


From: johnrlott crimeresearch.org johnrlott@crimeresearch.org 
Subject: Fwd: Brazil Final
Date: March 17, 2023 at 1:59 PM
To: johnrlott crimeresearch.org johnrlott@crimeresearch.org



John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.
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Begin forwarded message:

From: JOHN LOTT <johnrlott@crimeresearch.org>
Subject: Re: Brazil
Date: March 8, 2023 at 5:38:37 AM MST
To: zimring@law.berkeley.edu

Dear Frank:

I hadn't heard back on my last email, so I wanted to double check with you to see if you might take up my wager.

Thank you.
John

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On Feb 20, 2023, at 6:04 PM, johnrlott crimeresearch.org <johnrlott@crimeresearch.org> wrote:

Thanks, Frank. The Washington Post piece that I linked to claimed that it was because of police reforms that were enacted in some of the states a decade ago and also that the percentage of the population between 12 and 29 declined by four percentage points over that period. What I can say is that during 2018, 2019, and 2020, the media worldwide and many public health people, such as Dan Webster who is quoted in the WP article, were predicting a massive increase in homicides and violent crime as Bolsonaro was increasing gun ownership by over 600 percent. My own belief is that the huge increase in gun ownership helped cause the drop.

Now that Lula has banned the sale of ammunition and new guns, banned concealed carry, forcing people who have more than three guns to give those additional guns back to the government, and reworking the licensing system so that in a few month virtually everyone will lose their gun license, we have a massive reversal from Bolsonaro's policy. I will be honest with you that I have reached out to all the prominent public health researchers and none of them have so far indicated that they will take my bet.

Thanks.
John

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On Feb 20, 2023, at 4:47 PM, Franklin E. ZIMRING <zimring@law.berkeley.edu> wrote:

John:

What caused the rather quick 40% drop after 2017? That pretty close to a record for periods of stability in large countries that have not had prior hyper rapid increases.

Frank

On Mon, Feb 20, 2023 at 3:33 PM johnrlott [crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org) <johnrlott@crimeresearch.org> wrote:

Dear Frank:

Thank you. Here is an Excel file with sources both in Portuguese and English on the total homicide rate numbers. These numbers go from 2006 to 2021. The first link in Portuguese has a lot of crime data on Brazil.

Thanks.
John

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<CPRC JPEG Letter.jpeg>

On Feb 20, 2023, at 4:18 PM, Franklin E. ZIMRING <zimring@law.berkeley.edu> wrote:

John:

Is there a good time series of percentage of homicides in Brazil by gun by year going back two decades? If so, what does the time series look like?

Frank

On Mon, Feb 20, 2023 at 1:09 PM johnrlott [crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org) <johnrlott@crimeresearch.org> wrote:

Thank you, Frank. The national data on murders is good, not so much for other crimes, but one can always double check on the federal numbers by looking at the data from the individual 26 states. The homicide rate in Brazil has went from 26/100,000 in 2006 to a high of 31.6 in 2017 and has since gone down to 18.5 in 2021.

Thanks.

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On Feb 20, 2023, at 1:55 PM, Franklin E. ZIMRING <zimring@law.berkeley.edu> wrote:

John:

How good are the national data on firearms deaths over time and, if the data is reliable, what has been the national death rate over the last 15 years?

Frank Zimring

On Mon, Feb 20, 2023 at 12:44 PM johnrlott [crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org) <johnrlott@crimeresearch.org> wrote:

Dear Frank:

I hope that you are doing well. Your research comparing crime rates across different countries is well known. Given that, I suspect that you are happy about the changes in Brazil with the defeat of Bolsonaro, who increased gun ownership by over 600% (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/12/23/brazil-gun-rights-control-bolsonaro/>), and the election of Lula. With Lula becoming president of **Brazil on January 1st**, and his first executive order banning the sale of ammunition and moving to take away people's gun licenses, you must be very optimistic about the future of crime in Brazil. This across the board **crackdown on gun ownership** provides a great opportunity to test the claim that reducing gun ownership will reduce the homicide rate or increase it.

Here is what I offer you. Let's bet \$1,000 and make it simple on whether the homicide rate in Brazil will go up or down during the first two years of Lula's presidency. If the homicide rate goes down from what it was in 2022, I will pay you \$1,000. If it goes up, you will pay me \$1,000. Given the importance you put on gun control and the large percentage change in gun ownership that Lula is imposing, you should expect a substantial drop in homicides, but, as I say, let's keep it simple on whether the homicide rate goes up or down.

I look forward to your response.

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