CRASH STATISTICS
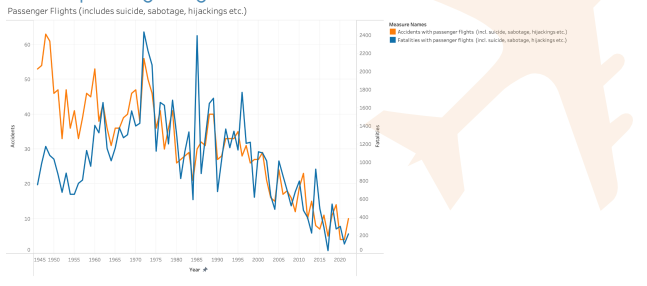
A recent string of airplane crashes has people wondering if driving is worth the time. Is driving safer than catching a flight?
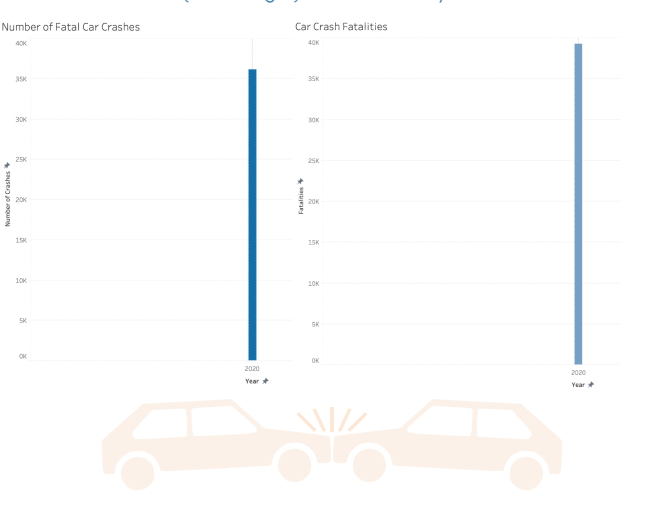
AIRPLANE CRASHES & FATALITIES

The following chart shows accidents (orange) and fatalities (blue) over time for passenger flights

Passenger Flights (includes suicide, sabotage, hijackings etc.)

Measure Names
- Accidents with passenger flights (incl. suicide, sabotage, hijackings etc.)
- Fatalities with passenger flights (incl. suicide, sabotage, hijackings etc.)

CAR CRASHES & FATALITIES

The following charts show the number of accidents (on the left) and the number of fatalities (on the right) for cars in the year 2020.

Number of Fatal Car Crashes

Car Crash Fatalities

AIRPLANE VS CAR CRSHES

In 2020,
- The car crash data indicated there were 36,164 fatal accidents and 39,249 fatalities.
- The airplane crash data showed there were 297 fatalities and 4 accidents.

While the number of fatalities per accident is higher for airplanes, it appears that air travel is still statistically safer than traveling by car.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

ACCORDING TO USAFACTS, "FROM 2002 TO 2020, THERE WERE 755 DEATHS DURING AIR TRAVEL IN THE US ON DOMESTIC CARRIERS. NEARLY 75% OF THESE DEATHS OCCURRED IN ACCIDENTS INVOLVING ON-DEMAND AIR TAXIS, SMALLER AIRCRAFT OF 30 SEATS OR FEWER THAT OPERATE ON AN ON-DEMAND BASIS. PASSENGER CAR AND TRUCK ACCIDENTS LOGGED 498,016 DEATHS ON US HIGHWAYS OVER THAT SAME TIME FRAME, AN AVERAGE OF 26,211 FATALITIES PER YEAR" (2023)

According to Elyse Hauser at LifeSavvy, the odds of dying in a plane crash are 1 out of 9821 versus 1 out of 114 in a car crash (2019).

BOARDING PASS
First Class
AUS 325   Airport 1

References

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Responsible Party National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) (Point of Contact). (2024, January 5). Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2020 final release – persons involved Auxiliary File. Catalog. https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/fatality-analysis-reporting-system-fars-2020-final-release-persons-involved-auxiliary-file

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DSC 640

Inman, Gracie

Infographic Support

2/18/24

For my infographic, I chose to use a simplistic design. My goal was to highlight the main points quickly and simply while not being too detailed as to lose the reader's attention. Since the infographic will be used for the general public, I wanted to make sure the infographic was easy to understand for someone with no experience with charts or data analysis. I chose the best three charts that highlighted the data and overall point very well. I chose an unbiased title to not show favoritism either way. I highlighted airplane crash data first since it is the main topic of controversy right now. I then went into the car crash data to show the staggering difference. I added basic introductions of the figures to ensure that the public knew what the figures were showing. I compared both charts and gave a summary. I also made sure that the infographic was colorblind-friendly. I added opaque images of a plane, a car crash, and a plane ticket to highlight the topics and provide visual support. I added the quotes I discovered for my blog at the end of the infographic in case the readers were no longer interested, that way I at least got the main point across. I made sure to add the references for the quotes from other sources as well as the data I used to be transparent and give credit. I could have gone with a more brightly colored infographic; however, I was unsure how the infographic would be used and decided that white with colored words and figures would be effective online as the colors stand out against the white background and be more cost-effective if needed to be printed.