



Dustin Casey 2 days ago 2 min read

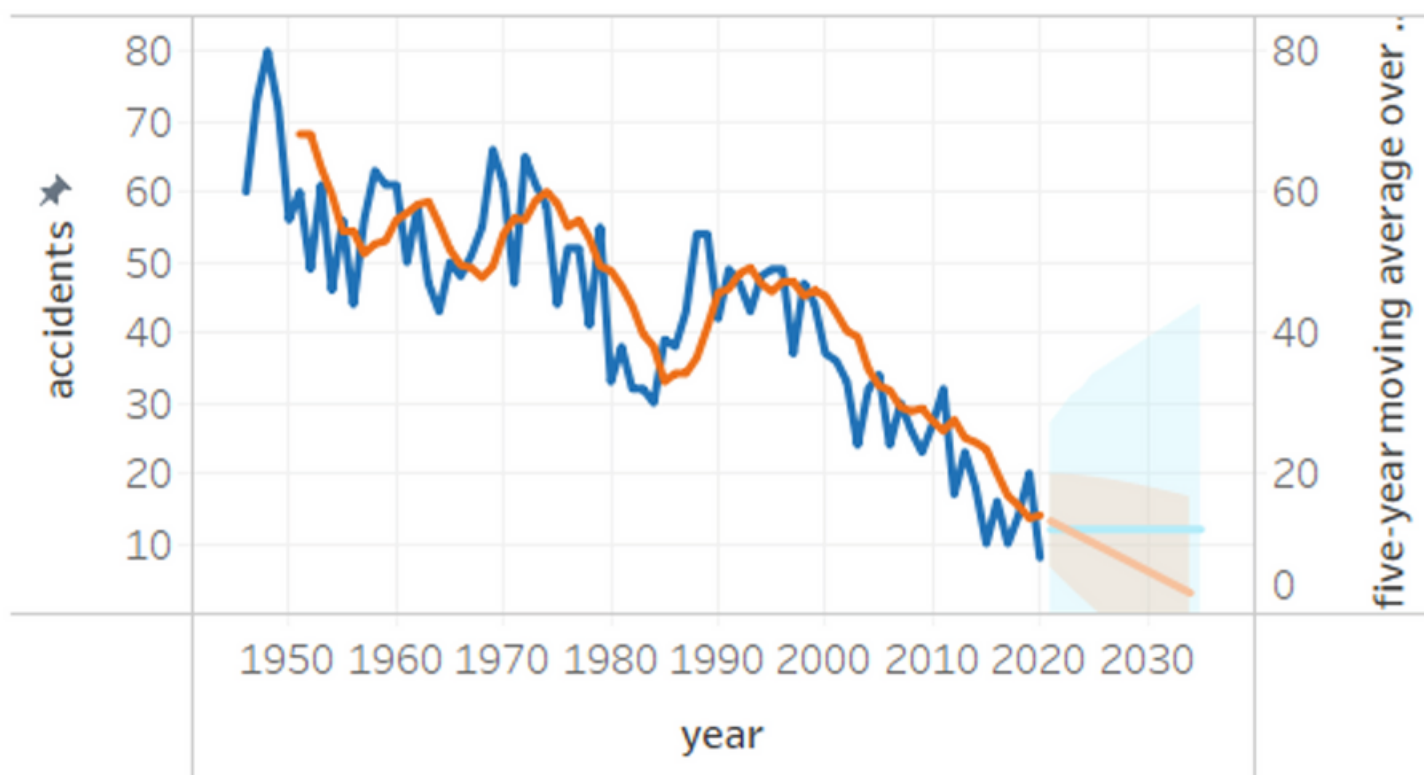
# The Truth Behind Air Travel and Safety

Updated: a few seconds ago

By: Dustin Casey

Many who don't like to travel via the skies have some valid reasons on why not: noisy; too compact; irksome and rude co-passengers; ears popping; etc. The list could go on for eternity. But, is safety one of the main concerns too? Many different sources claim that traveling by air is not safe and that travelers should be weary of this mode of transit. But, is that claim really true?

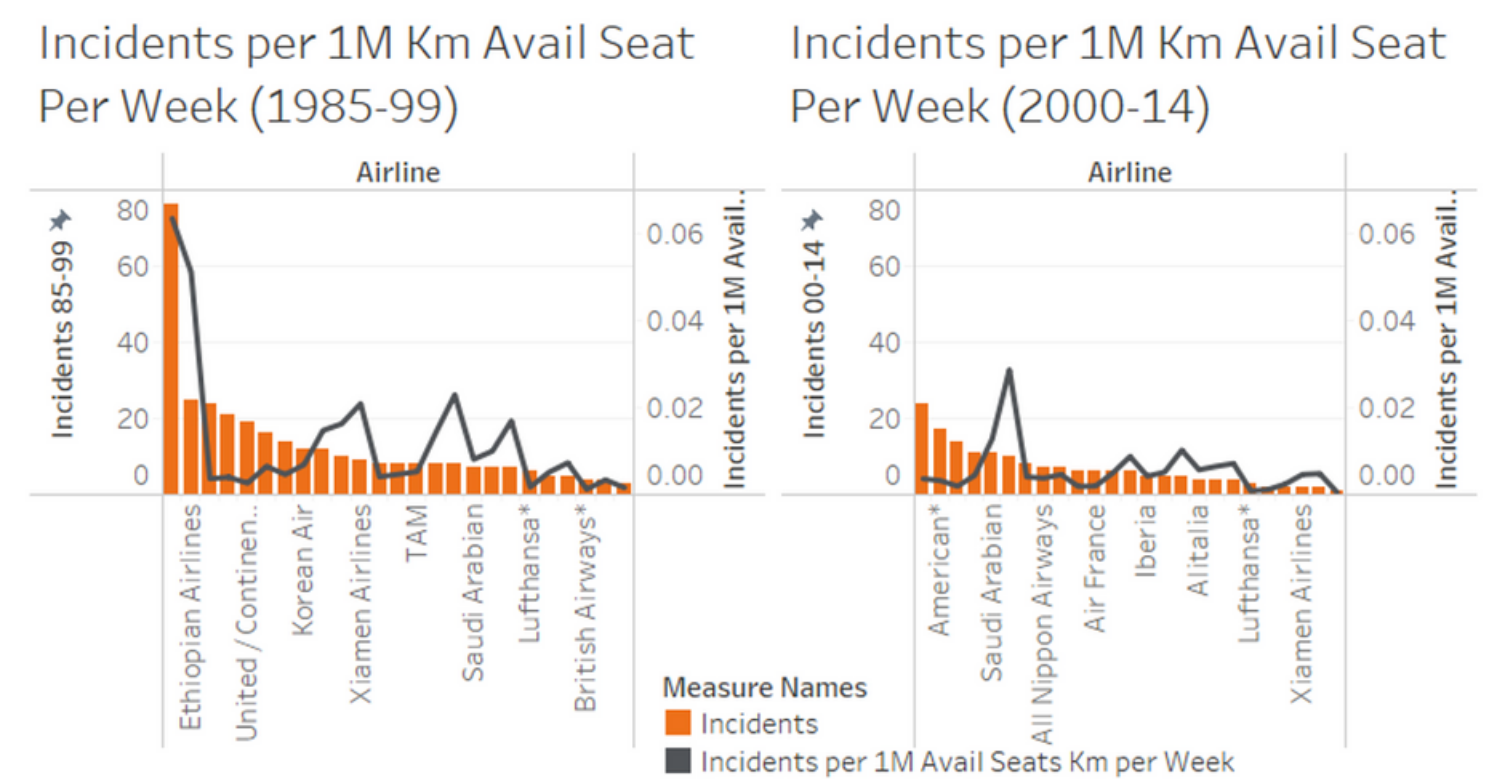
The International Air Transport Association reported "that there was just one major aviation crash for every 5.4 million flights in 2018. It is estimated that the odds of dying in a plane crash are 1 in 9,821. For a better perspective, that is 1 fatal accident per 16 million flights. Whereas the odds of dying in a car crash are approximately 1 in 114." (1) From the sounds of it, I'd be more concerned about an annoying neighbor on my flight than the idea that the plane was in no way safe. People drive their cars every day, but for whatever reason, they seem safer to the general populous than planes, all due to baseless claims in the news and media.



## Measure Names, Forecast indicator

■ accidents, Actual    ■ five-year moving ..  
 ■ accidents, Estimate    ■ five-year moving ..

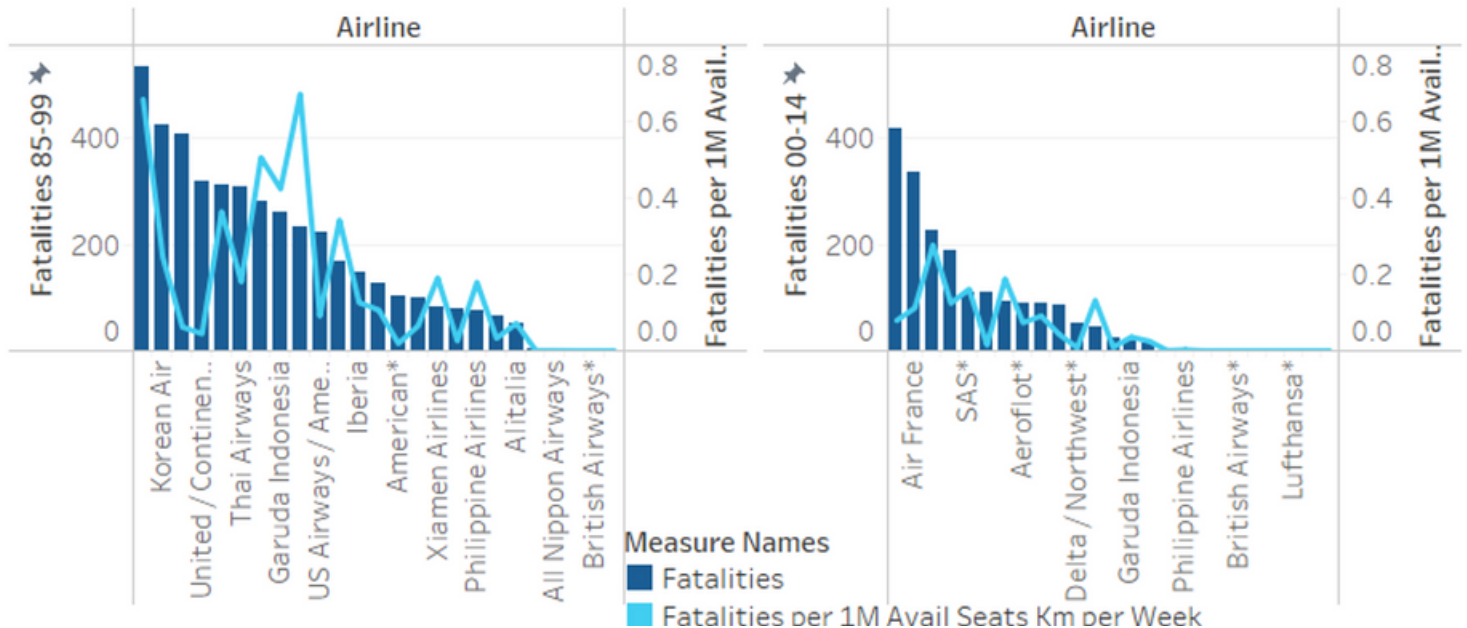
As seen in the above graph, the number of accidents has decreased over time and are the safest today that they have ever been. If forecasted out, this trend will continue and passengers can expect to see even better improvements in safety. These results are due in part to the improvements in technology as well as regulations that help make flights safer.



Comparison charts of incidents per 1M Km traveled per week (3)

## Fatalities per 1M Km Avail Seat Per Week (1985-99)

## Fatalities per 1M Km Avail Seat Per Week (2000-14)



Comparison charts of fatalities per 1M Km traveled per week (4)

The above set of charts show the number of incidents and fatalities per 1M Km traveled per week for two 15 year periods: from 1985 to 1999 and from 2000 to 2014. In both cases, the most recent 15 years have had fewer incidents and fatalities than the 15 years that preceded them, showing a big improvement in safety. But, just because the industry as a whole has improved immensely, it is still good to check out each individual airlines track record and safety measures, as they can have a big influence on both your safety and your overall experience.

At the end of the day, some people will still choose not to fly because of preferences, my laundry list of things that make any flyer frustrated, or a combination of the above, but one reason that should not be a major contributing factor is safety. Flying is safer than ever and a 3 hour flight from New York to Chicago surely beats driving 12.5 hours any day of the week.

Sources:

(1) <https://www.lesserlawfirm.com/is-flying-safer-than-driving/#:~:text=The%20International%20Air%20Transport%20Association,crash%20are%201%20in%209%2C821.&text=Whereas%20the%20odds%20of%20dying,are%20approximately%201%20in%20114.>

(2) [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SDp7p1y6m7N5xD5\\_fpOkYOrJvd68V7iy6etXy2cetb8/edit#gid=1448957446](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SDp7p1y6m7N5xD5_fpOkYOrJvd68V7iy6etXy2cetb8/edit#gid=1448957446)

(3) <https://github.com/fivethirtyeight/data/tree/master/airline-safety>

(4) <https://github.com/fivethirtyeight/data/tree/master/airline-safety>