



**International Conference:
Evidence in Global Disability and Health**

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ABSTRACT

Title: Estimated coverage of newborn hearing screening among users of the Brazilian National Health System (SUS), 2008-2011

Authors: Lorena Ruedys Leite da Cruz, Silvia Ferrite

Background. Since 2004, the Ministry of Health has invested in structuring and refining a network of health care services for people with hearing disabilities within Brazil's National Health System (SUS). In 2010, universal newborn hearing screening became mandatory by law across the entire nation. One of the gaps preventing an evaluation of this process is the absence of a specific Information System. However, the country holds other Information Systems, which, while not integrated, supply data that enable an investigation on the implementation of newborn hearing screening. The aim of this study is to estimate and describe the coverage of newborn hearing screening in SUS between 2008 and 2011. **Methods.** An ecological time-series study was conducted using data from SUS's Outpatients Information System, Live Births Information System, Interagency Health Information Network and Beneficiaries Information System of the National Supplementary Health Agency. Estimated coverage was based on newborn hearing screening procedures authorized by SUS and number of live newborn SUS users in each year and state. **Results.** In 2008, the coverage of newborn hearing screening in the Brazilian National Health System was estimated to be 7.1%. By 2011, this figure had risen to 21.8%. Evidence of disparities was found between and within Brazilian regions. More extensive coverage was found in the Southern states of Rio Grande do Sul (60.1%) and Parana (59.4%), while coverage was less than 5.0% in some Northern (Rondonia), North-eastern (Pernambuco) and South-eastern (Espírito Santo) states. **Conclusions.** In 2011, the year following the law making this procedure mandatory, more than two thirds of newborn SUS users in Brazil still did not undergo hearing screening. Although progress has been made, the goal to attain universal coverage remains.

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