



**Annual State of the Field
Program Provider and
Gap Year Consultant
Report
2022**

A special thanks is extended to the Gap Year Association Research Committee whose continued support to improving data in the gap year field has made this report possible.

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Preface

The State of the Field Survey functions as a snapshot of the current trends in gap year education, particularly within the United States of America. This survey has been conducted internally by the Gap Year Association (GYA) since 2012. Prior to 2012, data of a similar nature was being collected from 2006-2011 under the guidance of the USA Gap Year Fairs. Since 2019, the survey has been formalized under the direction of the GYA Research Committee, with an accompanying executive report being published each year.

The GYA Research Committee is a group of volunteers who are committed to the advancement of active and ongoing research agendas in the gap year field. The committee meets on a quarterly basis to discuss research, hear from current gap year researchers, maintain an exhaustive digital library of gap year-related research, and conduct their own projects. The annual State of the Field survey is a significant contribution to this overall agenda.

While certain questions are continually asked each year in the survey, the committee adjusts the survey each year to expand the knowledge of the gap year field and to address contemporary issues, concerns, and curiosities. Surveys are distributed through a database of contacts in the GYA network. The study is also dedicated to maintaining anonymity for all participating organizations.

Since the annual survey changes in format as well as in participation rates from year to year, it is not intended to be used in a comparative or longitudinal manner with previous years' data. Each annual survey serves as a snapshot of the current state of the field and, thus, stands alone in its results as our best attempt to capture what is happening in the gap year industry at this moment.

Historical Response Rates

Participation has been varied since reporting was formalized in 2019. The historical response rates can be viewed below. It is important to point out these variations in reporting to re-emphasize the use of this annual report as a snapshot in time. It is not designed to be utilized in a comparative or longitudinal manner with previous years' data.

	Providers	Consultants
2019	44	5
2020	51	14
2021	30	6
2022	48	17

Organization and Program Information

Eligibility and Response Rates

Forty-eight providers were included in our analysis. Of these, 44 organizations indicated they were current GYA members. Response rates vary by question, dropping off considerably after the first page of the survey. Please keep the response rates in mind as you review the study's key findings.

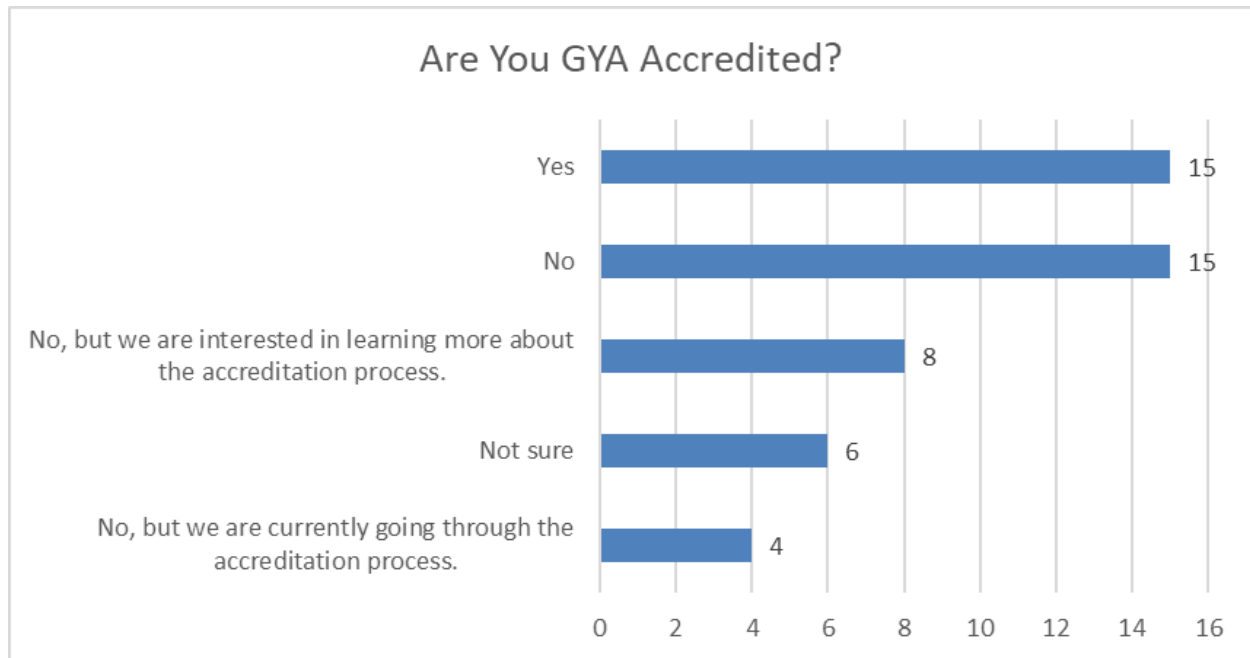
For the purposes of this study, eligible gap year programs were limited to those that: (1) were at least 8 weeks (or 2+ months) in duration; and (2) targeted participants between 17 and 24 years of age.

Membership and Accreditation

Nearly all of our respondents were GYA members. Of the thirty-two organizations that provided information on membership status, 30 (94%) indicated they were current members of GYA. One respondent was not a member and one was unsure.

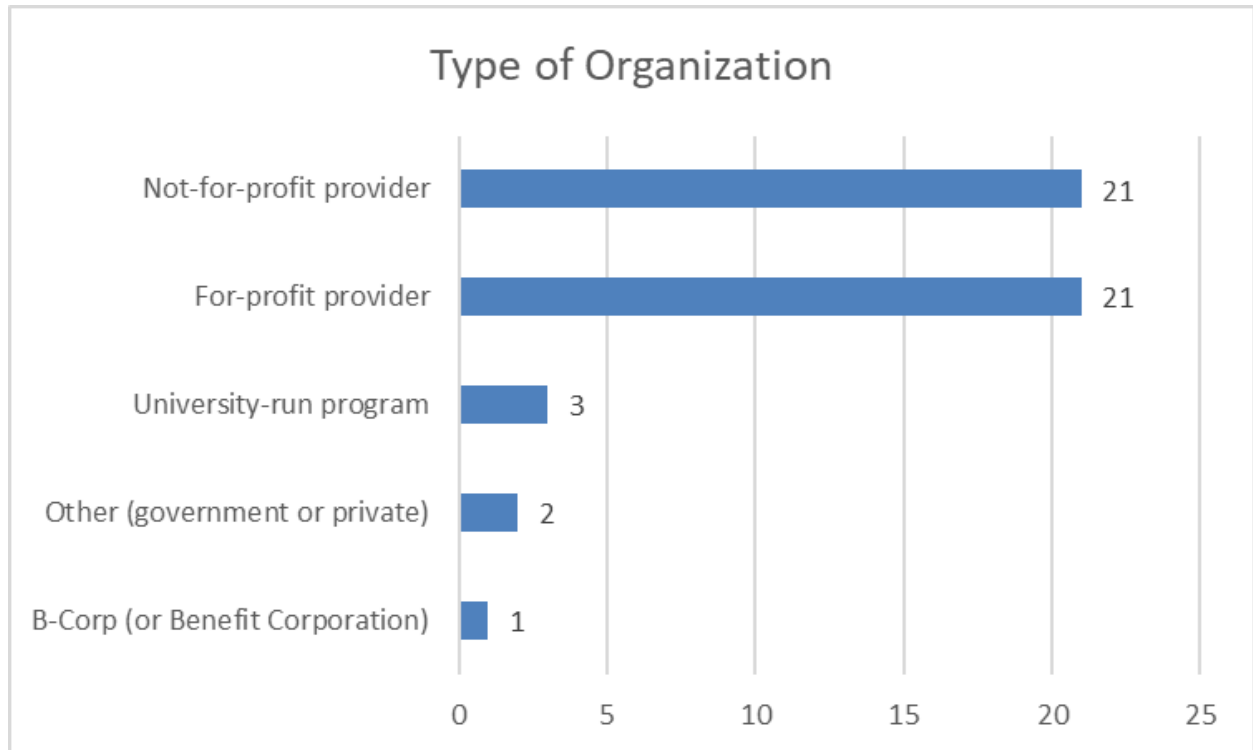
Forty-eight providers provided information on accreditation status. Of these, 15 (31%) were currently accredited and 4 (8%) were in the middle of the accreditation process. The remainder (29, or 60%) were not accredited; Eight (17%), however, expressed

interest in learning more about the accreditation process. Six (13%) respondents were unsure of their accreditation status.



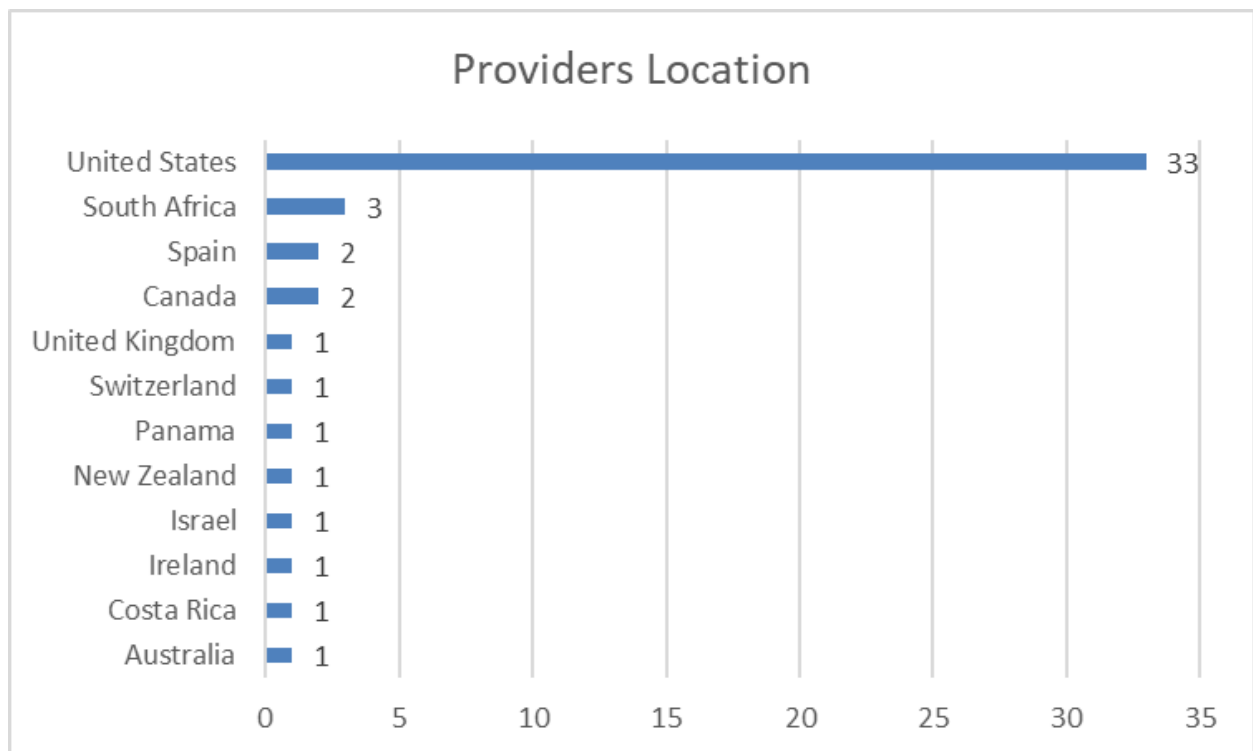
Organization Type

Forty-eight providers reported the type of organization. Of these, the majority are for-profit and not-for-profit providers. The remaining providers identified as not-for-profit, university-run programs, benefit corporations, and other (government or private).



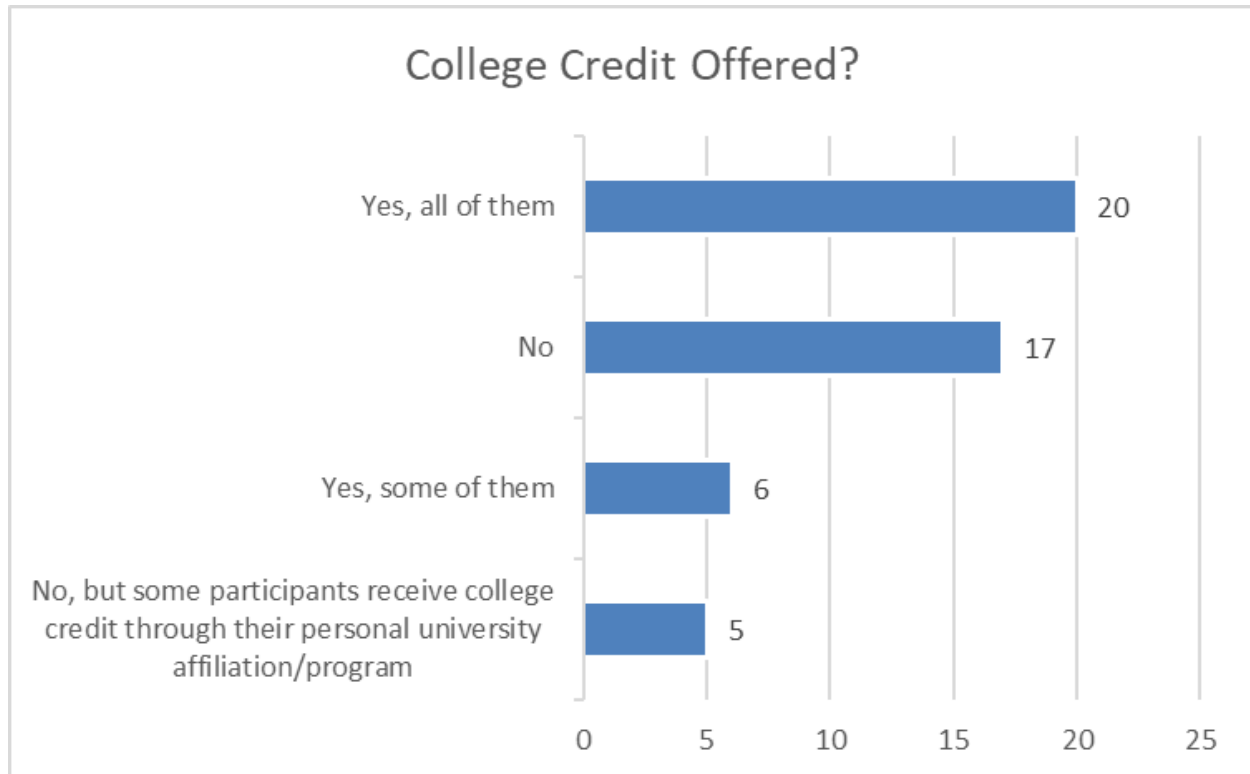
Headquarters

Forty-eight organizations reported their location. Of these, 33 (69%) were located in the USA and 15 (31%) were located outside the USA.



College Credit

Forty-eight organizations reported on college credit. When asked if you provide college credit to your participants, 20 (42%) indicated that they offer college credit on all of their programs, 17 (35%) do not offer college credit for their programs, 6 (13%) indicated offering college credit on some programs, and 5 (10%) indicated no but that some participants receive college credit through their personal university affiliation/program.



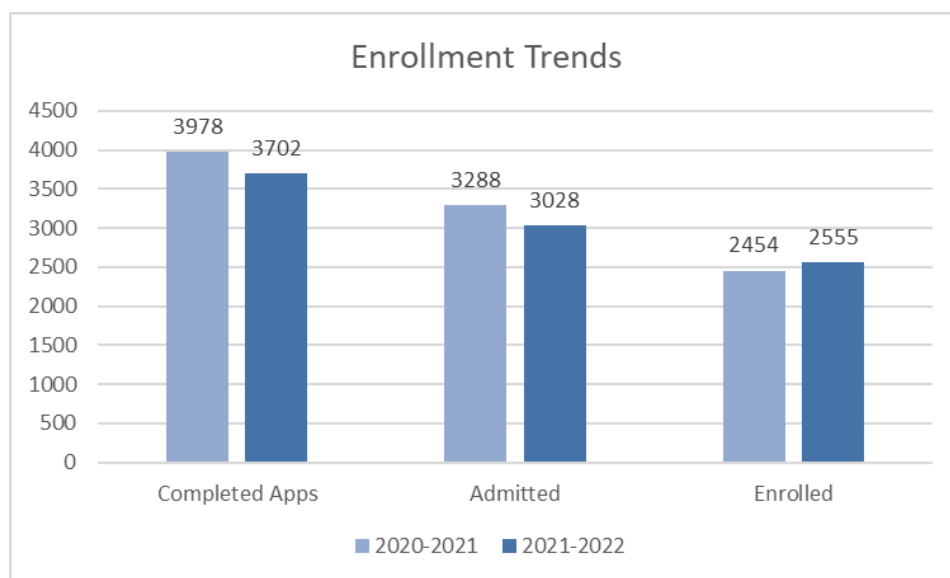
The most prominent partner colleges mentioned by respondents are Portland State University and Western Colorado University. Other colleges mentioned include American Jewish University, Boston University, Canadian International College, Clark University, Hartwick College, New England College, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, University of Maine Farmington, University of Salamanca, University of South Florida, and University of Utah.

Admissions and Enrollment Trends

Applications, Admits, and Enrollment

There were 35 organizations that reported admissions data this year. The cumulative number of completed applications in 2021-2022 was 3702 compared to 3978 in 2020-2021 resulting in a 7.5% decrease in overall completed applications as shown in the chart below. Admitted students moved from 3288 to 3028 resulting in a 8.6%

decrease. However, enrollment numbers moved from 2454 to 2555 resulting in a 4.1% increase.



A further breakdown by organization shows the following: 15 providers reported an increase, 13 providers reported a decrease, 4 (24%) providers were in their first year of programs, and 1 (6%) provider reported no change in completed applications year to year as shown in the chart below. **These numbers suggest while there was a slight overall decrease in gap year interest, there was an increase in enrollment.**

Yield Rates (Student Commitment)

There were 32 organizations that provided enough data to calculate yield rates. The yield rate is determined by dividing the total number of enrolled students by the total number of admitted students. This metric indicates how committed students are to come to a program once they have been accepted. Yield rates are particular to each provider and may indicate how desirable it is for a student to be admitted to a program. **In 2020-2021, yield rates varied from 40% to 100% with the average at 73%. In 2021-2022, yield rates ranged from 42% to 100% with the average at 87%.**

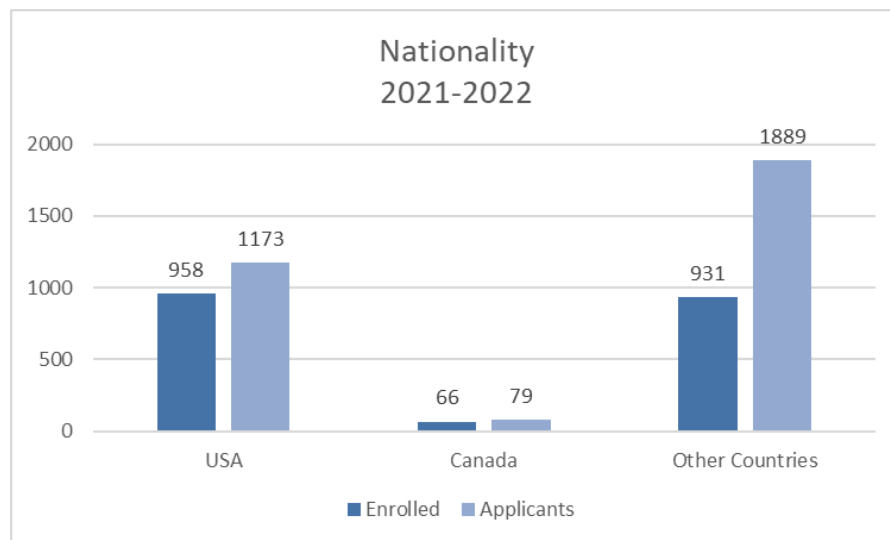
This increase supports the enrollment data above which demonstrated a higher level of enrollment even though completed applications and admitted students was slightly down. It is recommended for organizations to individually track their yield rates from year to year as a helpful indicator of how effective they are in turning admitted students into enrolled students. Comparing a program's yield rate from year to year can also provide a key data point to be used when re-evaluating internal recruiting processes.

Participant Demographics

The survey asked for information on demographics of the students who were enrolled in each program. Below are the results of each category.

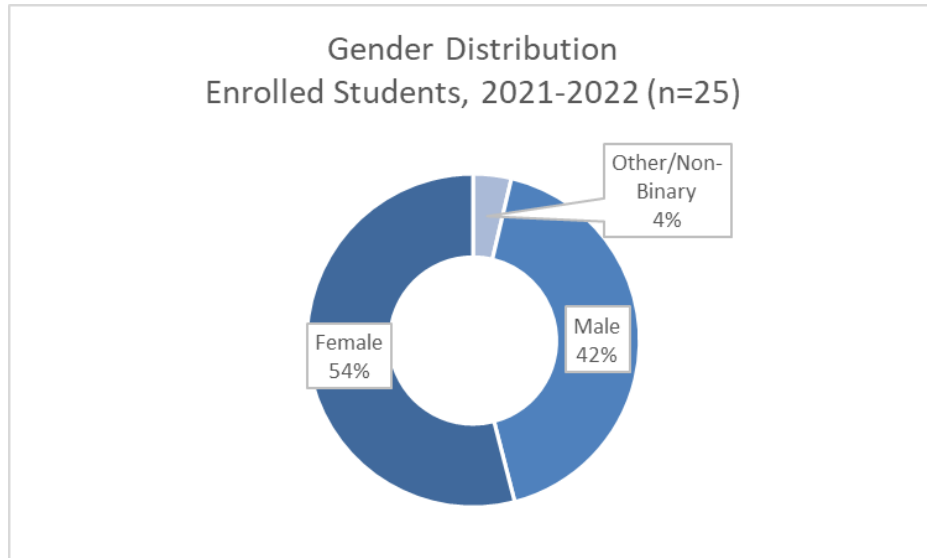
Nationality

There were 32 organizations that reported this data. The nationality of students who participated in these programs is demonstrated with applications and enrolled students. The chart below shows the breakdown by USA, Canada, and Other Countries.



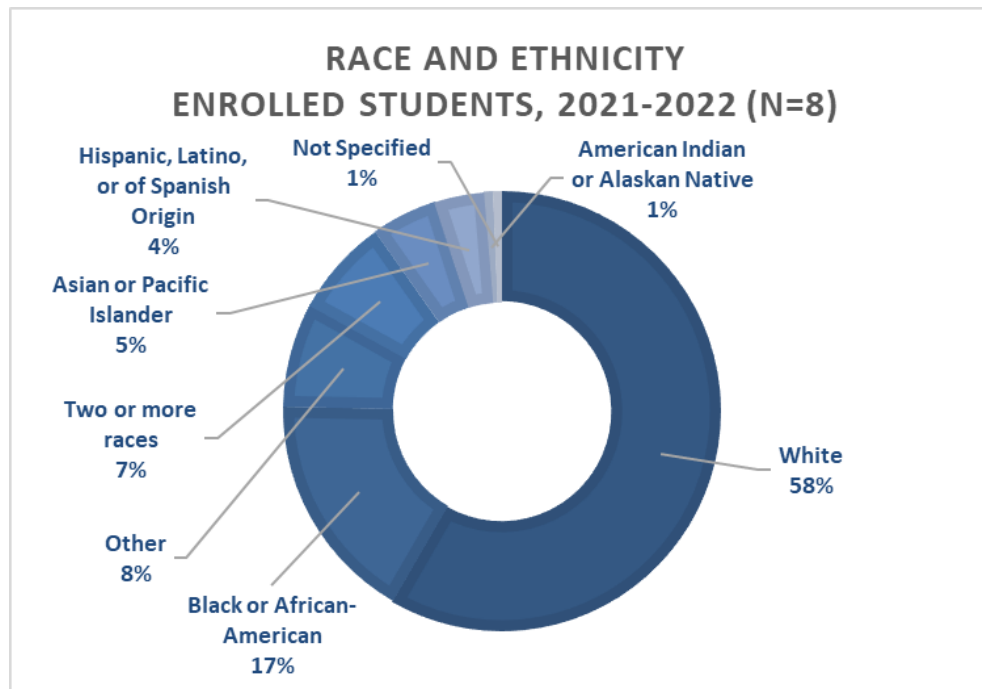
Gender

There were 25 organizations that reported this data. The gender of students who participated in these programs is as follows: Female (54%), Male (42%), and Other/Non-Binary (4%).



Race/Ethnicity

There were only 8 organizations that reported data on race/ethnicity this year. While this is a small sample size of the broader gap year participants, it is a helpful starting point for improvement in future reporting. The breakdown is as follows: White (364), Black or African-American (106), Other (48), Two or more races (45), Asian or Pacific Islander (30), Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish Origin (23), American Indian or Alaskan Native (4), Not specified (4).



Low-Income Students

There were 9 organizations that identified a total of 68 students qualifying as low-income status. While there is no standard definition of low-income used across all GYA membership, prior State of the Field surveys indicated most organizations use Pell Grant eligibility, Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from FAFSA, and/or household income to determine qualifications.

First-Generation Status

There were only a few organizations that reported data on first generation status this year. Thus, we are unable to offer any meaningful collective data on this topic.

Financial Assistance for Participants

Internal and Other External Aid

Nineteen organizations indicated that they offered need-based financial assistance and five offered merit-based assistance.

Need-Based Assistance

As in the past, there is a wide range in the percentage of participants receiving that assistance, as shown in this table:

Percent of participants receiving need-based	Number of providers at this Assistance level
<10%	7
11-25%	5
25-50%	6
51-100%	1

Of the 19 programs providing information about total need-based aid offered, a total of **\$3,507,958** was offered to 514 participants, representing 24% of the total participants in those programs. **The average award for that group was \$6,825 per participant**, with distribution of average awards shown below:

Average need-based financial aid award	Number of providers at this level
<\$5,000	11
\$5,000-10,000	4
>\$10,000	4

Merit-Based Assistance

Five responding gap year programs indicated they offered merit-based financial assistance to participants last year. A total of **\$2,114,000** was offered to 378 students.

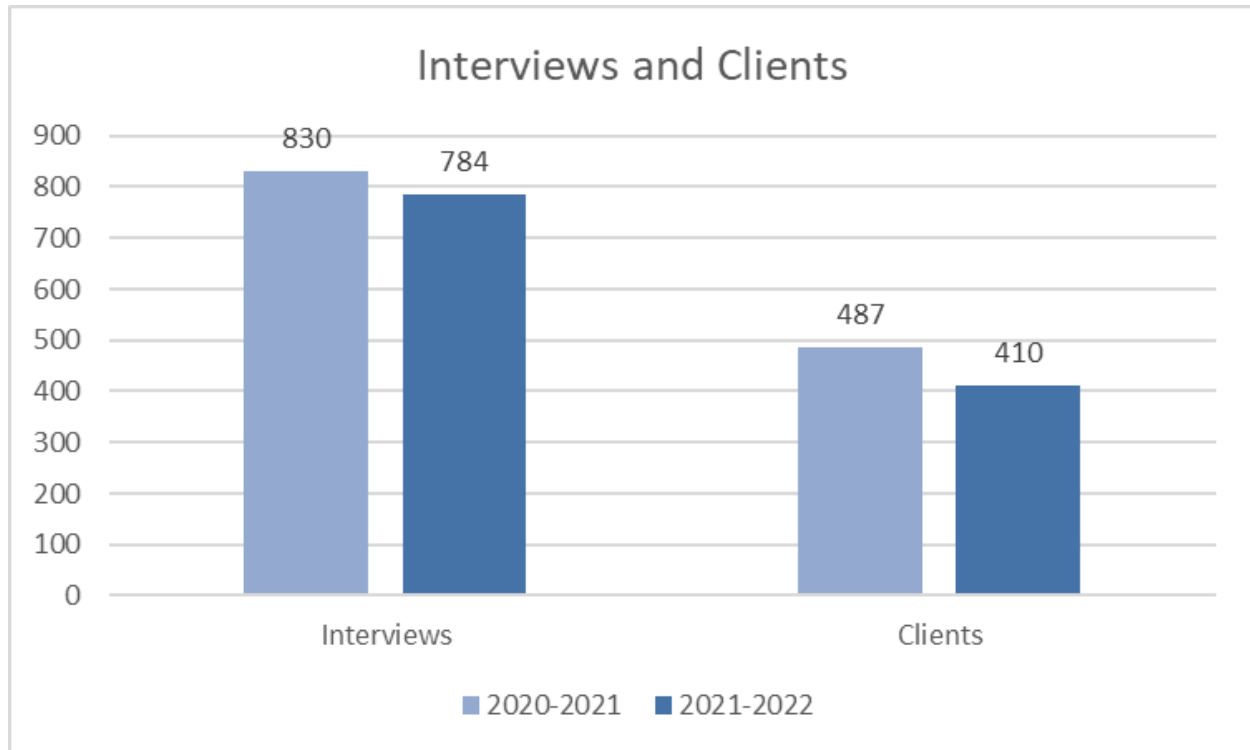
Gap Year Consultants

Organization Information

There were seventeen gap year services who completed the survey. All respondents identified as GYA members and all were based in the USA except one (Canada). The organizations collectively represented eight staff members who are accredited by GYA. There were 21 full-time staff and 15 part-time staff in 2021-2022 compared to 19 full-time staff and 6 part-time staff in 2020-2021.

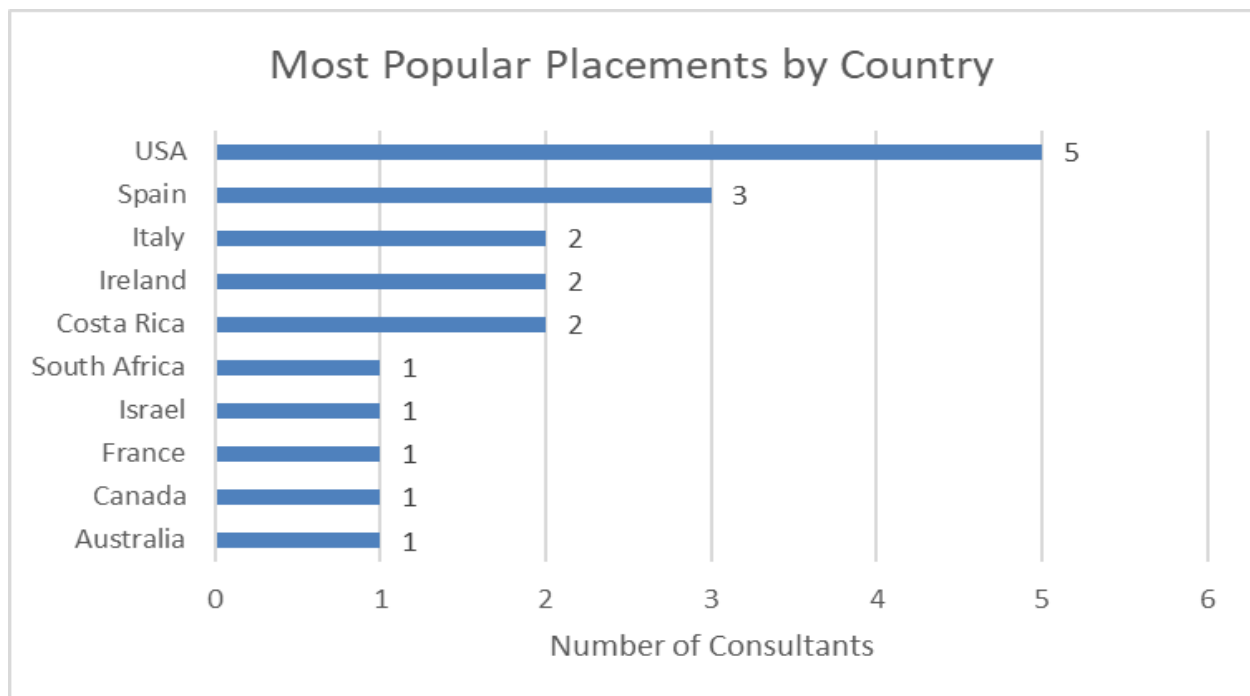
Interviews and Client Services

There were eight respondents who supplied data on interviews and client services over the past two business cycles. Interviews are a common process by which gap year consultants begin to connect with potential clients. **The comparisons from year to year show a 5.5% overall decrease in interviews conducted from 2020-2021 to 2021-2022.** Client services are the number of students who actively participate in a gap year experience through the assistance of a consultant. **Client services decreased by 16% from 2020-2021 to 2021-2022.** These numbers show a downward trend in activity among students utilizing a gap year consultant as demonstrated in the chart below.

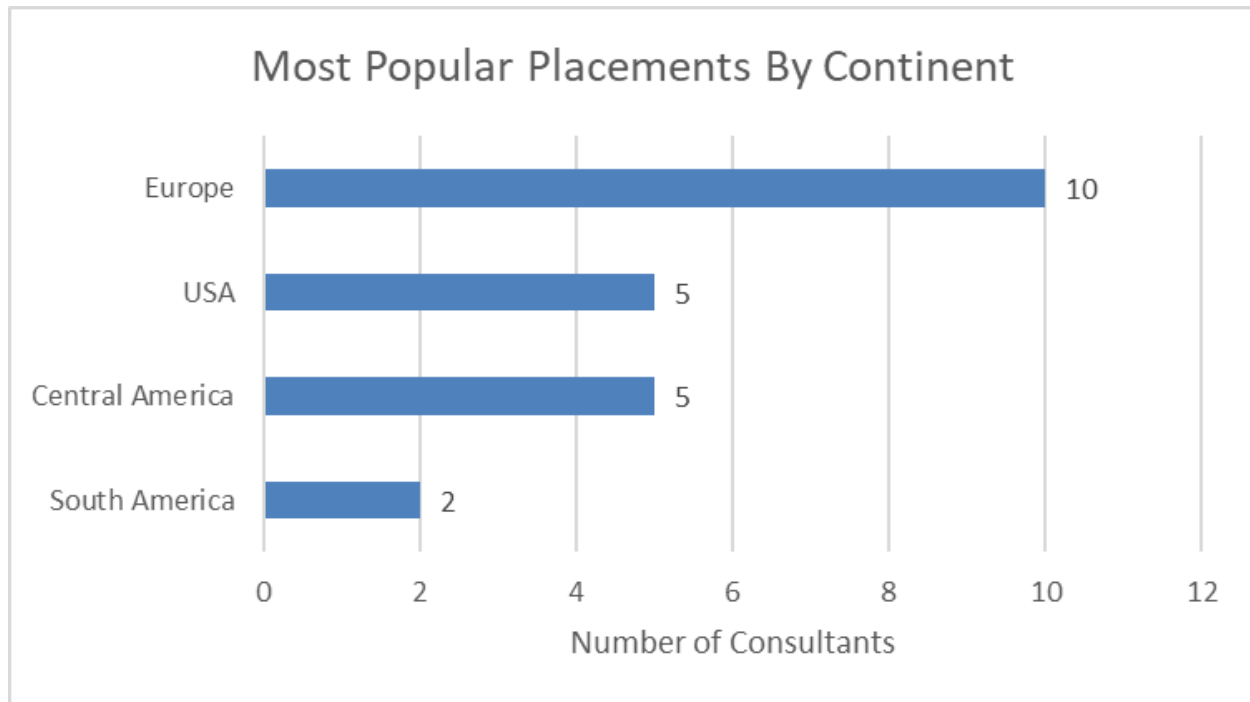


Destinations

When asked about the most popular gap year placements in 2021-2022, the following countries were listed in this order: USA, Spain, Italy, Ireland, and Costa Rica.

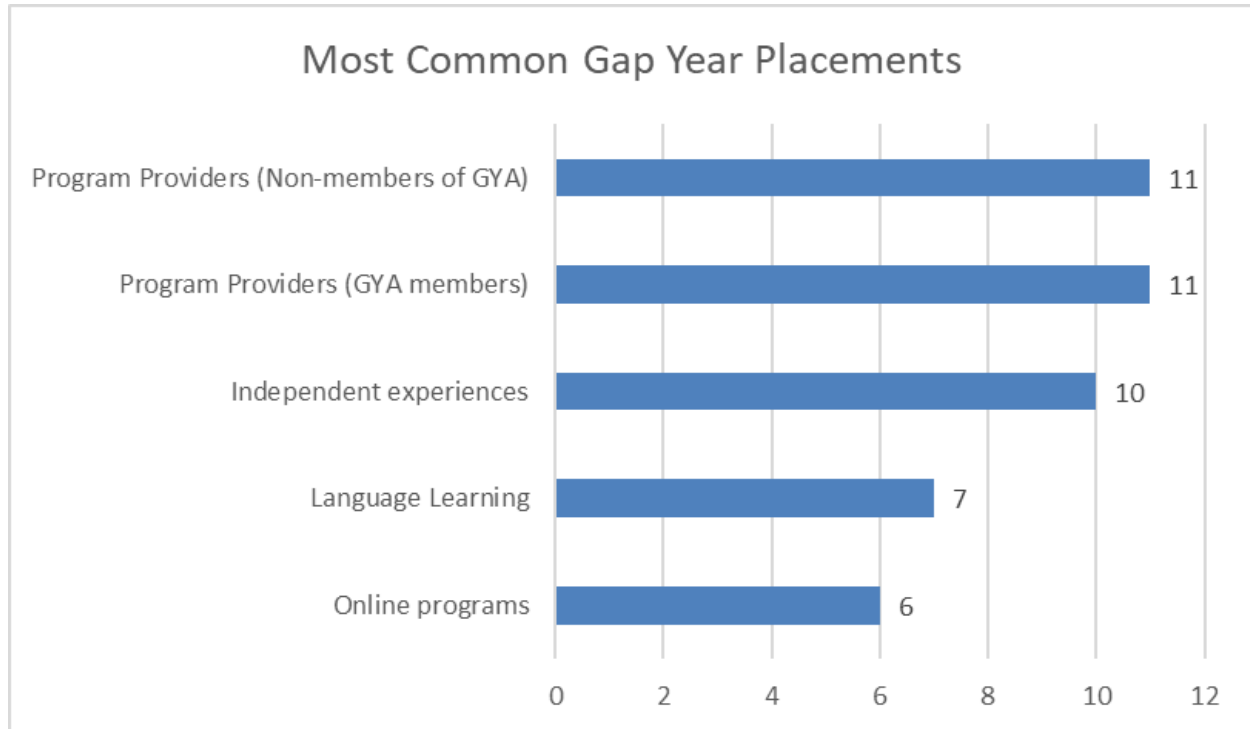


When breaking responses out by continent, the most popular placements were as follows: Europe, USA, Central America, and South America.



Types of Program Placements

When asked about the delivery format of gap year placements, there were a wide variety of choices. The Top 5 formats were as follows: Program Providers (GYA members), Program Providers (non-GYA members), Independent experiences, Language learning, and online programs.



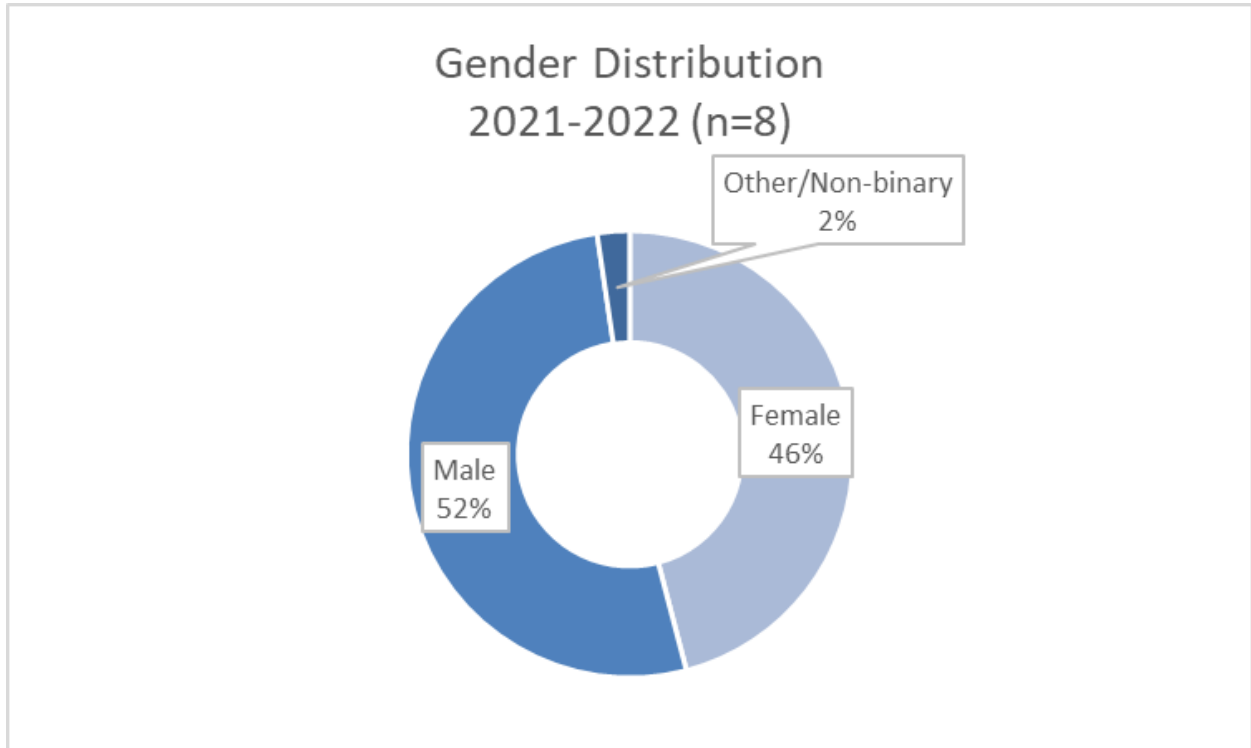
Transition Services

There were 11 respondents who offered transition services. Transition services are any additional support provided at any time following a client's completion of their gap year experience at any time. **In 2020-2021, 111 (23%) clients utilized these services. In 2021-2022, 129 (31%) clients utilized these services.**

Client Demographics

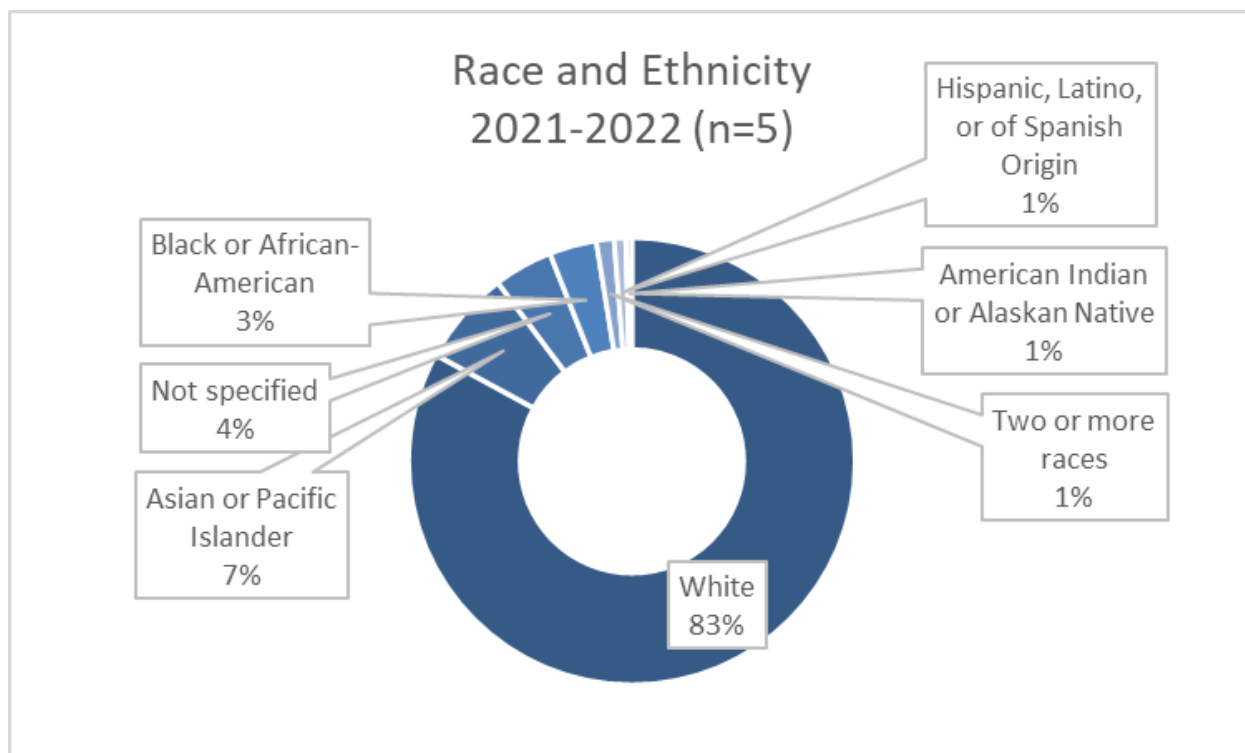
Gender

There were eight respondents who reported data on gender. Clients were represented as follows: Male 197 (52%), Female 175 (46%), and Other/Non-Binary 9 (2%).



Race and Ethnicity

There were 5 organizations that reported data on racial/ethnic identity of clients. Clients were represented as follows: White 194 (83%), Asian or Pacific Islander 16 (7%), Not Specified 10 (4%), Black or African American 8 (3%), Two or more races 3 (1%), Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish Origin 2 (1%), , American Indian or Alaskan Native 1 (0.4%)



Education Background

There were 4 organizations that reported data on educational background. Clients were represented as follows: Private high school 154 (65%), Public high school 79 (33%), Other 4 (2%).

There were 8 organizations who identified a total of 85 clients who had received at least some college credits before participating in a gap year.

Low Income Status

There were 4 organizations who identified a total of 8 clients who were classified as low income status.

Range of Costs for Advising Services

Consultants offer a variety of pricing models for advising services. The low range was reported from \$165 to \$1950. The high range was reported from \$1250 to \$9500. The average low range was \$740. The average high range was \$1878.

Financial Assistance to Clients

There were 9 respondents who indicated they offer financial assistance. **A total of \$52,150 was offered to 42 gap year clients during the 2021-2022 year.**