

Bush took office. And that's based on data from 43 States, not just 16.

DE-BUNKING THE STATISTIC

Stassen's numbers, and the widespread acceptance they seemed to be getting, prompted the Guttmacher Institute to conduct a special analysis to update its comprehensive census of abortion providers for the year 2000. The increases that Stassen reported "would be a significant change in a long-standing trend in the U.S.," Leila Darabi of the institute explained to Factcheck.

Besides the fact that Stassen claimed to have data only from 16 States, the Guttmacher Institute said it is likely that many of the States Stassen picked have higher abortion rates historically, have a higher concentration of population subgroups that tend to have more abortions, and see abortion rates rise more quickly when they do go up. Stassen himself named only Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Colorado among the 16 States he says he studied, but his co-author on the Houston Chronicle article listed each State in a separate article posted on the Internet.

The Guttmacher Institute found that two of the States Stassen used had unreliable reporting systems. In Colorado, for instance, where Stassen claimed that rates "skyrocketed 111 percent," the reporting procedure had been recently changed in order to compensate for historic underreporting. Guttmacher also found Arizona had an inconsistent reporting system.

THE FACTS

The Guttmacher Institute announced its findings May 19. Guttmacher analyzed available government data "as an interim measure until another provider census can be conducted" according to a news release. The interim study analyzed data from 43 States determined to have reliable State reporting systems.

What it found was that the number of abortions decreased nationwide—by 0.8 percent in 2001 and by another 0.8 percent in 2002. The abortion rate, which is the number of women having abortions relative to the total population, also decreased 1 percent in 2001 and 0.9 percent in 2002. That's not as rapid a decrease as had been seen in earlier years, but it is a decrease nonetheless.

We give much weight to Guttmacher's analysis. Their figures are widely used and accepted by both anti-abortion groups and abortion-rights advocates. Their surveys of abortion providers go back to 1973, and Stassen cites them himself as the source for the number of abortions in 2000.

Guttmacher has little motive to make Bush and his anti-abortion policies look good. The institute was founded in 1968 in honor of a former president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and describes its mission as being "to protect the reproductive choice of all women and men in the United States and throughout the world." Had Stassen's numbers proven accurate, the Institute "would have reported and widely publicized a rise in abortion rates," said Darabi. But facts are facts.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JAMAICA TOURIST BOARD

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the anniversary of an entity which has proven very important to the long standing US/

Jamaican relationship. The Jamaica Tourist Association recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. In such time it has gone about making Jamaica one of the top tourist destinations in the world. The JTA will be celebrating their anniversary throughout the year with a series of events and initiatives, and I am happy to acknowledge their accomplishments here today.

The mission of the Jamaican Tourist Board is to effectively market Jamaica's tourism sector, in an increasingly competitive global tourism industry. To date, they have succeeded not only in making Jamaica a global tourism powerhouse, but also strengthening ties between the United States and Jamaica.

The United States is the largest source of tourists to the island of Jamaica. Of the record 2.5 million international tourists to Jamaica in 2004, over one million came from the U.S. With tourism the primary foreign exchange earner for Jamaica, it is a cornerstone of the country's economic strength. That strength has translated into real benefits for the United States.

In 2004, Jamaica was the second largest destination for American exports in the Caribbean, totaling over \$1.4 billion. This is no doubt related to the purchasing power that the tourism sector affords Jamaica. As such, the work of the Jamaican Tourist Board has broad implications for both our nations.

The JTB continues to face many obstacles in developing the tourism sector. Last year's Caribbean hurricanes caused Jamaica hundreds of millions of dollars in damage. The tourism sector was not spared from the hurricanes' wrath, and is only now beginning to recover.

With that said, we in the United States must do all we can to ensure that we do not hinder the recovery, not only for Jamaica, but for the entire Caribbean. One such hindrance is the Bush Administration's proposed Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

I am opposed to aspects of the Initiative, due to inequities in the Initiative's implementation. As currently proposed, the initiative will require all travelers to and from the Americas, the Caribbean, and Bermuda to have a passport to enter or re-enter the United States. It is argued that the stricter policy will strengthen border security.

However, the Initiative is to be implemented in region specific phases, with travel to the Caribbean, Bermuda, and Central and South America being affected by the end of 2005, while travel to Canada and Mexico will not be affected until the end of 2006. I believe the early implementation date for the Caribbean is unfair.

With more than 50% of U.S. visitors to Jamaica not utilizing a passport when they travel, and considering that passport processing times can range up to 2 months, it can be expected that the new requirements will have an extremely negative impact on Jamaican tourism, as many U.S. tourists may choose vacation options that entail less hassle. As such, implementing new travel requirements on the Caribbean before other regions clearly warrants reconsideration.

With that said, I wish the Jamaican Tourist Board continued success, as its work will continue to be extremely important to both our nations. If the ever-increasing bond between our countries is any indication; the future success of Jamaican tourism is extremely bright.

OUTSTANDING ARTISTS FROM THE
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers to raise young men and women. I rise today to congratulate and honor 44 outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students is participating in the 2005 Annual Congressional Arts competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Their works of art are exceptional!

We have 44 students participating. That is a tremendous response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition, first place was awarded to Paul Niziolek from Ridge High School for his work entitled, "Shut Off;" second place was awarded to Tommy Lientited from Livingston High School for his work entitled, "Self-Reflection;" and third place was awarded to Chris Murphy from West Morris Mendham High School for his work entitled, "Turn Away."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name, and the title of their contest entries for the official Record.

Pope John High School: Kaelen Barden's "Color in Time," Colleen Sullivan's "Palms," Amanda Grace's "Beach."

Roxbury High School: Ryan Jouas's "Call for Details," Laura Montoya's "Alex," Emily Schumacher for her untitled work, Melody Idakaar's "Eremos # 3."

Randolph High School: Morgan Kolenut's "I'm just mad about saffron," Maria Soshinsky's "You Shoot You Score!"

Morris Knolls High School: Cheryl Hutnikoffs "Azure Blue," Maria Nuzhdin's "NYC," Jackie Trimmer's "Lizzy," Kimberly McConnell's "Say Cheese."

Montville High School: Tyler Martin's "Entanglement," Catherine Kocses's "Give Me A Minute," Nanase Nakanishi's "Cold Winter Morning," Jenny Kong's "ST. Basil Studio."

Boonton High School: Audrey Brennan for his untitled work, Amy Salas's "Self Portrait," Alexander Della Torre's "Girls from Narnia," Jennifer Hitchings's "Old Cadillac."

Mount Olive High School: Meghan Marvin's "Waning Light," "Cassy Nickens's "Trapped Expression," Kyle Toolen's "Lunch Break," Elisa Winsze's "Riverside Wagon."

West Morris Mendham High School: Drew Koze's "March in Shadow," Chris Murphy's "Turn Away," Melissa Katie Krajewski's "Pacific Sunset," Andrew Herdren's "Atmosphere Friends."

Ridge High School: Michael Raynes's "Organ Donation," Samantha Mansfield's "Self Portrait / EEK! A mouse!," Paul Niziolek's "Shut Off," Lisa Cirelli's "Close-up Lens."

Livingston High School: David Runfolia's "Swift Limits," Justine Bienkowski's "Shattered," Tommy Li's "Self-Reflection," Casey Krosser for her untitled work.

Morris Hills High School: Brian Manna's "Proud," Julie Carlsen's "Ode to Van Gogh," Patricia Doris's "Our Responsibility."