A CHILE RECEPTION:
Couchsurfing’s Diffusion and Context Amidst Geographical Diversity

SUNY Geneseo

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What is **couchsurfing**?  
Travel the world - Rediscover your city - Become a host

- **200,000** Cities  
- **12 million** Members  
- **550,000** Events
Pato Navarro
Santiago, Región Metropolitana, Chile

Accepting Guests
92% response rate
Last login 2 days ago

25 References ★ 20 Confirmed & Positive
Fluent in English, Spanish; learning Portuguese
35, Male
Member since 2010

Why I’m on Couchsurfing
HOW I PARTICIPATE IN COUCHSURFING
I can host someone at my house and if I have time I definitely can go out with you. And when I travel, I would like the chance to get to meet great people... not only using CS for a "couch"... hopefully share with the host and have a fun time!!!
Couchsurfing in Chile

Fast Facts:

- 15 regions recorded
- 2,500 mile span
- Population: 18 million
- 71 thousand couch surfers
- Scenery, wineries, wildlife, culture
Objective

Does the couchsurfing participation rate differ regionally in Chile and, if so, why?
Procedure

- Obtain couchsurfer totals by geographic setting
- Obtain population counts for the settings
- Derive participation rates
- Identify age-structural composition of couchsurfers by setting
- Identify gender composition by setting
- Explore instances of exceptionally high and low participation rates relative to geographic context
## Data Table

<table>
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<tbody>
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<td>239,126</td>
<td>449</td>
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<td>Magallanes</td>
<td>Punta Arenas</td>
<td>163,661</td>
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<td>326</td>
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<td>28%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Rows are sequenced north to south.
PARTICIPATION RATE SOMEWHAT SENSITIVE TO BASE POPULATION OF REGION VISITED
Best Fit Model and Equation

\[ Y = Mx + \log B \]
Age Structure Not a Key Factor
Residuals: More and Fewer Hosts than Expected

Atacama

Extremely negative
Negative

Valparaíso

Positive

O’Higgins

Extremely positive

Magallanes
Valparaíso
Residuals: More and Fewer Hosts than Expected

Atacama

Valparaíso

O’Higgins

Magallanes

Extremely positive

Extremely negative

Positive

Negative
Atacama

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Further Research

How many visitors take up couchsurfing opportunities in Chile’s constituent regions? Are the remotest areas less patronized?

Where are the visitors from? Are visitors from the most distant origins most likely to visit the most remote destinations?