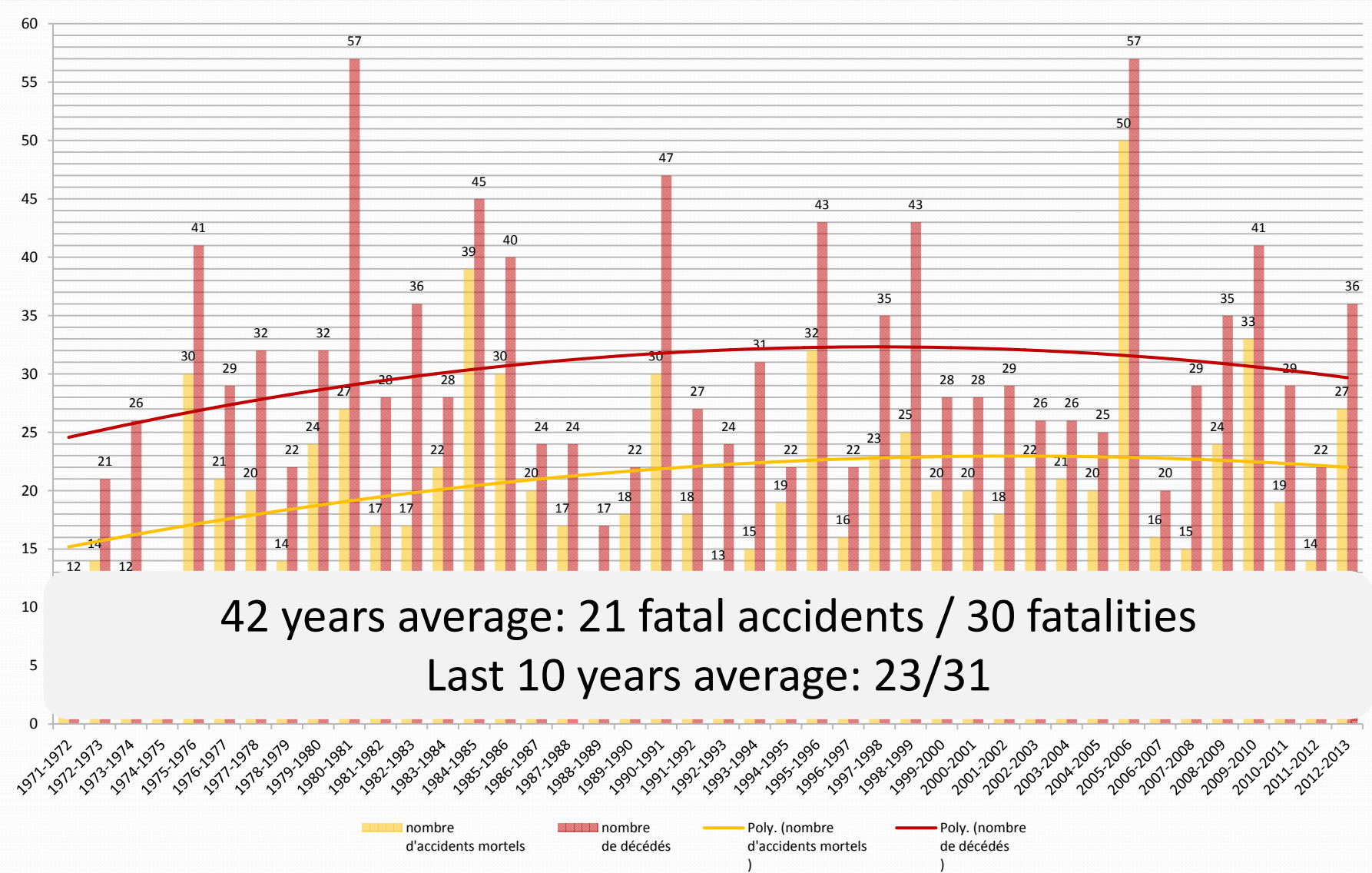


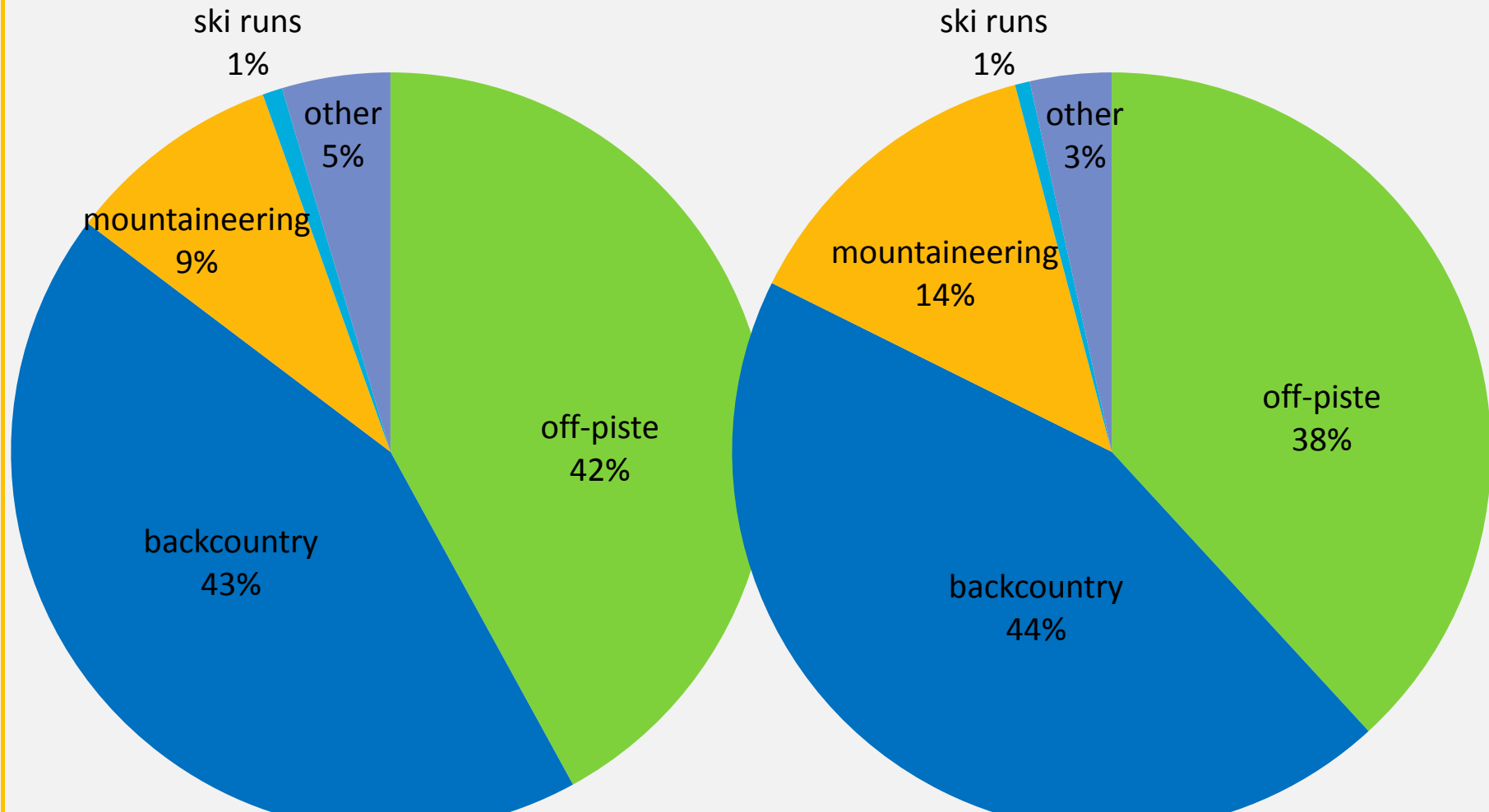
Avalanche burials in France équipement, rescuers, localization and duration



Avalanche fatal accidents and fatalities since 1971 in France :

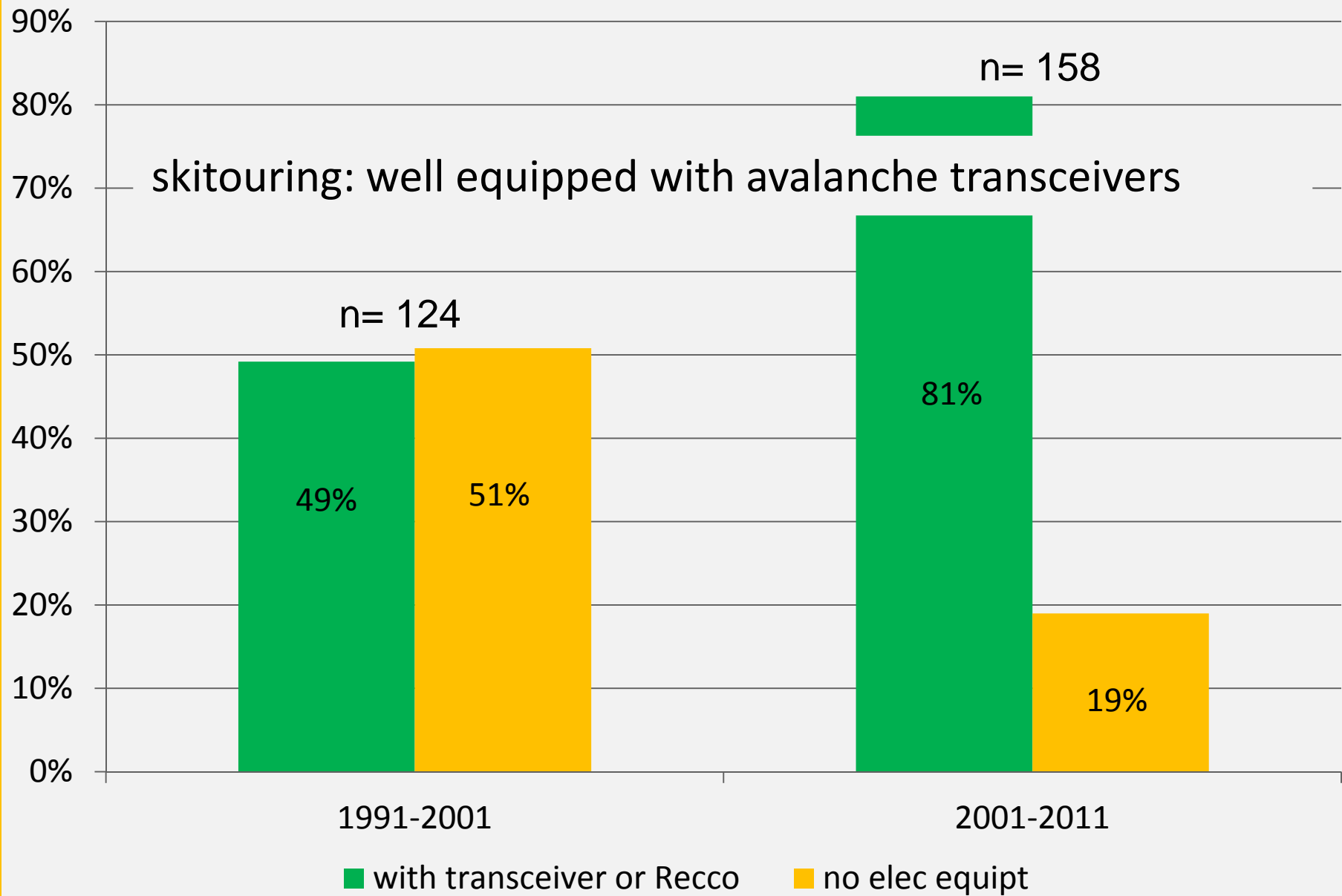


Distribution / activities – 2001-2011

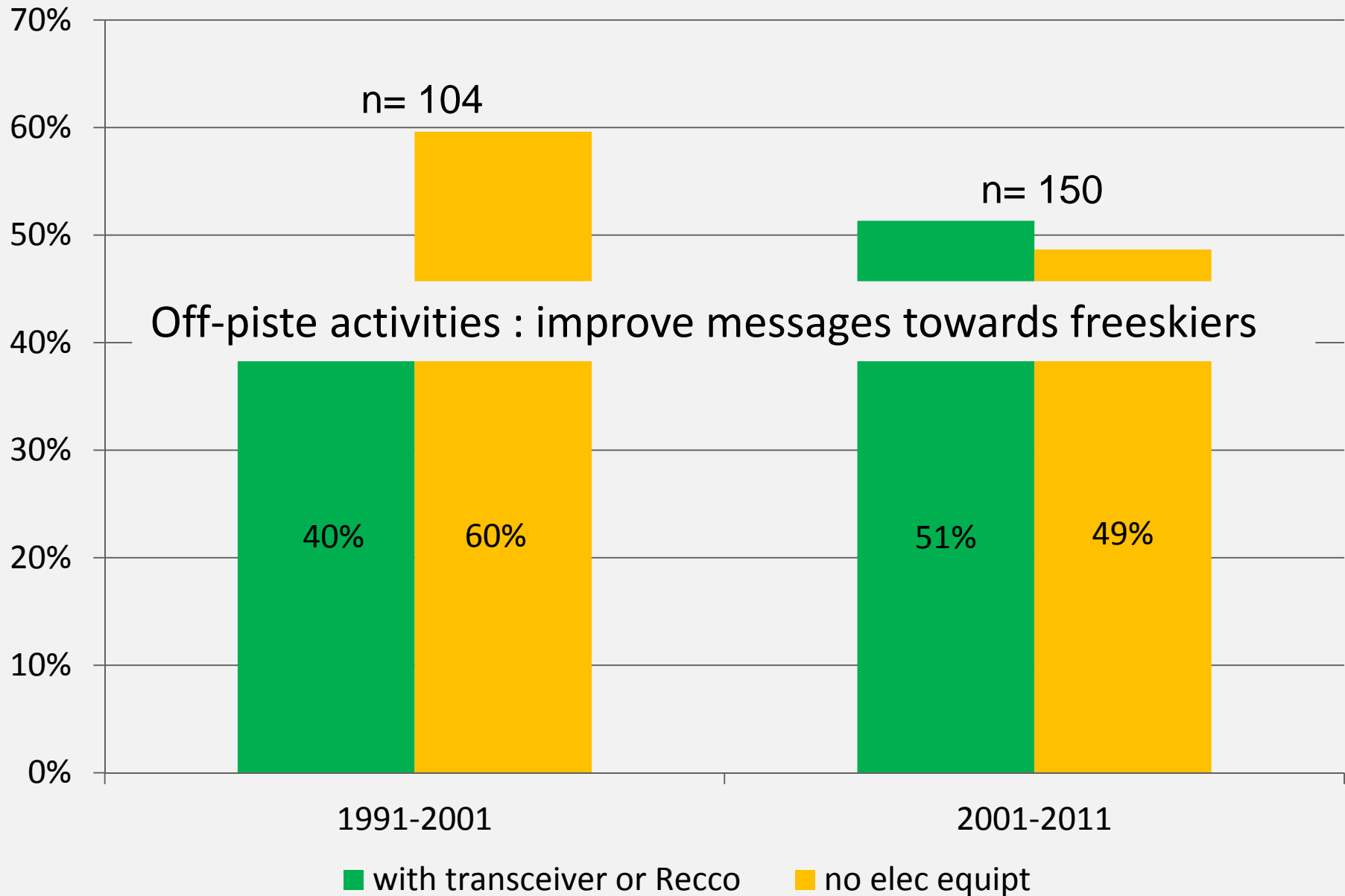


95% of avalanche fatal accidents during recreational activities
85% of fatal accidents during backcountry or off-piste activities

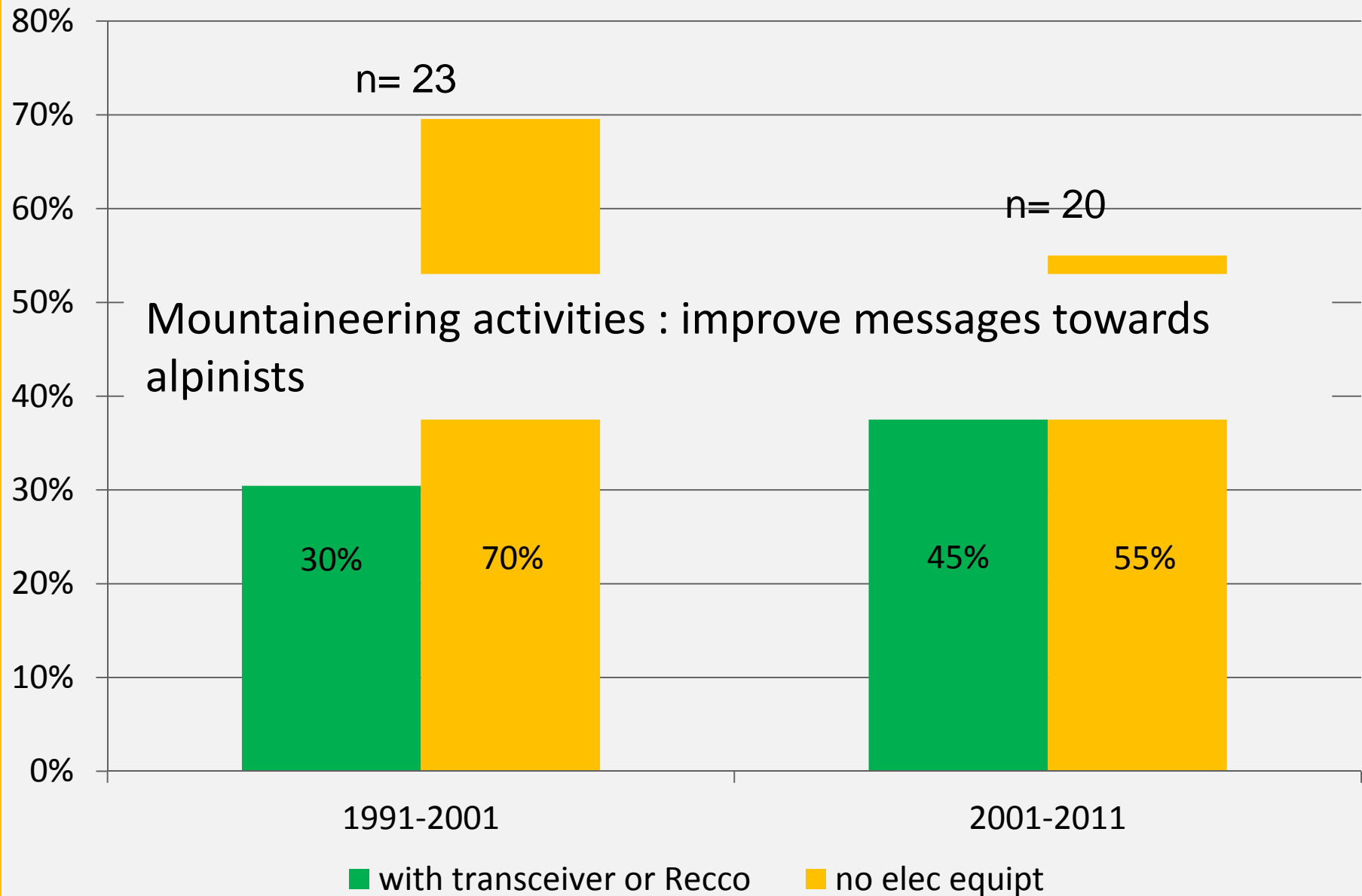
Evolution / Equipement – fully buried – backcountry activities



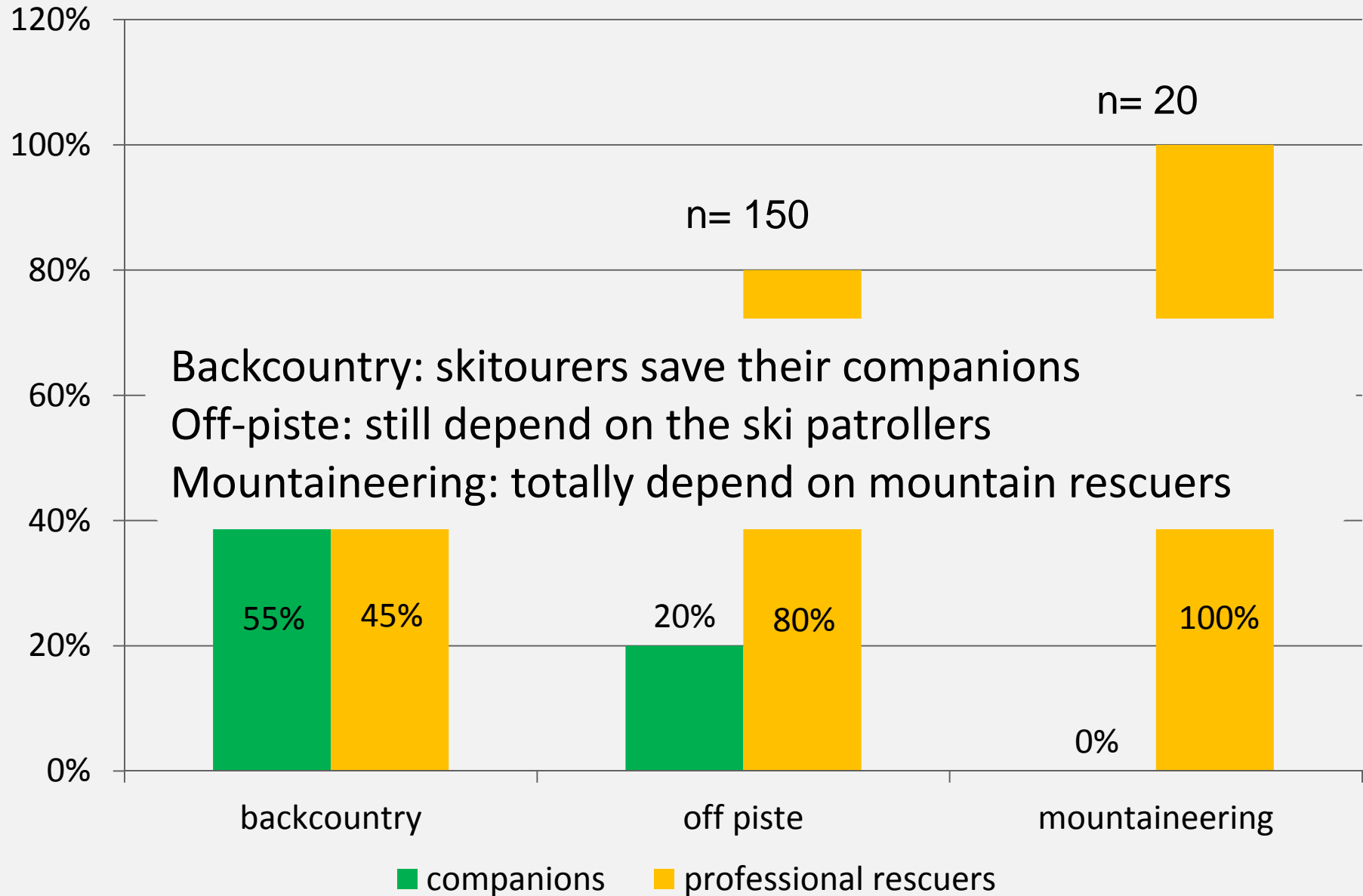
Evolution / Equipement – fully buried – off-piste activities



Evolution / Equipement – fully buried – mountaineering activities

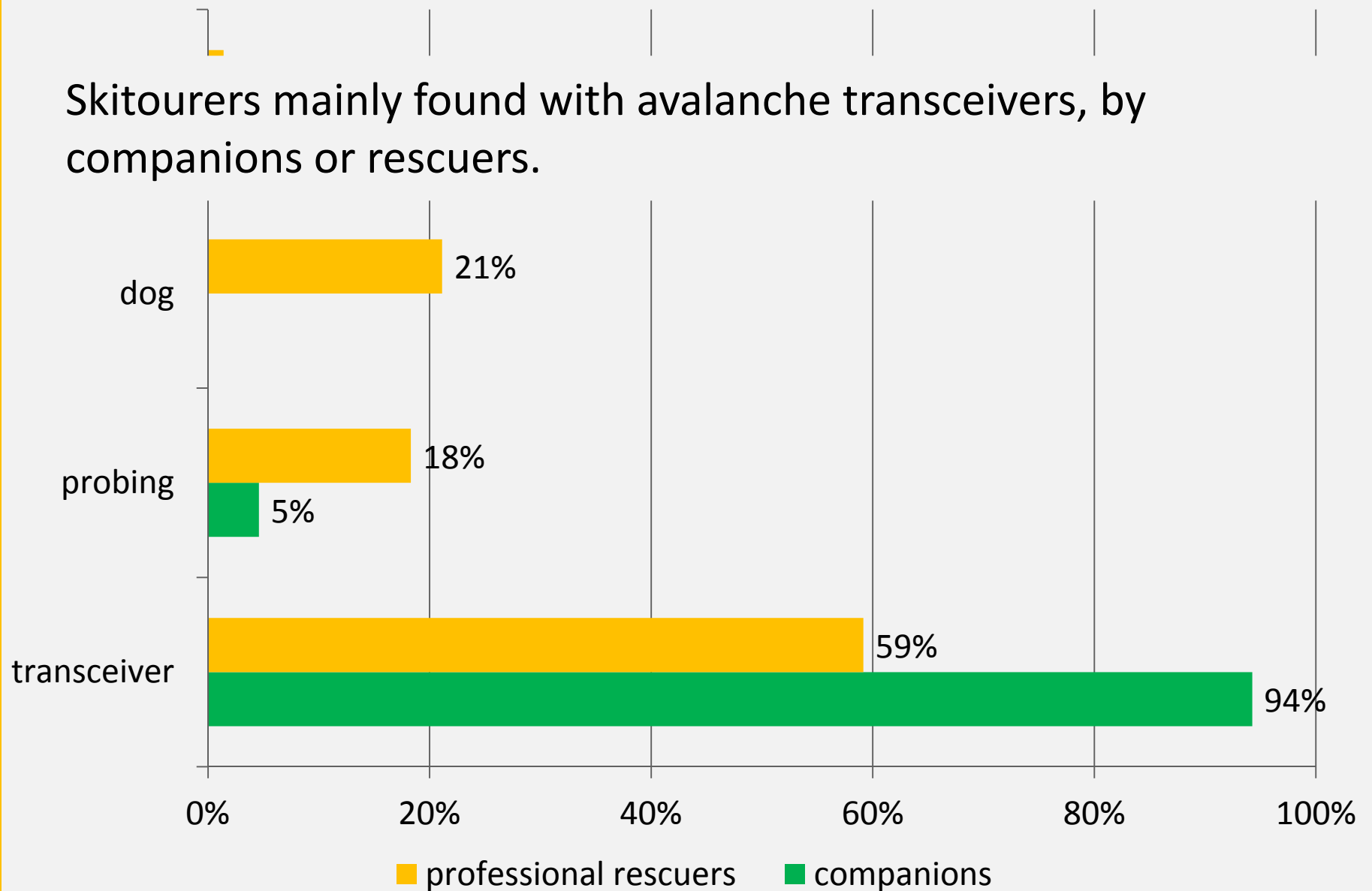


Distribution / Rescuers – fully buried – 2001-2011



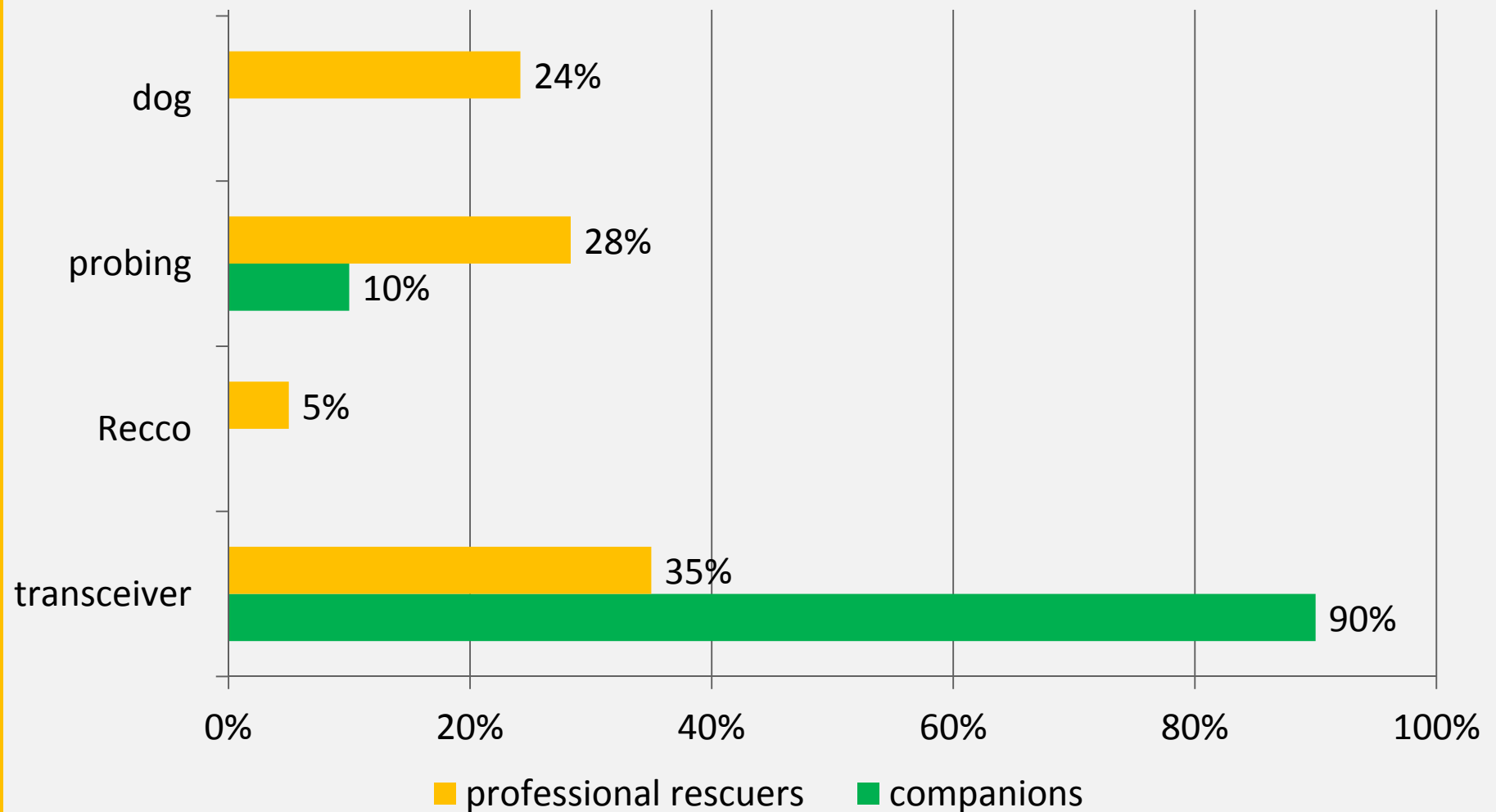
Distribution / Localization-Rescuers – fully buried – Backcountry – 2001-2011

Skitourers mainly found with avalanche transceivers, by companions or rescuers.



Distribution / Localization-Rescuers – fully buried – off-piste – 2001-2011

Freeriders still localized with classical means, Recco or transceivers, mostly by rescuers.



Median burial duration – fully buried – 2001-2011

Backcountry activities (n= 158)

with electronic devices (81%) **0h30**

without electronic devices (19%) **1h55**

Off-piste activities (n=150)

with electronic devices (51%) **0h25**

without electronic devices (49%) **1h10**

Median burial duration – fully buried – means of localization – 2001-2011 -
Switzerland

Skitouring (n=175)

Transceiver (77%) **0h20**

Other means (23%) **2h00**

Off-piste activities (n=102)

Transceiver (59%) **0h30**

Other means (41%) **1h05**

discussion:

- Carrying an electronic device for localization increase the survival chances AND shorten the duration of rescue operations.
- Past efforts in prevention for the equipement of skitourers with electronic devices seem to have paid. The vast majority of buried victims are equipped. For this majority, the mean of burial duration is around 30 minutes. The proportion of rescue operations that not last for hours is higher.
- Freeriders, snowshoers and mountaineers still not well equipped. A majority of off-piste buried victims are not equipped. For this majority, the mean of burial duration is around 1 hour. The proportion of rescue operations that las for hours and that need many rescuers on site is higher.
- Prevention efforts must continue towards freeriders, snowshoers and mountaineers in order to see the rate of equipement increase for this categories.



Thank you for your attention.
Any questions ?

