-13 and plan to continue to grow their programs.

Challenges:

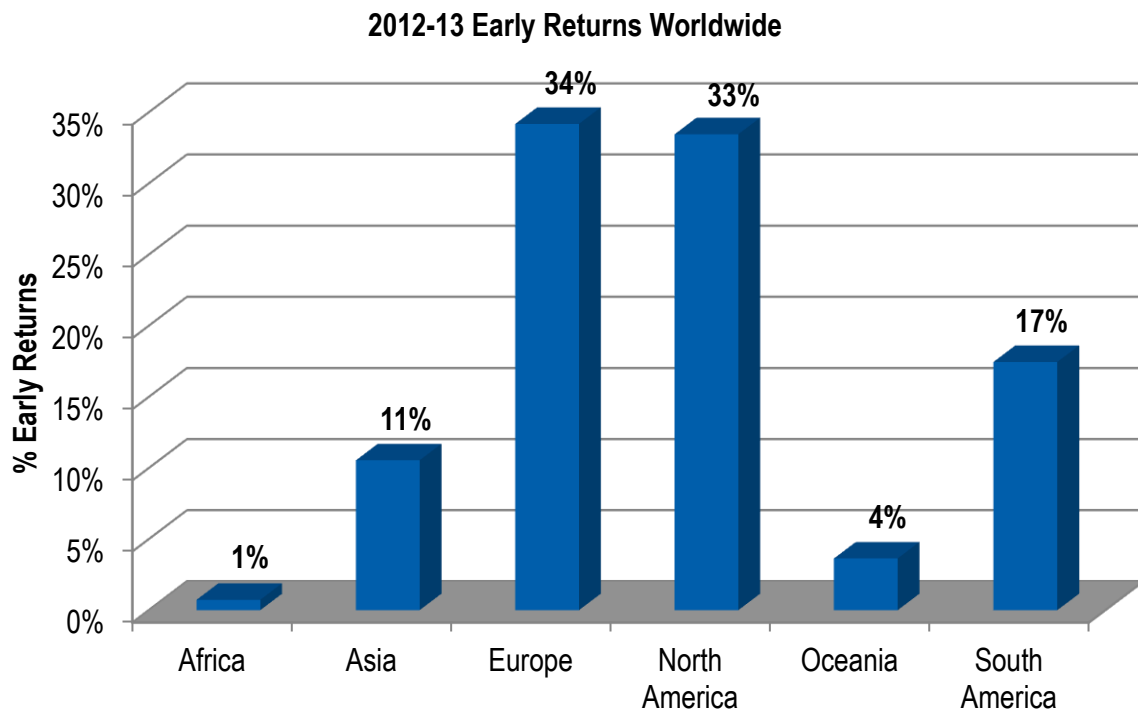
- Sometimes high travel costs can prohibit the number of short-term exchange participants.
- Many districts do not have enough committee members or support to administer the short-term exchange program in addition to long-term activities.
- Some respondents report that the short-term exchange program is not well known in their districts.

EARLY RETURNS

Districts and multidistricts reported 275 early returns in 2012-13, comprising 4% of all exchanges. This is consistent with early return rates in recent years. 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.

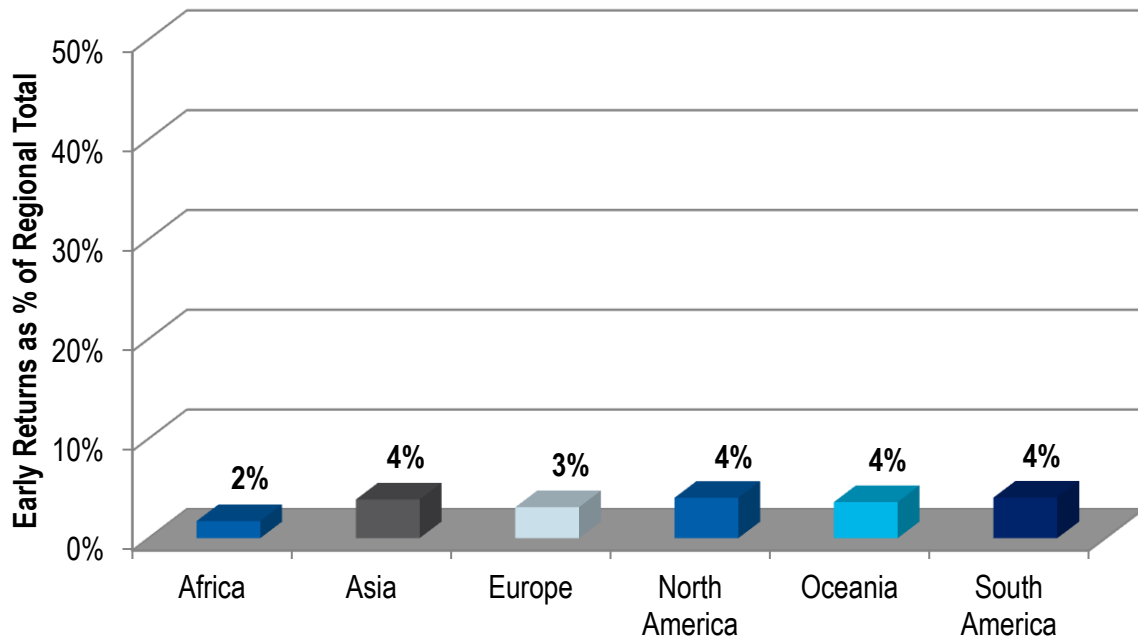


The geographic distribution of early returns largely mirrors the geographic distribution of total exchange activity, with Europe and North America having 30-40% of the total number of early exchanges.



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 4% of exchange participants returned home early.

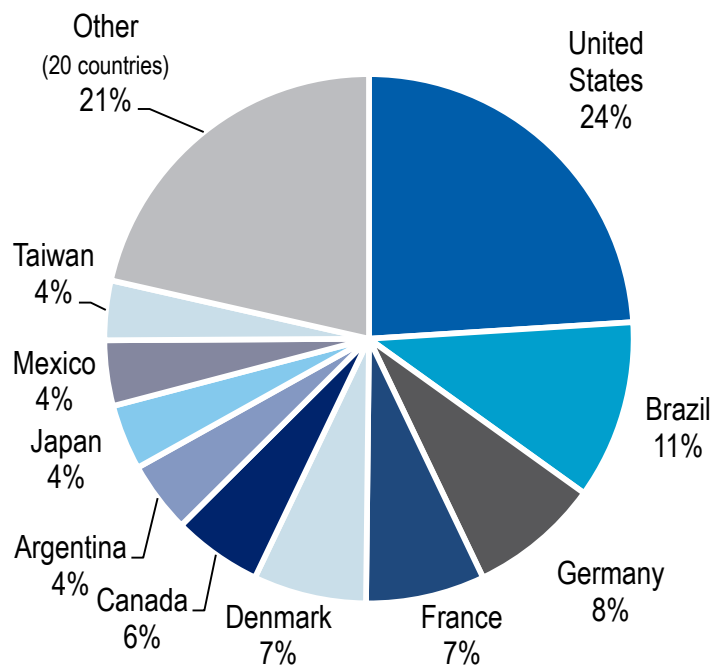
2012-13 Early Returns as Percent of Regional Totals



Early Returns by Country

The table and chart below show the ten countries that reported the highest number of early returns in 2012-13, representing 79% of all early returns. Responding districts from the United States reported the most early returns with 66.

Country	Early Returns Reported
United States	66
Brazil	30
Germany	22
France	20
Denmark	19
Canada	15
Argentina	12
Japan	11
Mexico	11
Taiwan	10
Other	59
ALL COUNTRIES	275

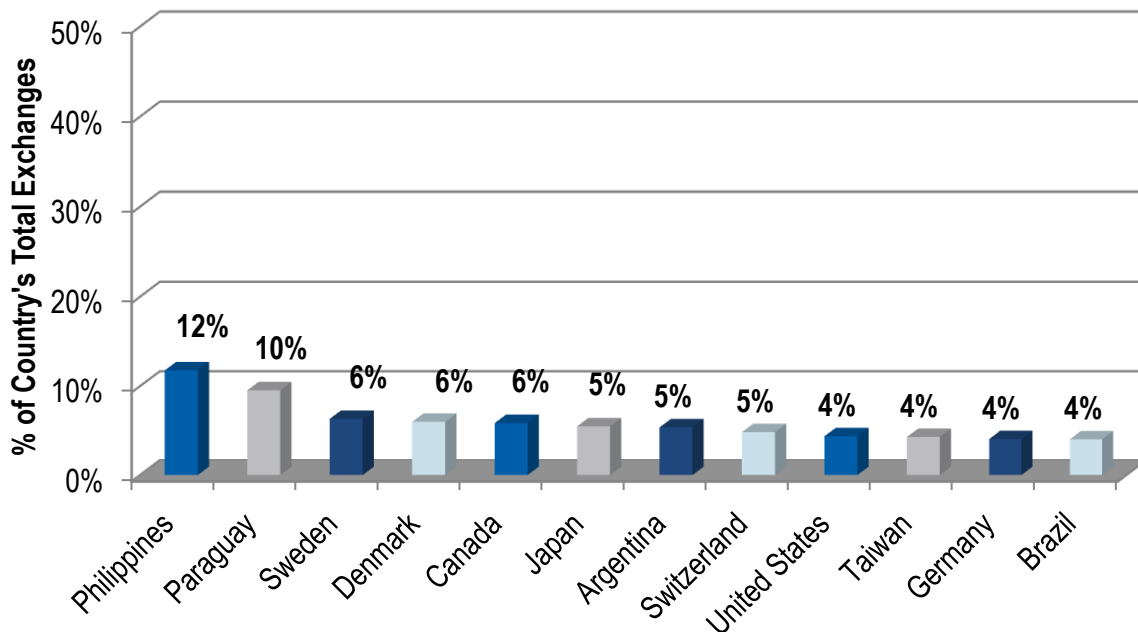


Early Returns as Percent of Country Totals

When the early returns for each country are analyzed as a percentage of that country's total exchanges, some additional information emerges. The table and chart below show the countries that reported the highest percentage of early returns in 2012-13. The percentage of early returns is relatively consistent across these countries, with most reporting that 4% to 6% of their participants returned home early. The higher percentages reported by districts in the Philippines and Paraguay are due to their lower total number of exchanges hosted. Although the percentage of early returns is higher for the Philippines and Paraguay, each country only had two participants return home early.

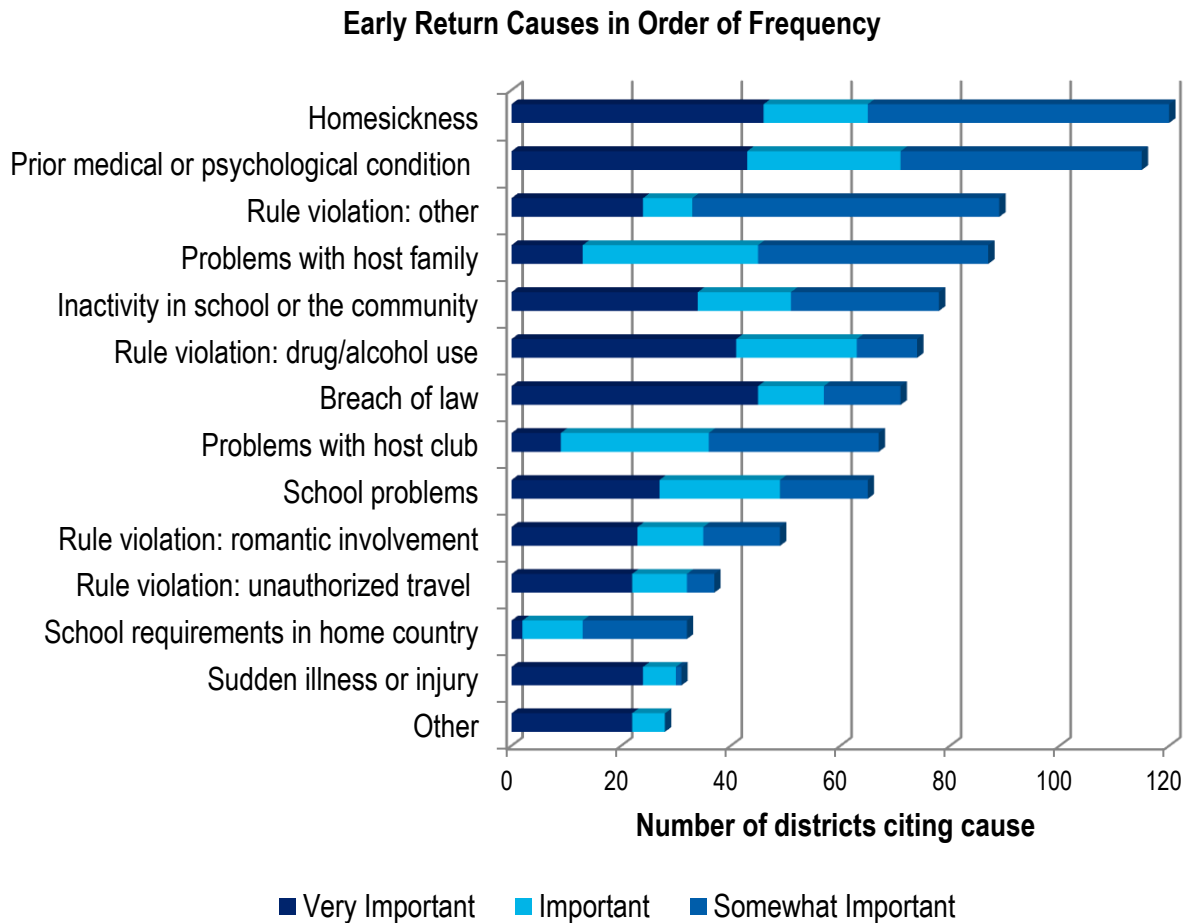
Country	Early Returns Reported	Total Exchanges	% of Country's Total Exchanges
Philippines	2	17	12%
Paraguay	2	21	10%
Sweden	6	95	6%
Denmark	19	318	6%
Canada	15	257	6%
Japan	11	201	5%
Argentina	12	224	5%
Switzerland	7	145	5%
United States	66	1515	4%
Taiwan	10	234	4%
Germany	22	544	4%
Brazil	30	749	4%

2012-13 Early Returns as Percent of Country Totals



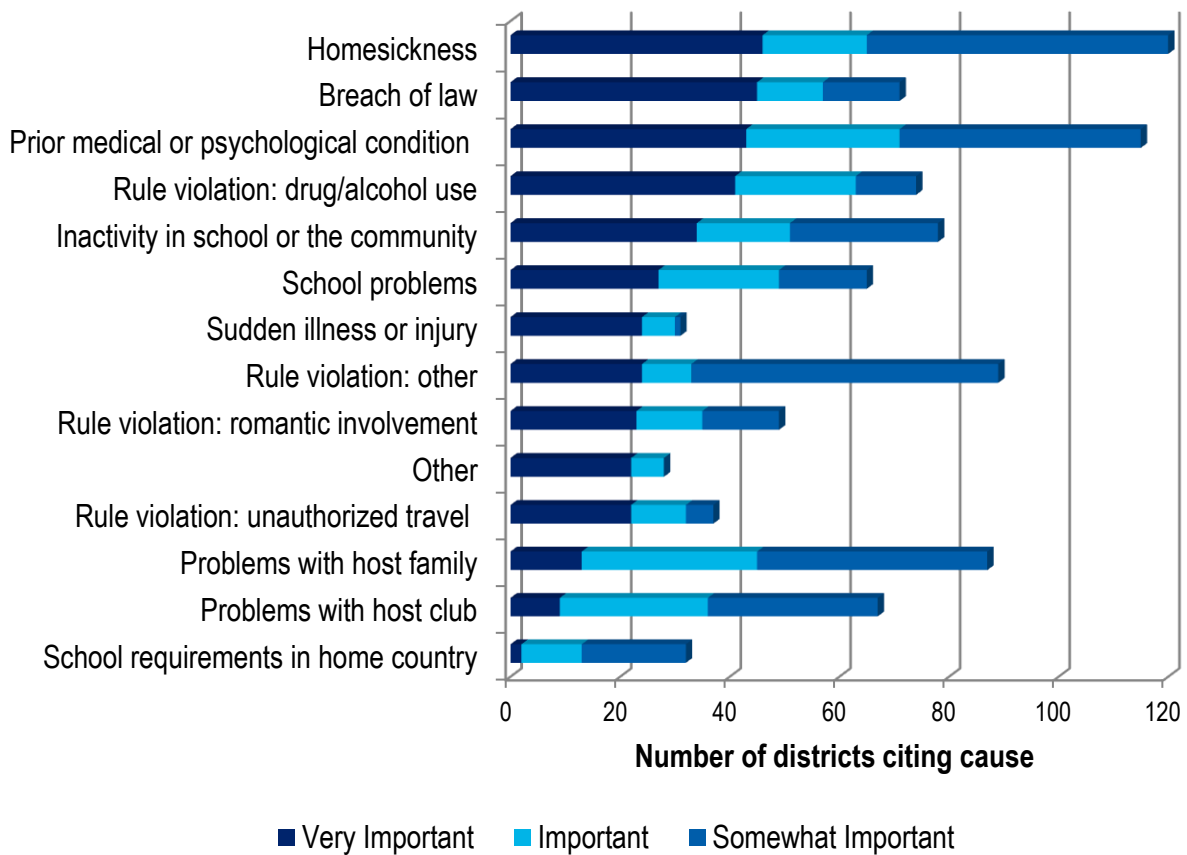
Causes for Early Returns

In 2012-13, districts and multidistricts reported a number of causes for students' early returns, with varying levels of significance.



In order of *frequency*, homesickness, prior medical or psychological condition, and rule violation were cited most often as the causes for early returns in 2012-13. When aggregated, the rule violation categories comprise 26% of total early return causes: this includes drug and alcohol use (8%), romantic involvement (5%), unauthorized travel (4%), and other violations of districts' program rules. Other early return causes cited frequently include poor participant selection, poor orientation, and family emergencies in the home country.

Early Return Causes in Order of Importance



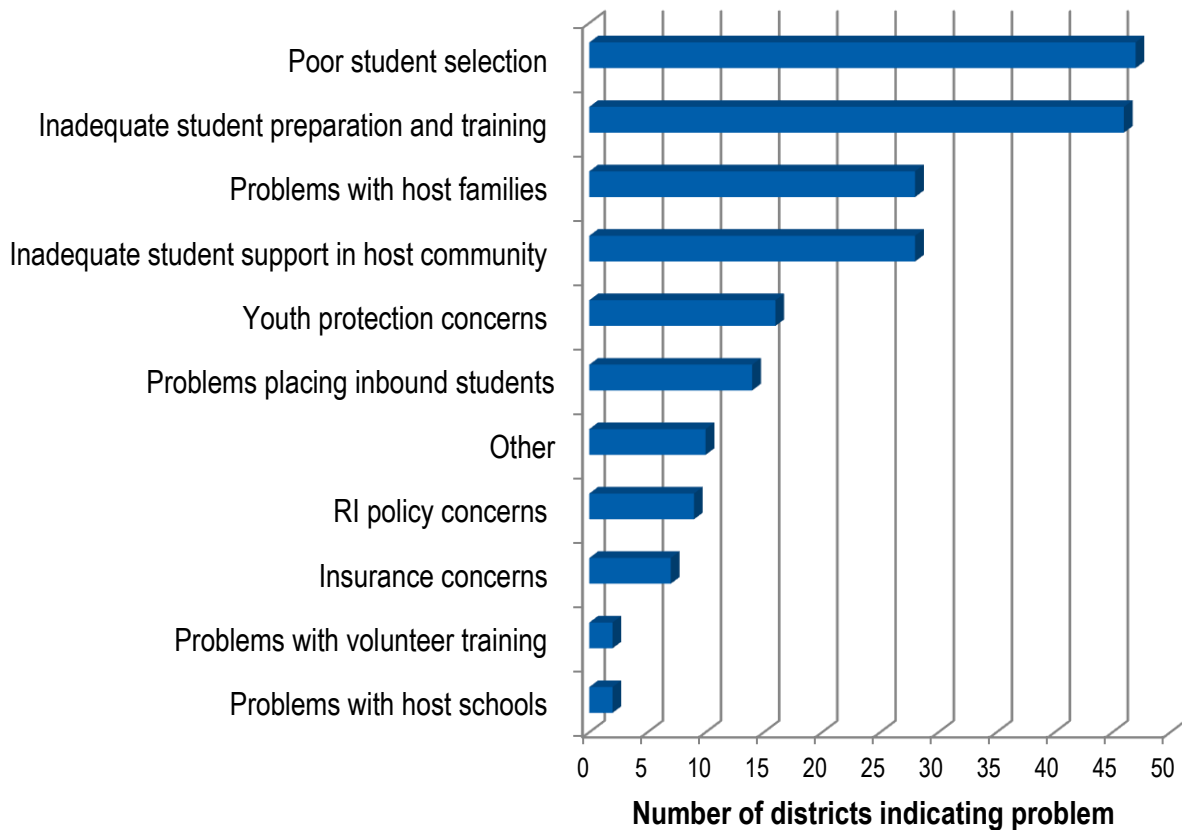
When examining the reported *importance* of each reason, some additional causes stand out. Homesickness remains first among “very important” causes of early returns, followed by breach of law and drug and alcohol use. Inactivity in school or the community and school problems also stand out as important factors contributing to early returns.

A number of districts indicated that they have amended their exchange practices or policies in order to reduce the number of early returns. These changes largely revolve around an increased emphasis on training for host families, host clubs, and inbound exchange students. Training for inbound students focuses on setting clear expectations of behavior, including straightforward rules and guidelines to be followed. Training for host families and host clubs centers on how to get the students involved in the community and school in order to minimize homesickness, as well as how to identify potential problems and seek solutions proactively.

EXCHANGE PARTNER INTERACTIONS

Survey respondents were asked about challenges they experienced with their exchange partner districts in 2012-13. Seventy districts indicated they had challenges with their partners, comprising 20% of the total respondents. This is a 4% increase from 2011-12 but is relatively consistent with recent years.

Common Problems with Exchange Partners

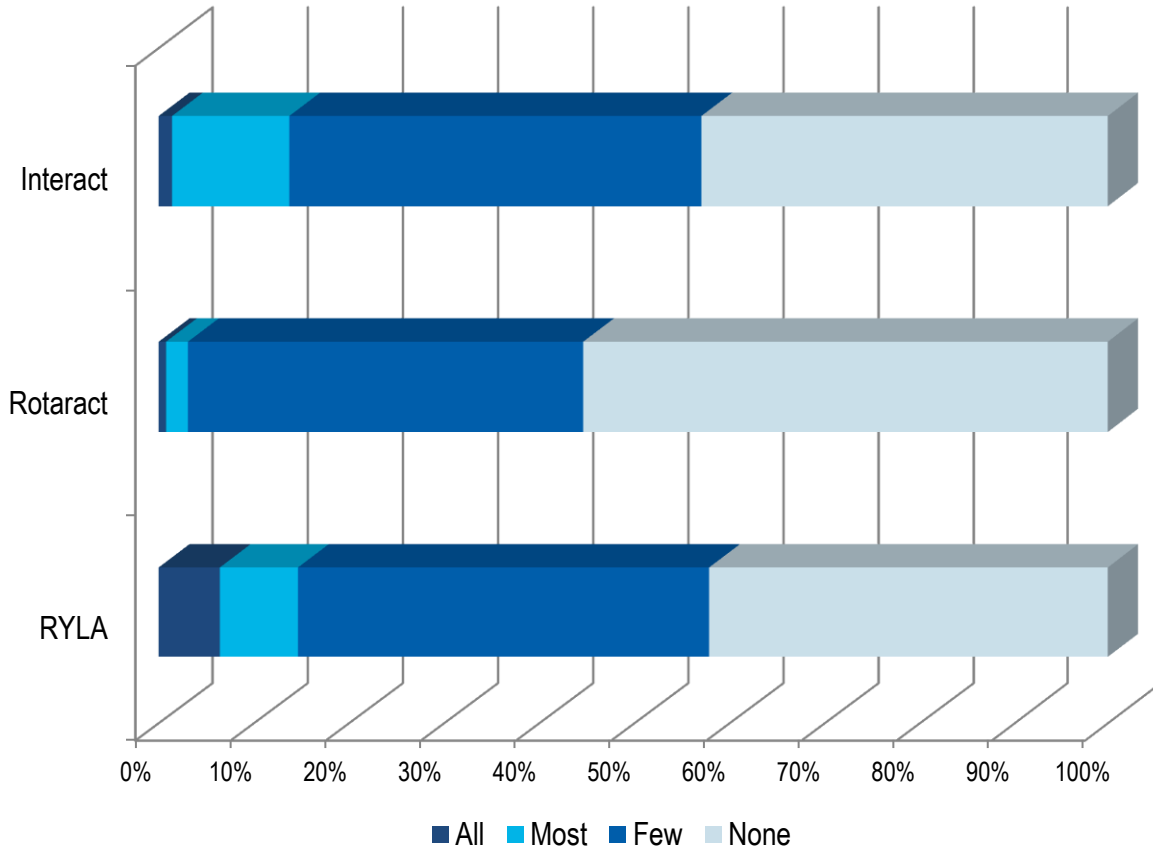


The most common problems with partner districts reported in 2012-13 were poor student selection, inadequate student preparation and training, problems with host families, and inadequate student support in the host community. The number of districts that reported youth protection or RI policy concerns increased from 13 in 2011-12 to 25 in 2012-13. Other problems reported include forcing families of outbound students to host and miscommunications about early returns.

CROSS-PROMOTION WITH OTHER ROTARY YOUTH PROGRAMS

Survey respondents were asked to provide information about crossover with other RI youth programs. Sixty-three percent of responding districts indicated that their Youth Exchange students were current or former participants in Interact, Rotaract, or RYLA. The chart below shows the degree of overlap between Rotary Youth Exchange and RI's other youth programs in 2012-13.

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

Rotary Youth Exchange provides thousands of young people the opportunity to experience new cultures, meet new people, and promote international understanding. Given the lower response rate to the 2012-13 annual survey, it is possible that there was exchange activity not reflected in this report. However, it is clear from responses received that exchange activity remains strong, with Rotarians partnering to provide over 7,600 young people the opportunity to immerse themselves in new cultures.

Respondents to the 2012-13 survey emphasized the importance of club involvement and promotion in developing successful exchanges. The overall early return rate of 4% was consistent with recent years, with districts developing enhanced training resources to support students as they adjusted to the culture of the host country.

As in previous years, districts reported common problems with exchange partners, such as poor student selection and inadequate student preparation and training. It is likely that the use of exchange partner agreements would establish more clear expectations, improve partner communication, and increase effective collaboration. Any district with concerns about the handling of a youth protection incident or RI policy should contact the Youth Exchange team directly at youthexchange@rotary.org.