

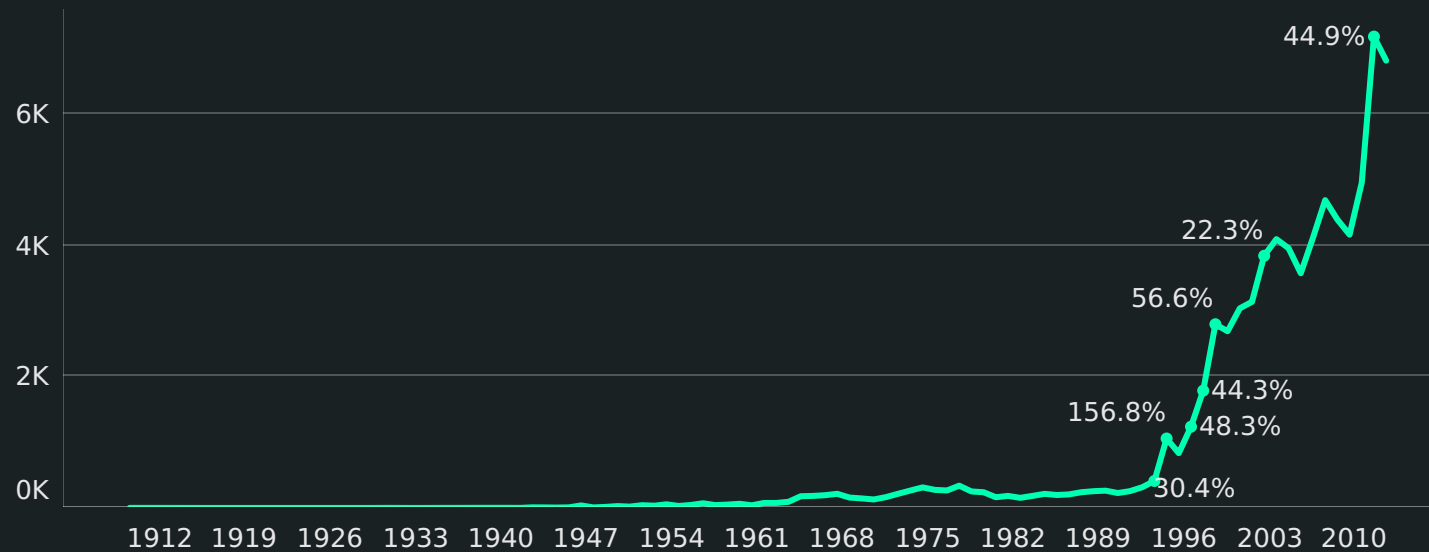


UFO Sightings Analysis

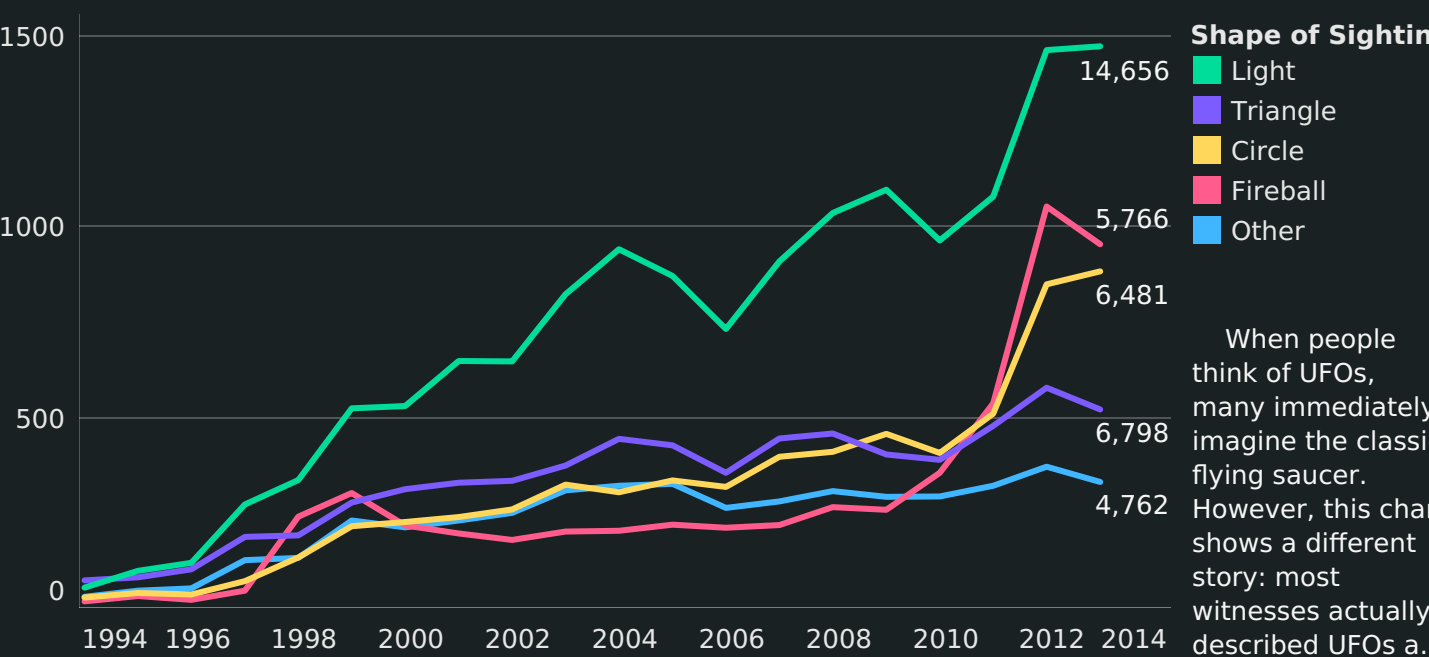


Hey, it's a bird... no, it's a plane... no, it's not Superman — it's a UFO. These were probably the thoughts of people who observed and reported strange objects in the sky. And it is their reports that we're going to analyze.

First, let's look at the overall trend of UFO sightings by year, identify when the highest numbers occurred, and determine whether these observations form noticeable spikes.



Until 1994, the number of UFO reports remained relatively moderate — typically between 150 and 400 sightings per year. But in 1995, something unusual happened: the number of reports surged dramatically, rising by almost 157%...



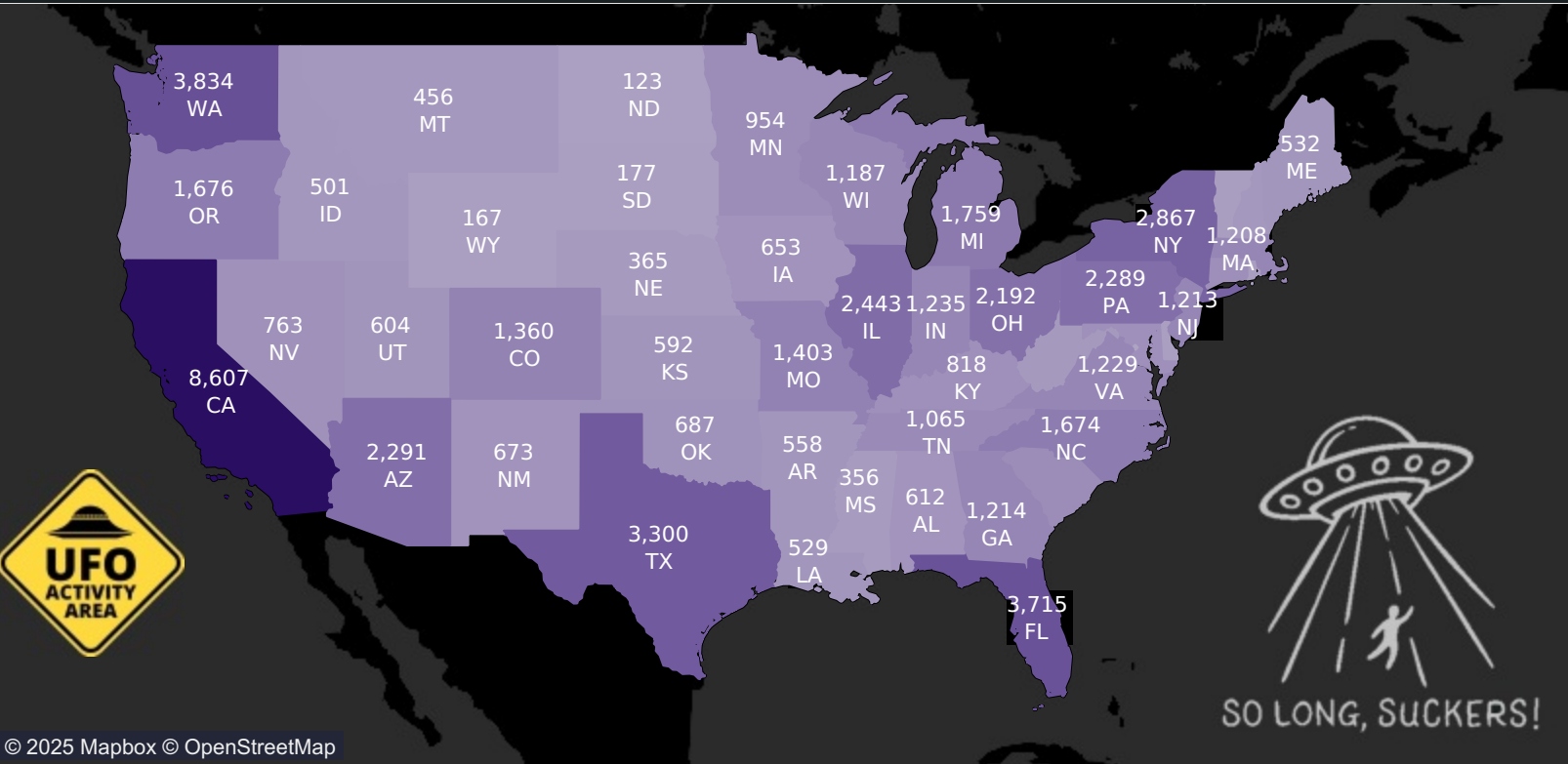
When people think of UFOs, many immediately imagine the classic flying saucer. However, this chart shows a different story: most witnesses actually described UFOs as...

Top 5 countries for UFO sightings

United States	62,604
Canada	3,407
United Kingdom	2,186
Australia	595
Mexico	186

If we examine the number of reports by country, it becomes clear that the United States is the undisputed leader, far surpassing all others. Therefore, it's reasonable to take a closer look at which U.S. states reported the most sightings.

The states with the highest number of reported encounters with extraterrestrial visitors are California, Washington, Florida, and Texas. In contrast, North Dakota, Delaware, Wyoming, and South Dakota reported the fewest sightings of unidentified flying objects.



So, can we find potential explanations for these sudden increases in sightings? Let's return to the first chart and highlight the years with the sharpest spikes: 1995, 1997-1999, 2003, and 2012. These periods stand out clearly. Now, let's see whether any patterns or external influences might help explain them.

Now, let's shift our attention to popular culture — because several major UFO-related films were released precisely around the years where we observe the strongest spikes. Titles like *Contact* (1997), *Men in Black* (1997), and *Signs* (2002) became cultural events, dominating media discussion and shaping public imagination. These releases kept the topic of extraterrestrial life highly visible, making people more attentive to unusual sky phenomena and more likely to report them. Even in the early 2010s, a surge of documentaries and TV shows — especially those centered on ancient astronauts and government secrecy — helped maintain widespread interest in UFOs leading into 2012. While movies alone can't fully explain the spikes, they created a powerful informational background that influenced how people interpreted what they saw and whether they considered it "a sighting worth reporting."