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DSC640 – Milestone 1

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Supporting Documentation

Some metrics highlight the safety of flying compared to driving, while others feature the rarity of death by plane crash. The driving vs. flying metrics are normalized by the number of miles traveled. This data comes from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Driving results in greater than a 20-fold increase in injuries when compared to flying, and we see a greater than 10-fold increase of fatality when comparing driving to flying. The rate of airplane crash fatalities has gone down over time, with about half as many deaths between 2000-2014 than between 1985-1999. While the United States does has a relatively high fatality rate compared to other countries, only 2.1 fatalities occur per one million citizens. Causes of death more likely than a plane crash include choking, being burned to death, maternal death during childbirth, and being struck by lightening.

The colors blue and orange were chosen to highlight differences between driving and flying because they are complimentary colors that contrast one another well. The bar graph, Decline in Airplane Crashes Over Time, only uses blue (the color representing planes in the line charts) to maintain this color for airplanes and prevent confusion. The bar graph, Causes of Death in the United States, highlights the small airplane crash bar in blue and uses grey for all other bars to draw the eye to the plane data. The bars also start with the highest value to emphasize the rarity of the plane crash bar at the bottom.