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Intimate partner homicides – causes and risk factors

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"From insight to impact"

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Presentation

Intimate partner homicide

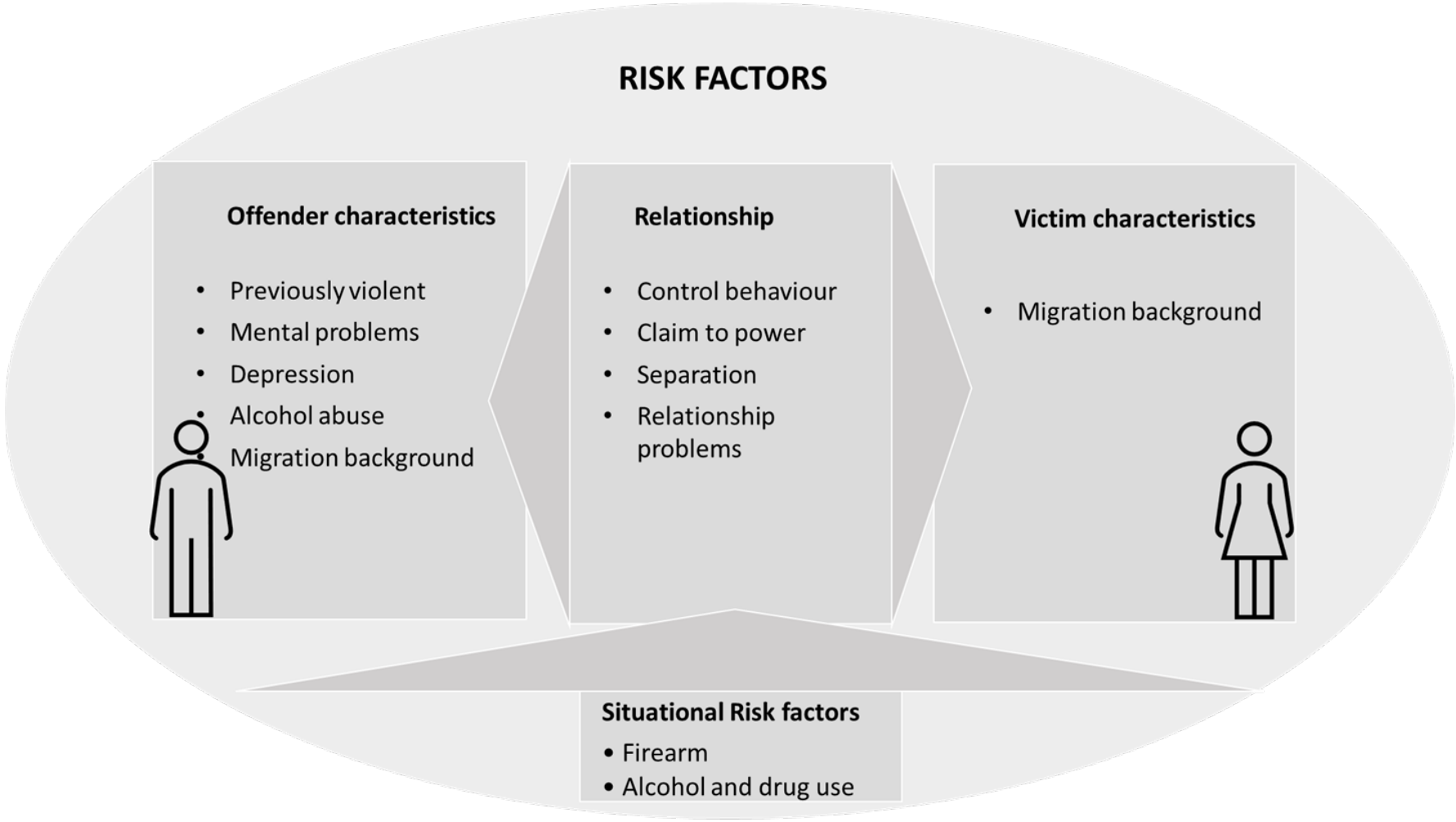
1. Overview risk factors

2. Results from the Swiss Homicide Monitor (SHM)

3. Summary

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1. Intimate partner homicide: overview risk factors



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2. Intimate partner homicide: the Swiss Homicide Monitor (SHM)

- Database
  - completed, intentional homicides
  - committed in Switzerland
  - 1990-2014 (update is planned)

- Data from courts, offices of Public Prosecutors, police institutions and institutes of forensic medicine

- Offender-related, victim-related, incident-related and prosecution data

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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 etc.)
- Arguments/altercations
  - Nightlife violence or altercations (not family or criminally related)
- Other
  - Everything else
- Obscure
  - Unknown offender, unclear circumstances

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Intimate partner homicide

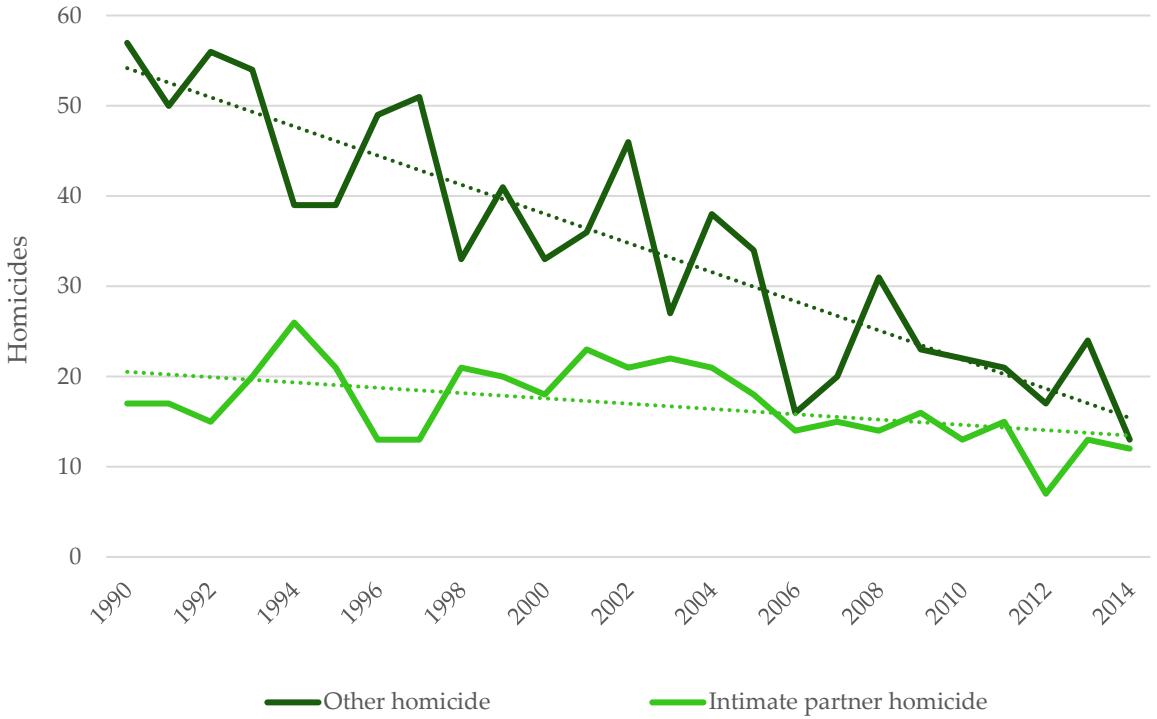
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Other homicide

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Development of homicides in Switzerland since 1990

- Decreasing homicide trend
- Strong decrease for other homicide
- Slight decrease for intimate partner homicide
- Switzerland only country in Europe with more female than male victims of homicides (2010-2014)



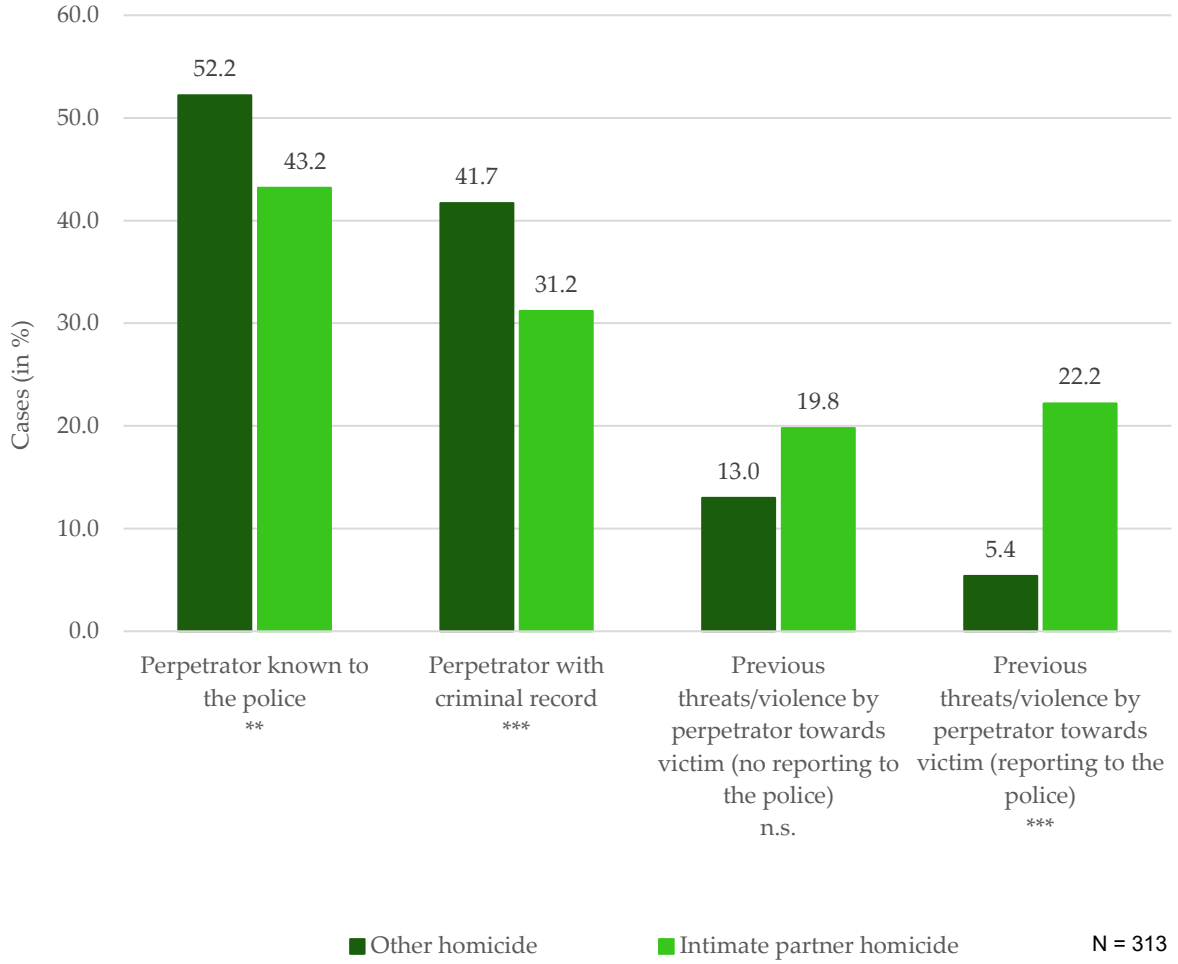
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Offender characteristics: Criminal history and previous violence (2005-2014)

- Perpetrator of intimate partner homicide less often with criminal record

→ But more often previous threats/violence towards the victim



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The motive of the homicide

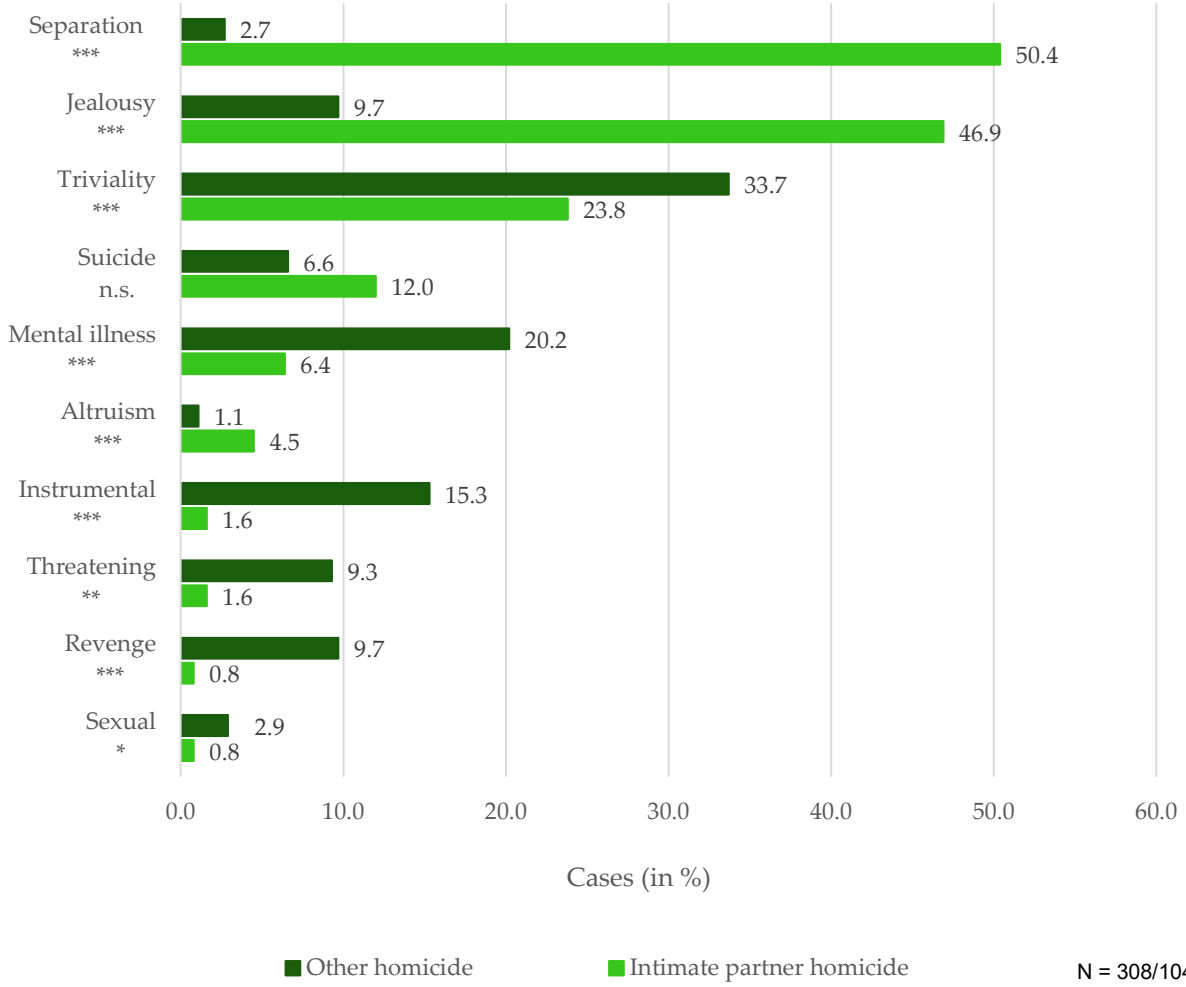
- Intimate partner homicides: 56 % with motive separation/jealousy

→ Other homicides: only 8 % with this motive

→ Strong overlapping between separation and jealousy

- Separation and jealousy strong risk factors for intimate partner homicides

→ But still 1 out of 4 of intimate partner homicides with triviality as motive and no separation or jealousy



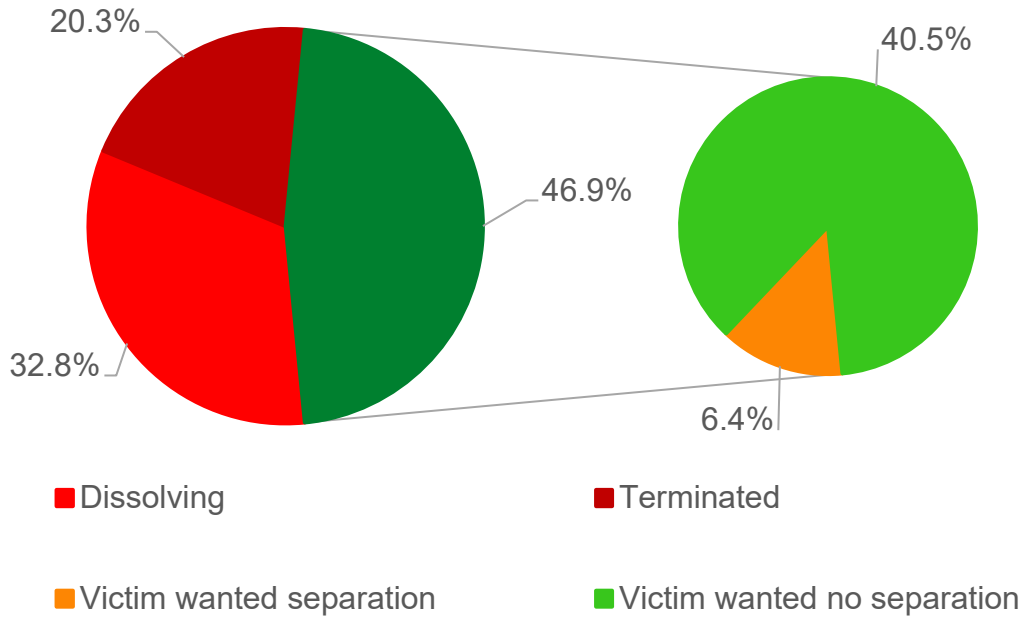
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Relationship characteristics: Status of relationsship (intimate partner homicide)

- 1 out of 3 relationships is currently in separation
- Just under half are in an ongoing relationship

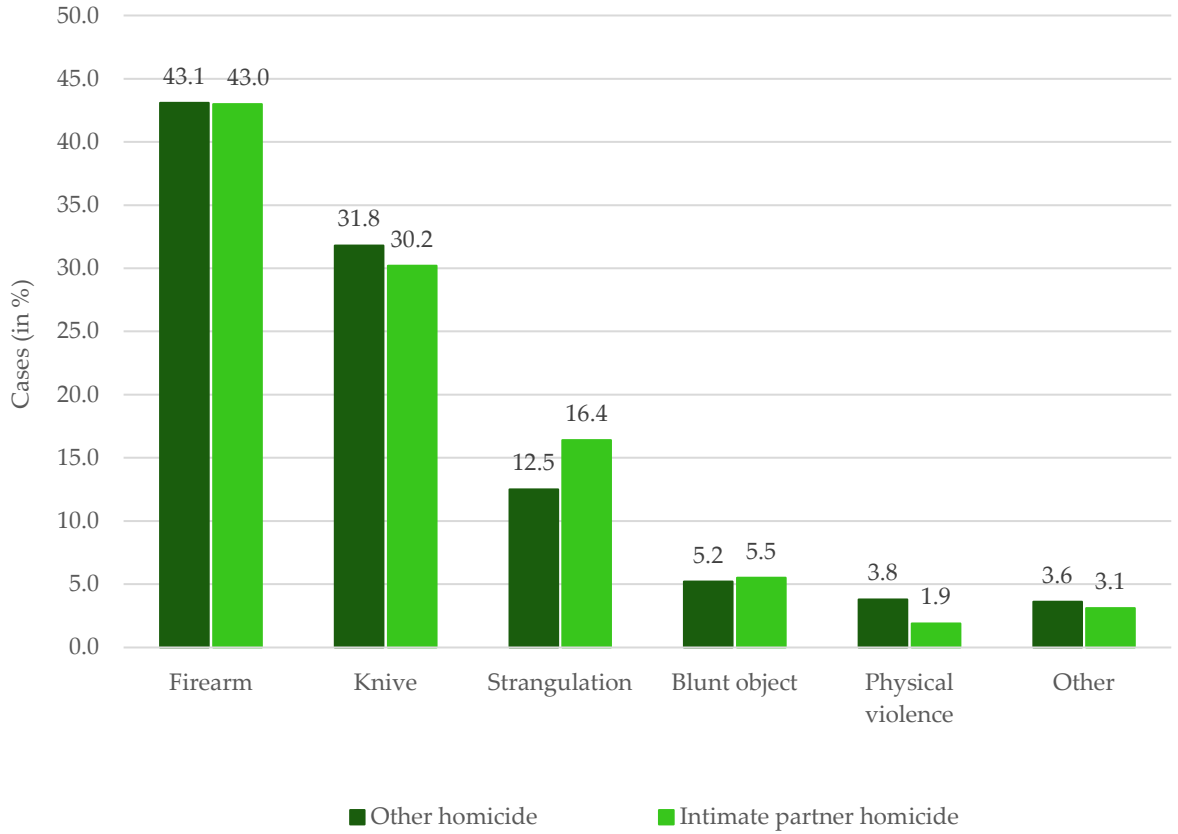
→ Of these, 15 % of the victimes want a separation



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Situational risk factor: weapon

- No significant differences between intimate partner and other homicides
- Firearm most important modus operandi: 4 out of 10 victimes are killed by firearm

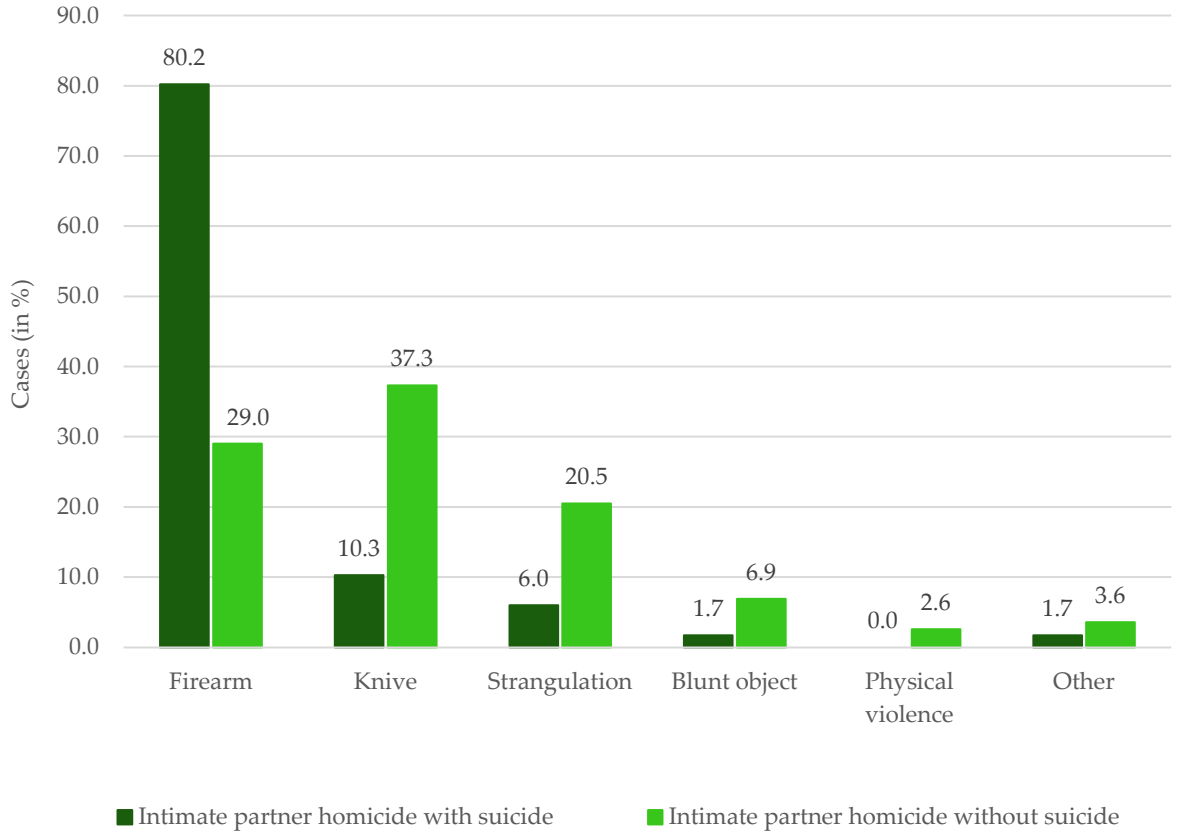


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Situational risk factor: firearms in intimate partner homicides

- 27 % of intimate partner homicides with subsequent suicide of offender
- Much more firearms if the offender commits suicide after the homicide



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3. Summary

- Offenders of intimate partner homicides do less often have a criminal record as offenders of other homicides (31 % vs. 42 %)

  → But there is more often a history of prior threads or violence against the victim in intimate partner homicides than in other homicides (42 % vs. 18 %)
- The (upcoming) separation between perpetrator and victim is the motive of every second intimate partner homicide

  → One third of the relationships is currently in separation
- In Switzerland, firearms are a risk factor for homicide in general

  → Above all for intimate partner homicide with subsequent suicide of the offender (80 % with firearm)

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Thank you for your attention!

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