

## ***Interactive comment on “Spatial and temporal analysis of fatal off-piste and backcountry avalanche accidents in Austria with a comparison of results in Switzerland, France, Italy and the United States” by Christian Pfeifer et al.***

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Dear authors

we – the maintainers of the accident databases in Switzerland and Italy - have noted some differences between the fatality numbers recorded in our databases and the ones shown in Table 1 in your manuscript (see table below this comment).

As it did not become clear, how you defined ‘winter’ or which of the ICAR categories were considered for this analysis, we recommend to clarify this. You should also

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consider that ICAR is potentially not the best datasource for such an analysis, as the national databases are likely more accurate and up-to-date.

When revising the manuscript, we would consider it valuable if you could include the most recent years. Most of these data can be accessed on the internet from the respective national organisations, e.g.:

- Switzerland / SLF: [http://www.slf.ch/praevention/lawinenunfaelle/unfaelle\\_langj/index\\_DE](http://www.slf.ch/praevention/lawinenunfaelle/unfaelle_langj/index_DE)
- United States / CAIC: <http://avalanche.state.co.us/accidents/statistics-and-reporting/>
- France / ANENA: <http://www.anena.org/5041-bilan-des-accidents.htm>

In the case of the Swiss and Italian data, we provide data.

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**Table 1.** Comparison between fatalities as shown in the manuscript and as recorded in the Swiss and Italian avalanche accident databases for the years from 1983/84 until 2010/11. The first number is the one recorded in the national database, the second number the one shown in the manuscript.

country	backcountry	off-piste
Italy	262 vs. 264	108 vs. 100
Switzerland	344 <sup>1</sup> vs. 335	191 vs. 181

<sup>1</sup> 344 includes all backcountry fatalities recreating on skis, snowboards or with snowshoes at the time of avalanche occurrence, additionally there were 85 other backcountry victims during these years (many of these would probably not considered 'winter' avalanches).

**Fig. 1.**