

Blog Link: [What is the safest way to travel? And why is it still by air? \(datavizness.blogspot.com\)](https://datavizness.blogspot.com)

What is the safest way to travel? And why is it still by air?

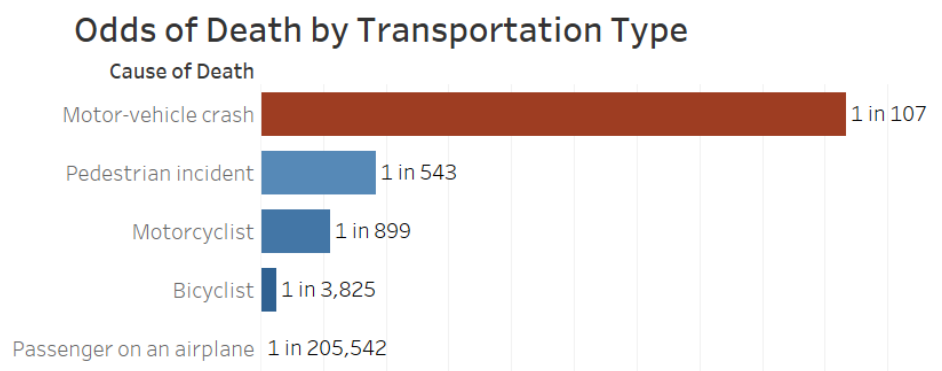
By Dan Wiltse

With travel restrictions being lifted and more and more people getting vaccinated every day, people are ready to start planning their summer vacations that were canceled last year due to the pandemic. There are many factors to decide what is the best way to travel (cost, convenience, ect), but the most important one is safety. While you have many options for travel, flying is the still the safest form of travel.

#### COMPARISON TO OTHER FORMS OF TRAVEL

Some of you reading this blog may be surprised by that last statement based on the amount of publicity some recent plane crashes have received in the news. While tragic, the amplification of these rare events gives the public an incorrect view of the relative safety of flying versus other forms of travel.

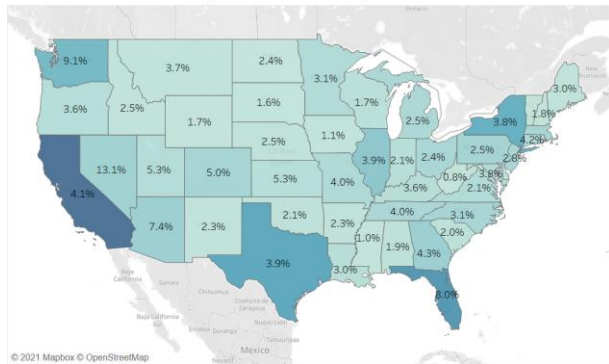
As seen below, you are much more likely to die in any other transportation type than by flying on a plane (US Census Data). Your odds of dying a car crash are nearly 2,000 times greater than in a plane. In fact, you are more likely to die of a bee sting than air travel, based on statistical odds.



#### IMPACT ON ECONOMY

You may ask yourself, even if flying is safer, what difference does it make if the news magnifies the extremely rare occurrences of plane crashes? As we have seen in 2020, disruptions to the airline industry can have big impacts on our economy and way of life for people across the country and the globe. The airline industry is a big part of our economy. According to FAA 2020 economic report, flight related industries contribute 5.2% of the U.S. GDP, which includes not just passenger flights but also R & D and manufacturing of new planes. Millions of people work in the airline industry, and these jobs not only create income for the people working, but also help bring in billions of dollars of tax revenue from the airlines as well. In most states the percent of jobs in the airline industry hovers around 5-10%, but for states with a lot of tourism, like Nevada and Hawaii, the percent of jobs are 14.2% and 22.8% respectively. So by flying, you're not only getting to your destination faster and safer than ever, but you are also helping support the state's economy.

Percent of Airline Industry State GDP Makeup



Airline Jobs By State

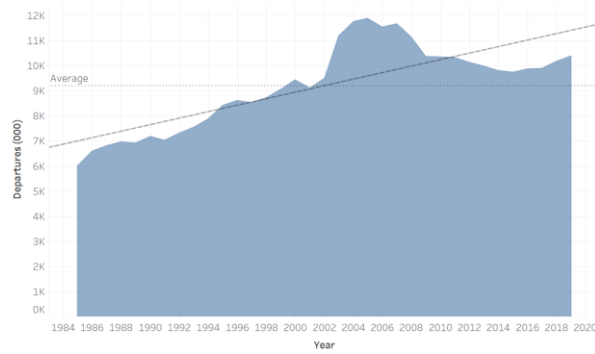
California 1,150,100 5.0%	New York 617,341 5.0%	Nevada 245,273 14.2%	Hawaii 208,349 22.8%	North Carolina 206,856 3.5%
Florida 993,740 8.5%	Washington 410,234 9.5%	Colorado 203,646 5.6%	Ohio 171,855 2.5%	New Jersey
Texas 709,708 4.3%	Illinois 351,210 4.5%	Tennessee 156,224 4.0%	Minnesota 142,771	Kansas 72,596
Georgia 322,789 5.4%	Arizona 284,459 7.8%	Missouri 140,733	Utah 119,353	

## FLYING SAFETY HAS IMPROVED OVER THE YEARS

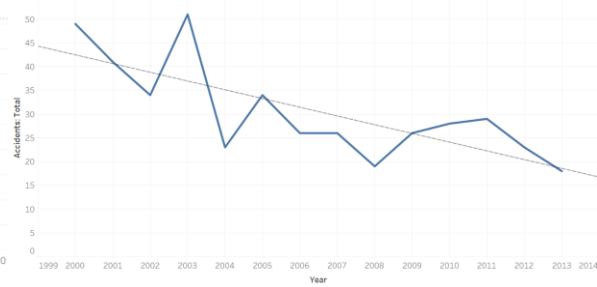
Even though flying is the safest way to get from point A to point B for travel, you may still be leery of flying because of news stories you have may have heard about years ago about a terrible plane crash overseas. While plane crashes unfortunately can still occur, flying in the United States has never been safer, even as it has become more and more prevalent method of transportation.

The number of flights has nearly doubled in the last 35 years (from around 6,000 flights to ~10,000 a flights a year in 2019). Despite the huge increase in flights, the number of accidents has dropped significantly over the years as well, going from 49 accidents in 2000 to nearly half that 15 years later, as you can see in the charts below.

Total Flights



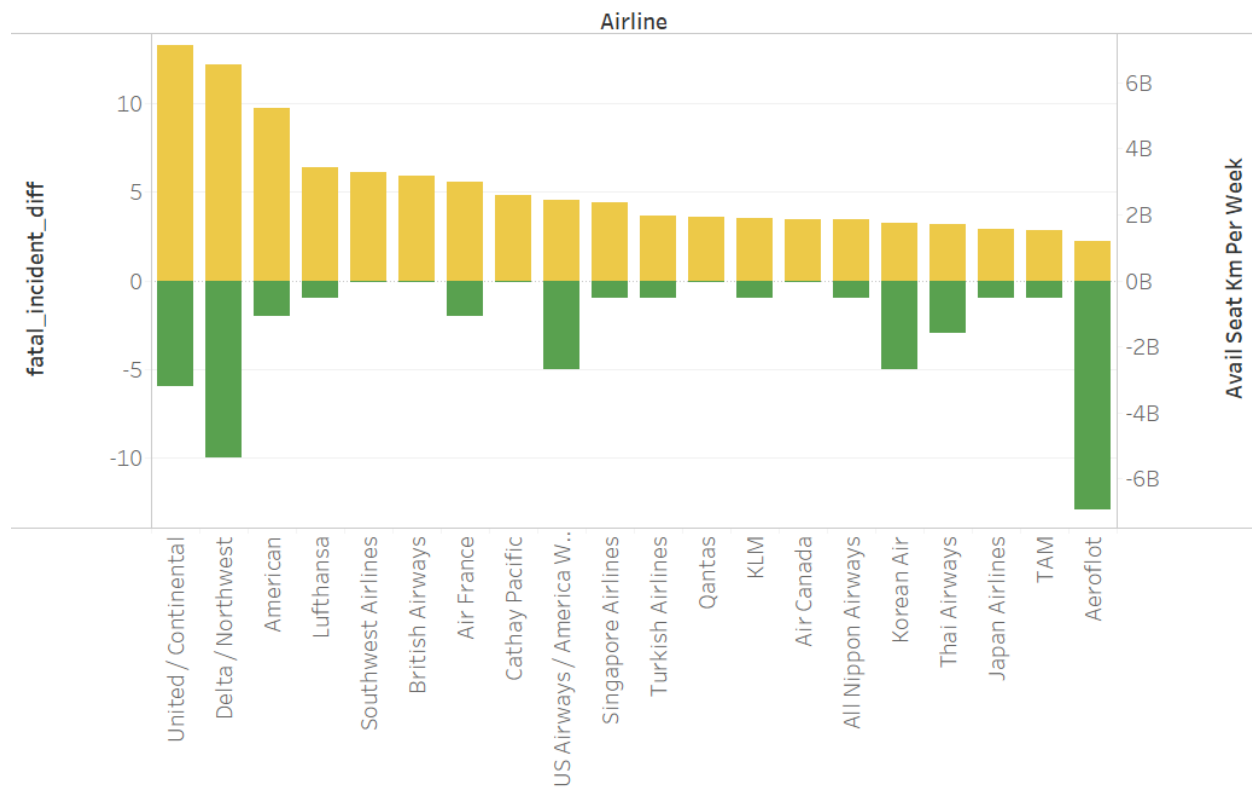
US Airline Fatal Accidents Since 2000



## AIRLINE COMPARISON

Drilling down further on the data, looking at the top 10 airlines based on available kilometers flown per week, they all have decreased or maintained (in the event they had no incidents) the number of incidents they had from 85-99 to 2000 to 2014. So it's reassuring that the main airlines like Delta and United have improved their safety while giving people more options to fly across the country.

## Airline KMs traveled and Improvement in Incidents over 14 years



## CONCLUSION

As seen above, flying is by far the safest form of travel. Not only does it outperform all other forms of travel for security, it has also improved internally as well as it has been safer and safer year over year to get where you want to be through the skies. So when you're looking to see the country after being inside for a year, make sure you schedule a flight to get you where you want to go safer than ever before.

## References:

[Should Travelers Avoid Flying Airlines That Have Had Crashes in the Past? | FiveThirtyEight](#)

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