



Universität St.Gallen



Homicides in Switzerland – trends over 25 years

PhD Simone Walser, Prof. Nora Markwalder, University of St.Gallen

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***“From insight
to impact”*** 

Swiss Homicide Monitor (SHM)

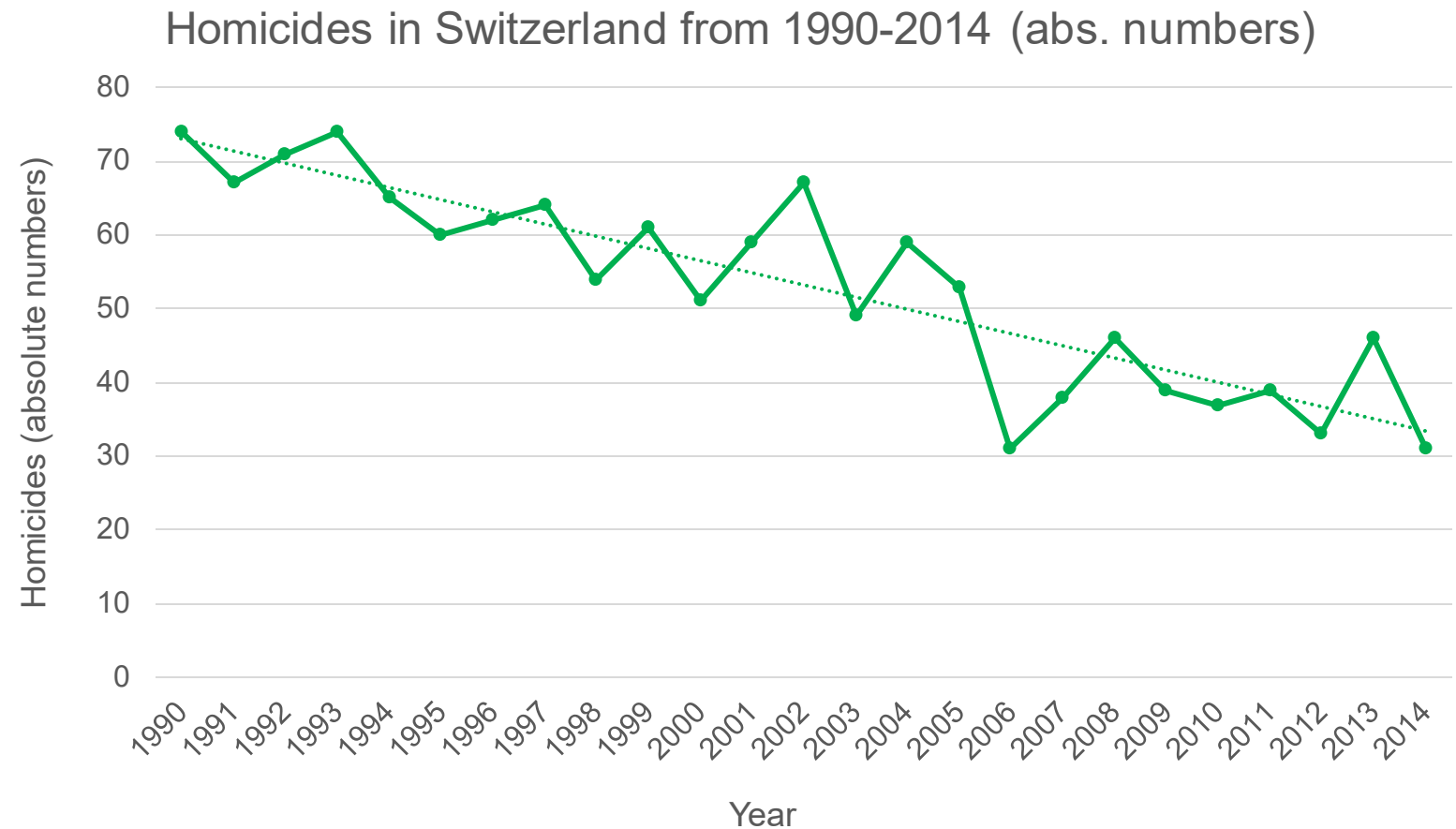
- Database
 - completed, intentional homicides
 - committed in Switzerland from 1990-2014
 - Update in progress
- Data content: offender-related, victim-related, incident-related and prosecution data
- Data origin: files of courts, offices of public prosecutors, police institutions and institutes of forensic medicine
- Current state: 25 years with 1330 cases (1491 victims and 1426 perpetrators)

Homicide types

- Intimate partner
 - Killing of (ex-)partner
- Family
 - Killing of a family member
- Criminal milieu
 - Killing of a person in the course of another crime (robbery, drug dealing etc.)
- Arguments/altercations
 - Nightlife violence or altercations (not family or criminally related)
- Other
 - Everything else
- Obscure
 - Unknown offender, unclear circumstances

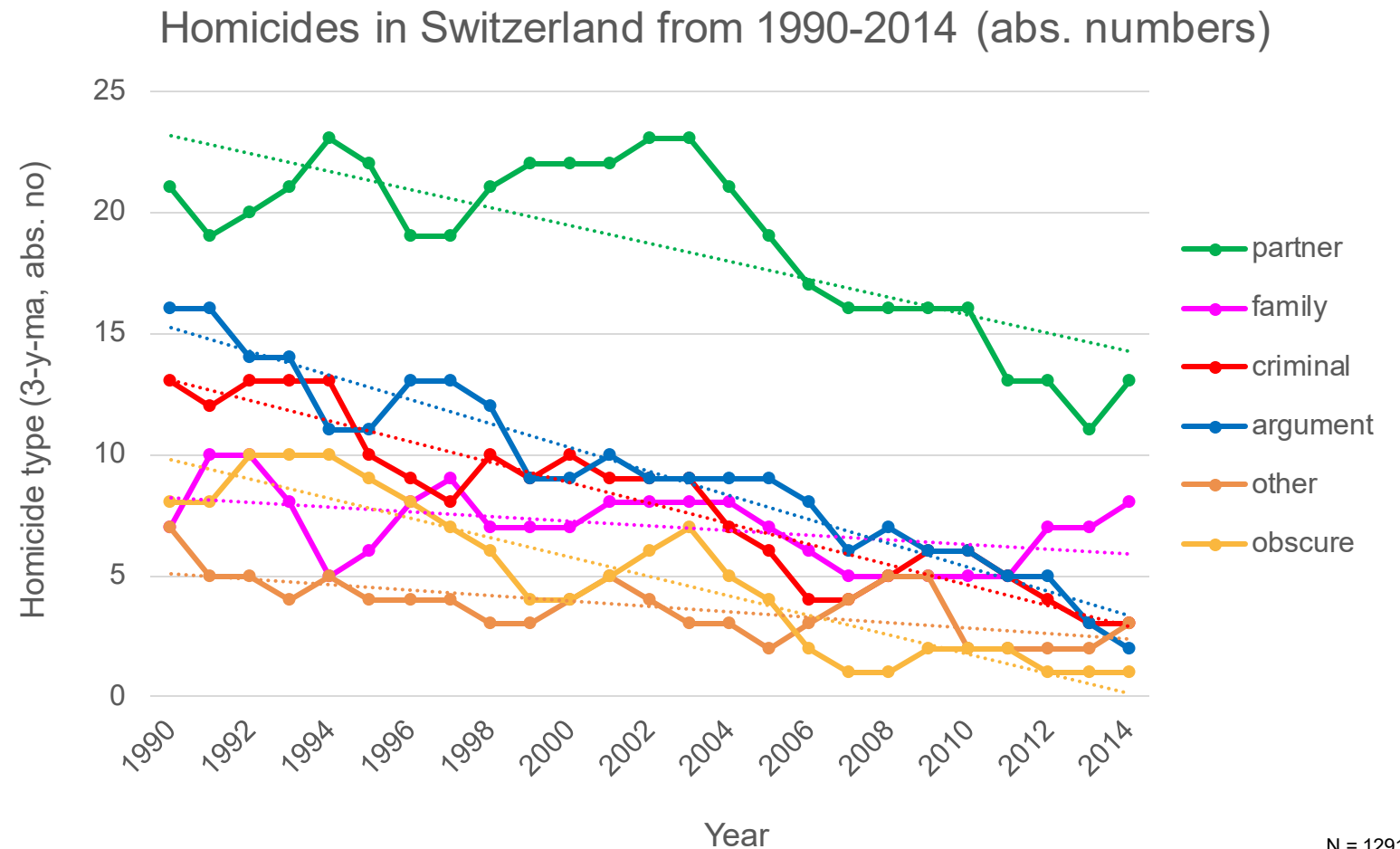
Homicide trend in Switzerland since 1990

- Decreasing homicide trend
- Homiciderate per 100'000 dropped from 1.0 to 0.5



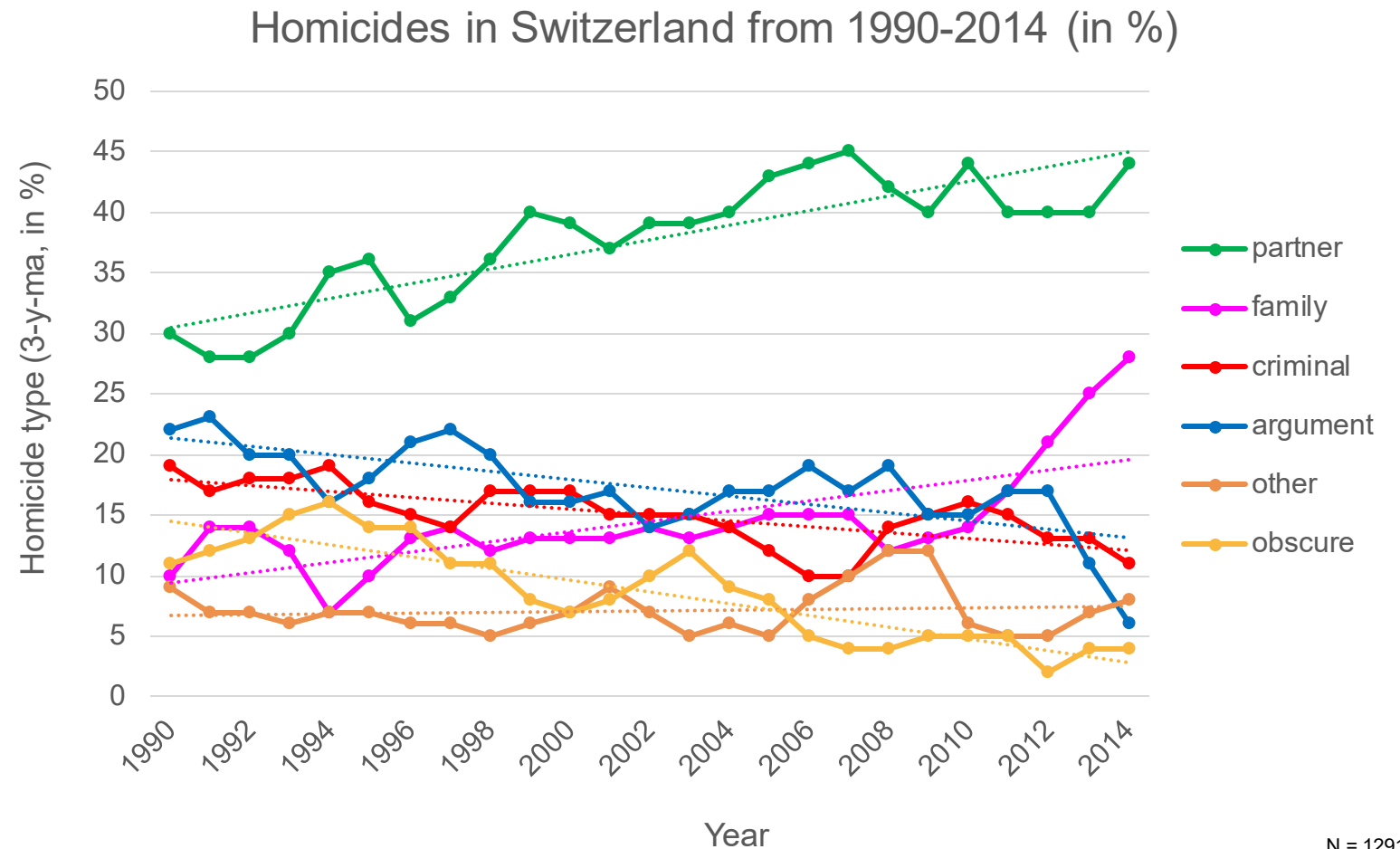
Homicide trends of different homicide types in Switzerland since 1990

- Decreasing trends for all homicide types when considering absolute numbers



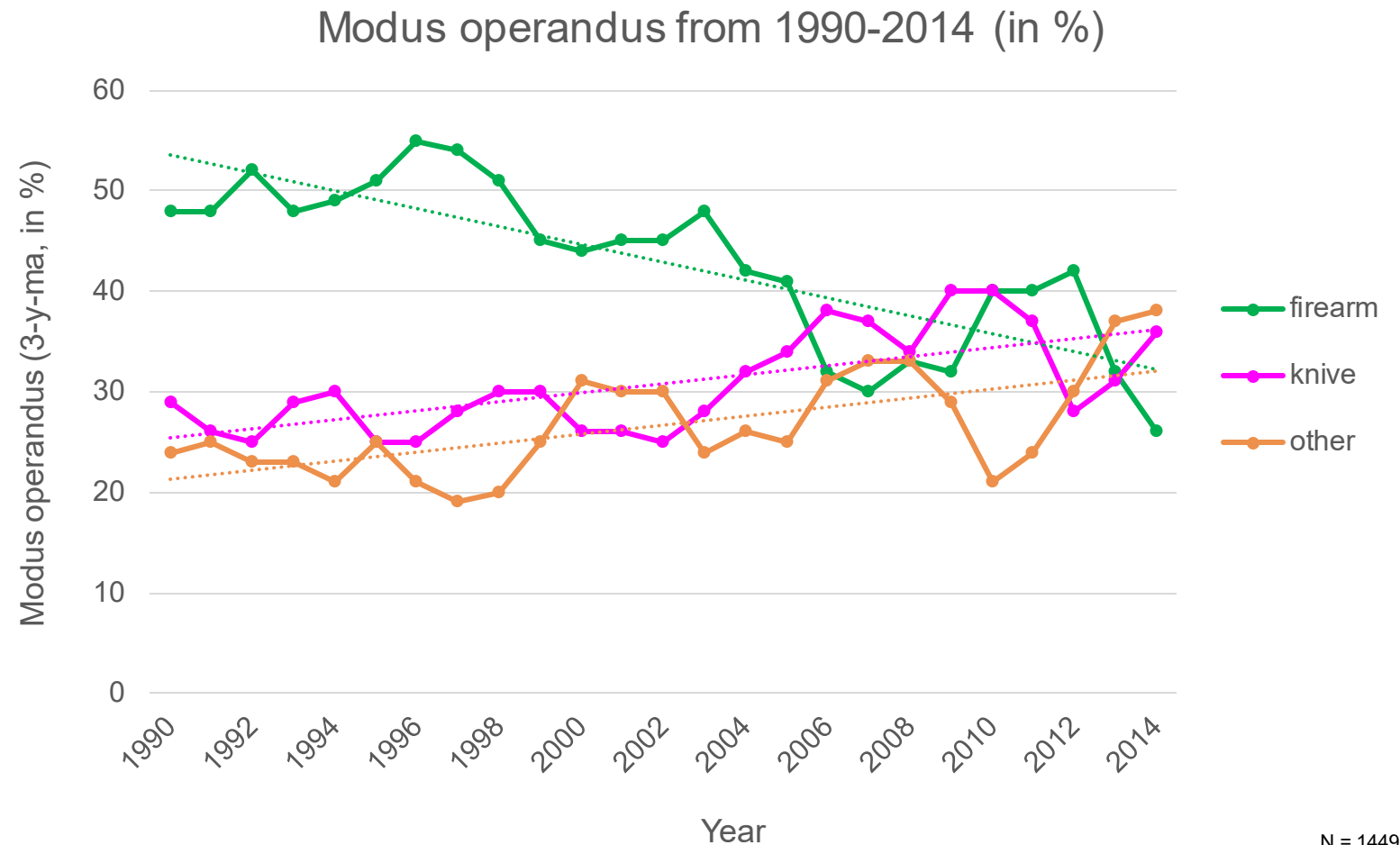
Relative trends of different homicide types in Switzerland since 1990

- Relative increase of intimate partner and other homicides within the family
- Relative decrease of argument homicides and homicides within the criminal milieu
- Relative decrease of obscure/unsolved cases

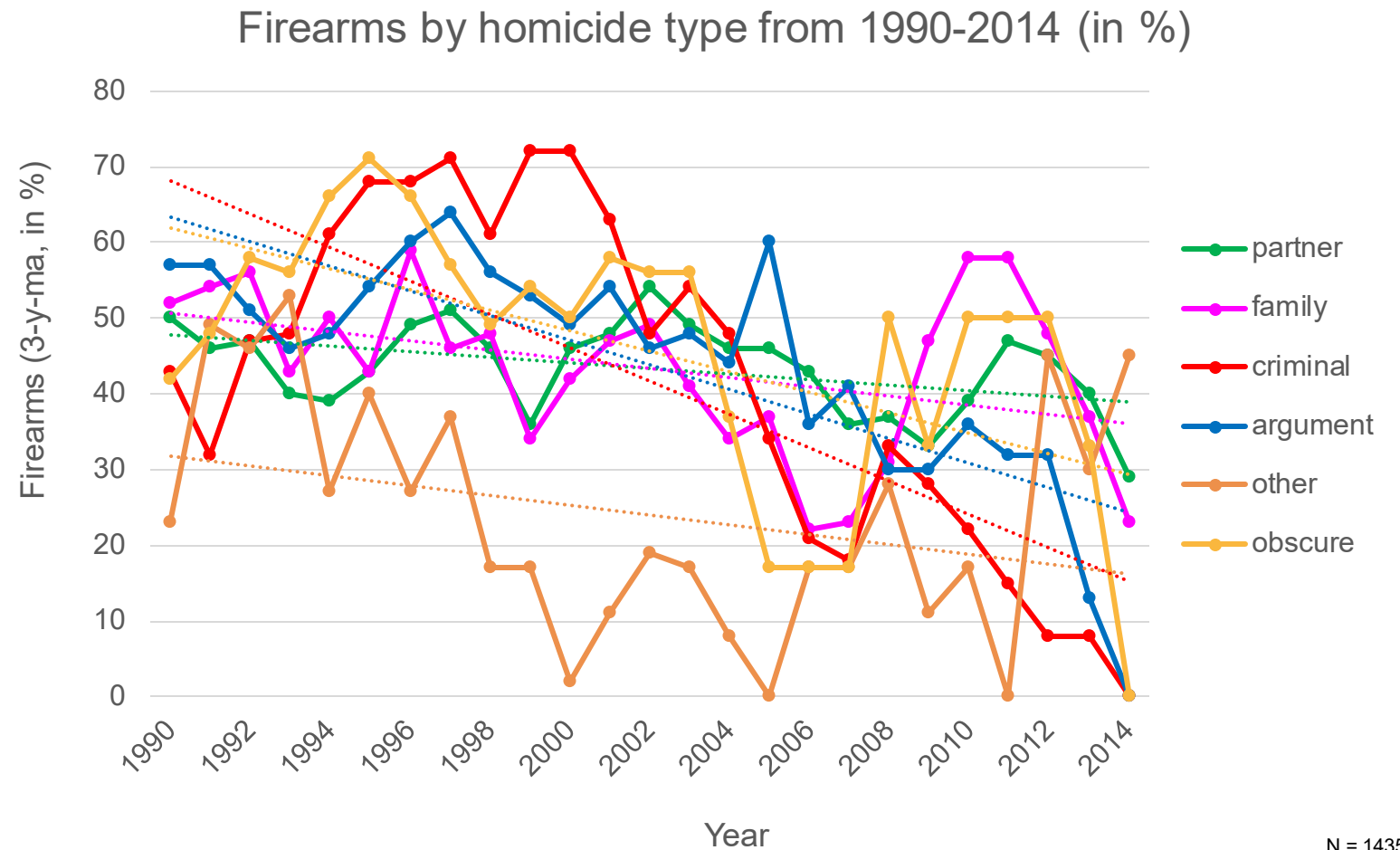


Relative trends of different modi operandi in Switzerland since 1990

- Relative decrease of firearms
- Relative increase of knives and other modi operandi

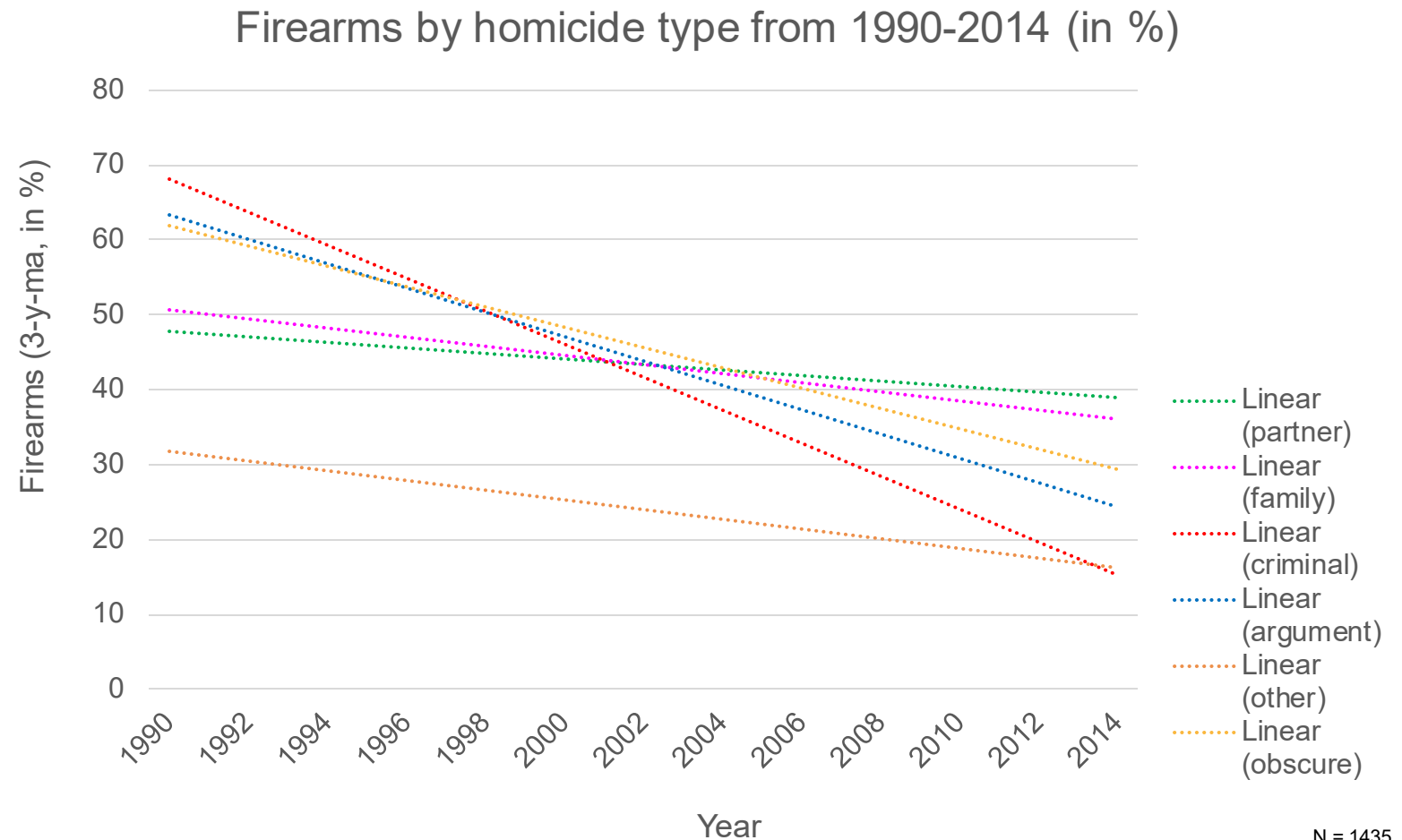


Firearm trends for different homicide types in Switzerland since 1990



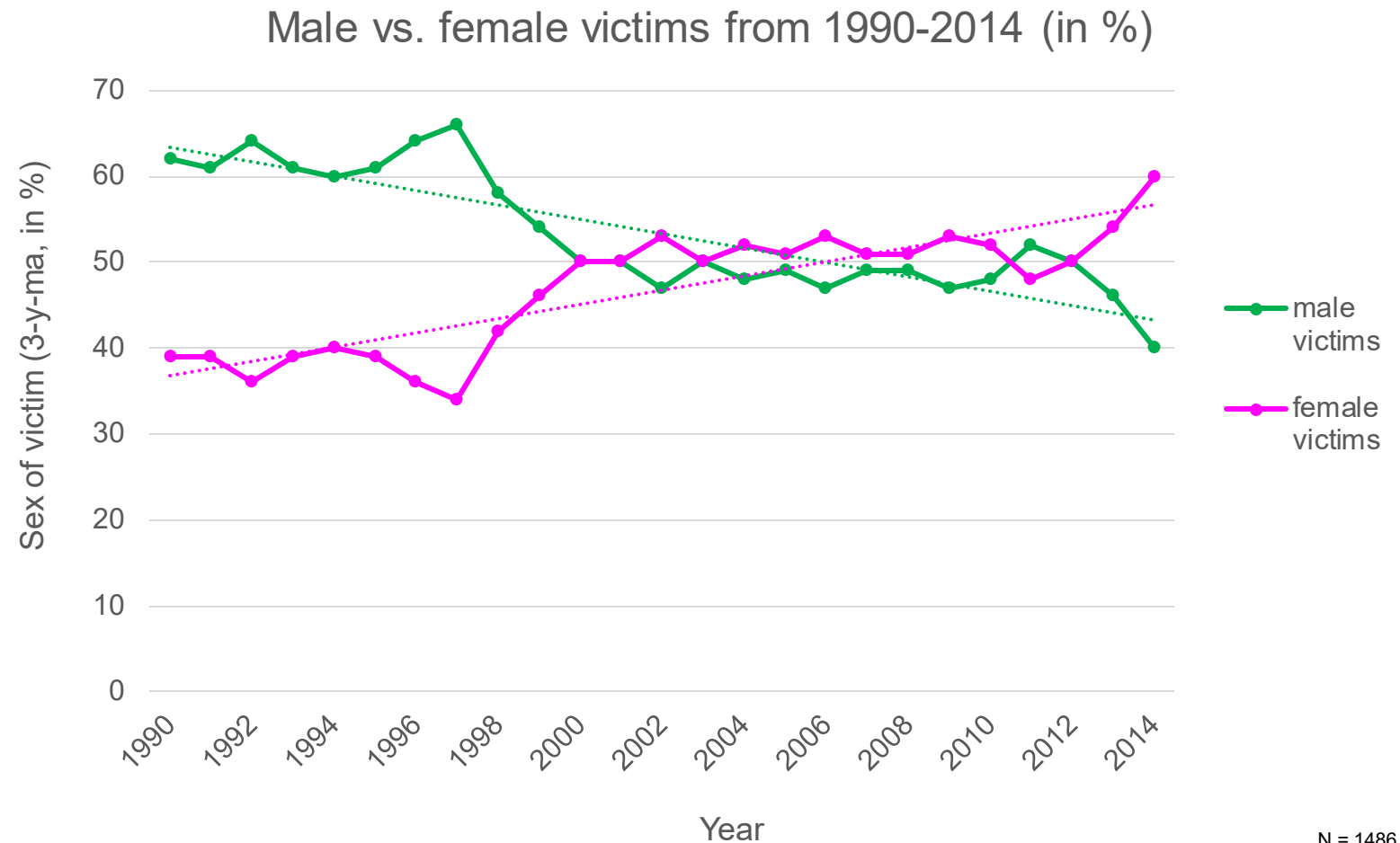
Firearm trends for different homicide types in Switzerland since 1990

- Firearms decrease for all homicide types
- Decrease is less strong for intimate partner and other family homicides



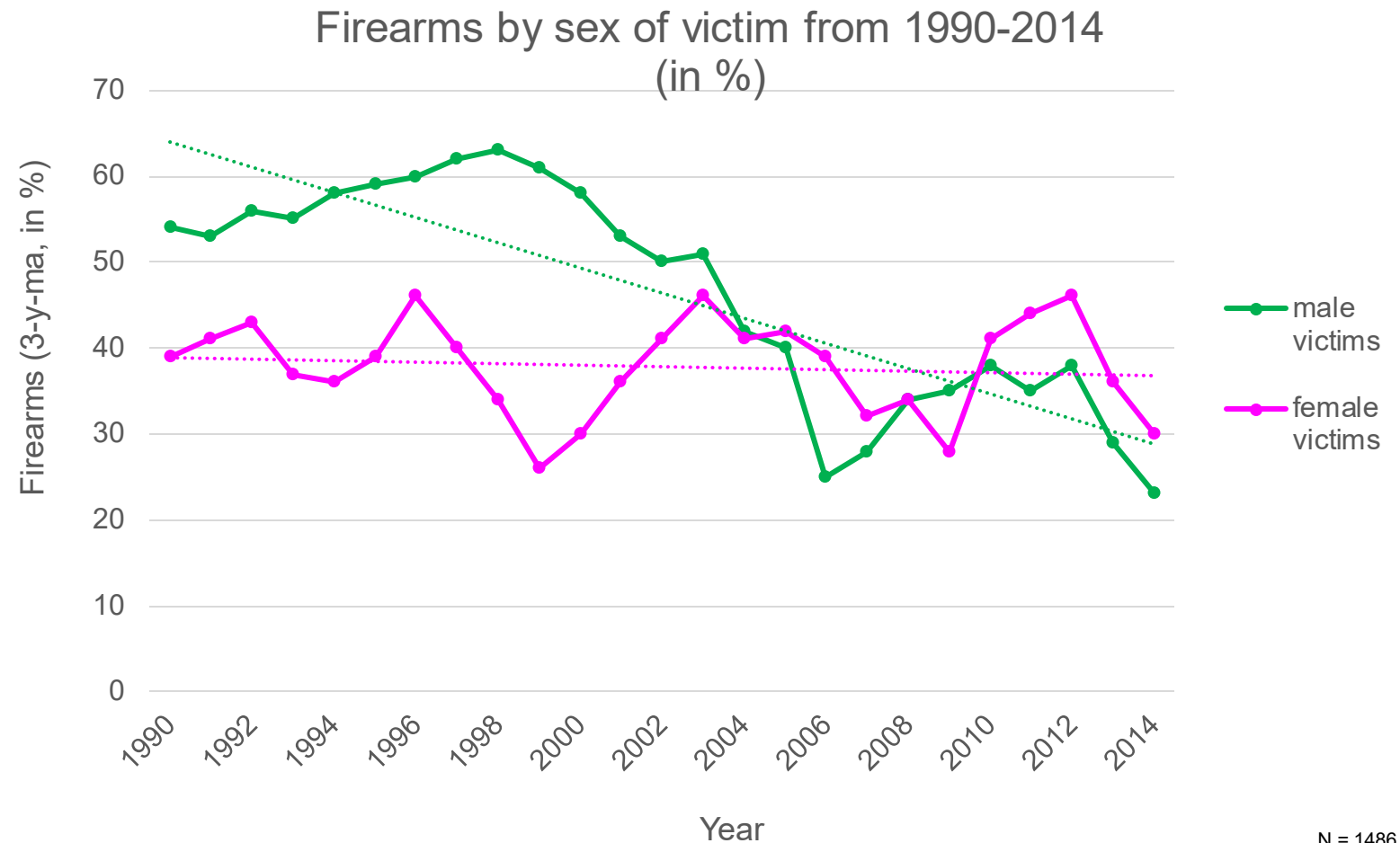
Relative trends for male and female victims in Switzerland since 1990

- Rate of female victims increases over time
- Since 2000, male vs. female victims are about 1:1
 - years with more female than male homicide victims
 - exception within Europe



Firearm trends for male and female victims in Switzerland since 1990

- Stable firearm rate for homicides with female victims
- Decreasing firearm rate for homicides with male victims



3. Summary

- Relative increase of partner and family homicides
 - Relative increase of female victims
 - Relative decrease of firearms
 - Less strong for partner and family homicides
 - Stable firearm rate for female victims
 - Decreasing firearm rate for male victims
- Proof of importance to disaggregate into different homicide types, as they show different trends

Thank you for your attention!

simone.walser@unisg.ch

nora.markwalder@unisg.ch

Kompetenzzentrum
für Strafrecht und Kriminologie



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