

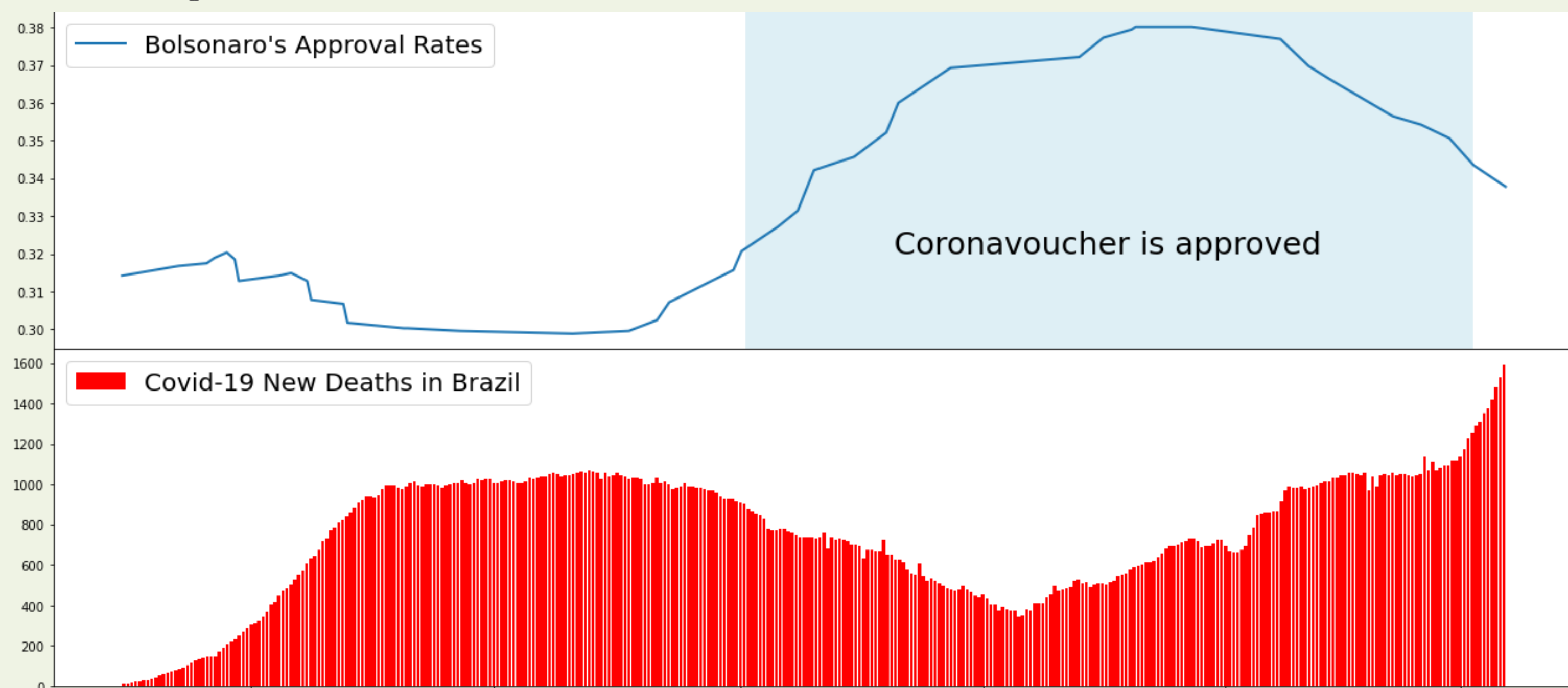
Emergency aid at the Covid-19 pandemic in Brazil: Good for the people or Good for government popularity?

Students: João Cesar (20200669), Maikel Sousa (20200735), Pedro Sancho V. de Castro (20200132), Vilmar Adriano Bussolaro (20200268)

Introduction

The Global pandemic Covid-19 is an unparallel event in recent history. Several countries have experienced it differently.

Being Brazil the most economically relevant and populated country in South America, studying the impact of the Brazilian government policies during the pandemic is an interesting case work.



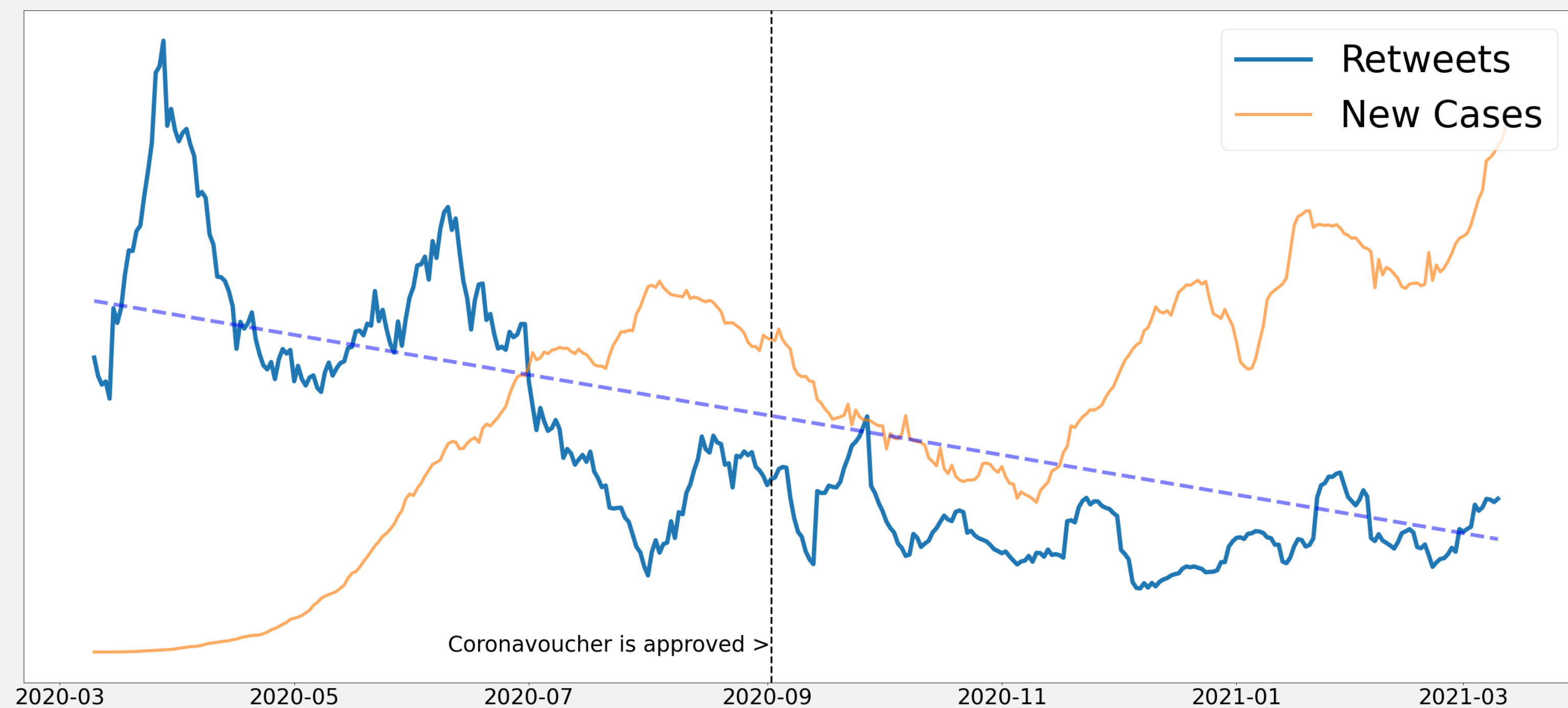
The Coronavoucher was an emergency aid, at 60% of the Brazilian minimum wage, given by Bolsonaro's government to contain the economic impact on Brazil's most vulnerable population. Furthermore, the main reason this policy was put in place was to avoid mobility and therefore, avoid new Covid-19 cases and deaths. Despite that, we will see that socio-economic fragile citizens anticipated that the economic impact of the pandemic would be a long one and they ended up going back to the streets to earn an extra income, despite receiving the emergency aid from the government.

Breakdown of Average Household per capita Income per source ⁶

| Payment type (R\$) | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|
| Job | 1287 | 1235 | 985 |
| Pension | 367 | 372 | 302 |
| Other | 95 | 85 | 53 |
| Social Programs | 20 | 21 | 15 |
| Coronavoucher | 0 | 0 | 106 |

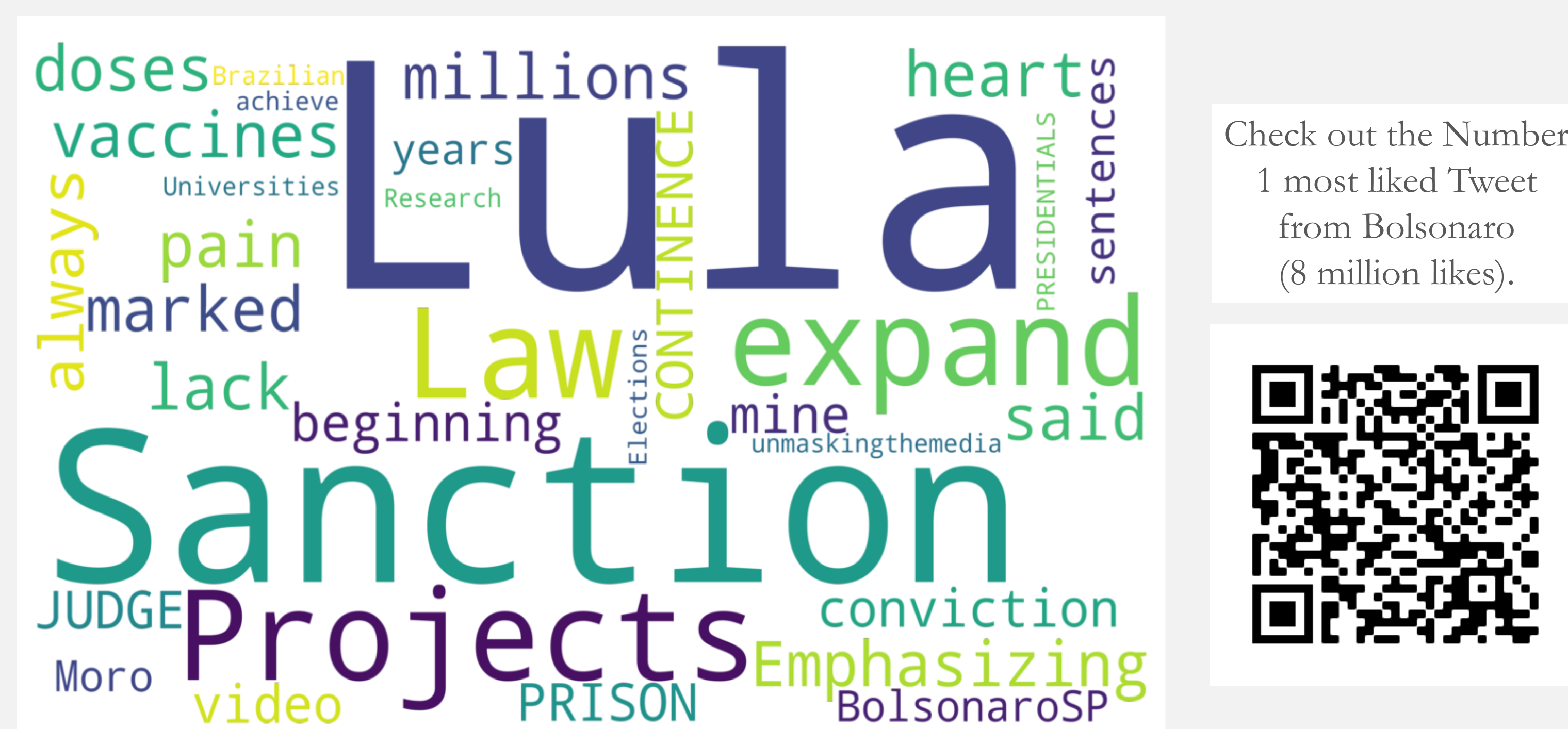
Popularity Exploration

Popularity within Bolsonaro's Twitter followers decreased as the number of cases rose. However, after the coronavoucher was implemented, his popularity among the Twitter community stabilized at poor levels compared to his pre-pandemic state, contrary to what happened in his overall approval, which increased.



There is a downward trend for Bolsonaro's engagement in Twitter while Covid-19 new cases are increasing. ² This reinforces a hypothesis of a change in the profile of his endorsers, from a majority of highly engaged in social media voters to mostly people that are in lower-income levels, receiving the emergency aid and do not have that as much access to social media platforms.

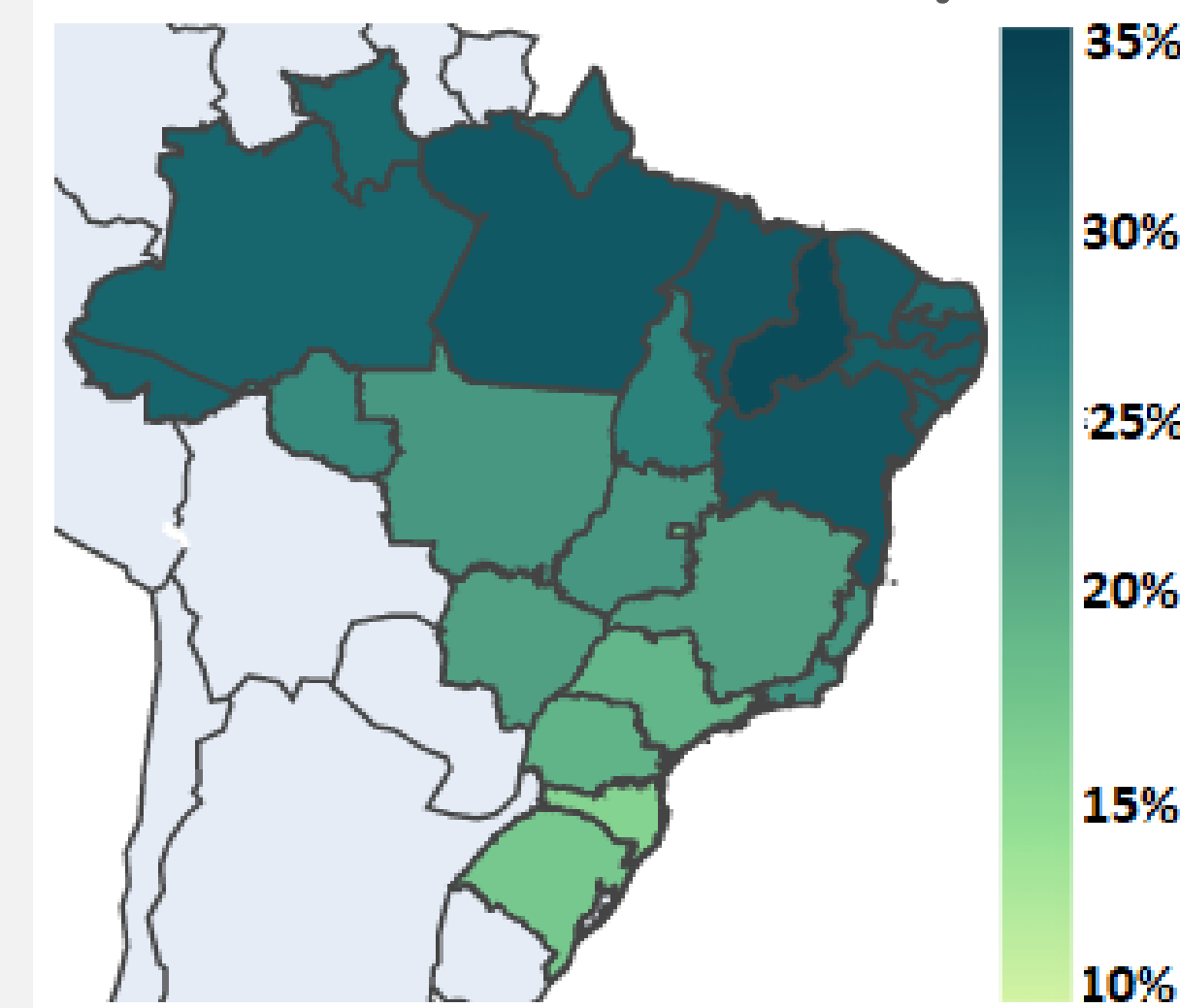
The following figure shows Bolsonaro's Tweets³ Word Cloud, with tags translated to English: most cited word is Lula (his major political adversary):



Did Covid Aid prevent population mobility?

The highest percentage of population aided by the coronavoucher is located in the North and Northeast states. While the most southern states depicted less people being helped by the government through emergency aids. ⁴

Percentage of the Population that received Covid Aid by State

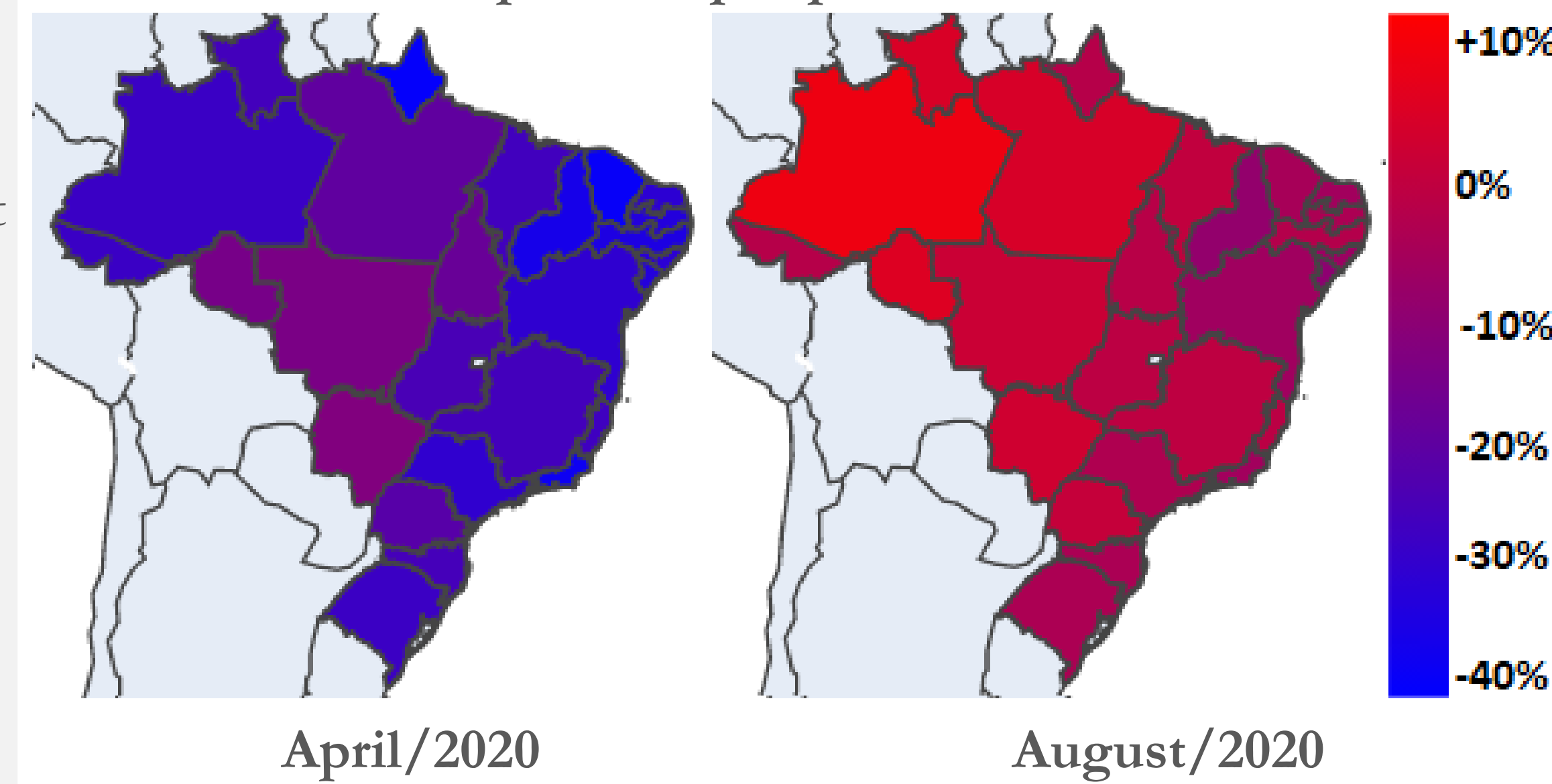


This goes in line with data regarding inequality among states in Brazil. North and Northeast states having a mean Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.719, which corresponds to the human development of Maldives. Center-West, South and Southeast states having a mean HDI of 0.803, which corresponds to human development of Serbia.

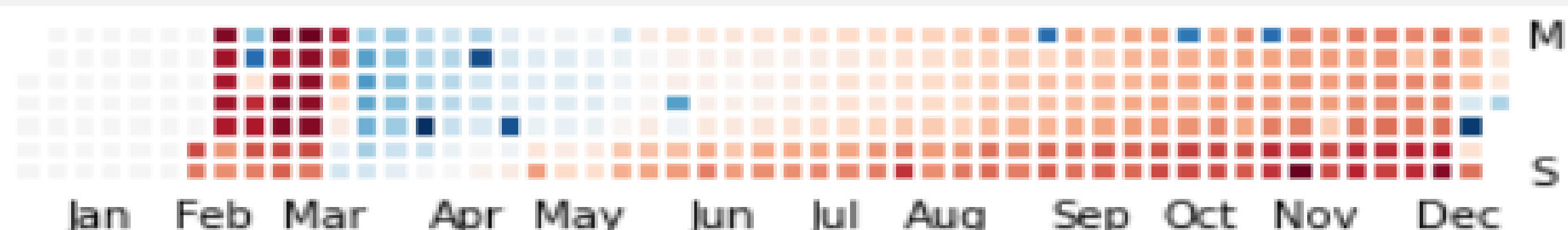
Despite a high percentage of citizens being helped through financial aids, mobility reports display that people went back to work presentially.

Considering Brazil as a whole this trend continued through the following months up until December.

Variation in Mobility in Brazilian States compared to pre-pandemic levels



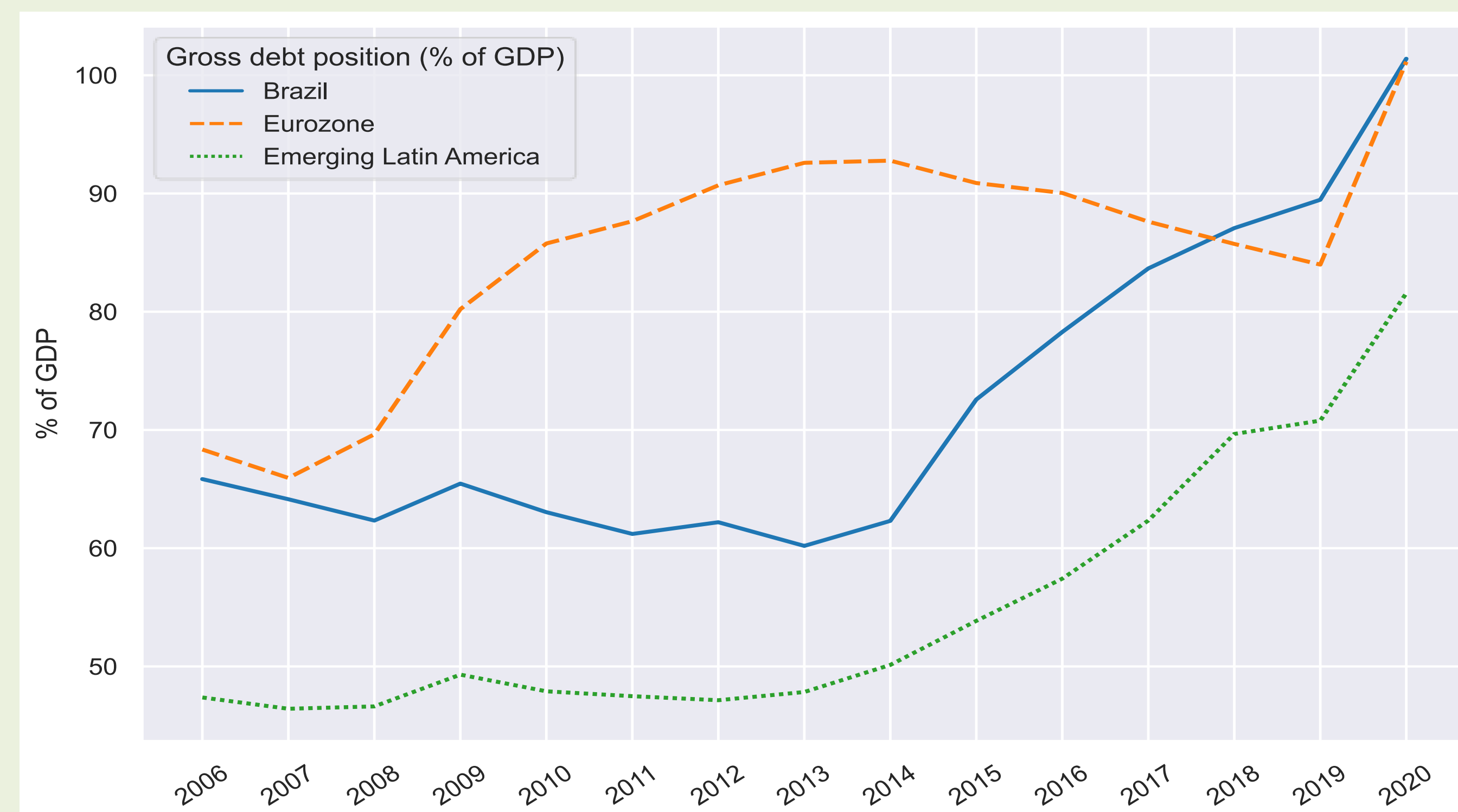
Aggregate Brazil's Mobility Variation (-72% to 22%)



Giving money comes at a cost

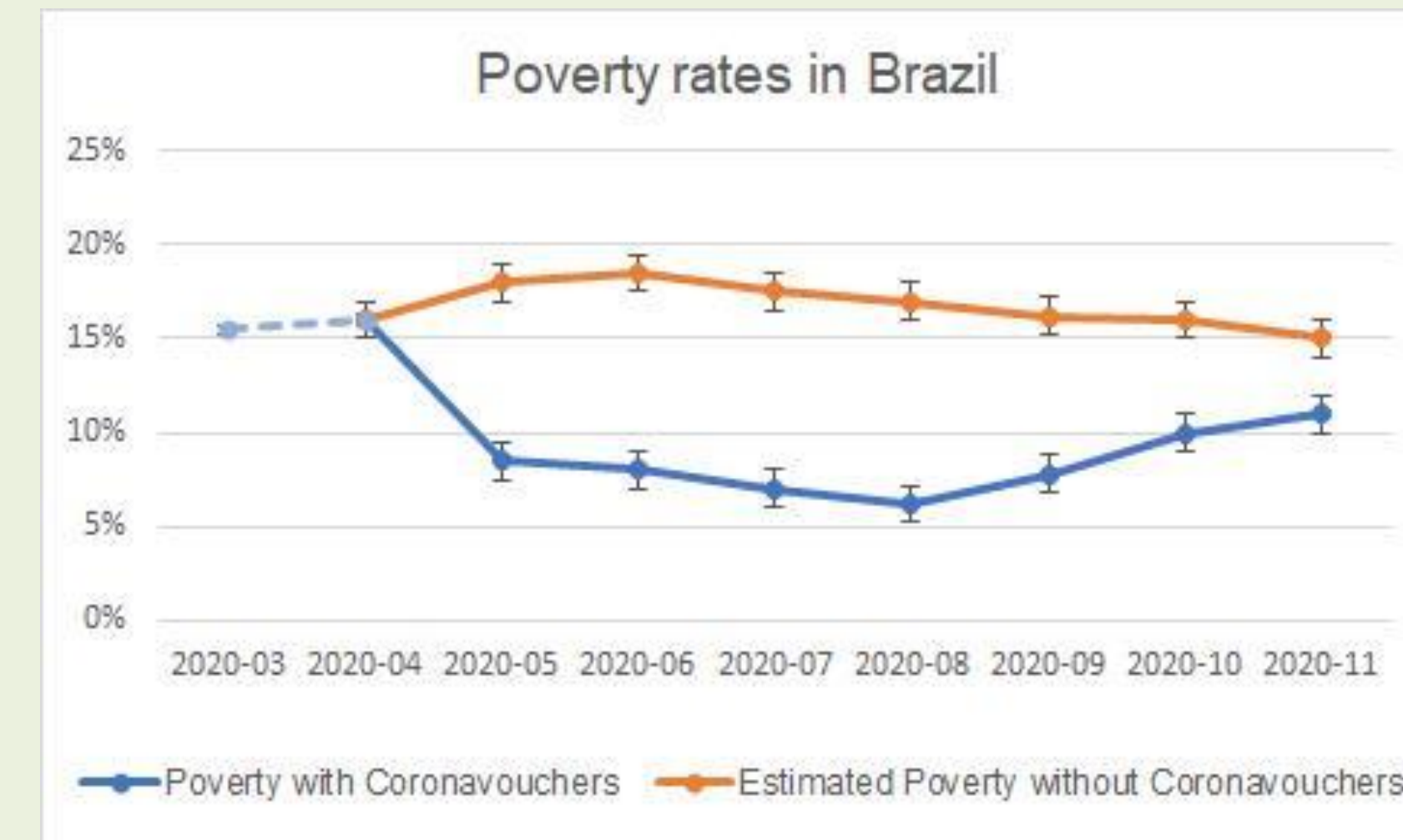
Brazil, despite being a poor country with lacking infrastructure, has higher levels of indebtedness compared to its peers, being close to countries in the Eurozone. ¹

This last spike is mostly due to the emergency aid for economic fragile people:



As we saw in prior visualizations, Coronavouchers did not help decreasing population mobility, therefore it has failed to prevent new COVID infections and deaths. However, it did help in reducing poverty rates ⁶, which can be the cause of the surge in popularity for the current government, despite poor management of the health crisis.

Lastly, we want to raise a few questions: How will this increase in debt affect Brazil's economy for the next generations? How effective were the investments in dealing with the crisis? Why the budget was splitted that way? Of the total 521 Billion Reais (95 Billion USD) spent so far with COVID-19 by the Federal Government of Brazil, only 0,4% of that went to actually buying vaccines. ⁷



Data Sources

- 1 – IMF - <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/FM/Issues/2020/09/30/october-2020-fiscal-monitor>
- 2 – OWD - <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus-source-data>
- 3 – Bolsonaro's Twitter Scraping - <https://github.com/vbussolaro/Bolsonaro-Tweets>
- 4 – Google Mobility Data - <https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility/>
- 5 – Base dos dados (Emergency Aids)- <https://basedosdados.org/dataset/br-mc-auxilio-emergencial>
- 6 – INSPIER - https://www.insper.edu.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Policy_Paper_54.pdf
- 7 – O GLOBO - <https://valor.globo.com/brasil/noticia/2020/12/11/combate-a-pandemia-custou-r-5995-bi-ate-agora-diz-guedes.ghtml>