



Universität St.Gallen

Changes in trends and patterns of homicide across three decades

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Swiss Homicide Project

Database

- Completed, intentional homicides
- Committed in Switzerland
- Including homicide-suicides
- Supported by Swiss National Science Foundation (NSF)
- Wave I: 1990-2004 (partial sample from 1980 to 1989)
- Wave II: 2005-2014

Data collection

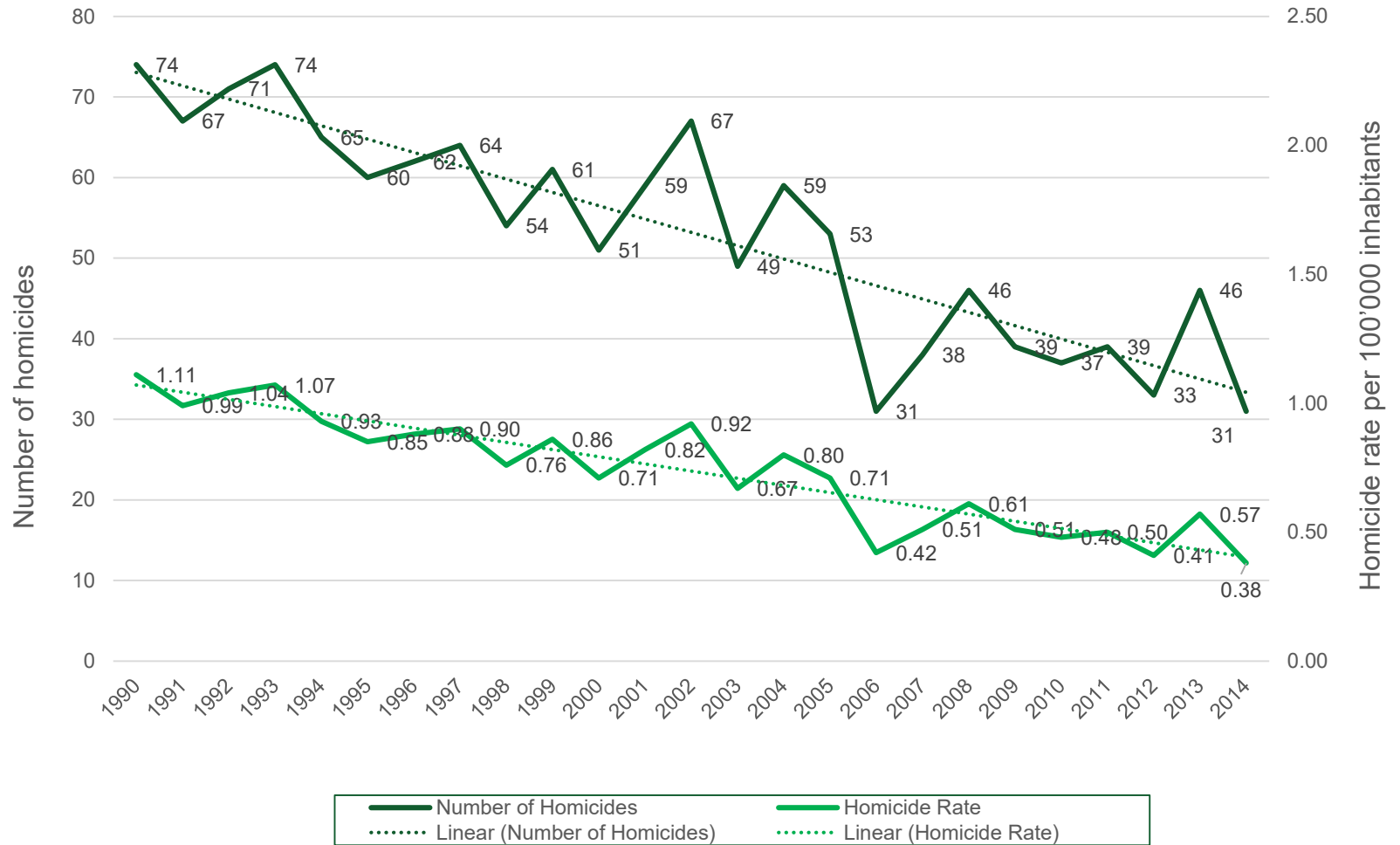
- Starting point:
 - Wave I: institutes of forensic medicine
 - Wave II: lists from the offices of Public Prosecutor
- Data completion using court and/or police files

Data

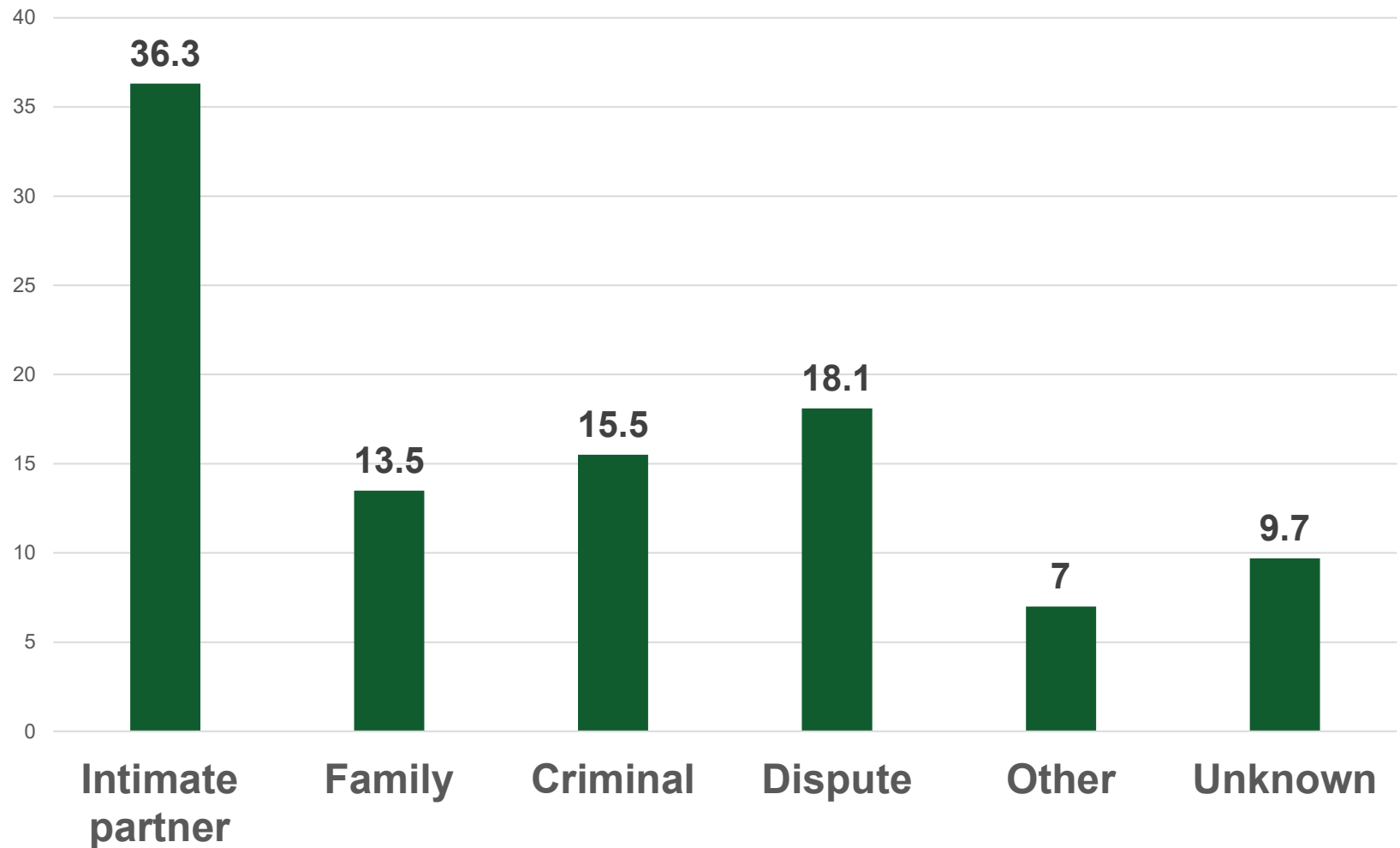
- Incident-related data (crime scene, weapon etc.)
- Offender-related data
- Victim-related data
- Prosecution data

→ In this presentation: focus on homicide trends in Switzerland from 1990-2014

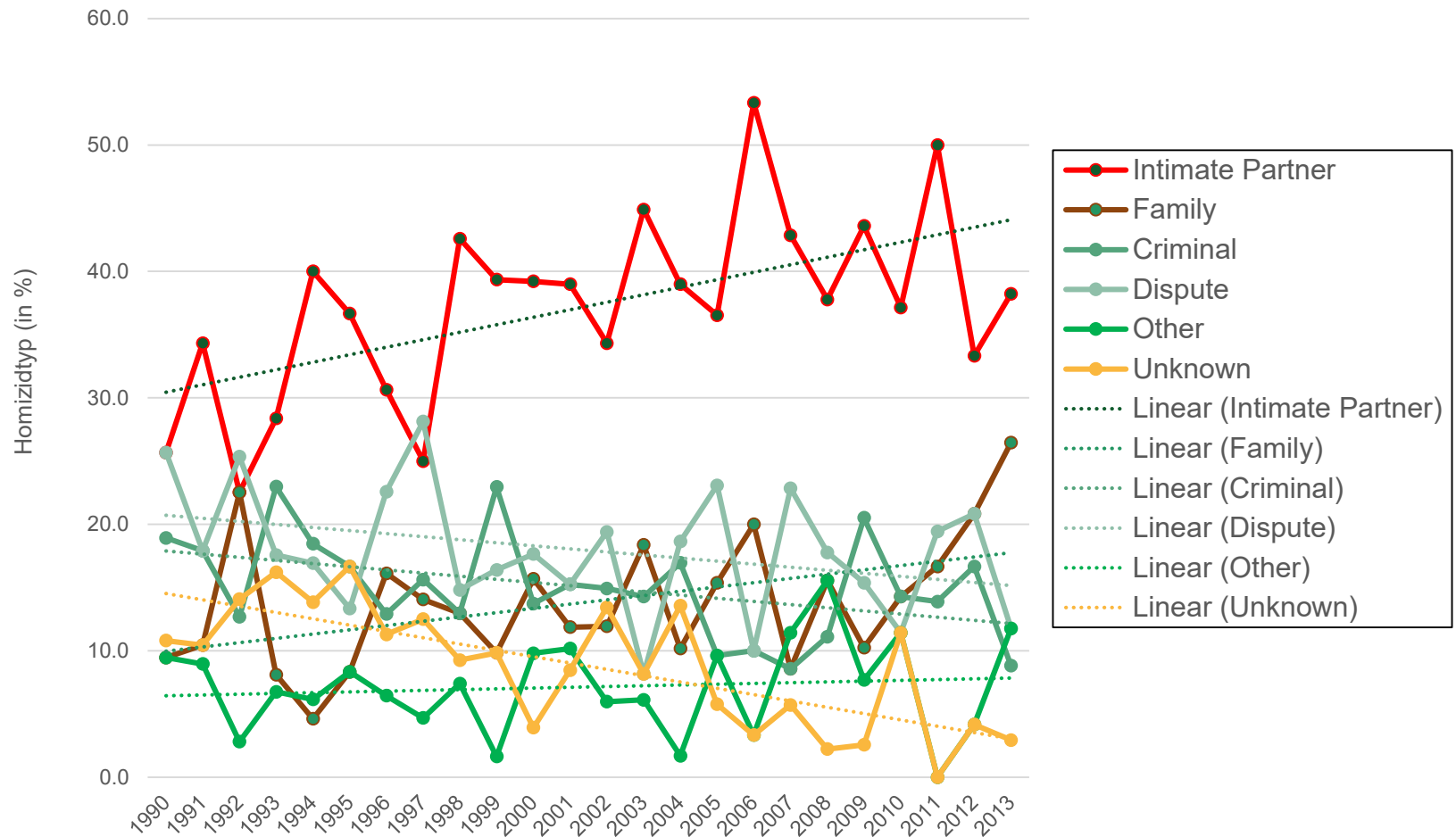
Homicides in Switzerland, absolute numbers and rate (1990–2014, N = 1330)



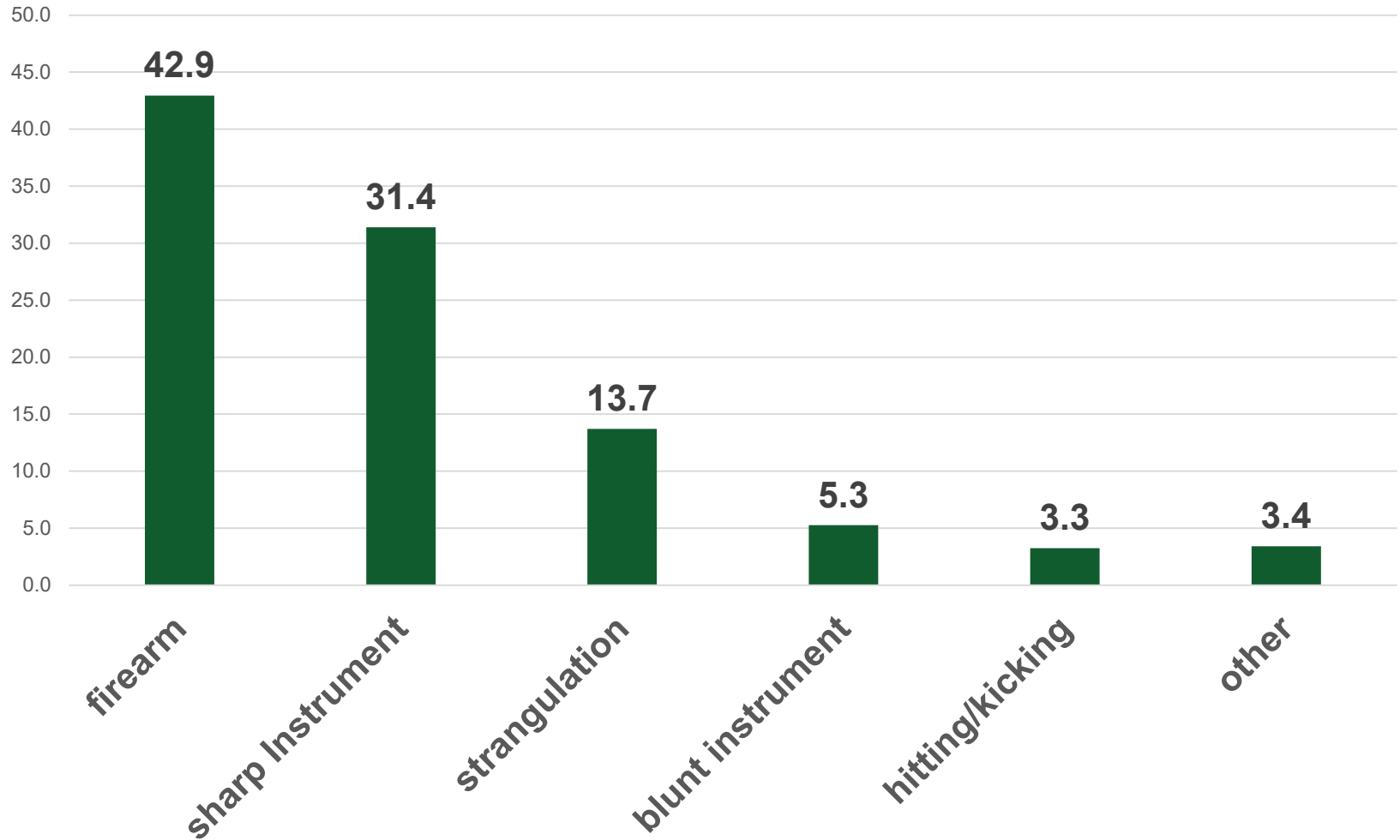
Typology of homicides in Switzerland (1990–2014, in %, N = 1291)



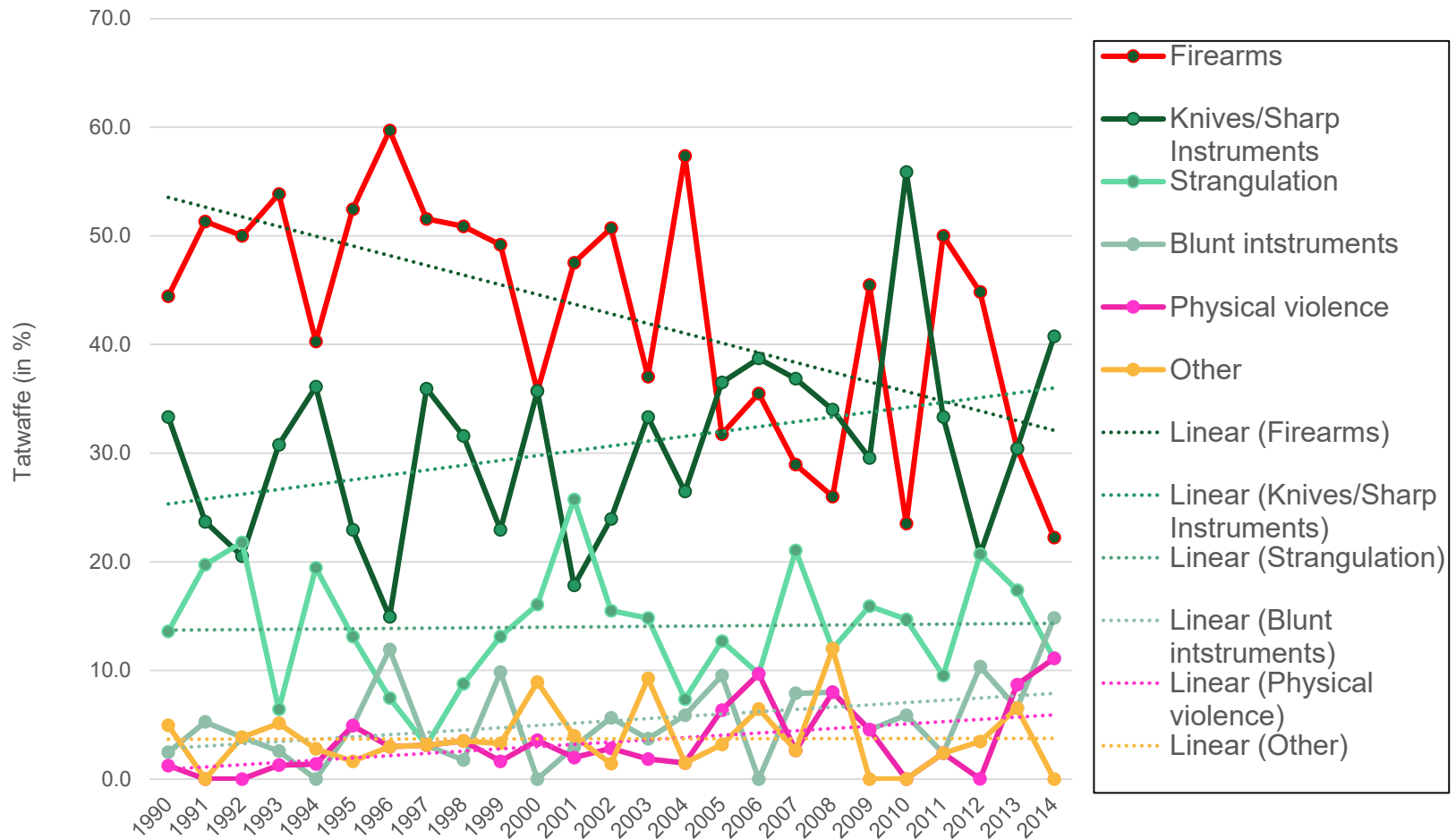
Trends in homicide types, 1990 – 2013 (in % of all homicides, N = 1291)



Homicide weapons in Switzerland (1990–2014, in %, N = 1291)



Trends in homicide weapons, 1990 – 2014 (in % of all homicides, N = 1449)



Conclusion

- Drastic decrease of homicides in Switzerland between 1990 and 2014
- All types of homicide have decreased, however some types more than others
- Firearms as modus operandi are nowadays much less used in comparison to the 1980ies and 1990ies
- Are these trends similar to other European countries?



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Thank you for your attention!

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