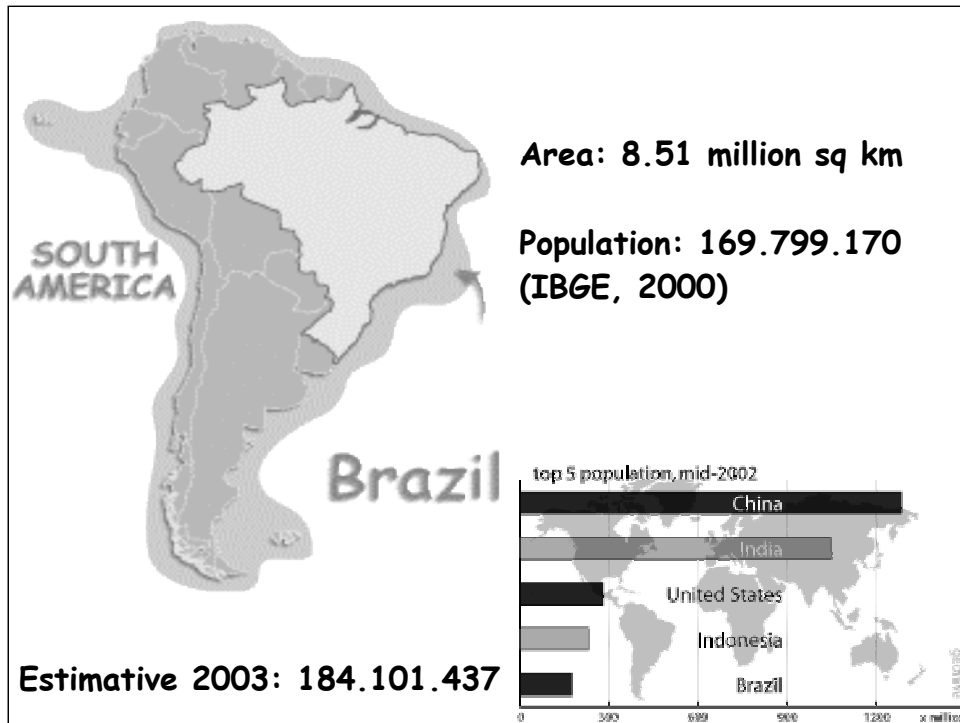


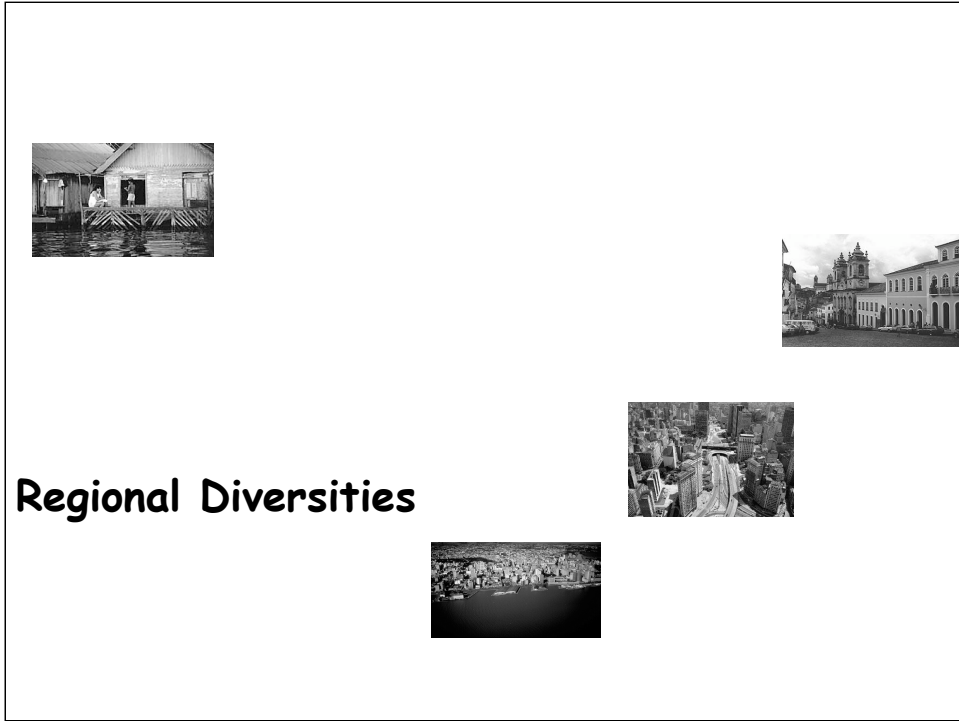
**Neonatal Screening Models outside the
US: the Brazilian Reality**

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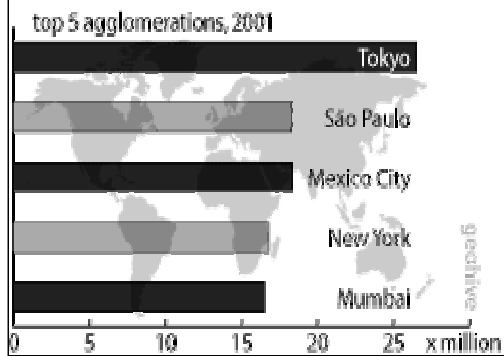


Brazil is a developing country (8.51 million sq km) with a estimated population of about 185.000.000. It is the fifth biggest country in the world.

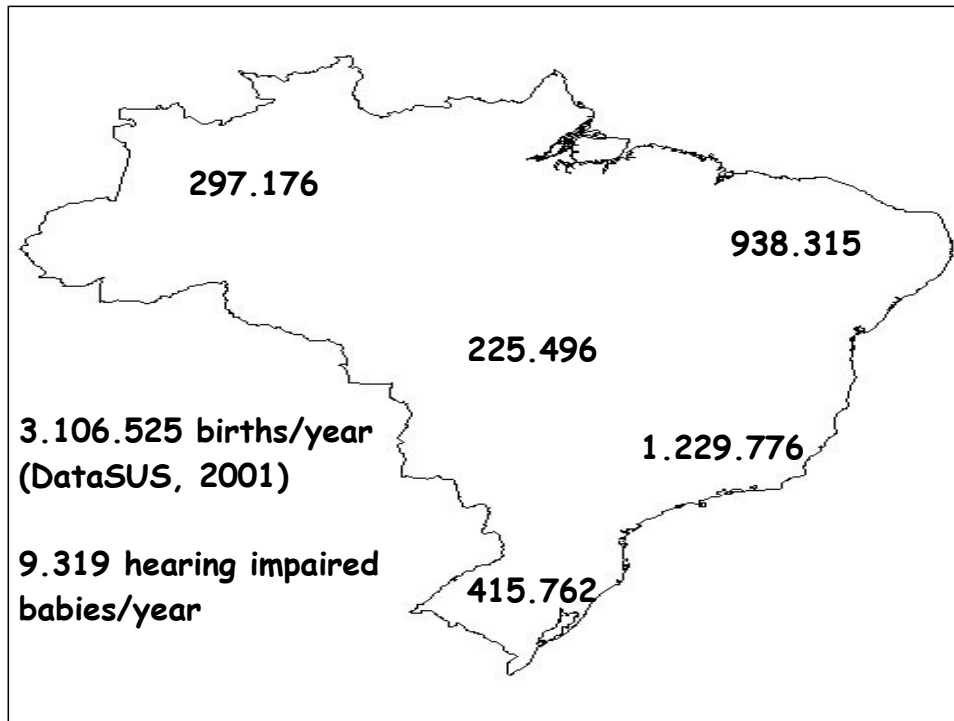


A huge country with several economical, geographical, social and political particularities and regional diversities.

Strong Economical & Social contrasts

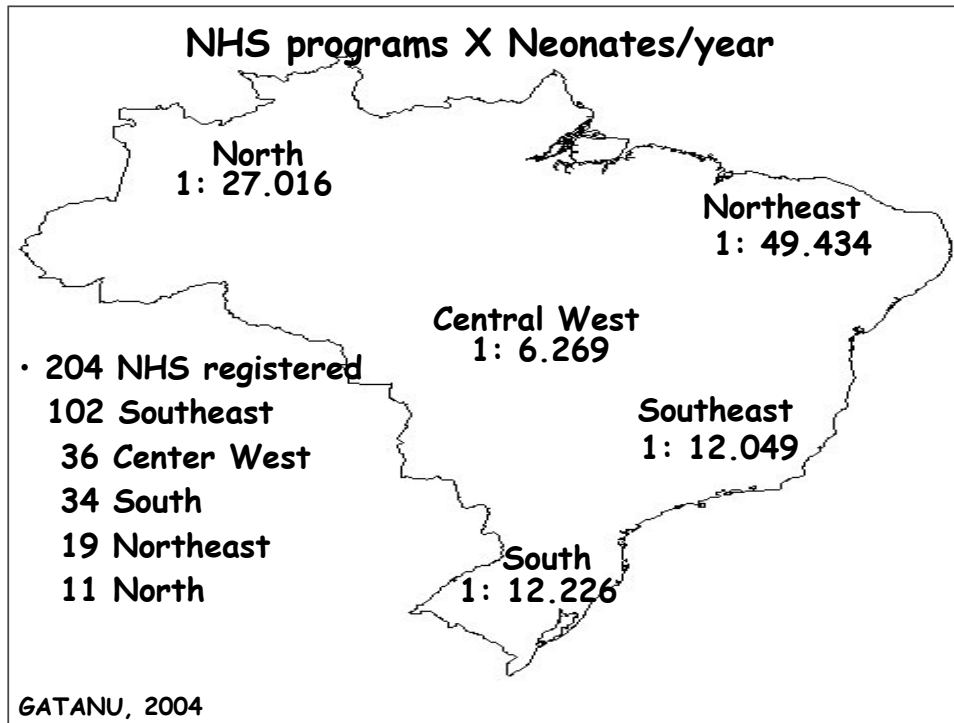


In the same country, we have the best of the first world (as São Paulo city, the second major city in the world) and worse of a poor country, a favela.

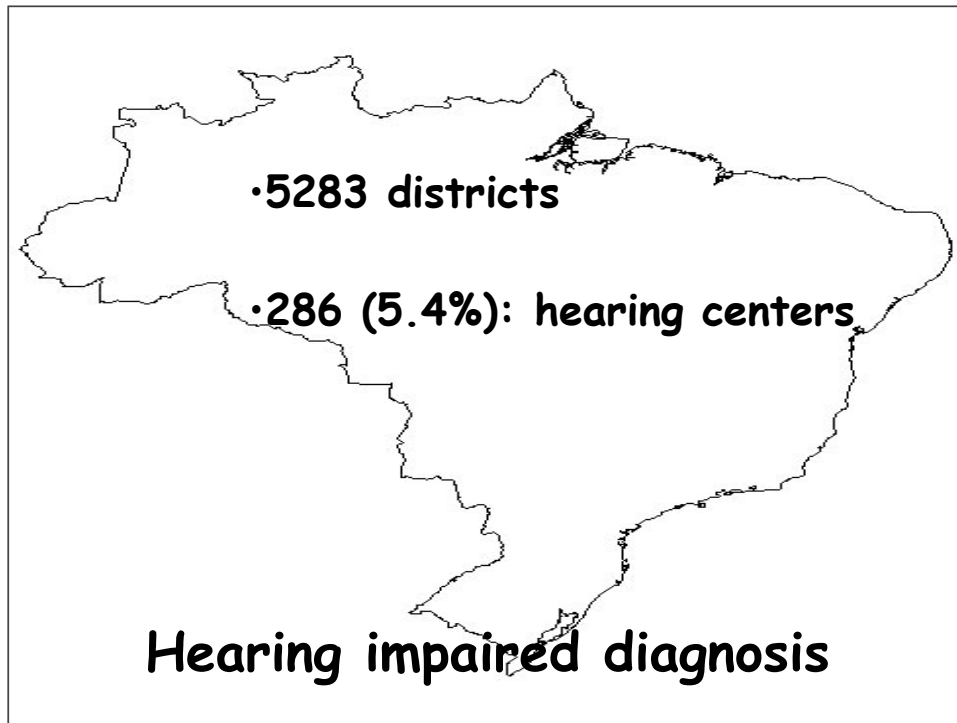


In this slide, you can see the numbers of live birth per /year in each of the five regions of Brazil. The most developed one is of course, the southeast.

If we consider the estimated numbers of live birth per year and the prevalence of bilateral sensorineural hearing loss in this population as 3 per 1000, we will have over 9.000 new hearing impaired babies each year.



There are 204 neonatal hearing screening programs registered in a non governmental and not official program. Most of these programs are realized in private hospitals, which means that the parents must pay something between 16 and 40 US dollars (when the minimum wage is around US 80). As you can see, this reality is far away from the ideal.



According to National statistics, Brazil has over 5000 districts. The problem is only 286 have proper instruments and personell able to perform hearing diagnosis.

Phon audiologists: 24.000

Audiologists: 600

Who performs the hearing screening?

The professional team in NHS programs involves audiologists, pediatricians and otolaryngologists. The audiologists are responsible for performing the protocols, for orienting parents and also for the follow-up in case of failure in the test. Despite of the number of professionals, only 600 are certified audiologists. We do not have technicians and trained personal is not allowed to perform the test.

Ministry of Health & Brazilian Academy of Audiology:2003

- National Policy for Hearing Health
Attention**

- State Networks**
 - Screening**
 - Diagnostic**
 - Intervention**

Since January 2003, the Brazilian Academy of Audiology has been working with the Ministry of Health in order to develop a National Policy of hearing health attention. The Academy is the consultant Organ for the establishment of State networks aiming at gradually implementing all over the country hearing health programs. These networks will be responsible not only for screening programs but auditory diagnosis and intervention, including hearing aid fitting.



Thanks!

The Brazilian legislation is playing an important role in the neonatal hearing screening programs. The challenges we must face in this field are not only related to the universality of the hearing screening, but to guarantee to the hearing impaired child an integral assistance. The implementation of neonatal screening programs implies that we should not prioritize the diagnosis in detriment of the therapeutic process. Since 2003, Brazil has expended 70 million US dollars with the hearing impaired diagnosis and intervention. This means that, despite of our difficulties, we are seriously committed in improving and providing to all Brazilians the hearing health access.