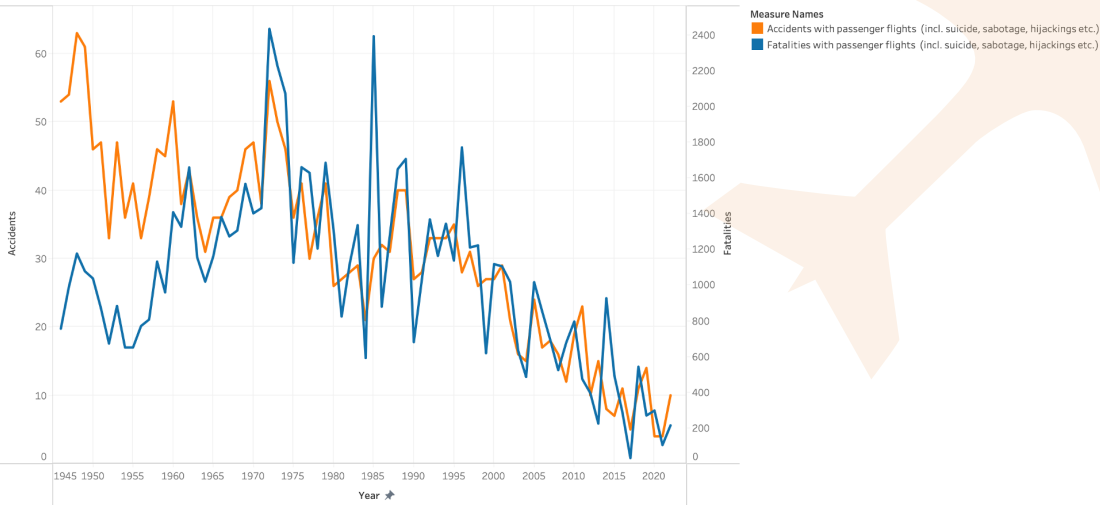# CRASH STATISTICS

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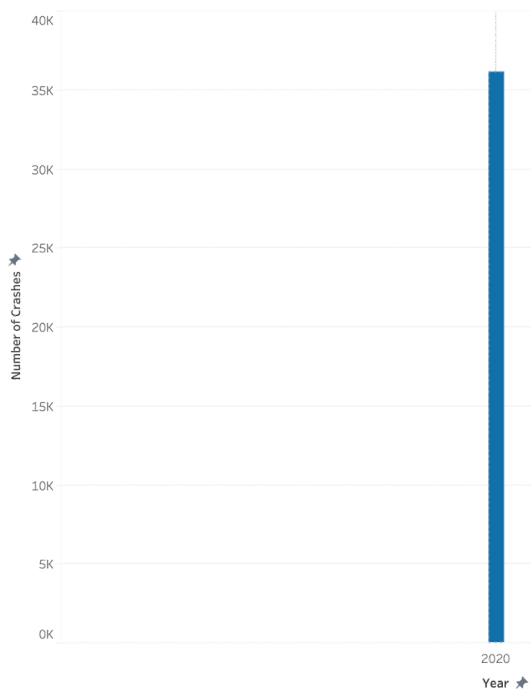
Passenger Flights (includes suicide, sabotage, hijackings etc.)

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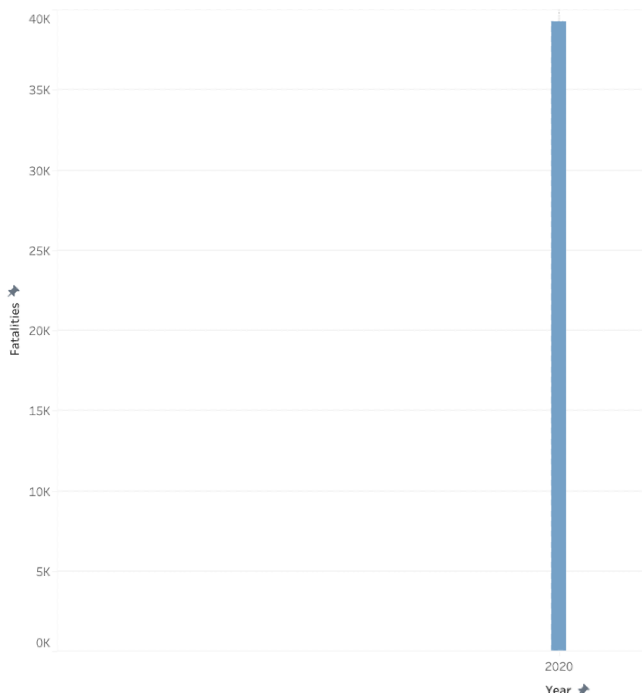
CAR CRASHES & FATALITIES

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

BOARDING PASS
First Class
AUS 325   Airport 1

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).

References

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