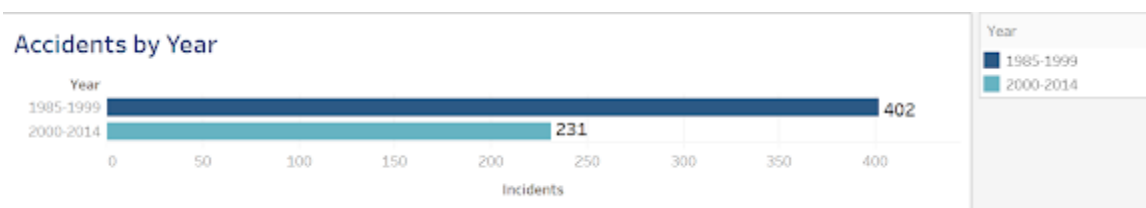


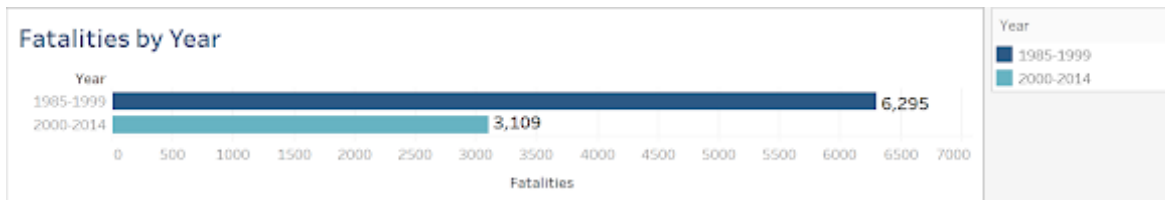


Photo by [Andrea Piacquadio](#) from [Pexels](#)

The media frenzy over recent crashes has probably caught your attention and you may even be scared of flying right now. The media wants you to believe that flying is no longer a safe way to travel. That the airline industry isn't focused on your safety, but on profits instead. They have published stories saying aging aircraft, cutbacks in maintenance budgets, and complacency of workers has led to a rising death toll of airline passengers. Anyone would be scared by that! But...it's simply not true. Don't live in fear, but in facts. Alaska Airlines wants you to know the truth.

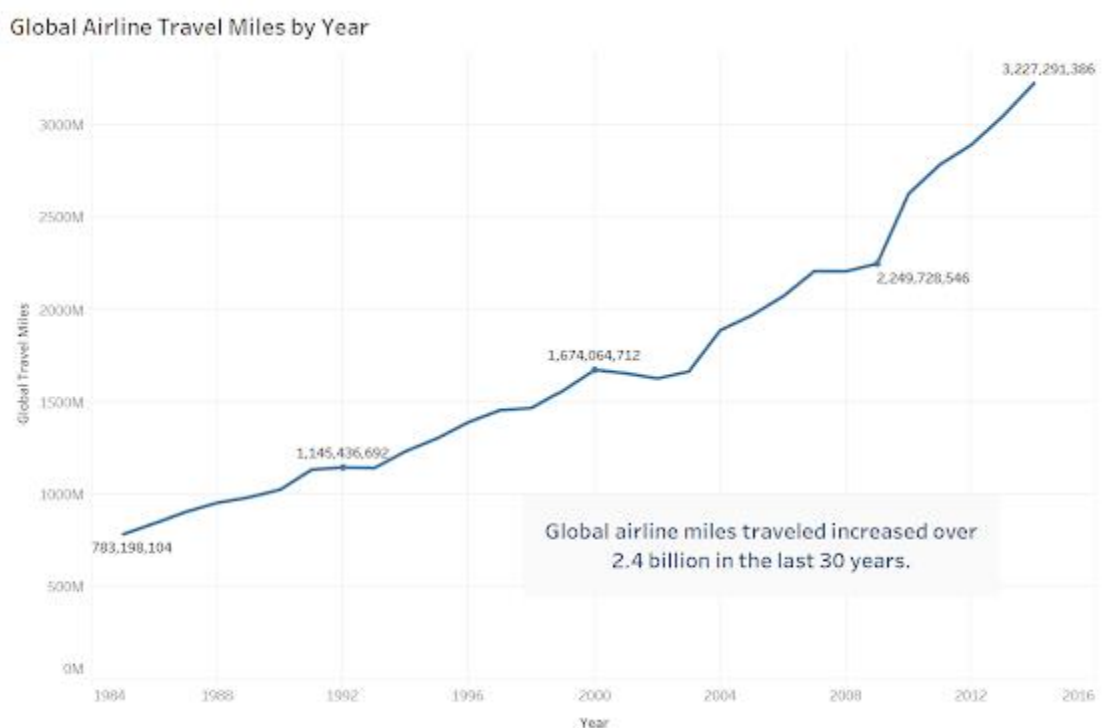
Media outlets tend to focus and embellish on stories that create fear because fear captures attention. Fear gets them more views, clicks, and screen time. Fear sells, unfortunately better than the truth sometimes. Don't believe me? Let's take a look at some of the data and facts surrounding airline safety.





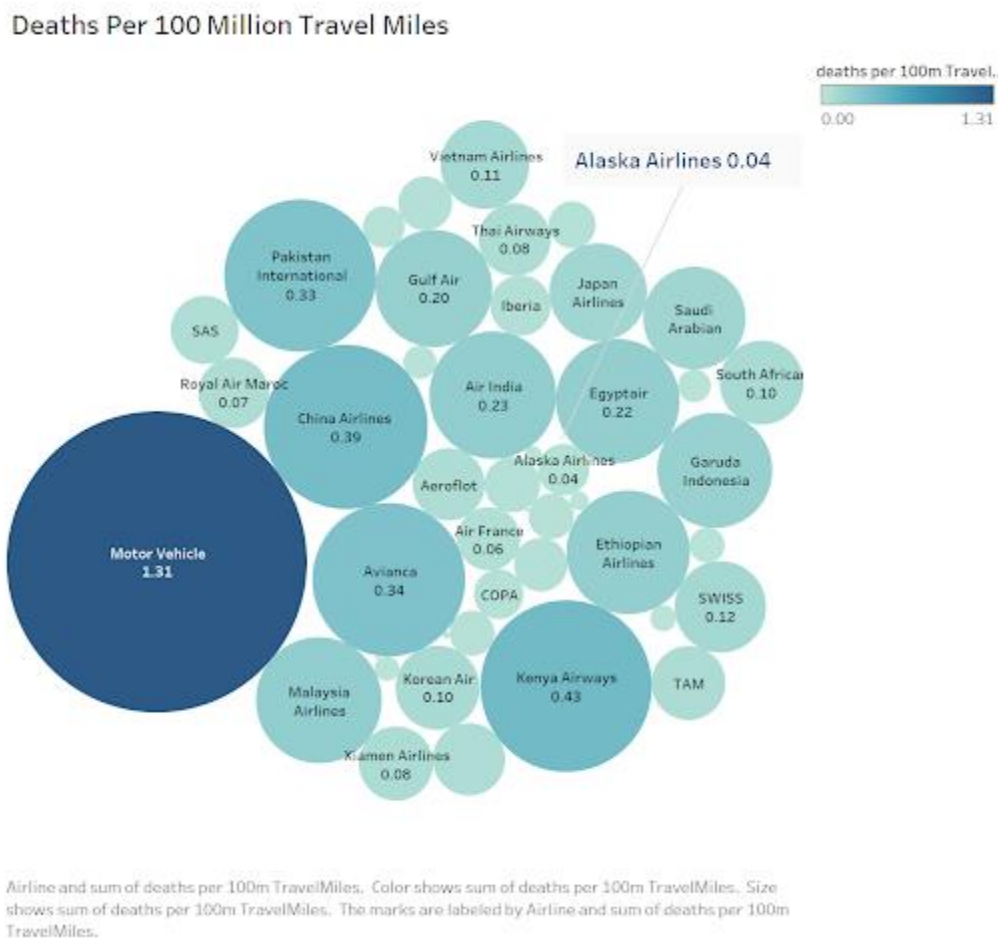
The above visualization shows you the total number of airline accidents and fatalities for 1985-1999 and 2000-2014. You can see that in recent years, both the number of airline accidents and the number of fatalities resulting from those accidents has decreased significantly.

Another factor to consider is the amount of airline traveling that is done. If people are traveling less than before, that might account for the decrease in accidents and fatalities.



Whelp, there goes that theory. We can clearly see that people are traveling more now than they did before. With increasing numbers of airline travel miles and decreasing numbers of accidents and fatalities, we can confidently say that traveling by air is safer now, more than ever before.

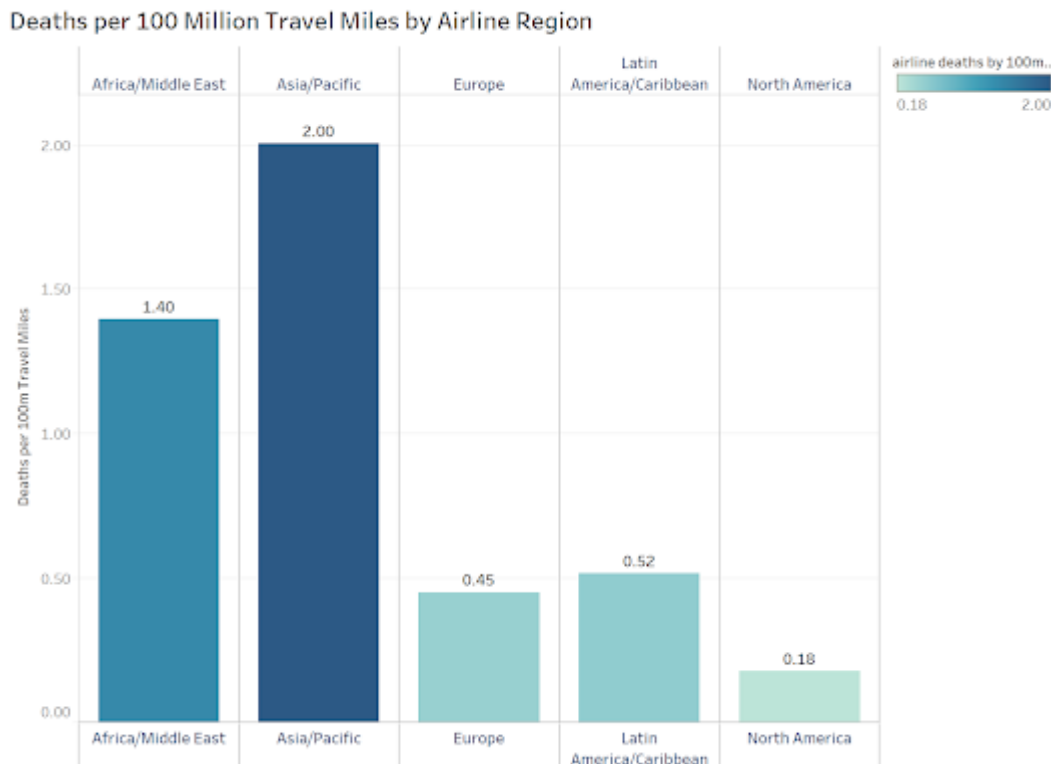
But what about air travel compared to motor vehicle travel? To investigate this relationship, we will calculate the number of deaths per 100 million travel miles for each airline and for motor vehicles and compare.



As you can see...the death rate for motor vehicles far exceeds the death rate for any airline. You get in your car every day and drive around and more than likely, you don't think twice about how dangerous it is. In truth, you are approximately 33 times more likely to die in a motor vehicle accident than in an airline accident with Alaska Airlines. 33x!!!

So far we've found out that airline travel is getting safer over time and that it is much safer than traveling in a motor vehicle. That's great news, but let's drill down a little further into the airline data and answer some questions you might have.

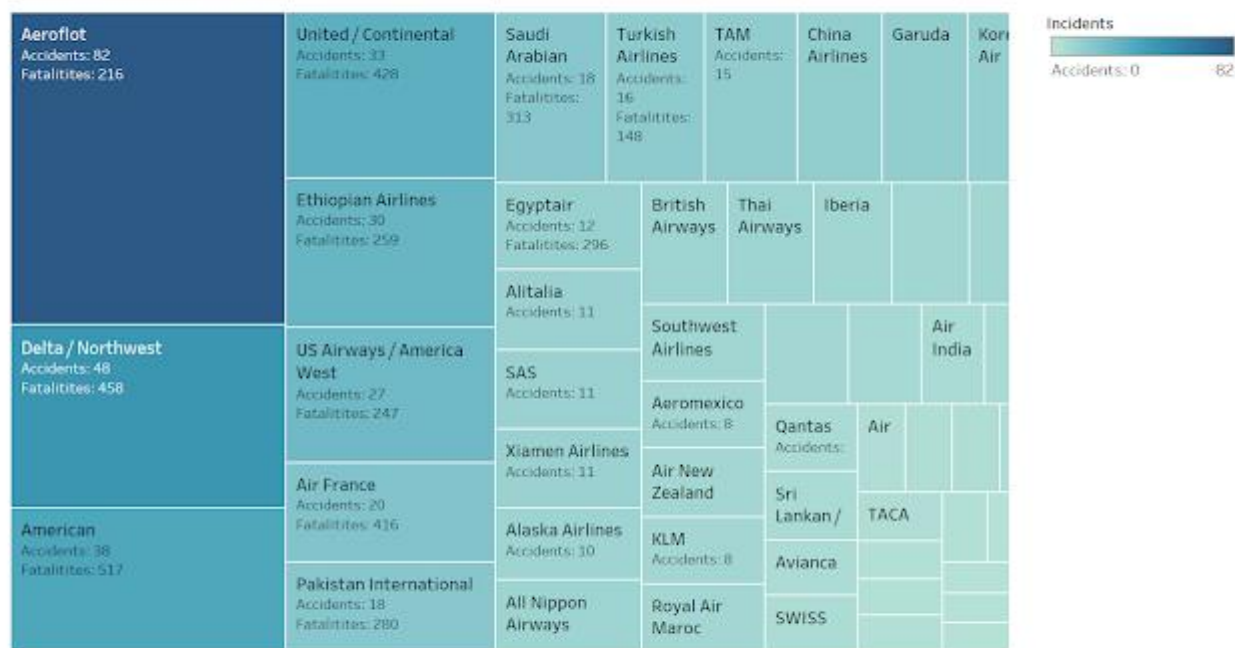
Are there regions in the world where airline travel is less safe?



When combining all the airlines of a region and calculating the number deaths per 100 million travel miles in that region, the Asia/Pacific region appears to be the highest, coming in at around 2 deaths per 100 million travel miles. Combined, that is actually more dangerous than driving your car. North America is the safest region at 0.18 deaths per 100 million travel miles.

Are there any particular airlines that have more accidents than others?

Accident & Fatality Counts by Airline



Airline, sum of incidents and sum of Fatalities. Color shows sum of Incidents. Size shows sum of Incidents. The marks are labeled by Airline, sum of Incidents and sum of Fatalities.

Without taking the number of travel miles into account, this tree graph uses size and color to show you the airlines with the most accidents. For the period of 1985 through 2014, Aeroflot, a Russian airline, had the highest total number of accidents, but a lesser number of fatalities than some other airlines. Many of the US airlines score in the higher range as well. Alaska Airlines comes in around the middle with only 10 accidents in the last 30 years.

There's no question that the thought of an airline accident is scary, but the fact is that they don't happen that often. "According to 2017 census data from the National Safety council, you have a 1 in 103 chance of dying in a motor vehicle accident, and a 1 in 188,364 chance of dying as an airplane passenger in your lifetime." (Lembo, A., 2019).

Now you know the truth. You have the power to believe in facts and disregard the fear-mongering of the media. Don't let them control the decisions you make. You can feel comfortable and safe when traveling with Alaska Airlines and...

It's Boarding Time!



Sources:

Lembo, A. (2019, May 29). 16 'common' things that happen a lot less often than you may believe. Insider. Retrieved from <https://www.insider.com/common-things-that-are-rare-2019-5>

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Blog url:

<https://itsboardingtime-alaskaairlines.blogspot.com/2021/05/are-you-scared-of-flying-yet.html>