

ABC Research Project



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ABC Research Project



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ABC Research Project:

- ABC Origins
- ABC Membership and Density
- ABC Finances
- ABC/NCCER Apprenticeship Programs
- ABC Electronic Ideological Advocacy

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ABC Origins

- founded in Baltimore in 1950 by seven anti-union contractors
- Beginning in the late 1960s, the Construction Users Anti-Inflation Roundtable (Business Roundtable) began a well-financed effort to cut construction costs, which aligned them with the anti-union ABC
- This alliance changed ABC from a small, regional trade association to one with national scope and ambition
- BCTD's *The Builder* labeled this the “**War on Wage Protection:**” “The dramatic growth of the ‘open shop’ over the past decade doesn’t have much to do with the free enterprise traditions of innovation, hard work or competition. Instead it is the direct result of a carefully crafted plan by America’s biggest businesses to slash the wages of union carpenters, plumbers and electricians.”

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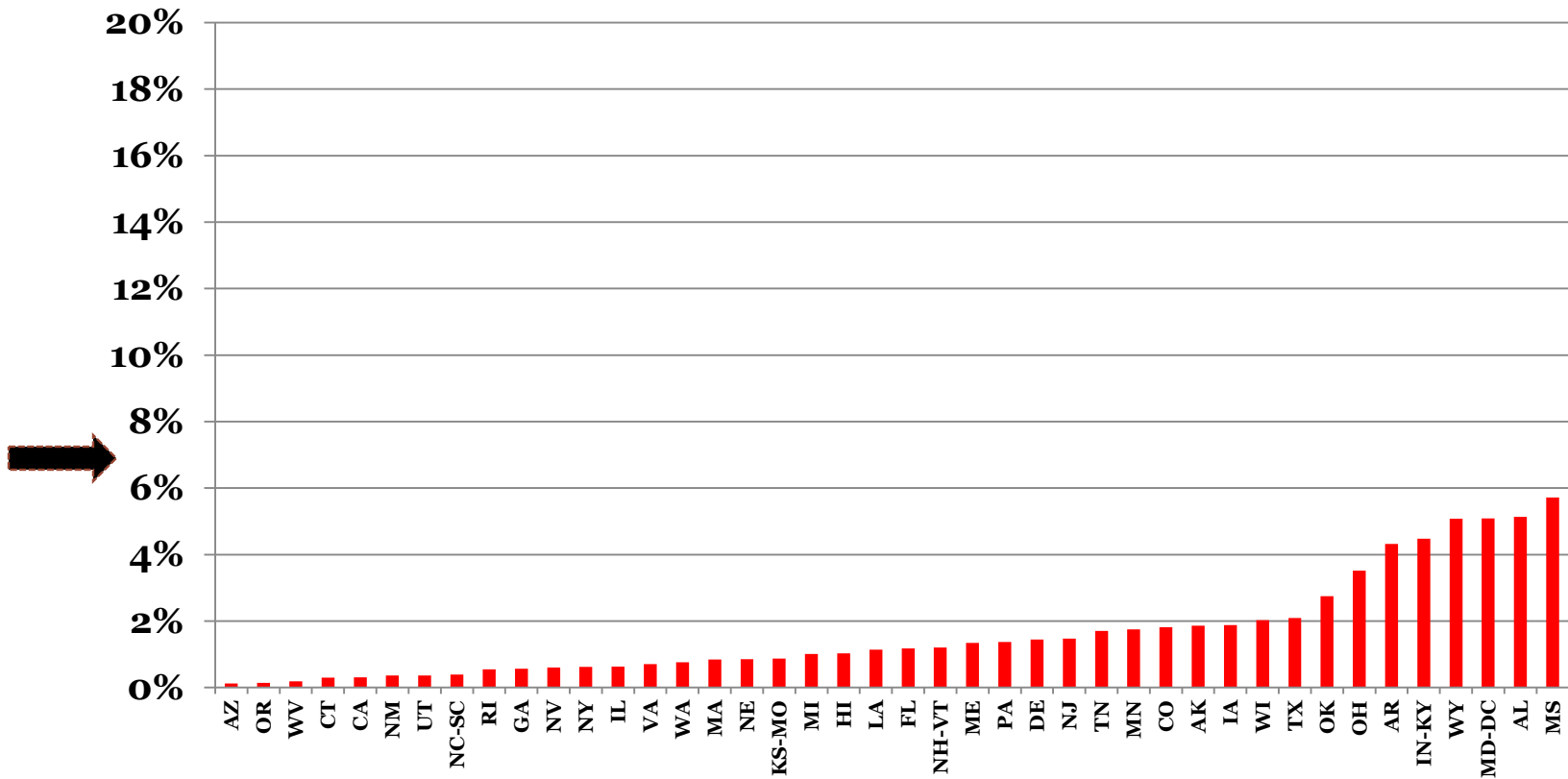
ABC Membership and Density Data

- ABC **exaggerates its representation** in the construction industry
- ABC's membership amounts to only 0.03% of all construction businesses in the US, based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (establishments)
- State-by-state – In no state does ABC's member-contractors (both sub and general) exceed 6% of the total number of licensed or registered contractors ***in any of 46 states where ABC has a chapter or chapters***
- ABC is **NOT** the “voice” of the industry, lacking broad based membership, it appears to be an astro-turf organization
- ABC **inflates its membership by including non-contractors**. Examples include such “construction related firms” as the Land and Sea Restaurant in Corpus Christi, TX, Freddie's Bar-B-Que in Sapulpa, OK and Diamond State Party Rentals of Wilmington, DE

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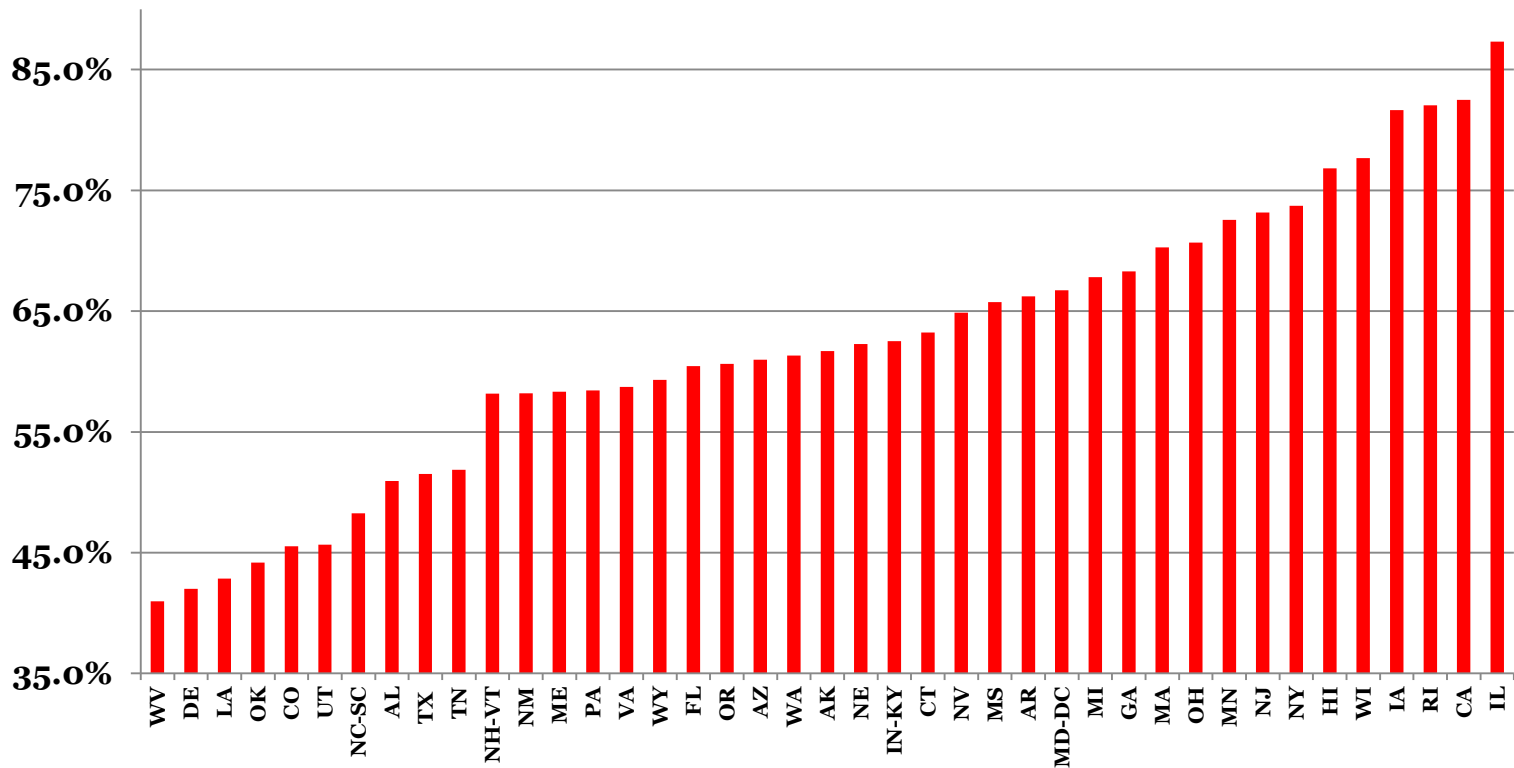
ABC Membership Data: State by State Analysis



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Contractors as Percentage of ABC State Total Membership



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ABC Membership and Density – State Analysis

ABC New Jersey Chapters

ABC Chapter Membership	New Jersey Chapter	Registered Homebuilders - State Total ²	ABC Contractors as % of State Total	Contractors as % of Chapter Total ¹
<i>Subcontractors</i>	71			
<i>General Contractors</i>	19			
<i>Corporate Services</i>	22			
<i>Material Suppliers</i>	10			
<i>Professional Field Services</i>	0			
<i>Vendor Services</i>	0			
<i>Manufacturers</i>	0			
<i>Industry Organizations</i>	1			
<i>Program/Development Managers</i>	0			
<i>Engineers</i>	0			
<i>Architects</i>	0			
Total	123	6,109	1.5%	73.2%

NOTES

Source: ABC Membership Database, 8/16/11

¹Includes sub and general contractors

²New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Community Affairs, Office of the Director, Bureau of Homeowner Protection, number of registered homebuilders as of 8/31/11.

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ABC Finances

- based upon my analysis of tax returns (990s) for 80 ABC chapters
- total ABC chapter revenue is approximately \$80M annually
- ABC national office (VA) has annual revenue of approximately \$20M
- ABC HQ has same annual budget as Business Roundtable
- ABC Pelican Chapter (LA) had largest revenue in 2009 - \$4.6M
- ABC PAC spent \$1.5M on average per federal election cycle last ten years
- *FollowtheMoney.org* reports that ABC chapters have spent at least \$12M since 2000 on state legislative initiatives

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ABC/NCCER Apprenticeship Programs

- 2004 BCTD study – I conducted similar analysis
- new – state-by-state JATC comparisons (in Report appendix)
- Data from DoL OA database (RAPIDS) – only 34 states
- Data: Enrollments 2002 - 2011

Completion and cancellation rates, 2002-2006

Demographic profiles very similar, larger totals

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DoL Registered apprenticeship system: by the numbers

- Union apprentices made up 70 percent of all construction apprentices in 2010¹
- 35 ABC apprenticeship programs in the OA database
- BCTD unions have **80,000 signatory contractors** and spend an estimated **\$630 million annually** on training²
- Construction apprenticeship enrollments, 2002-2011 – **429,578 apprentices JATC** and **22,430 ABC**

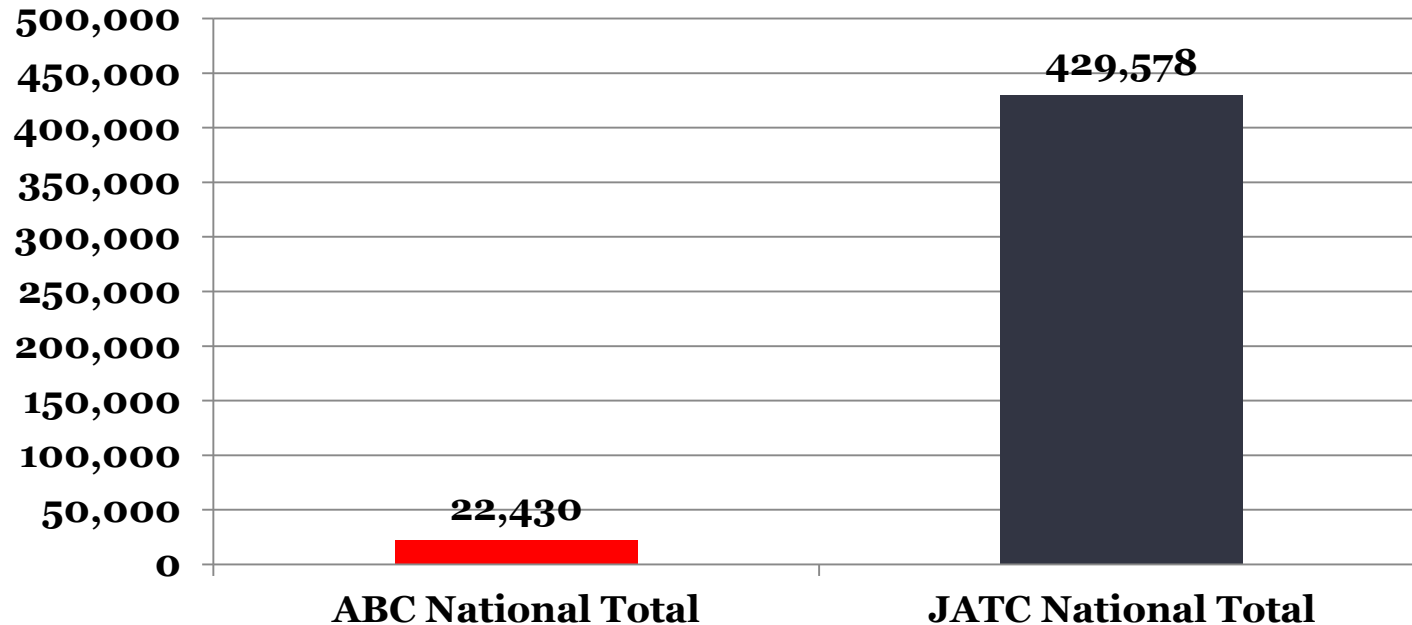
Sources: ¹*Employment and Training Reporter*, 6 September 2010; ²BCTD unions. These figures do not include the Carpenters or Operating Engineers; ³DoL, OA Rapids database.

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1) Registered apprenticeship system: national enrollment ¹

**Total Construction Apprenticeship Program
Enrollments, 2002 - 2011**



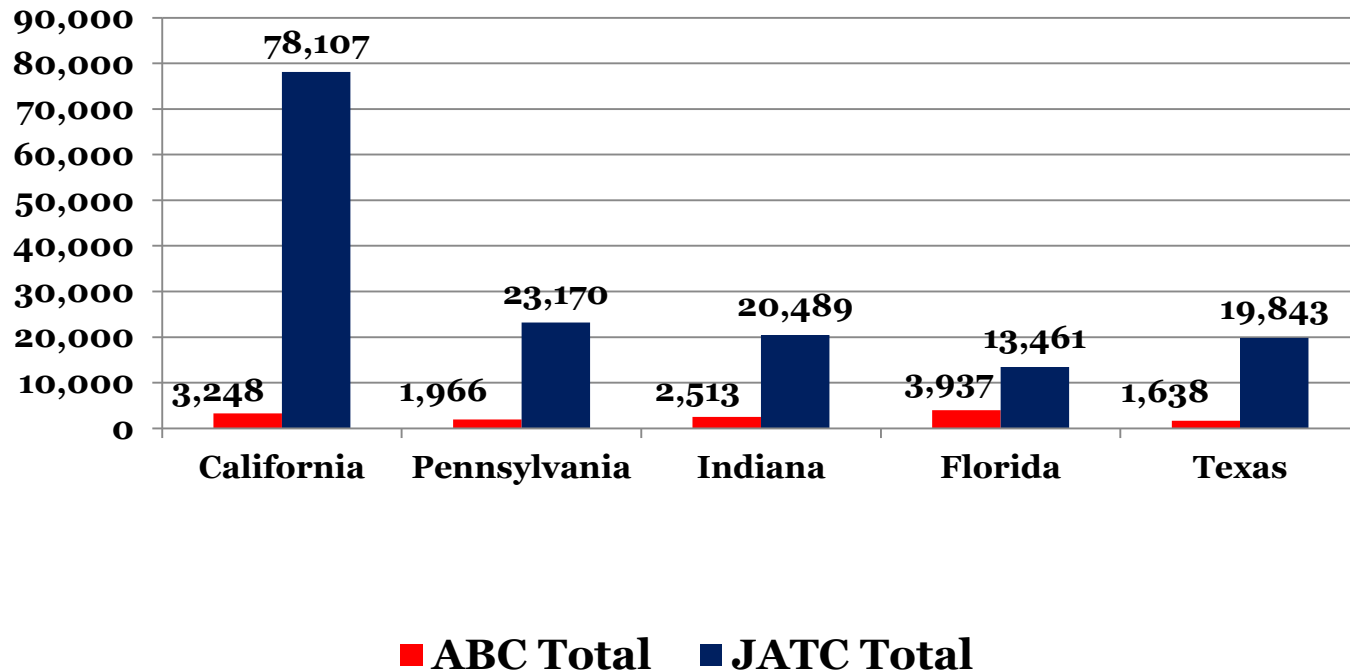
Source: ¹DoL, Office of Apprenticeship RAPIDs database.

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1) Registered apprenticeship system: enrollment in five states

**Total Apprenticeship Program Enrollment,
Selected States, 2002-2011**

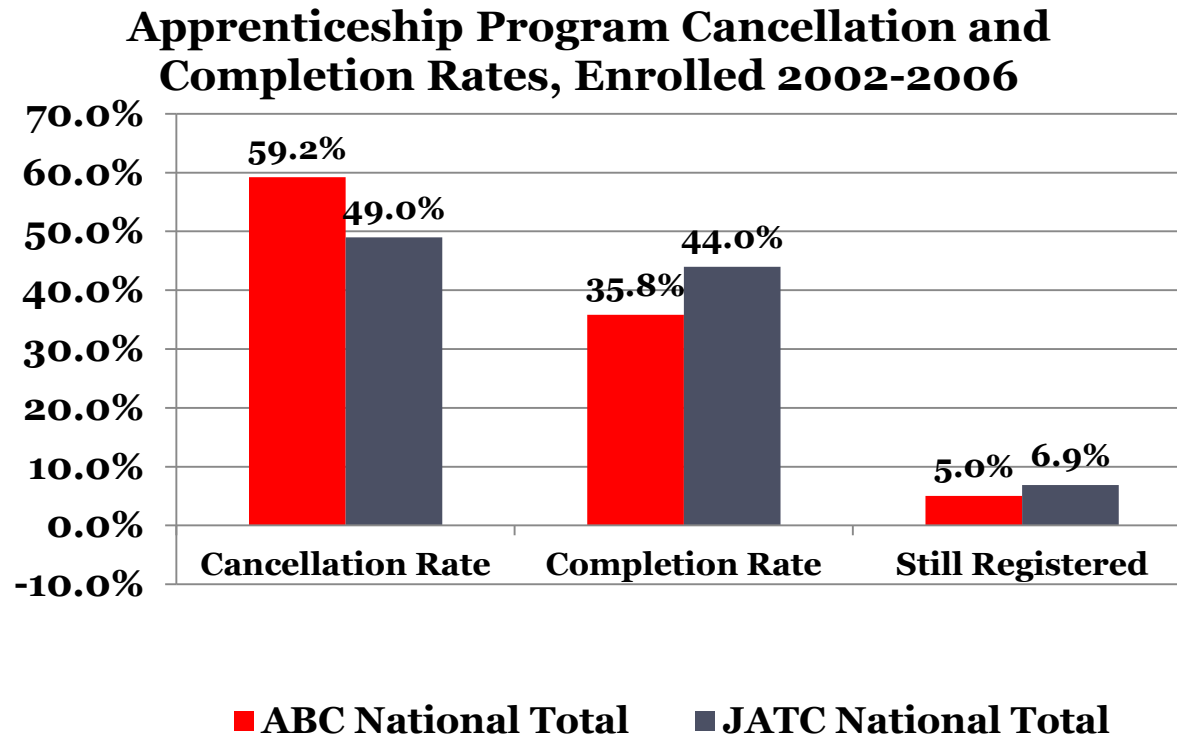


Source: ¹DoL, Office of Apprenticeship RAPIDs database.

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1) Registered apprenticeship system: national completion rates¹



Source: ¹DoL, Office of Apprenticeship RAPIDS database.

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2) ABC/NCCER Craft Training Programs: by the numbers

- NCCER administers self-accrediting system for centers, trainers
- Largest problem – Lack of broad owner support for cents-per-hour funding stream necessary to increase capacity¹
- **NCCER had 75 signatory contractors in 2008²**
- ABC chapters reported \$5.7M in craft training revenue, \$4.2M in apprentice program billing and \$5.2M in other revenue in 2009³
- NCCER reported \$1M in accreditation training , \$6M in royalties (books and modules) and \$900K in inventory revenue in 2009⁴
- Total = \$23M for ABC and NCCER in 2009

Sources: ¹NCCER Whitepaper: *The Skilled Workforce Shortage*, p8.; ²ENR, *From Open-Shop to New NCCER Goal: Reaching for the 'Stars'*, 3 September 2008; ³ABC Chapter 2009 990s; ⁴NCCER 2009 990.

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ABC Electronic Ideological Advocacy: <http://halttheassault.com/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'HALT THE ASSAULT' website. At the top, there is a black navigation bar with the organization's logo on the left and five menu items: '// INTRUSIVE GOVERNMENT', '// JOBS IN AMERICA', '// THE ECONOMY', '// TAKE ACTION', and '// THE LATEST'. The main content area features a large video player with a play button overlay. The video thumbnail shows a man in a white shirt and tie with his mouth taped shut. Text overlaid on the video reads: 'It's Time to Halt the Assault on Small Business.' Below the video player is a sign-up form for an email newsletter. The form includes a 'SUBSCRIBE' button and input fields for 'email address', 'first name', 'last name', and 'zip'. There are also dropdown menus for state selection and a phone number field.

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ABC Electronic Ideological Advocacy: <http://freeenterprisealliance.org/>



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TALKING TO OTHERS DONATE HOME

Tell the Free Enterprise Story!

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Talking to Others



Videos



Articles



Books

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WEB