



Recreational avalanche accidents in Switzerland

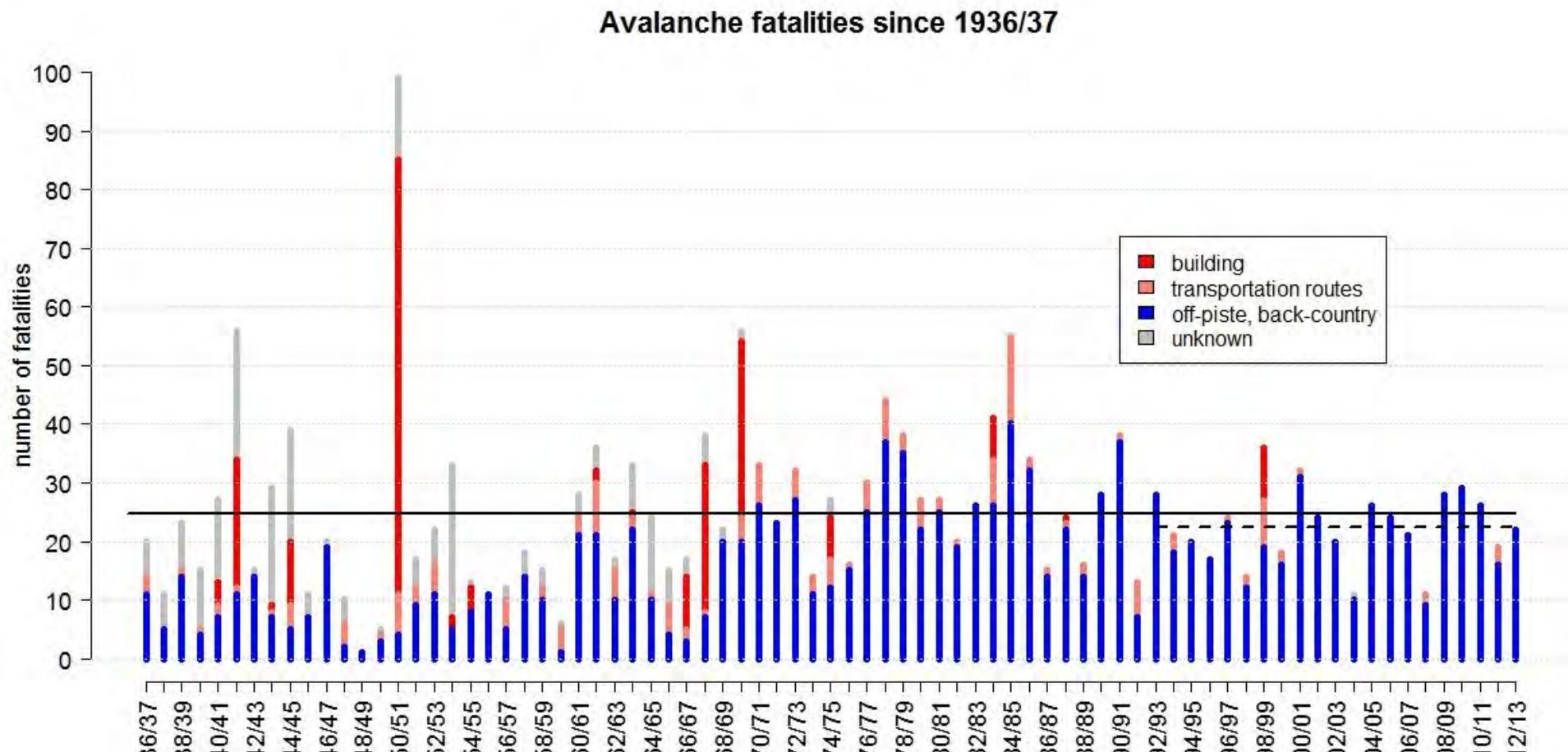
Lukas Dürr



History

- 1884 people died in 1194 avalanches (annual mean 24.5)
- before 1970's: 30% of fatalities occurred in or around buildings, while travelling or working on roads, railways or on groomed ski runs
- since 1970's: 90% of fatalities during recreational activities in uncontrolled terrain

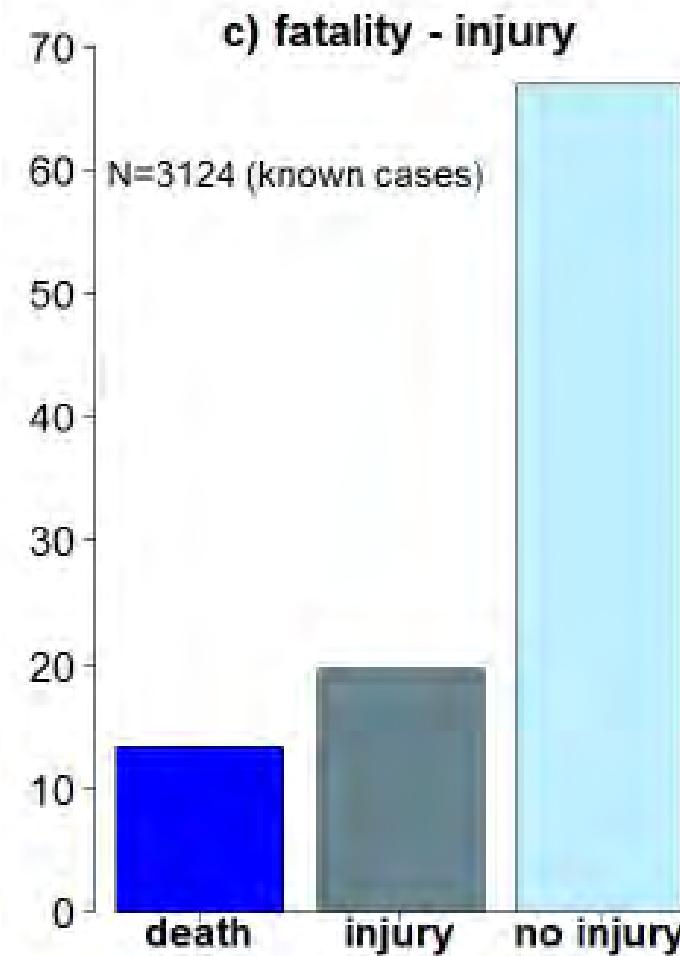
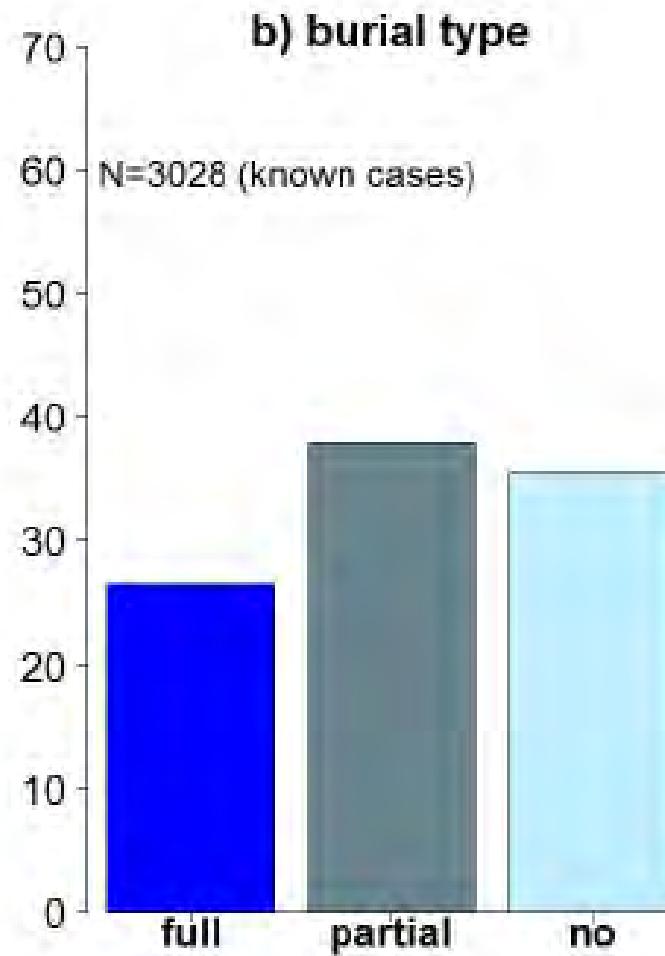
Number of avalanche fatalities since 1939/37



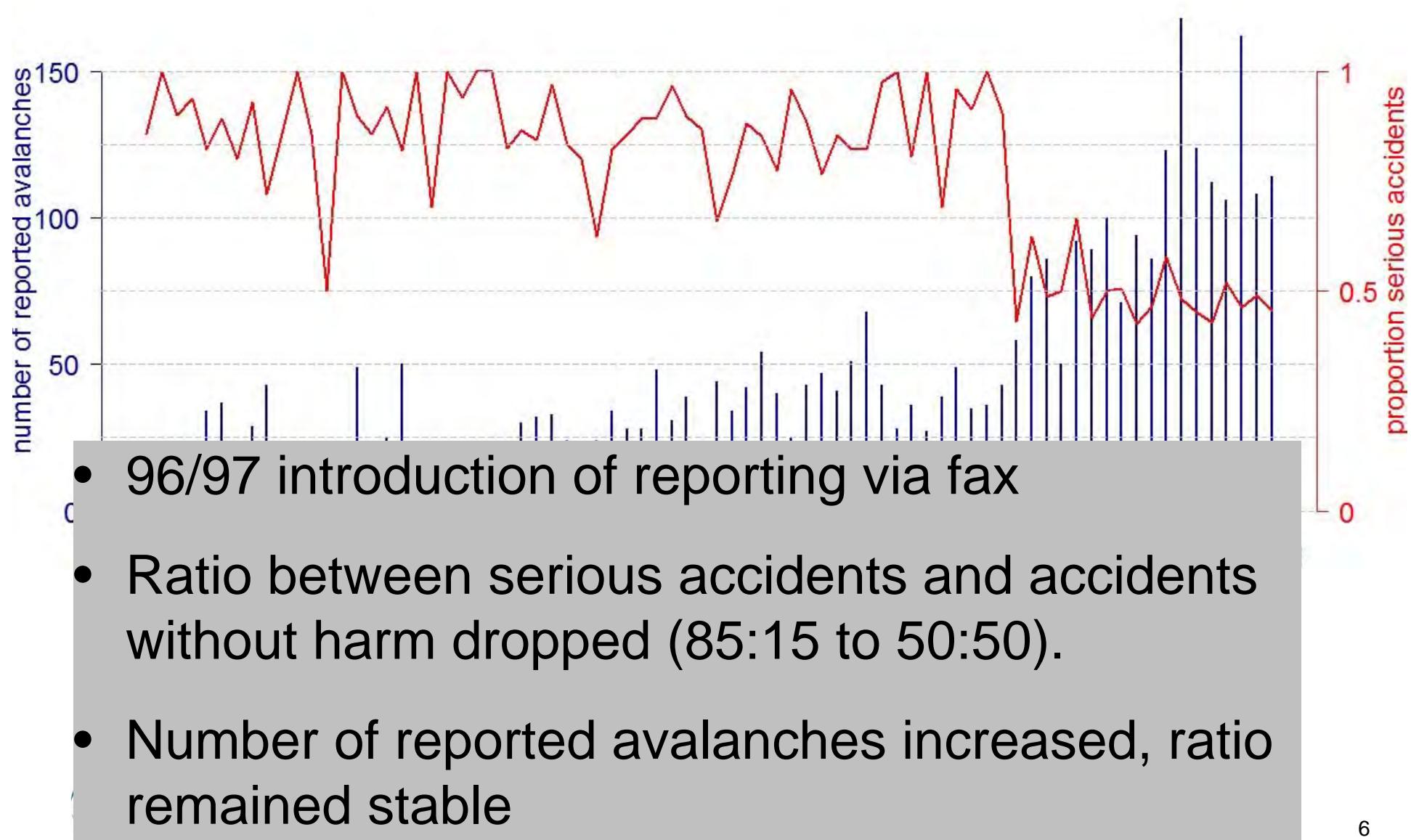
20-year period 92/93 to 11/12

- 3519 people caught in 1902 avalanches
- 50% of reported avalanches with severe consequences (fatality, injury, full burial)
 - 90% in uncontrolled terrain:
 - 417 died
 - 805 full burials (head in snow)
 - off-piste 33% - back-country touring 67%
 - 90% during months Dec-Apr
 - 55% on weekends
 - 95% dry slab avalanches

20-year period 92/93 to 11/12

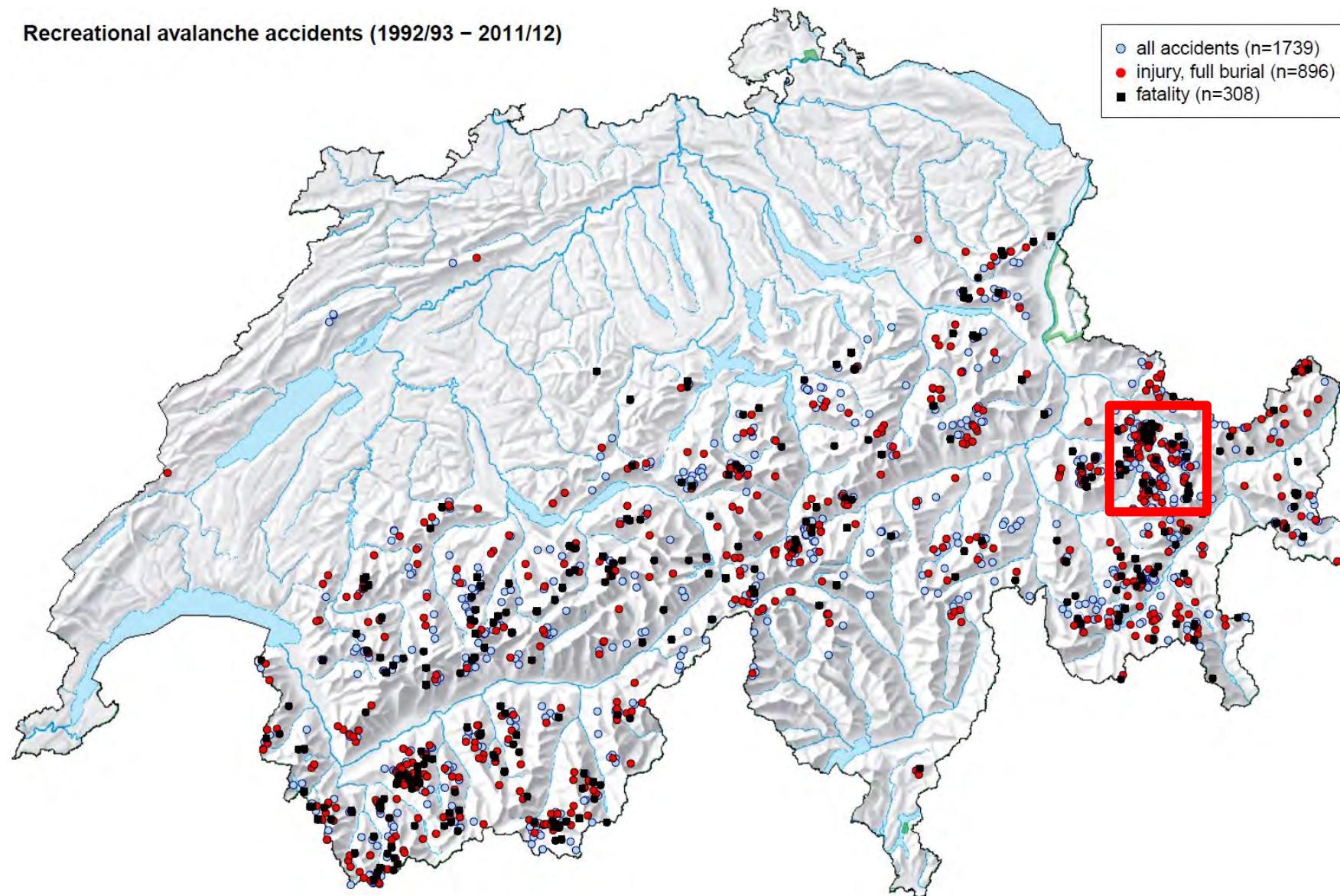


Reported avalanches



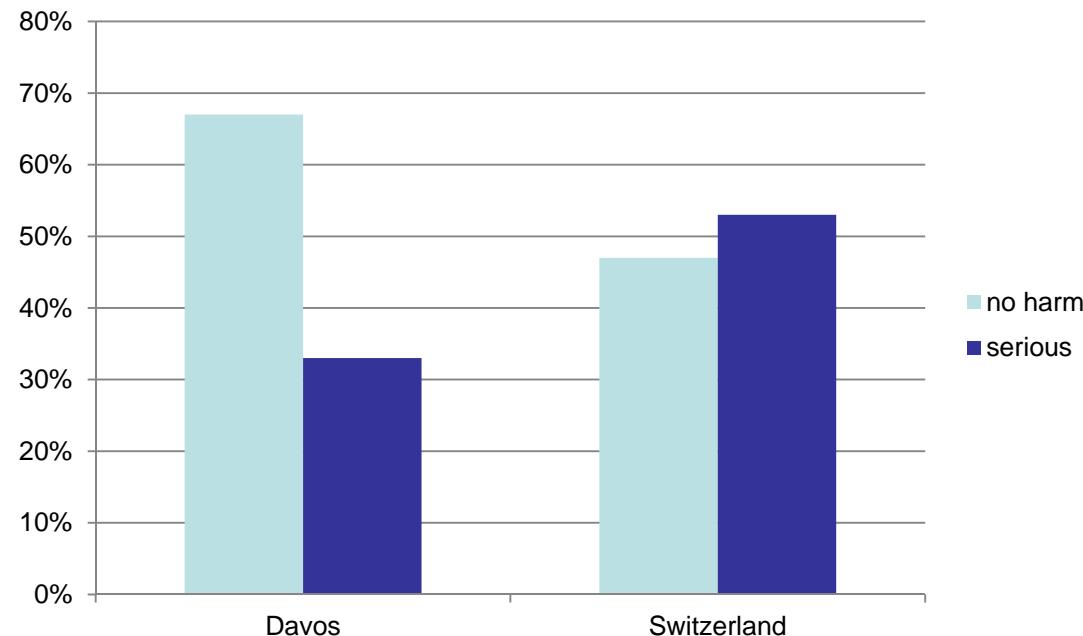
Reported avalanches in Davos

Recreational avalanche accidents (1992/93 – 2011/12)



Reported avalanches in Davos

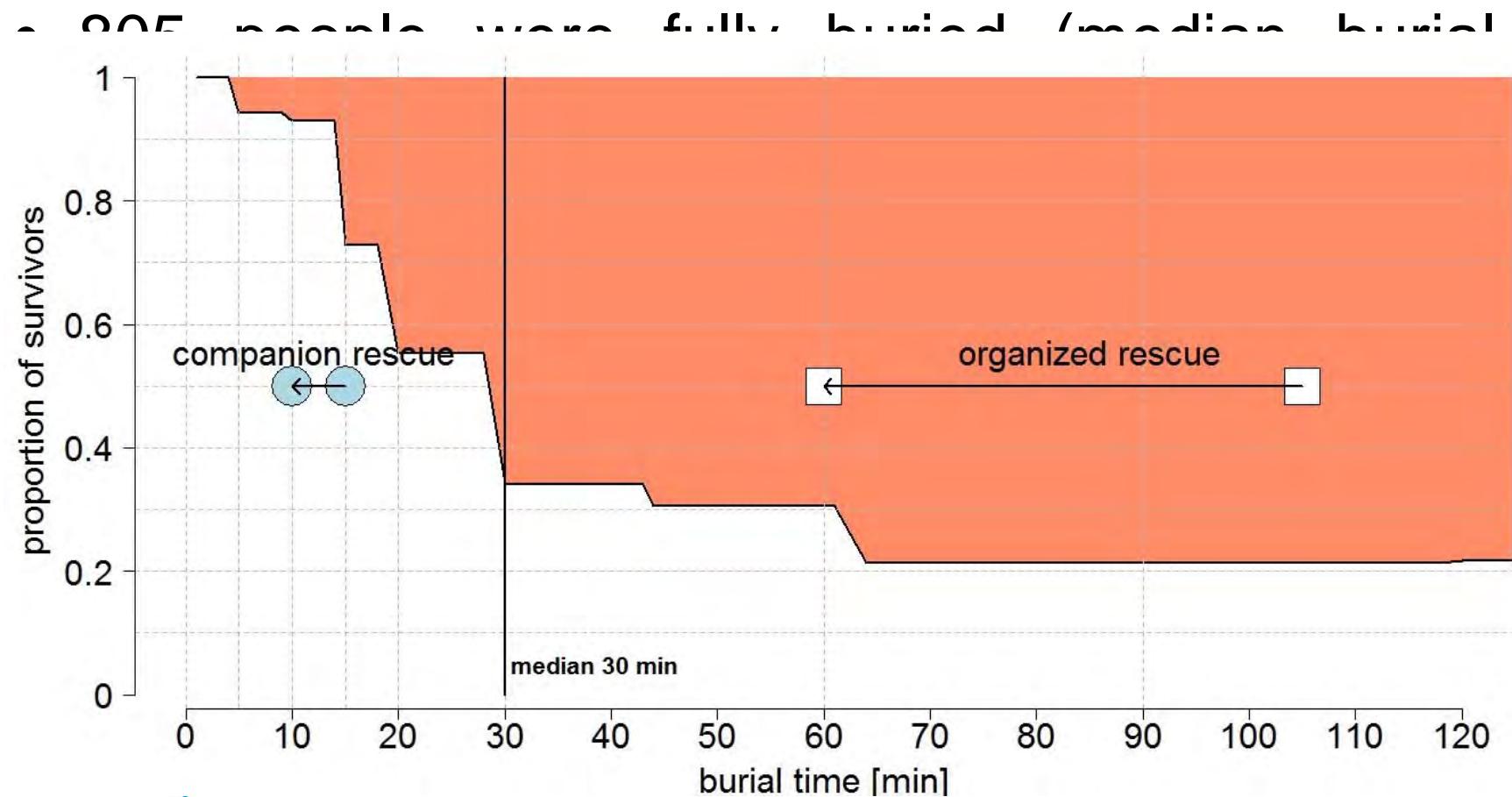
- Well observed region
- Some avalanche incidents still go unreported



Avalanche Size and Terrain characteristics

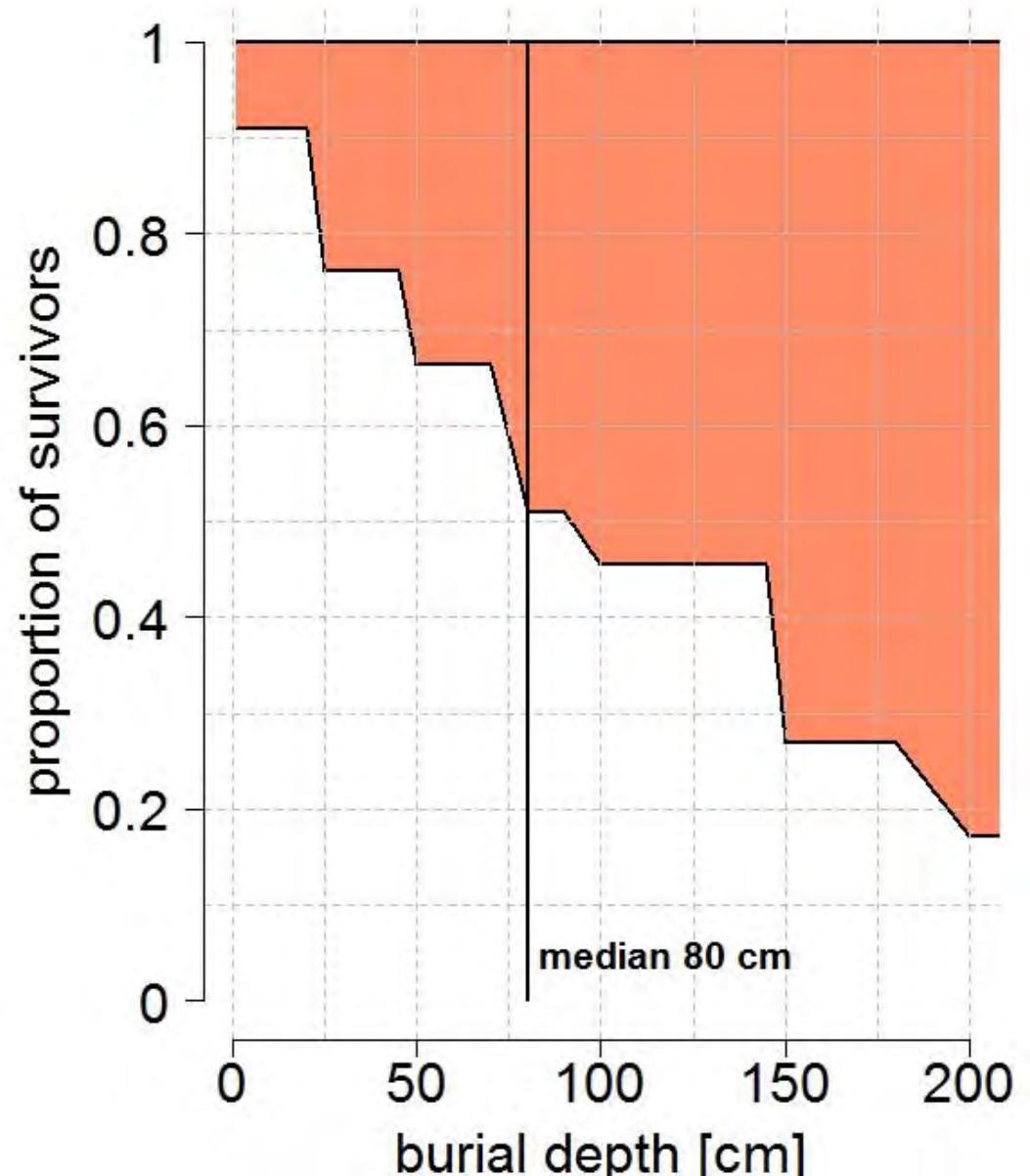
Characteristics	no harm	serious	fatal
Fracture depth (cm)	40	50	50
Width (m)	50	50	70
Vertical drop (m)	90	150	180
Length (m)	150	250	320
Unfavorable terrain	27%	57%	59%

Burial and Rescue



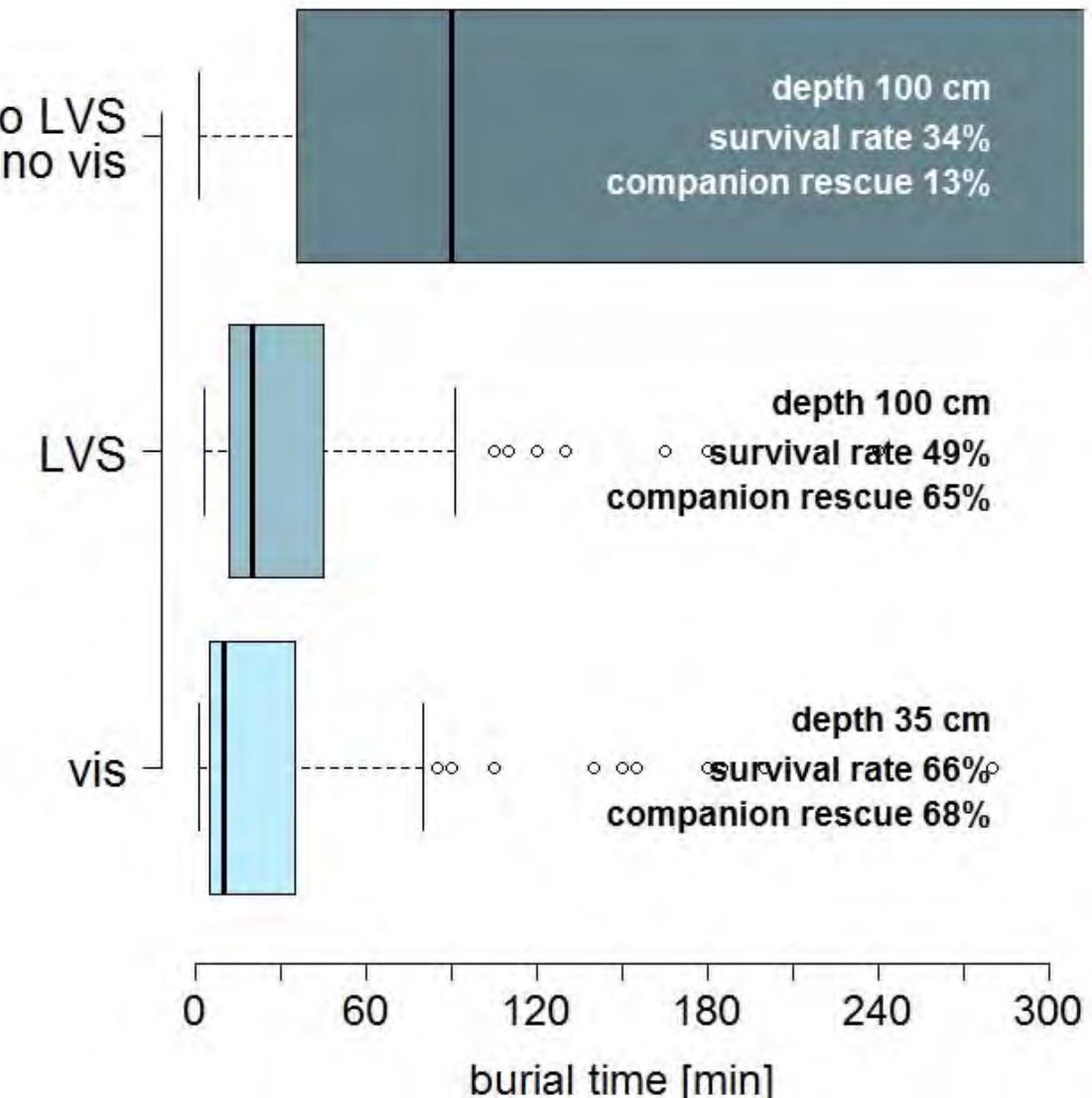
Median burial depth

- Companion rescue
- Rescue teams 100



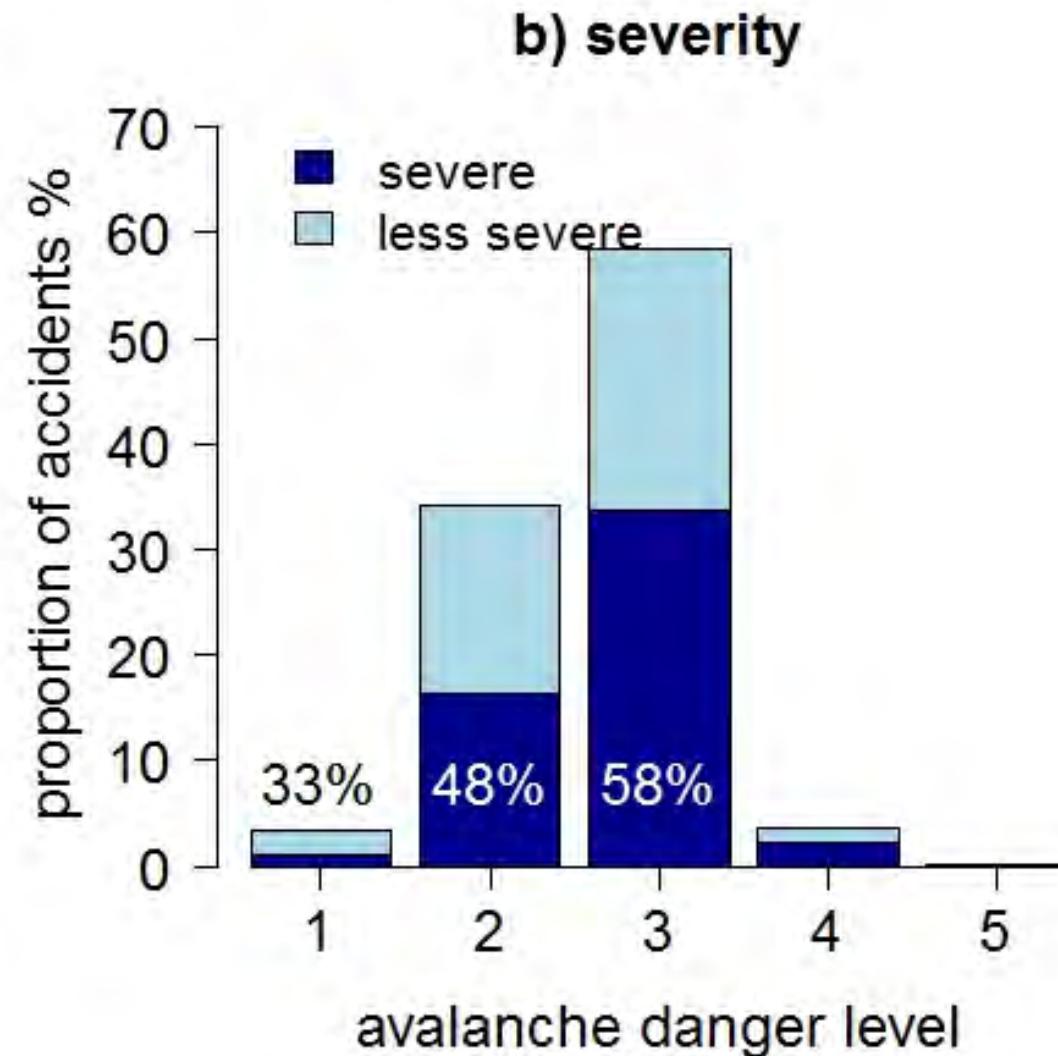
Burial and Rescue

- burial duration survival rate highest when location

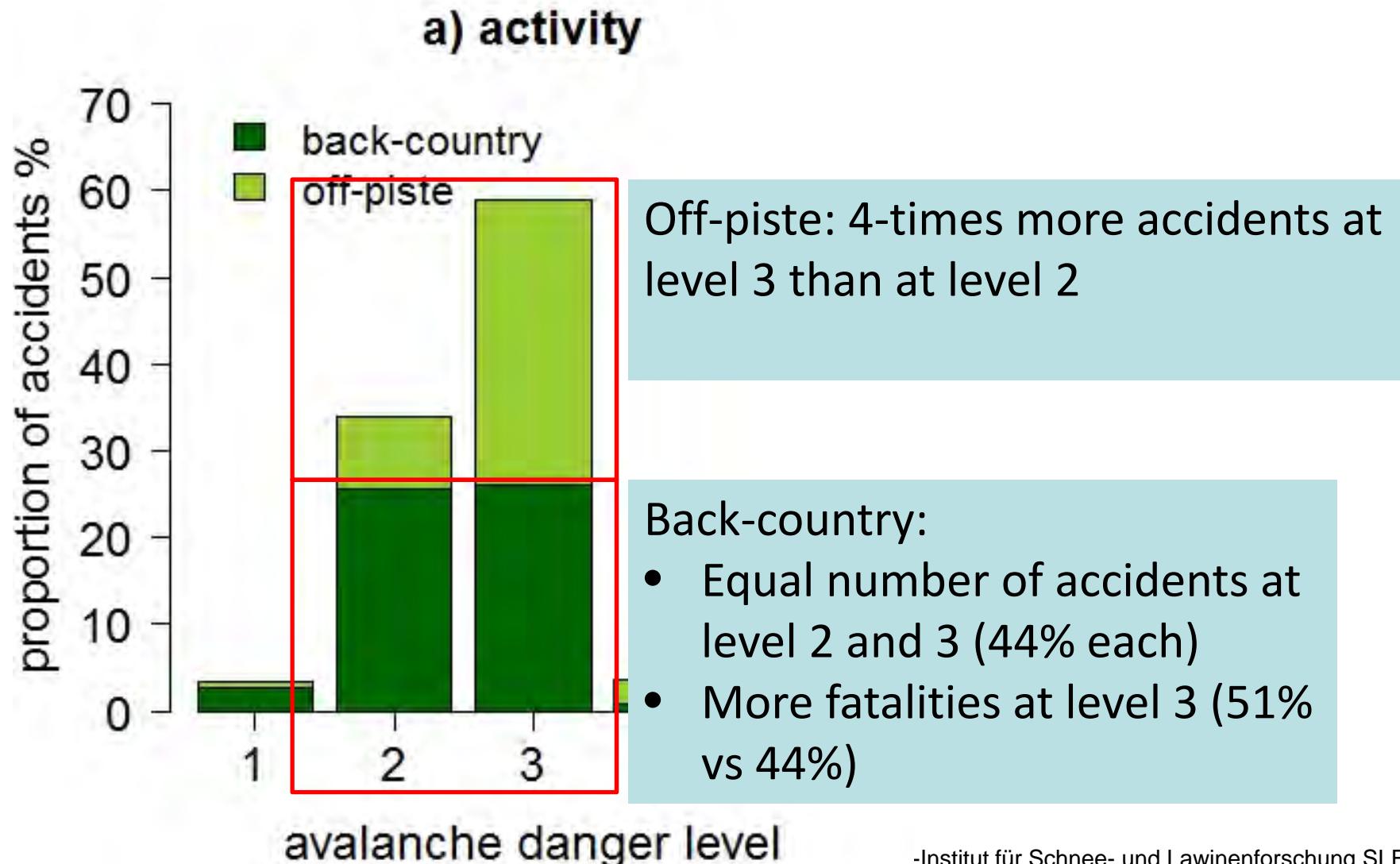


Avalanche Danger

- 59% at danger level 3
- 35% at danger level 2



Avalanche danger and activity



Conclusions

- In Switzerland an estimated 20% of avalanche accidents go unreported (particularly those with less severe consequences).
- Almost all avalanche accidents involving people occur in uncontrolled terrain during recreational activities.
- Number of fatalities during last 20 years lower (22) than long-term mean (77 years: 24.5)

Conclusions

- Burial times could be reduced and hence survival rate has increased.
- Despite positive trends: an avalanche involvement remains potentially life-threatening

Whiterisk

- Relaunch for the upcoming winter, release planned for december
- Interactive web-platform
- including trip-planning tool
- Free basic version
- Full version at cost
- Languages de, fr, it, en





Unterwegs // Vorbereitung

3x3 Erklären



Verhältnisse

Gelände

Mensch

1.Filter

Planung

Tourenziele mit Alternativen und Zeitplan.



2.Filter

3.Filter

Welche Tour / Variante ist möglich?

Eine gute Tourenplanung ist die Basis für ein erfolgreiches Bergabenteuer.
Wir sind dabei größtenteils auf Fremdinformation angewiesen.

The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for snow safety. At the top, there's a 3D perspective view of a snowy mountain slope. Overlaid on this are three blue rectangular boxes containing text: "Freeride" at the top left, "Vorbereitung" at the top right, and "Beurteilung im Gelände" at the bottom center. Below this main view, the word "Unterwegs // " is displayed in a dark bar.

Neuschnee und Triebsschnee
Hat es Neuschnee oder allenfalls frischen Triebsschnee?

Alarmzeichen
Alarmzeichen weisen auf Schwachstellen in der Schneedecke hin.

Allgemeine Schneeverhältnisse
Mithilfe von Beobachtungen und einfachen Tests können wir uns ein Bild über den Schneedeckenaufbau machen.

Schneedeckerkennung
Um abschätzen zu können, ob es sich um eine Altschneepiste handelt, schaut man in die Schneedecke.

Below these cards are four smaller images showing different snow conditions:

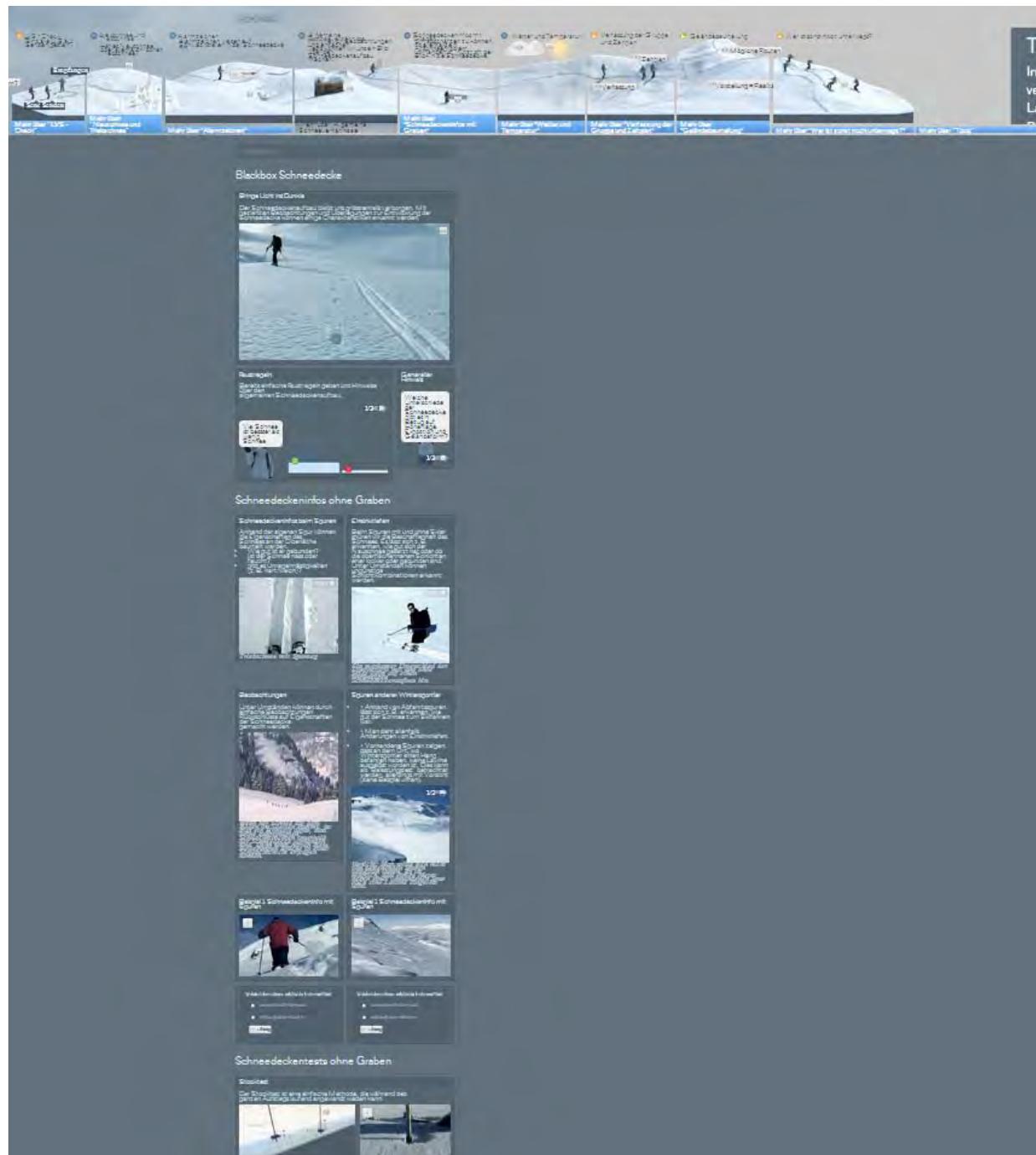
- A close-up of a snow surface with a small camera icon.
- A skier standing on a slope with a small camera icon and the text "Wumm".
- A building partially buried in deep snow with a small camera icon.
- A close-up of a snow surface with a small camera icon.

At the bottom of each card is a blue button with white text: "Mehr über 'Neuschnee und Triebsschnee'", "Mehr über 'Alarmzeichen'", "Mehr über 'Allgemeine Schneeverhältnisse'", and "Mehr über 'Schneedeckerkennung'".

Alarmzeichen

Bei vorhandenen Alarmzeichen sind die Bedingungen für Schneebrettawinen gegeben. Wenn wir keine Alarmzeichen wahrnehmen, kann trotzdem Lawinengefahr bestehen!

Übersicht



Thanks for your attention

