

Firearm-related violence in Brazil

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- The goals of the study
- Key results
- Major gains

Goals

A-Identify the profile of firearm violence in Brazil:

1. What type of violence,
2. Who are the victims,
3. Where most firearm violence occurs.

B- Describe the trend of firearm-related mortality in the 1990's

Focus of the study

- The study focus is on mortality by firearm

The role of firearm in:

Homicide,

Suicide,

Accidental deaths,

Undetermined intention and

Legal interventions.

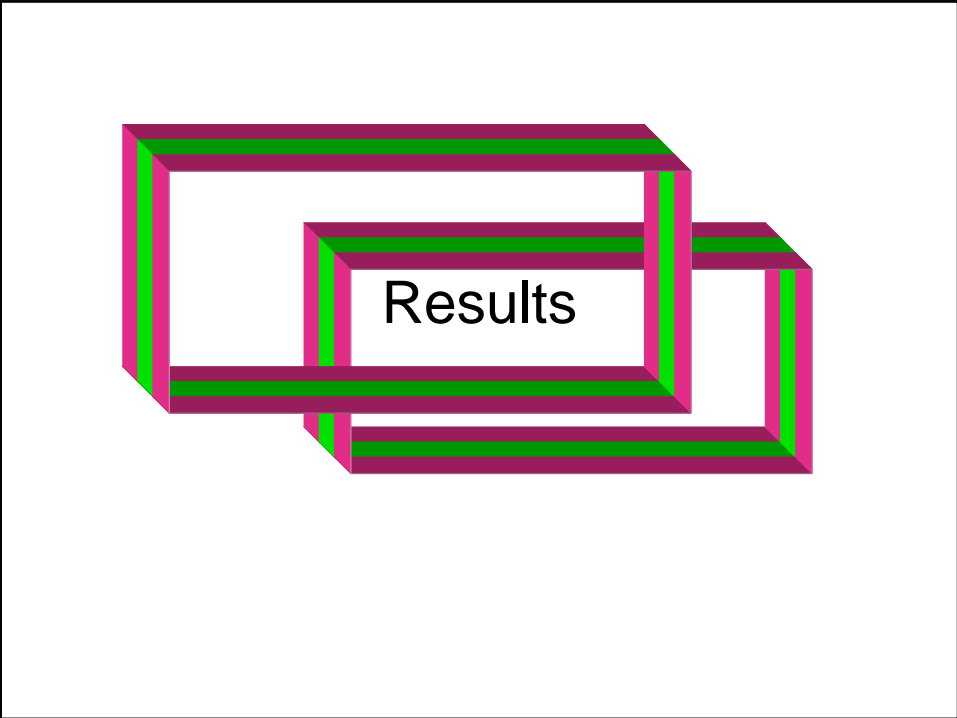
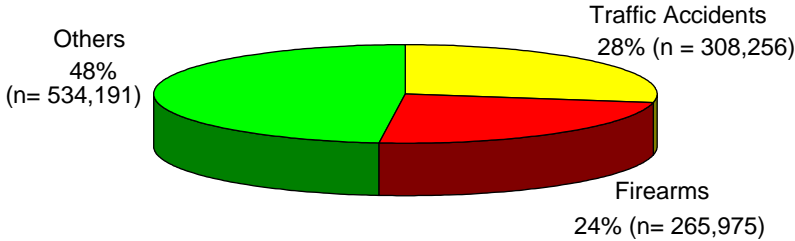


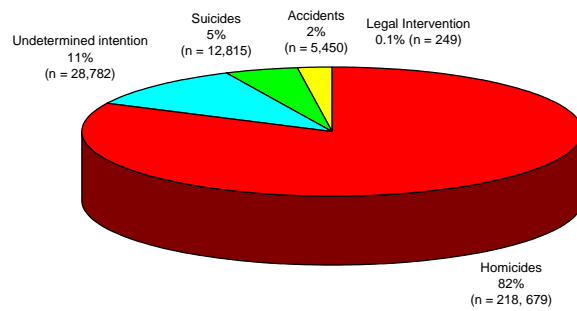
Figure 1: External Cause deaths according to type, Brazil, 1990's.



Total External Cause deaths: n = 1,108,422

Source: Mortality Information System/Ministry of Health, Brazil

Figure 2: Firearm-related deaths, Brazil, 1990's.



Source: Mortality Information System/Ministry of Health, Brazil

Firearms were used in:

59,3% of homicides in the country,
25,1% of deaths by undetermined causes,
20,5% of suicides,
2,1% of accidental deaths and
69,4% of deaths by legal intervention.

Limits of interpretation: quality of mortality data

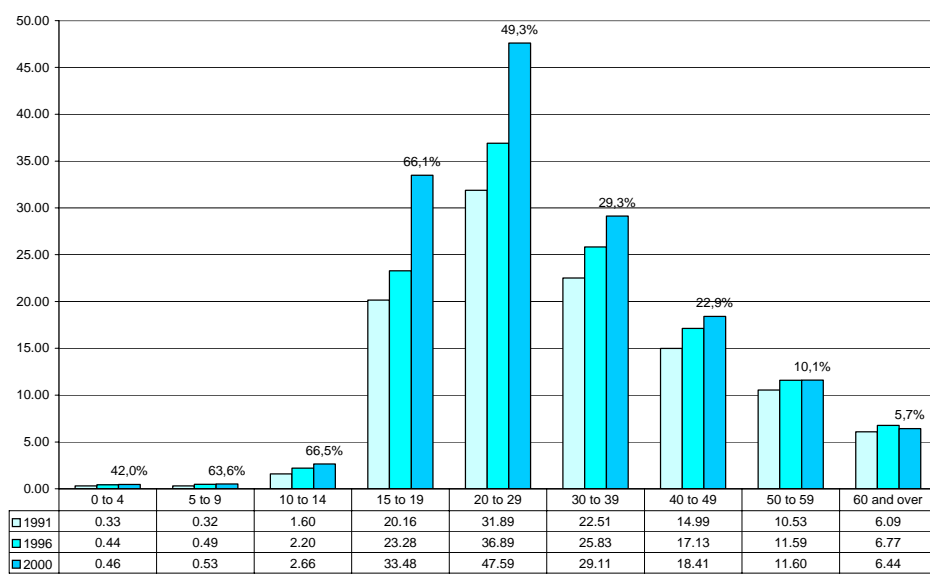
- ❑ Misclassification: Undetermined intention
kind of weapon/instrument

10.8% of all firearm deaths were classified as death of undetermined intention → underestimation of homicides

15% of all homicides were classified as with unspecified weapon → underestimation of firearm homicides/deaths

- ❑ Time series analysis should be considered with caution

Figure 5: Firearm-related mortality rate (/100.000) and increase (%) by age groups. Brazil, 1991, 1996, 2000.



In 2000 firearm-related deaths

Were:

- The leading cause of death for the age groups: 15-24 and 25-34 year-old,
- the cause of death of 12,894 youth between 15 and 24 years.

Figure 6: Ten leading causes of death, 15-24 year-old population. Brazil, 2000.

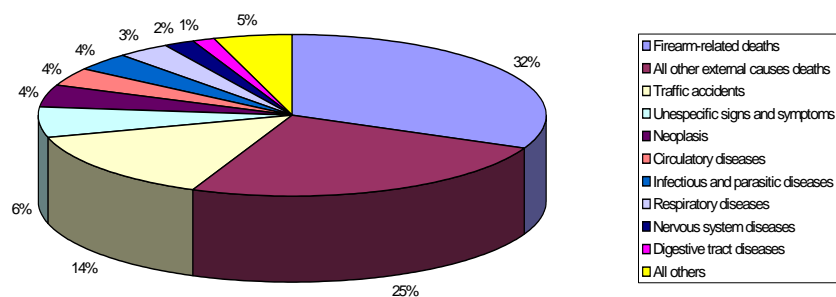
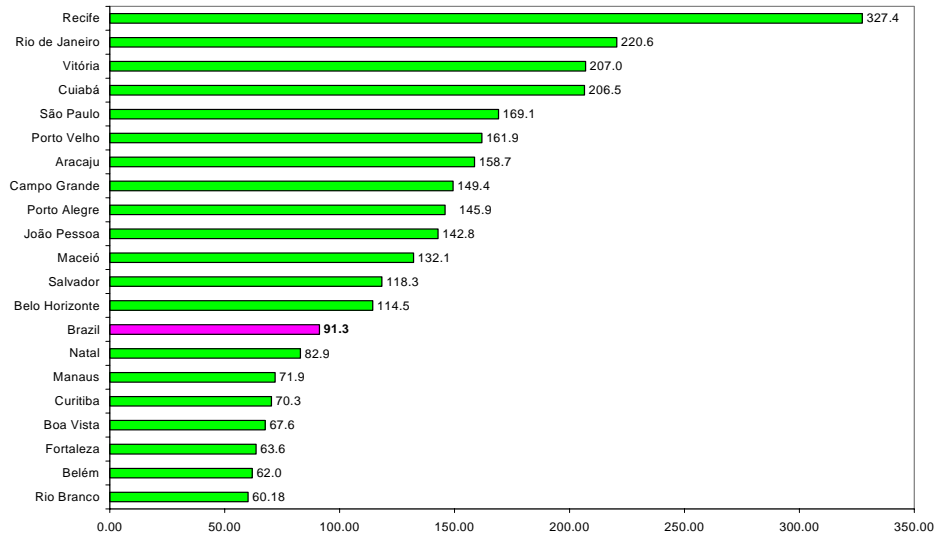


Figure 7: Firearm-related mortality rate (/100.000), 20-29 year-old male population, Brazil and state capitals, 2000.



Conclusions

- ❑ Firearm deaths are growing in the country and in most part of its states and state capitals
- ❑ Have major impact on the growth of violent death in Brazil.
- ❑ Measure to curtail the circulation of firearms can play key role in violence prevention in Brazil.

Major innovations

First study on firearm violence:

- national level,
- ten year period,
- systematic comparisons,
- disaggregates data by
 - types of violence
 - victim profile and
 - location

Major gains

- Assess quality of the data,
- Provides a framework for data improvement,
- Gives visibility to some phenomena ,
- Provides key information to monitor the efficacy of new legislation on disarmament
- Inform the public for the 2005 Referendum on sale of firearms.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

This project is included within the programme of the Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN)/Réseau Universitaire International de Genève (RUIG).



Geneva International Academic Network /Réseau universitaire international de Genève



Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade / Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce international

