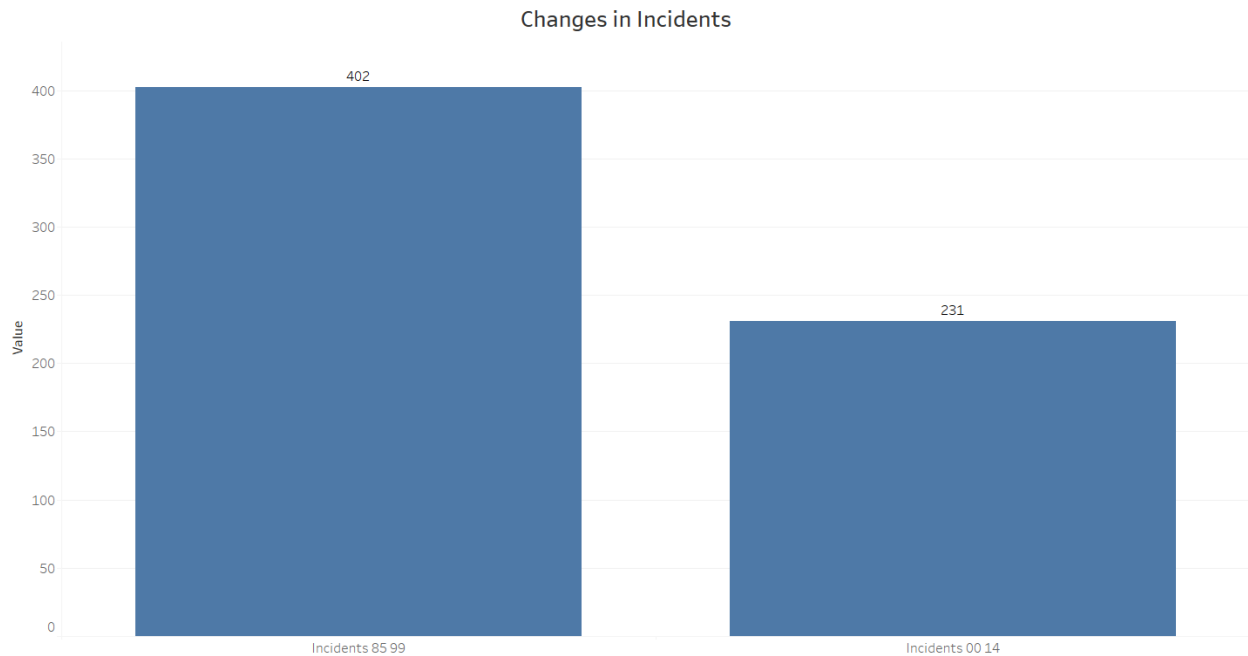
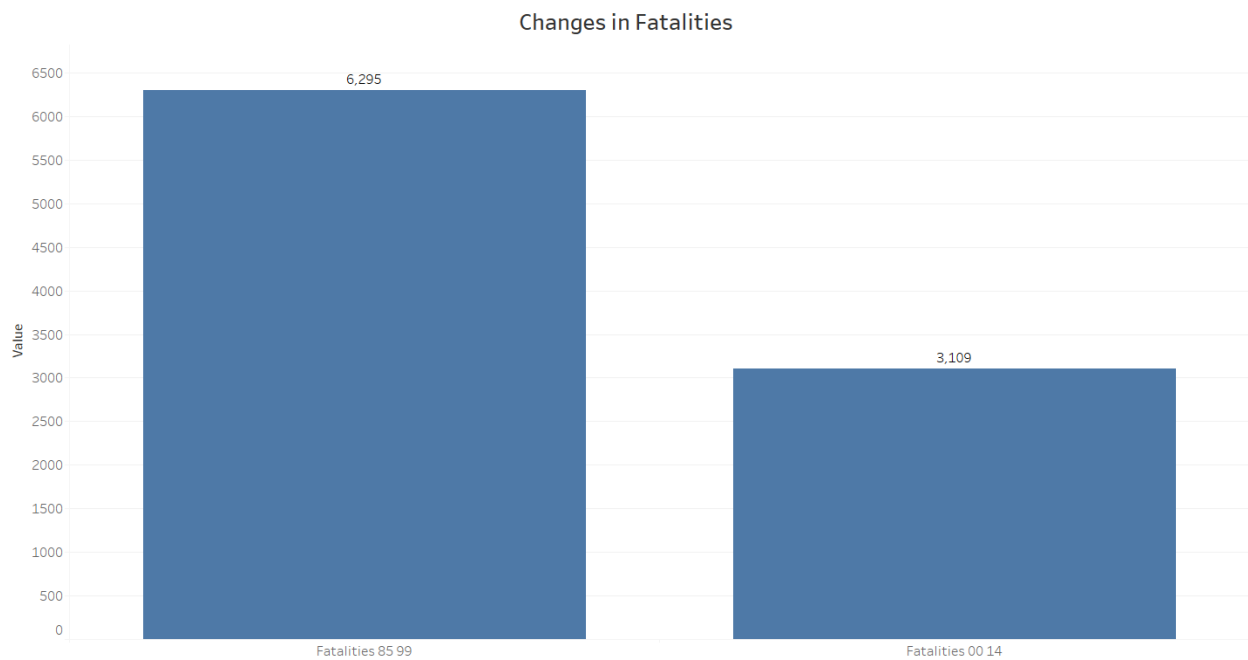
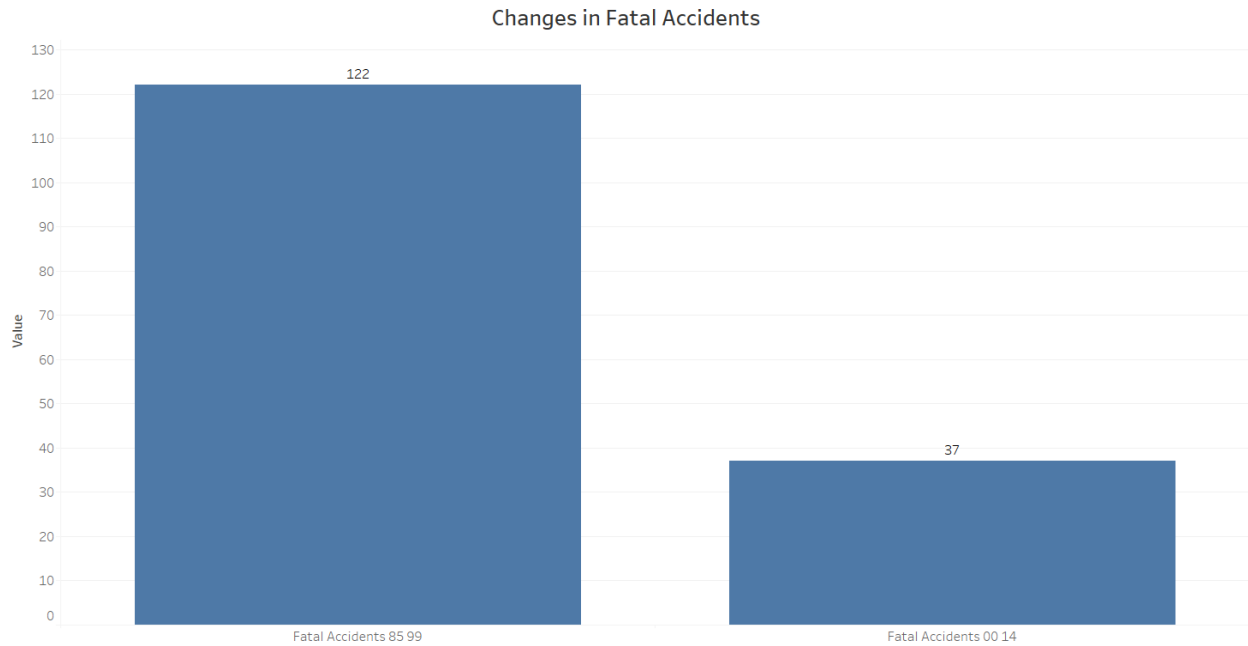


## Are airline safety measures sufficient to overcome aerophobia?

Are you one of those who are scared of flying? No need to worry, you are not alone. According to an article published by Washington Post, around 40 percent of general population has some kind of fear of flying and 2.5 percent of those avoid flying completely. Fear of flying, also known as aerophobia or aviophobia, is an anxiety disorder. Risk of death is the primary reason for aerophobia, and because of such phobias, people are avoiding to travel by air completely, which is making it difficult to travel to many places.

Technological advances have helped increase the airline safety tremendously in the past several years. Airline Safety data was collected for 30 years, from year 1985 to year 2014, and it was broken down into two time periods of 15 years each: 1985 to 1999, and 2000 to 2014. The data was collected for all commercial international airlines to determine the number of incidents, fatal accidents, and fatalities during the 30 year period. When the data was compared between two 15 year periods, it showed that the number of incidents, fatal accidents, and fatalities significantly reduced in the most recent time period. Following charts show the comparison of the data between two periods.





Incidents decreased from 402 to 231, fatal accidents decreased from 122 to 37, and fatalities decreased from 6,295 to 3,109 between these time periods. Following images show the whopping percent decreases for incidents, fatal accidents, and fatalities.

Incidents Decreased By

42.54%

Fatal Accidents Decreased By

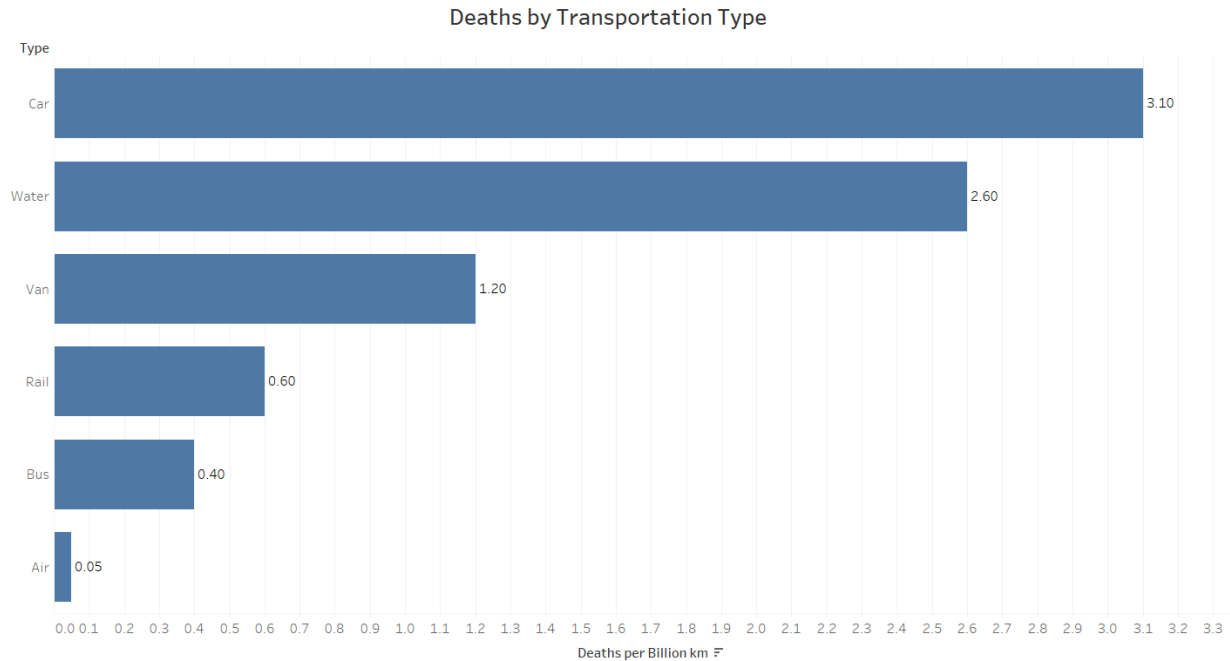
69.67%

Fatalities Decreased By

50.61%

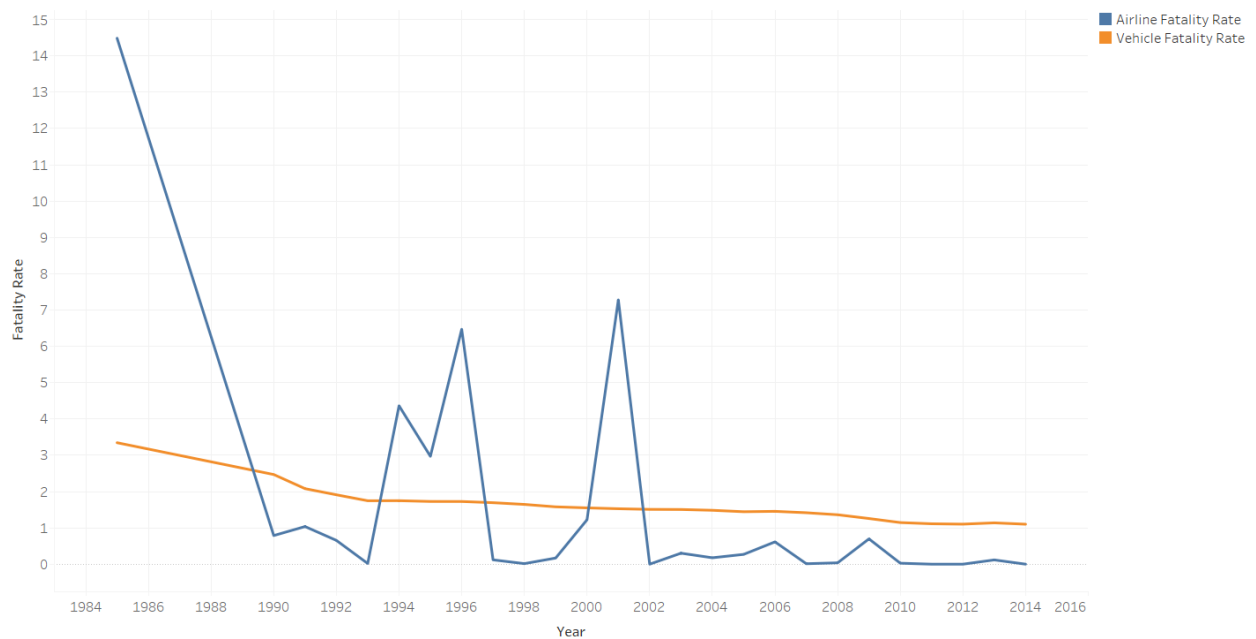
These numbers tell a story that **the airline safety has increased significantly**, and it has reduced the number of incidents, fatal accidents, and fatalities over the years.

People with aerophobia prefer not to travel by air, which leaves them with other transportation options, such as bus, rail, car, van, and by water (boats). Data was collected for all these transportation types including air travel, and the results were not surprising. When the death rates were compared for these transportation types per one Billion Kilo Meter of travel, the death rate for air travel was just 0.05. The highest death rate was 3.10 for travel by car. Following graph shows the comparison of death rates for all transportation types.



While the safety measures are being implemented by airlines, they are being implemented for other transportation types as well. When the airline fatality rate was compared with the vehicle fatality rate, both have shown a trend where the fatality rates have decreased over time. Following graph compares the fatality rates between airlines and vehicles.

Airline Vs. Vehicle Fatality Rate



The fatality rate of vehicles has been steadily decreasing over time. It has decreased from 3.345 to 1.101 from years 1985 to 2014. The fatality rate of airline was very high from years 1985 through 1997. **The**

**fatality rate of airlines has been lower than that of vehicles** since then except for 2001, when the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001 crashed planes with all the passengers and crew onboard. The airline fatality rate was 14.49 in year 1985, but it has been between 0.00 and 0.70 since year 2002.

All the data proves that travel by air is the safest way of transportation compared to other types of transportation. The airline safety has increased significantly over the years and the airline fatalities have been very low for the past several years. This should give a sigh of relief to the people with aerophobia. This peace of mind and confidence that the air travel is safer than all other transportation types should help people reduce the aerophobia and help them see the world through their own eyes.

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