

# Health Economics Centers and Support in SUS Management: A Report of Successful Experiences

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## INTRODUCTION

The Health Economics Centers (NES, in brazilian acronym) were established to enhance decision-making in Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS). By utilizing tools and methodologies from health economics, NES aims to improve efficiency, quality, and equity in healthcare resource allocation.

This study highlights successful experiences of NES in some states and one municipality, emphasizing their role in supporting policy and financial decisions within the SUS.

## OBJECTIVE

The study aims to analyze the role of Health Economics Centers in supporting the efficient management of Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS). It focuses on how NES contributes to health system management through economic analyses and decision-making tools.

## METHOD

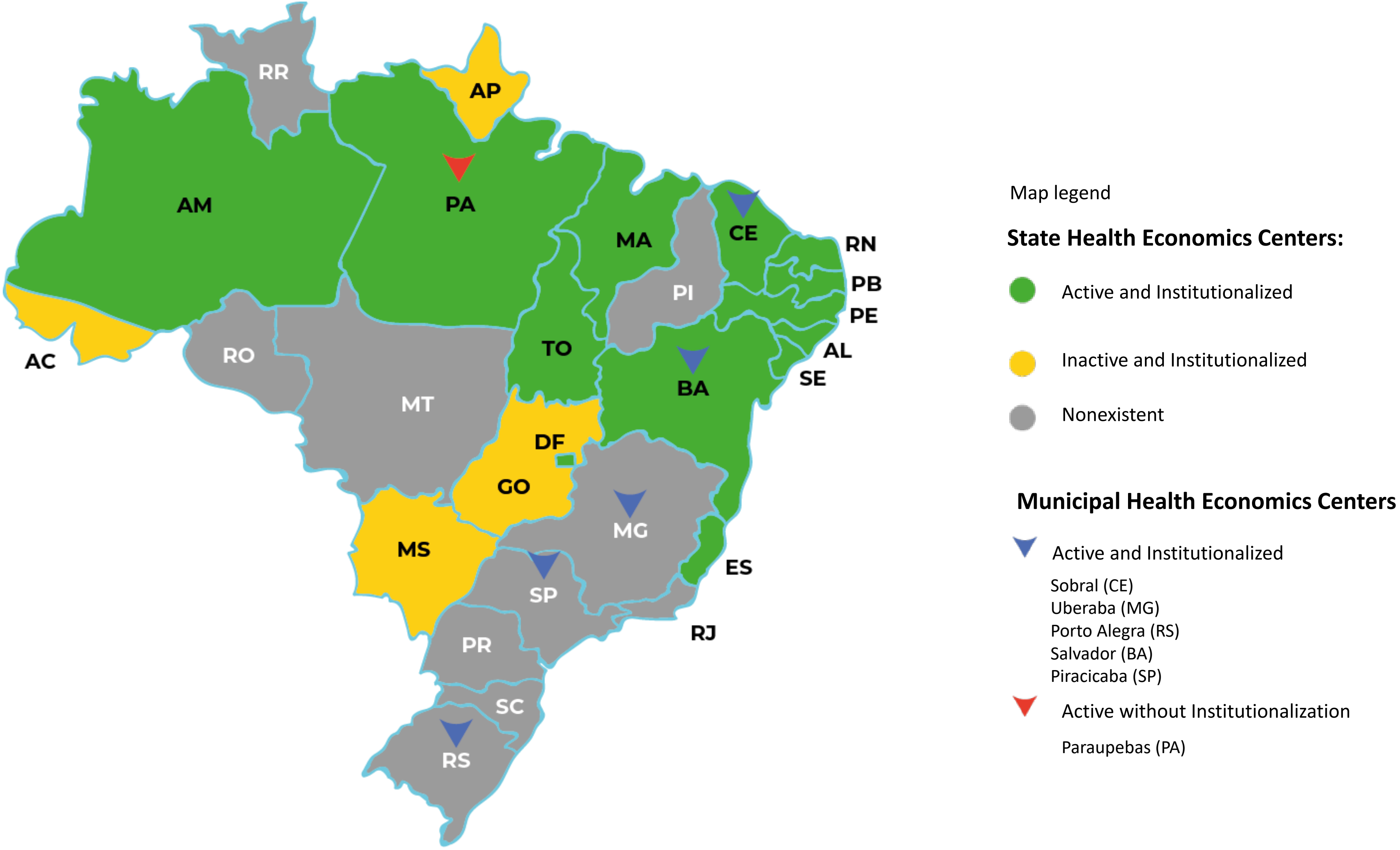
This qualitative, exploratory, and descriptive study is based on a literature review of health economics and the analysis of official documents. Additionally, it incorporates successful NES experiences from different Brazilian states (Bahia, Federal District, Pernambuco, Paraíba) and Sobral municipality, in Ceará state. Data were collected through meetings and technical visits from the Ministry of Health.

Key evaluation criteria included NES institutionalization, integration in health structures, tool utilization, and involvement in capacity-building activities.

## RESULTS

The NES are multidisciplinary teams that support health management by utilizing health economics tools for decision-making, training, and economic studies. The selected NES demonstrated the importance of incorporating health economics tools for effective decision-making, based on scientific evidence.

For instance, Pernambuco's NES has implemented cost management systems in hospitals, leading to cost reductions in nutrition services. The actions of Bahia's NES include: pricing; cost assessment and management; economic studies; advising state-managed health units. Paraíba's NES evaluates hospital operational costs, providing detailed financial reports to support budget decisions. The Federal District's NES developed manuals for cost management in health units, ensuring transparency and efficient resource use. Sobral's NES uses economic data to produce analytical reports, aiding decision-making and policy implementation.



Criteria	Bahia	Federal District	Pernambuco	Paraíba	Sobral/CE
Utilization of Economic Health Tools Data and Studies	An analysis was conducted on the impact of nursing salary floor adjustments on the state's budget, and a study on health funding for the floor is under development.	A study on cost of patient/day bed to subsidize contracting the Campaign Hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, demands of the Information Access Law, management dashboards, control, and transparency are addressed through InfoSaúde (DF's health information & transparency portal).	Based on APURASUS reports, monitoring is conducted to support care planning and manage costs. Activities include improved nutrition in hospitals and pharmacy controls. Also, a mapping was performed of health resources available by SUS and periodic newsletters are produced.	A technical study on costs of hospital laundry in the Paraíba State Health Network was conducted. Calculated the financial impact for "Dupilumab" drug integration. APURASUS records and hospital manager-generated data are used to assess unit productivity.	APURASUS data is used in decision-making for managers. An analytical report is generated quarterly, called the Health Economics Bulletin, which also supports decision-making processes.

\*Dupilumab is indicated for the treatment of patients aged 12 and older with moderate to severe atopic dermatitis

**Key evaluation criteria:** *Institutionalization:* NES are legally recognized in several regions, securing their role within health departments. *Organizational Integration:* NES are embedded in the structure of health departments, aiding in resource management and policy formation. *Tool Application:* NES utilizes systems like APURASUS and SIOPS to analyze health expenses and support budget decisions. *Capacity Building:* Continuous training in health economics enables NES teams to provide valuable insights for local health governance.

\*APURASUS: healthcare cost accounting system  
\*SIOPS: Public Health Budget Information System  
\*BPS: Health Price Database

## CONCLUSIONS

NES significantly contributes to the efficient management of SUS by providing economic analyses and supporting decision-making processes. These centers enhance the quality and equity of health services and strengthen the SUS. However, for NES to be effective, they must be well-structured, with a multidisciplinary team, regularly trained, and that requires a political decision. Partnerships with universities and research centers are recommended to enhance their capacity and impact. Implementing these recommendations will strengthen NES and improve the economic sustainability of SUS

## REFERENCES

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