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Note On Infant Mortality In Latin America

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In statements to reporters on Oct. 16 in Rio de Janeiro, Joao Vunes, coordinator of the Pan-American Health Organization's maternal-infant health program, said that as many as 700,000 children die every year in Latin America result of respiratory infections, malnutrition and diarrhea. Vunes pointed out that in Brazil, only 20% of the national budget is dedicated to social services. At a rate of 100 deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births, the infant mortality rate in Brazil's northeastern region, and in Haiti and Bolivia, are among the highest in the world. (Basic data from Xinhua, 10/16/89)

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