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Corruption in Switzerland

Findings from the ICVS and SCS Victimization surveys

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Research on corruption in Switzerland

- Little empirical research available
- Mostly in regard to companies and their experiences
  → See ongoing research conducted in Switzerland by Killias/Isenring/Mugellini
- What about corruption experience of individuals?
  → official statistics
  → crime survey data

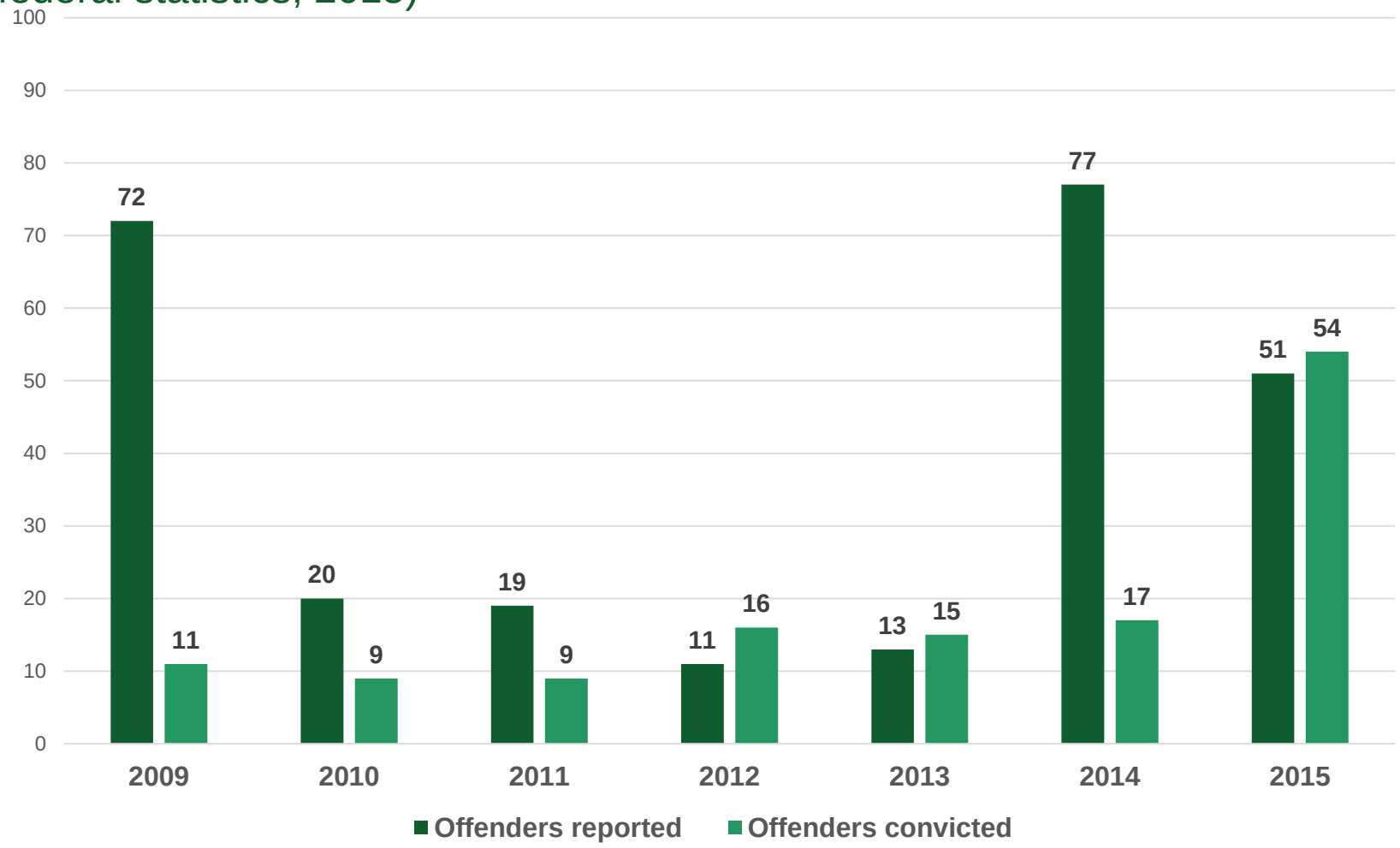


Definition of corruption

- In Switzerland: Criminal responsibility for
  → Bribery of Swiss public officials (active bribery, acceptance of bribes, granting and accepting an advantage)
  → Bribery of foreign public officials
  → Since 1.07.2016: Bribery of private individuals (active bribery and accepting bribes

- Corruption in the ICVS/CVS: *“Did it occur to you in the last 5 years that a public official such as a customs officer or a police officer in Switzerland or abroad has asked you to pay extra for his services?”*

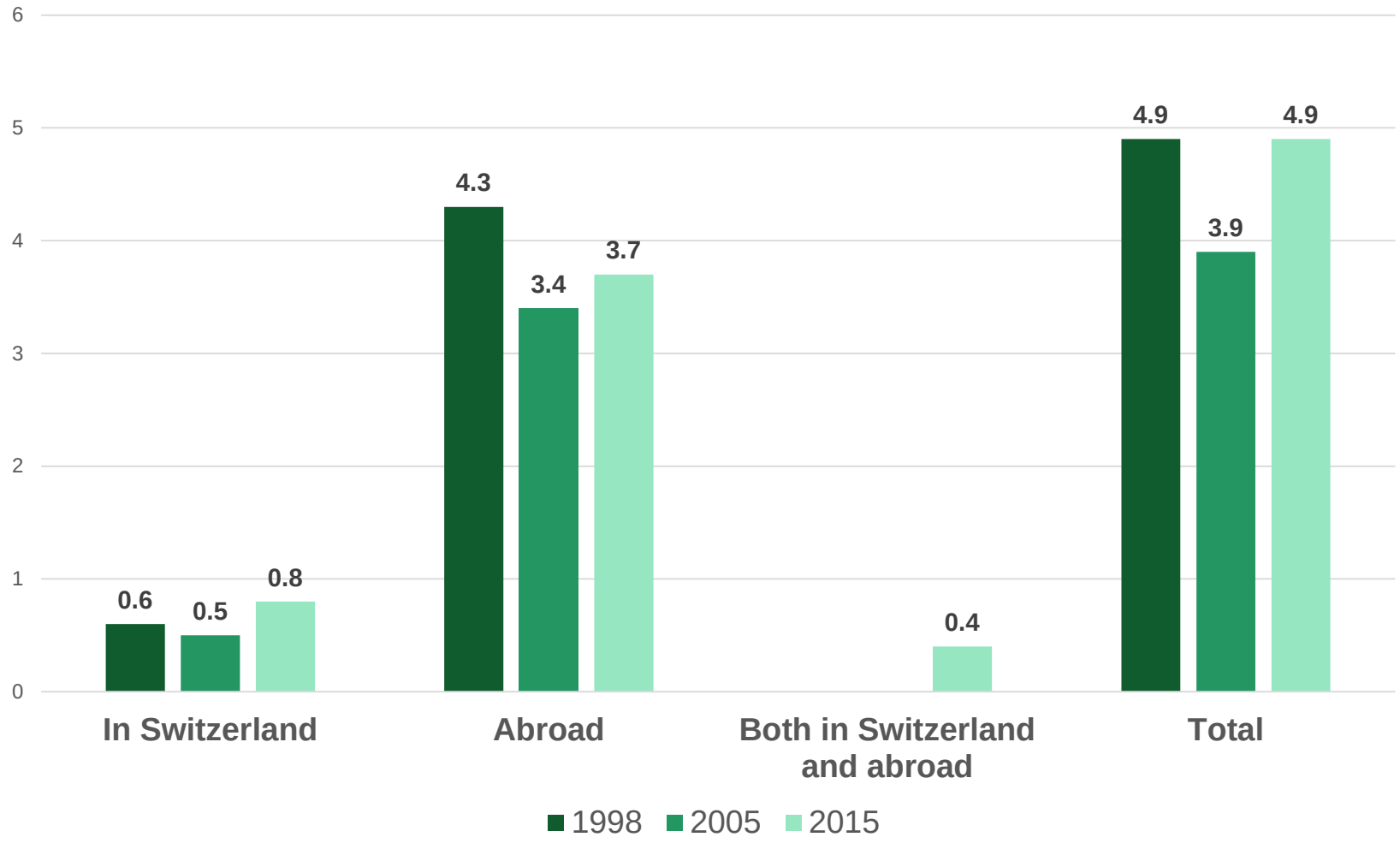
Absolute number of offenders reported to the police and convicted for corruption (Source: Office of federal statistics, 2015)



ICVS and Swiss Crime Survey Data

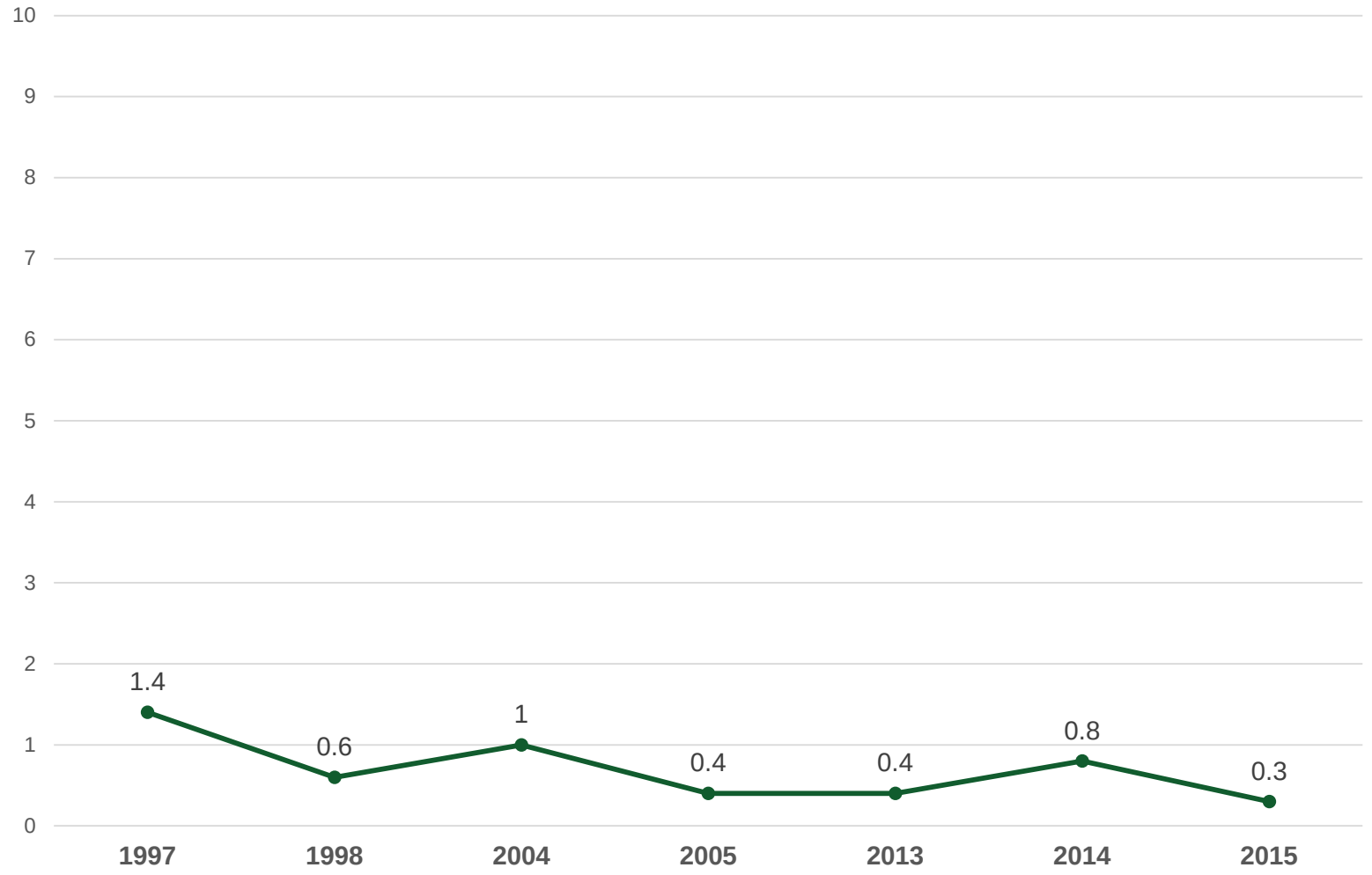
- International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS), regularly conducted in Switzerland since 1989
- Different sweeps: 1996, 1998, 2000, 2005, 2011
- In 2015 survey for Switzerland only (Swiss Crime Survey, based on previous ICVS-sweeps in Switzerland)
- Question on corruption experiences only in the 1989, 1996, 1998, 2005 and 2015 sweep
- No data analysis in the 1989 and 1996 sweeps possible due to non-existing or low case numbers
- Therefore data analysis for 3 sweeps (1998, 2005 and 2015)

5 year prevalence of corruption victimization, in % of respondents



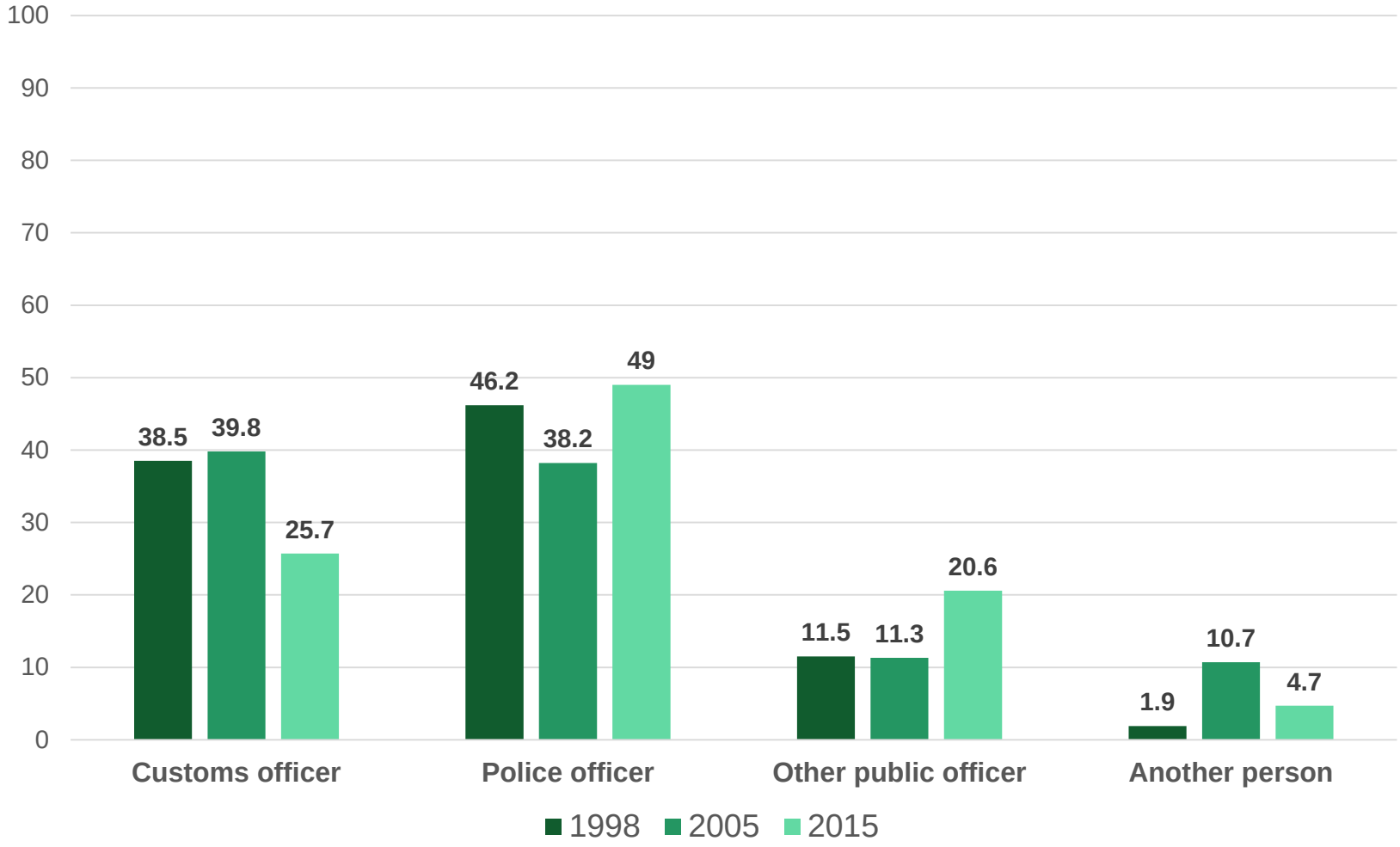
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One year prevalence of corruption victimization, in % of respondents

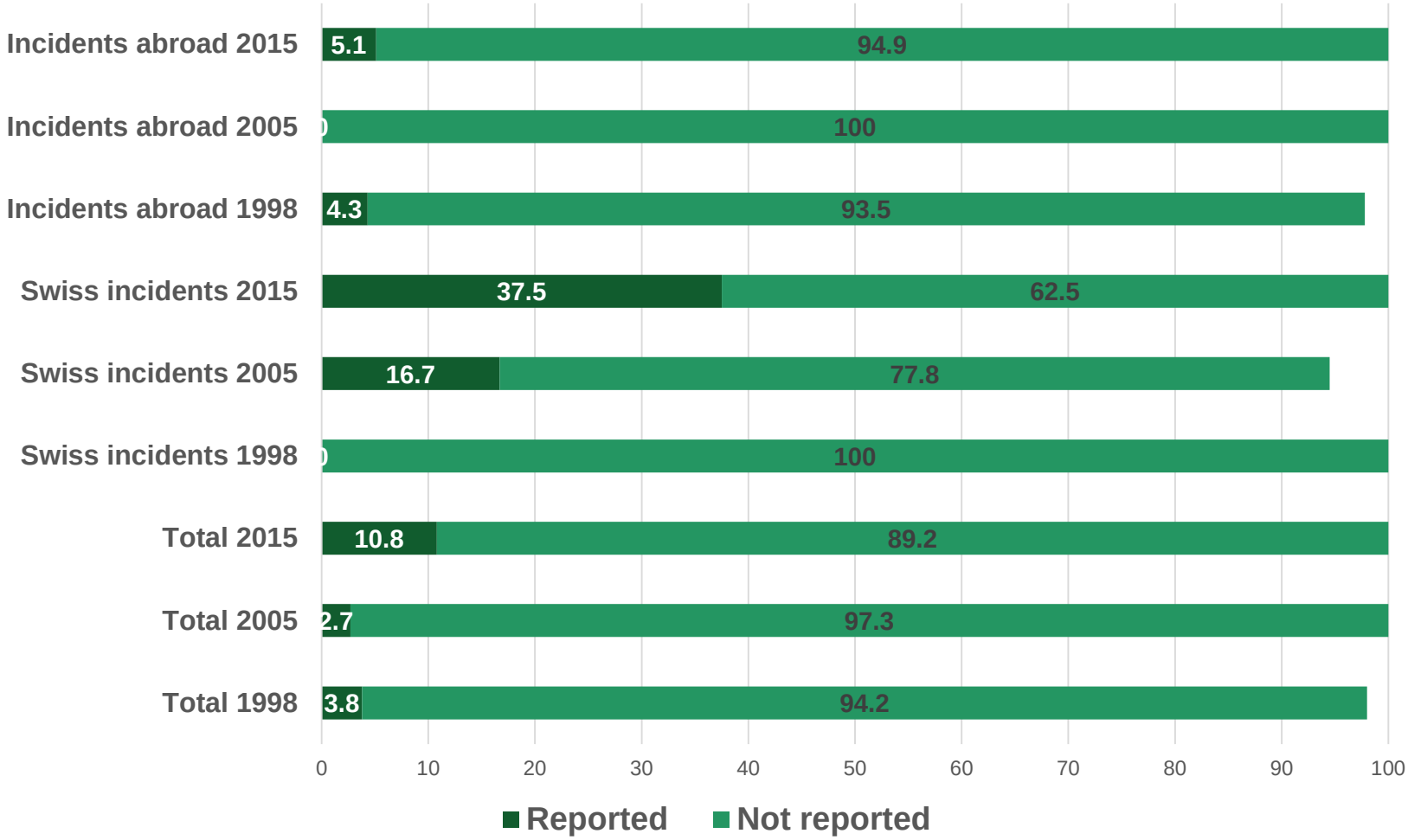


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Type of offenders involved, in % of victims of corruption



Number of incidents reported to the police, in % of victims of corruption



Conclusions

- Prevalence of corruption is relatively stable over the years
- Corruption mainly occurs in foreign countries and not in Switzerland
- However the type of offender involved and therefore the situation in which corruption occurs varies considerably between the different sweeps
- Probably due to Schengen and the lack of systematic border controls, corruption involving a customs officer has decreased considerably
- Swiss incidents are more likely to be reported to the police

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Thank you for your attention!

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