Is it safe to travel by air?

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Topic

To review the factual data that proves that the air travel is safe, despite of the media propaganda against it.

- Chandu Yalamanchili

Overview

*Over the time there have been many technological advancements in aviation industry in affordability, monitoring, navigation, and maintenance. These technological advancements have made the air travel much safer and much affortable to the common man. There are close to **80 Million** passengers availing the air travel option per month as of January 2020, this huge number of passengers proves how sophisticated and safe air travel is overall.*

In this post I would like to present different statistical data showing how much safer the air travel has become over the time, how does it compare to other means of travel with a goal to establish how safe the air travel is.

Airline Safety Details

When we compare the fatalities due to airline travels over time, we can

compare two decades before (1981 - 2000) the year 2000 to two decades after (2001-2020).

As one can imagine, we currently (as of start of 2020), we have roughly 3 Million flights running per month by different aircrafts, so the number of airlines have not gone down recently. Due to the advancements done in technology and safety measure, the fatalities have been reduced by a huge factor.

*A research on worldwide airlines fatalities between 1981-2000 and 2001-2020 shows an overall **51% decrease** in number of fatalities*

Other means of travel

Aviation incidents, when compared with accidents in other means of travelling, seems to be comparatively smaller problem to deal with. But airline incidents always seem to grab more attention because of two main reasons, the scale of fatalities are high in case of airline crash when compared to any other incident, one incident could cause hundreds of fatalities. Also in case airline travel, safety is completely under the flight crew and airlines control with nothing much to do by the passengers.

Just to compare how other means of travel compare to airline travel with respect to fatalities, a similar research was done to see how the auto fatalities have varied before and after the year 2000, and as we can see below the number has not gone down as significantly as it did in case of airline fatalities.

*A research on worldwide auto fatalities between 1981-2000 and 2001-2020 shows an overall **13% decrease** in number of fatalities*

As an overall statistics based on January, 2020 data, trains had 63 fatalities, highway travel had 7780 fatalities and aviation had no fatalities. Compared to 80 million aviation passengers (only in and out of USA) in the month of January 2020, airlines could be considered one of the safest travel mediums, if not the safest.

Aviation industry is highly sophisticated, very competitive and constantly evolving. We will be amazed if we think about the emerging and evolving innovations regarding comfort and safety in the airlines space. Ranging from evolving cockpit technology, constant flight status monitoring, passenger cabin safety measures, ultra modern communication through air traffic control and airport control, security checking and airport safety, - all work together to provide a better and safer travel experience. Considering all the aspects, air travel is arguably the safest means of travelling in the present era.

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