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Everything You Need to Know About Air Travel Safety

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Is flying safe? Anyone who travels through air carrier, has this fear in their mind at least once. There are number of factors that can cause this fear, one being the fact you are literally putting your life into somebody else's hands and two that you are flying above the ground defying gravity. No other modes of transportation gets scrutinized or investigated as much as air travel, **despite being the safest mode of transportation.**



Source: istockphoto.com

Did I say safest? Yes, it is the safest mode of transportation despite the recent news about several plane crashes. It is a widespread information that plane crash happens all the time, however, more often these information leave

out most important information about air travels such as the number of actual miles traveled or the number of passengers etc. Let me tell you **everything you need to know about air travel safety**.

Since 2000, the annual number of passenger carried has increased from 1.6B to 4.6B with air departures increased from 22.0M to 37.4M in 2019 globally according to *databank.worldbank.com*. **This is a growth of 187% passengers and 70% air departures, in less than 20 years.** Simultaneously, global accidents and fatalities rate from 2000-2019 has decreased by **68.5% and 90.8%**, indicating that overall flight safety has increased in past 20 years.

Global Accidents per 1 Million Flights

Rates are calculated using total flight departures around the world



Source: *Aviation-safety.net*

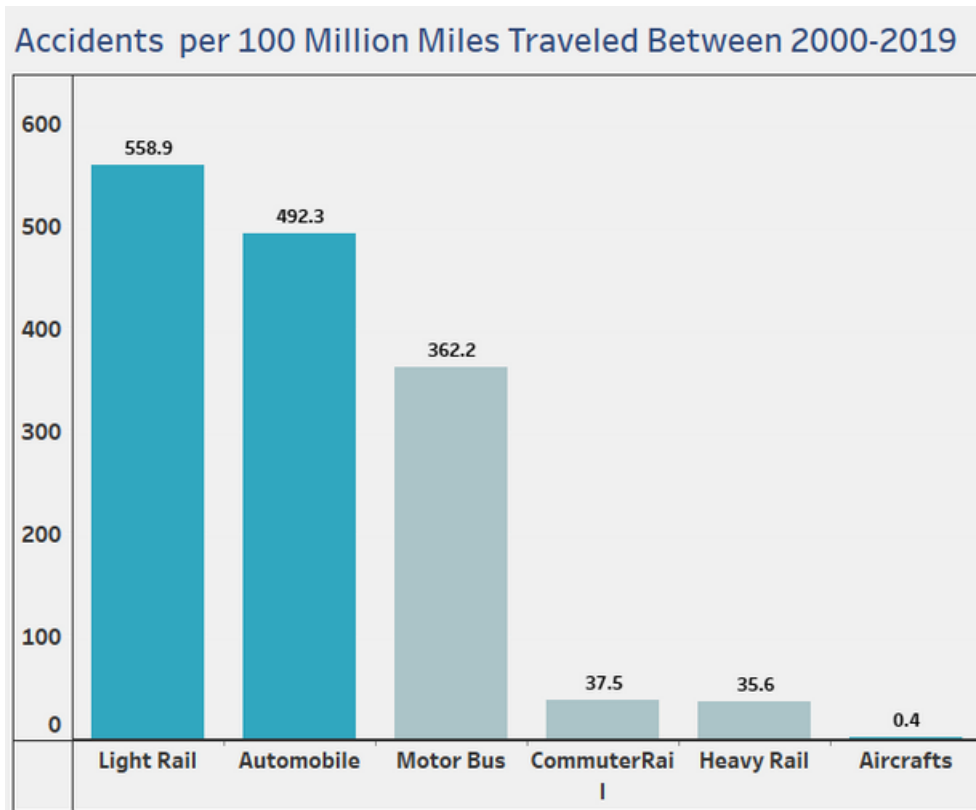
Global Fatalities per 1 Million Passengers Carried

Rates are calculated using total flight departures around the world

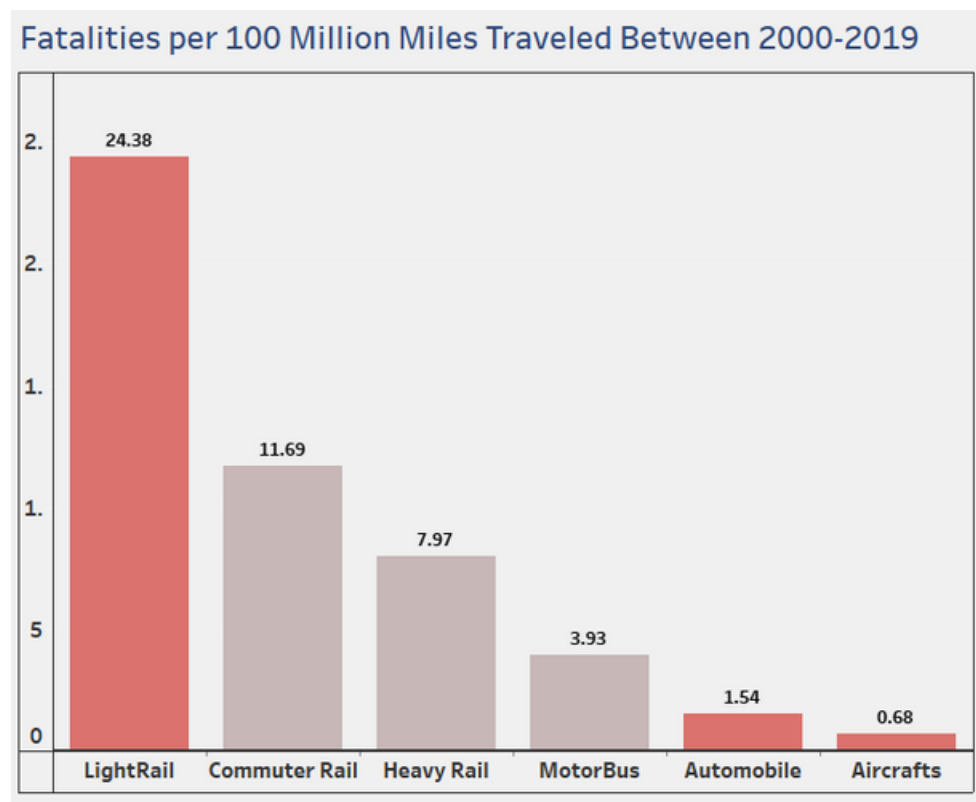


Source: [Aviation-safety.net](http://aviation-safety.net)

In 2020, there were **8 fatal accidents and 315 fatalities**, though these numbers seems quite high, but in terms of departures and passenger carried it is not. The chance of getting into fatal plane crash is **0.42 in 1,000,000 meaning 1 in 2,380,952 flights** and the chance of dying is **0.176 in 1,000,000 meaning 1 in 5,681,818 passengers**. Interestingly, other modes of transportation has higher fatalities or accident rates, yet gets little limelight. Here are the statistics of accidents rates by modes of transportation in terms of 100 million miles.



The data shows that chance of getting into any accident is 1 in 250,000,000 miles traveled by air travel compared to 1 in 203,128 miles traveled by automobile, which 1230% higher than air travel.



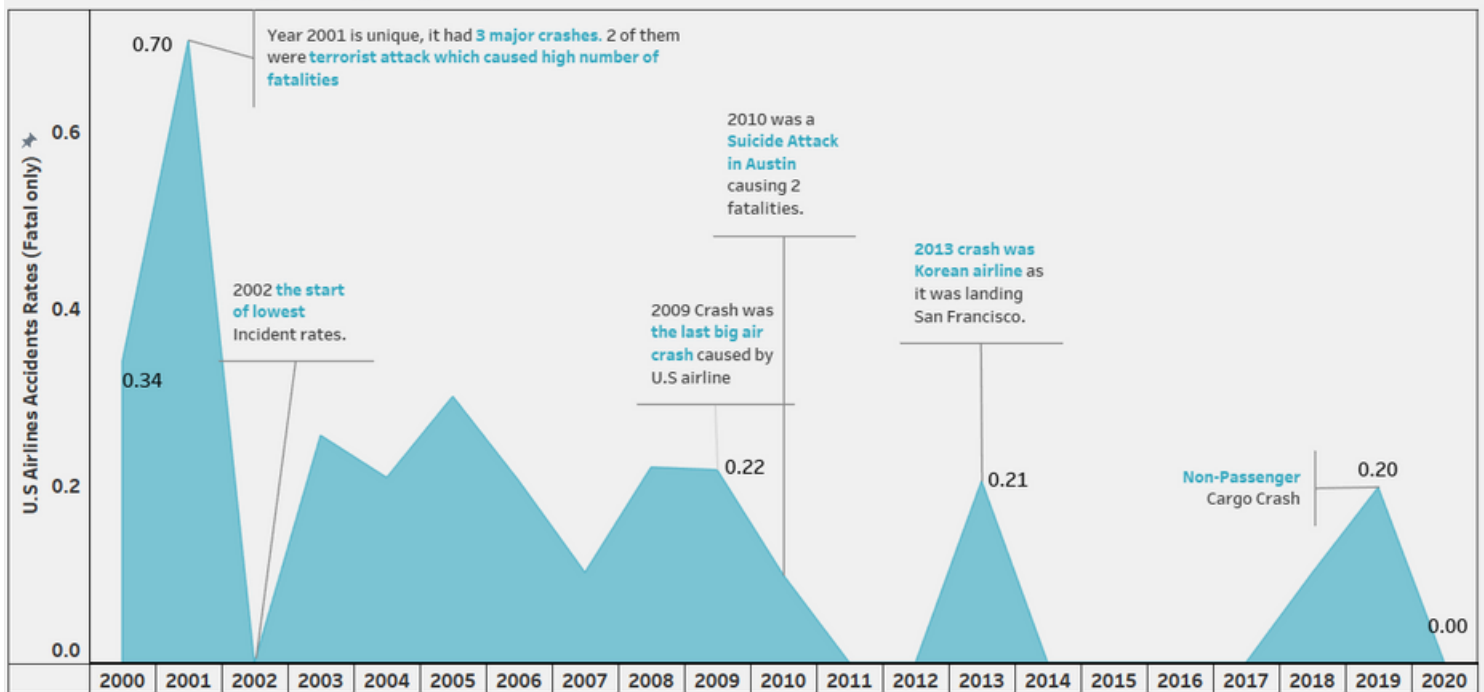
Source: bts.gov

Fatalities rate shows, that chance of dying from **Automobile** accident is 226% higher than **Aircrafts** for every 100 million miles traveled.

So, why does air travel gets such a bad reputation? Unfortunately, there are some events that cause people to fear it, such as tragic event of 9/11 which caused 265 numbers of passengers to die in suicide bombing, such event made many people avoid air travel completely and prefer driving instead or the Colgan plane crash in 2009 which caused 49 fatalities. However, drastic measures were taken to prioritize passenger safety, such as implementation of **strict TSA security checks**. FAA requirements for Pilot flight hours also **increased from 260 to 1500 hours** to fly commercial planes. Rest assured, accidents and fatalities rates have decreased tremendously **up to 100% in U.S Commercial airlines**. Below statistics show how U.S airlines has been safer since 2009 incident.

U.S Accidents per 1 Million Flights

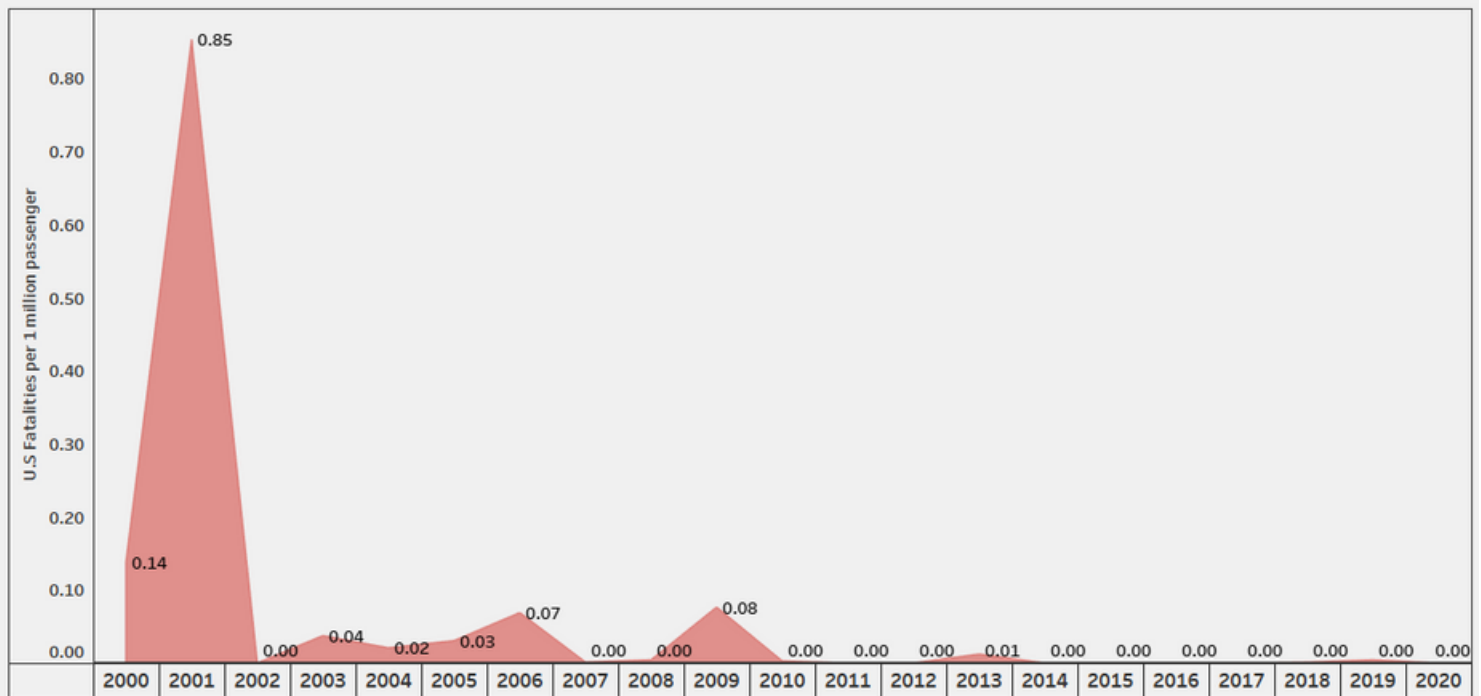
Rates are calculated using total flight departures in U.S



Source: bts.gov

U.S Fatalities per 1 Million Passengers Carried

Rates are calculated using total Passengers Carried in U.S



Source: bts.gov

Consistently, U.S Commercial airlines has had **0 fatalities rate till 2020**. Despite of all the statistics and logic, air travel gets bad reputation of not being safe, one of the reasons could be perhaps airline crashes are graphically disturbing due to large explosion and can have a greater impact than other crashes. However, airline industry and aviation administration also take extreme measures to make airline safety as their number one priority. Each accident is thoroughly investigated to find the probable cause, experience pilots are assigned and go through physical test before flying, air traffic controllers are dedicated to regulate air traffic and Flight engineers are dedicated to ensure that plane is in a top condition to fly, ensuring safety for passengers. **This joint effort has caused 0 fatalities in recent years, low accident rates, and 0 fata accidents.**

Sources

- [Aviation Safety Network](#)
- [Airline Data Project](#)
- [Transit Safety](#)
- [Motor Vehicle Safety](#)
- [Commercial Airline Safety](#)
- [List of U.S airline accidents](#)

