

Houses are constructed from any materials available, such as wood, corrugated iron and bricks.

Many houses lack basic services such as running water, sewerage and electricity. Most do not have hot water.

Houses are often built on hill sides which means that when it rains heavily, floods can cause landslides.

Many favelas are built on illegal land which means that people could be evicted at any time.

Favelas are often associated with gangs, violence and drugs, and many people (including children) carry weapons. It can be very dangerous.

A huge amount of rubbish is left on the street as there are no rubbish collectors. This attracts vermin such as rats. There are open sewers.

People within the favelas help each other. Many wooden homes have been rebuilt to brick and tile.

The government has added electricity and street lights to some areas of Rochina.

The streets are very steep and narrow. Many elderly residents have to rely on others to take them to other places as they find it hard to get around.

There are lots of small businesses within favelas, such as grocery stores and pharmacies.

The government has started to spend money on improving the living conditions within the favelas.

The government has evicted people from the favelas and demolished their houses to build structures for the upcoming Rio Olympics.

There have been lots of riots between police and locals. Many people have been killed.

Some favelas have had sports areas (such as football pitches) built for the local community.

There are schools within the favelas.

Schools are often closed due to criminal activity.

80% of people are employed.

Families of 6 often live in 1 or 2 rooms.

Life expectancy is low (48 years) and infant mortality (babies who die before their first birthday) is high.

Most people have TVs, stereos and mobile phones.

Favelas are seen as a tourist attraction which is bringing money into the area.

Diseases like bronchitis and cholera (from dirty water) are common.

There is a strong sense of community, and there are community groups for people to support each other.

Some people have been allowed to buy the land their home is on.

Famous artists have painted the favelas to make them more attractive.

Many favelas employ 24 hour police patrols to make people feel safer.