

# **Brazilian Initiative on Vaccines and Microbicides for HIV/Aids Prevention**

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# Aids epidemic in Brazil : shifting patterns

- Evidence for a stabilization of new Aids cases ;
- Trend towards increase in incidence among women in general population;
- dissemination of the epidemic to small communities;

# Brazil 2002 - Social-economic and Demographic Data

**Land Area: 8.547.403,5 square km**

**Total Pop: 165 million**

**Men: 80.850.000**

**Women: 84.150.000**

**Female Pop. of Fertile Age: 62%**

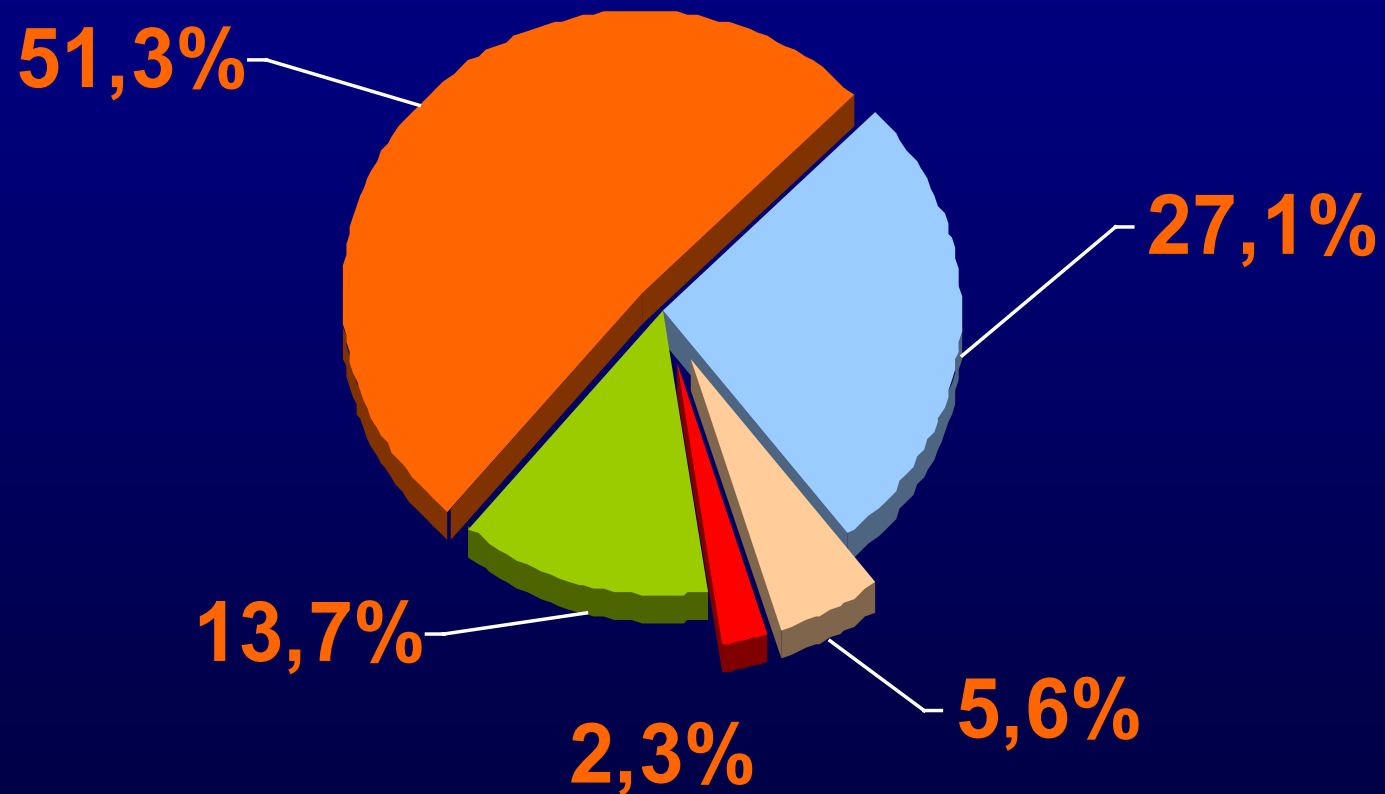
**Female Heads of Family: 26%**



## Cultural and social aspects:

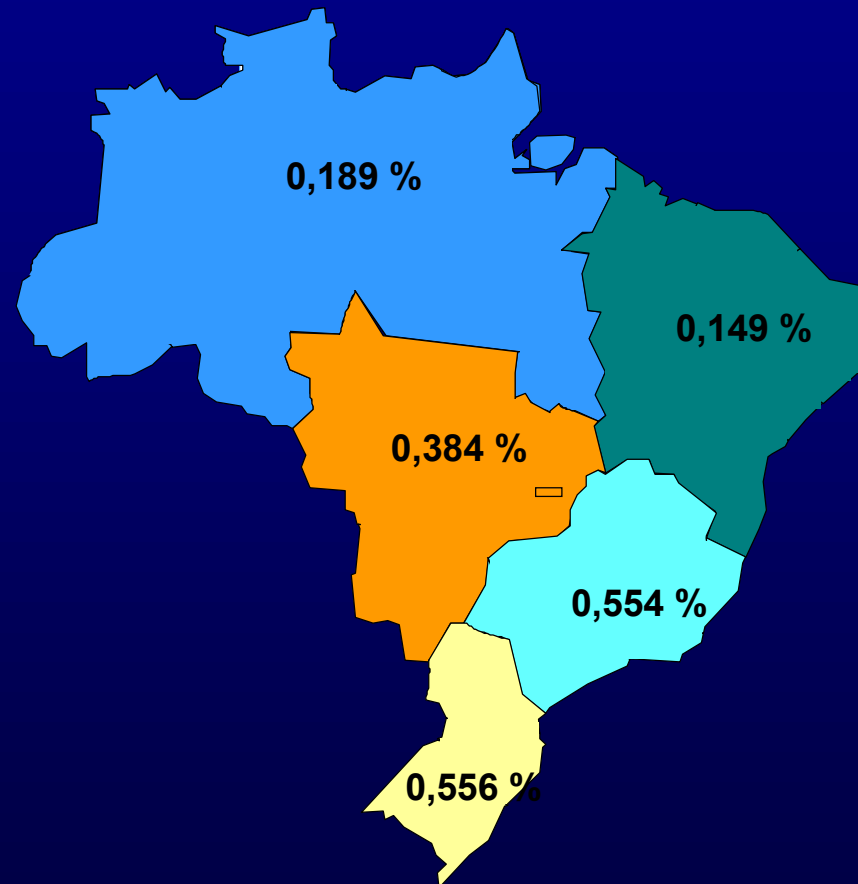
- Unequal power relationships existent between men and women;
- Women are, in general, in a subordinate position relative to men;
- Situation also reproduced in their sexual practices, hindering condom use negotiation;
- Male identity in our culture, “demands” that men expose themselves to risky and power situations.

## Distribution of aids cases among women, by type of exposition. Brazil, 1980-2000.



■ heterossexuais ■ ignored ■ perinatal ■ transfusion ■ IDU

# Estimate of the proportion of HIV+ pregnant women per region Brazil, 1998\*.



Source: NAP - MOH

# Female Condom: A Prevention Strategy

## Brazil - Cities included in Survey of Acceptability of Female Condom - 1999



N° of women : 2.453

% acceptability: 70.1%

Duration of survey: 90 days

### Main advantages for women :

- Protection from STD - 47.0%
- Is comfortable - 39.3%
- Affords autonomy to women- 29.5%
- Is sturdy - 23.9%
- No diminution or little diminution of sensitivity - 20.2%
- Liked by partner -20.4%
- Increases pleasure - 12,9%

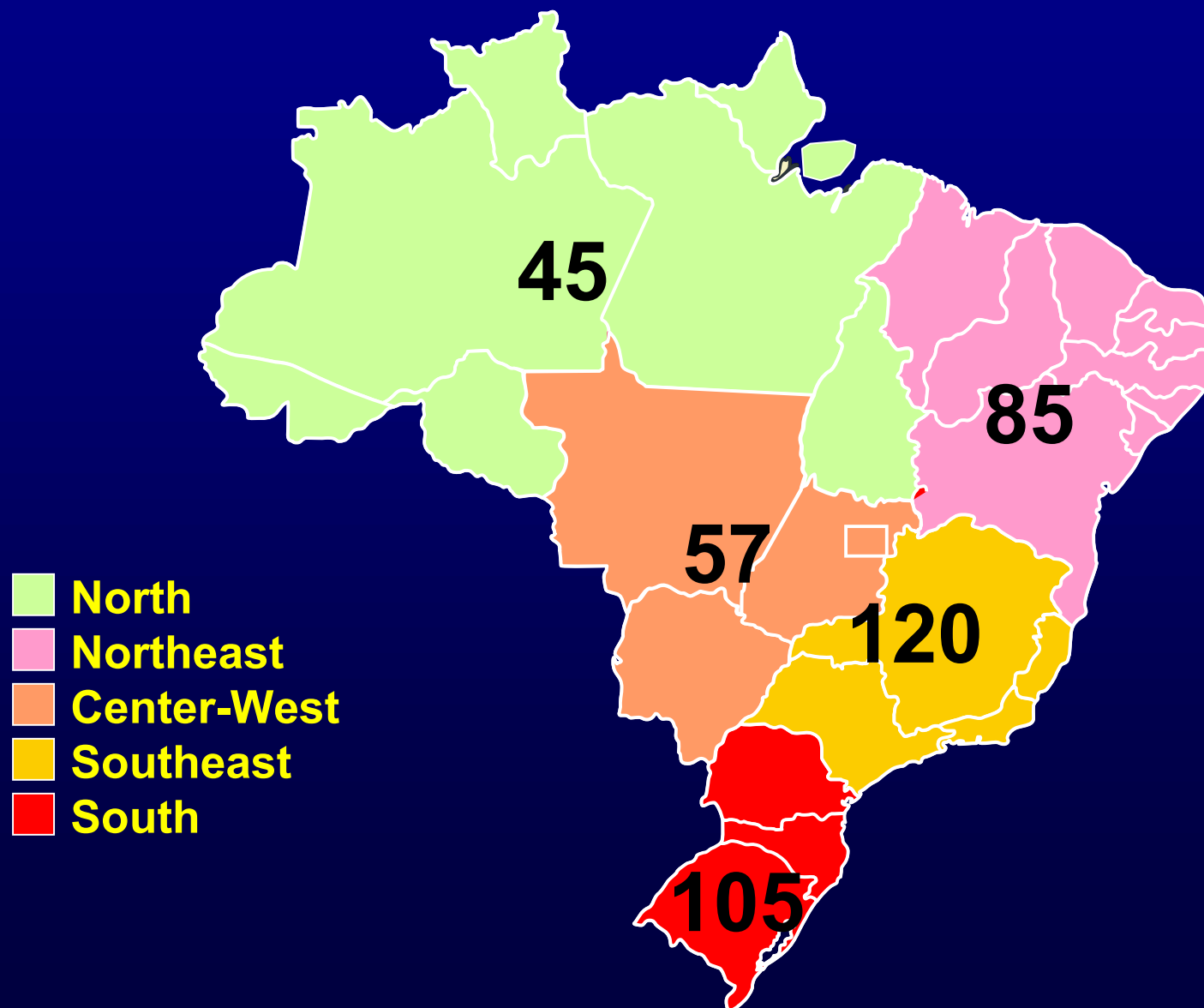
# Brazil - Female Condom Distribution Programme

- In 2000 Distribution of 2 million female condoms
- In 2001 Distribution of 2 million female condoms
- In 2002 estimate of 4 million female condoms

**Criteria adopted: Identification of groups of women who are most vulnerable and at highest risk for STI/HIV:**

- Commercial sex workers
- HIV positive Women and partners
- Women drug users and partners
- Women at risk for sexual and domestic violence
- Women users of Health Services
- Women with STI

# Number of Institutions that distribute female condoms, by regions. 2002.



# General guidelines of National Vaccine Plan and Microbicides Plan

- Reinforcement of existing infrastructure
- Preference given to activities that involve technology transfer
- Guarantee of access to evaluated products
- Compatibility to ongoing activities

## **HIV/Aids vaccine/microbicide preparatory infrastructure available**

- Network of HIV/Aids and reproductive health services
- Laboratory network for serology, CD4 counts, viral load and genotyping
- National Network for isolation and characterization of HIV
- Anti-retroviral therapy distribution network
- Many potential partners at Universities and Research Institutes

# Preparatory activities for HIV/AIDS Vaccine/Microbicide tests

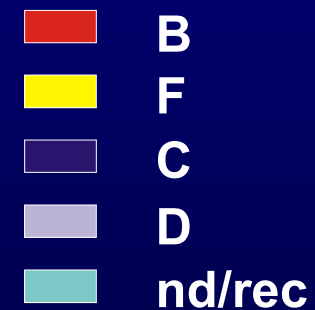
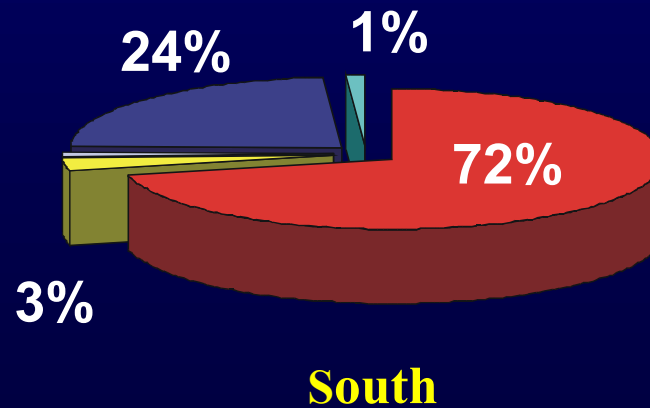
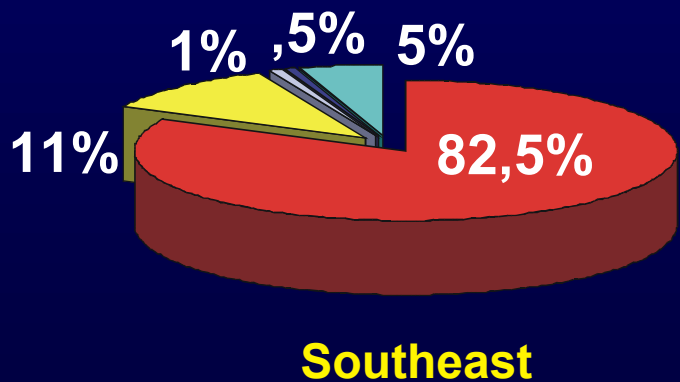
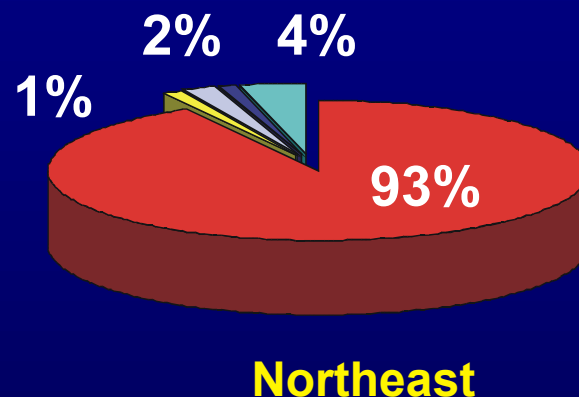
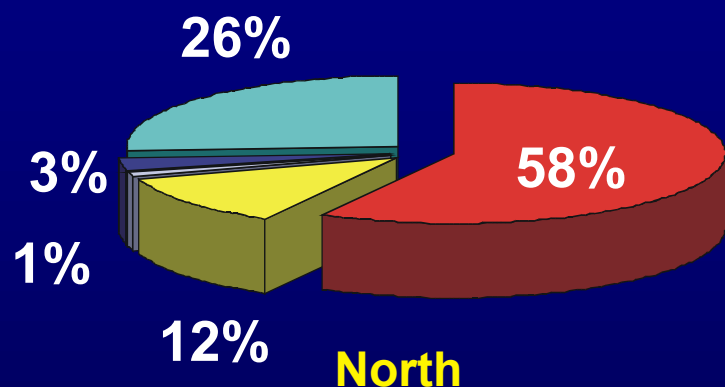
- National Network of HIV isolation and characterization
  - Molecular epidemiology of circulating HIV-1
  - Preparedness of laboratory network to support vaccine and microbicides studies
- Estimation of HIV incidence in potential sites
- Development of feasibility studies in potential phase 3 sites

# National Network for HIV isolation and Characterization

Since 1993, Brazil has developed a National Network to provide baseline information on the biological, immunological and genetic characteristics of HIV-1 circulating in the country.

# HIV-1 clades in Brazil

Distinct frequencies among regions of the country



# Preparatory activities for HIV/AIDS Vaccine/Microbicide tests

- Identification of partners and social awareness and involvement
  - NGOs
  - Media
  - Inventory of Brazilian research institutions
- Delineation of scenarios and potential demands for tested products
- International cooperation
  - ANRS , Fogarty , HVTN , WHO-UNAIDS

# Potential Vaccine/Microbicide sites have been detected and are under implementation



Potential phase 3 sites



Feasibility cohort  
(former WHO sero incidence study)



Phase 2 HVTN site