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Over the last several months, there has been an strong narrative from the media claiming that airplanes are no longer a safe way to travel. However, the data is overwhelming in saying that is not true: airplanes are still a safe way to travel and may perhaps still be the safest way to travel.

Since 9/11, it is clear that airline safety as improved. The rate of fatality in relation to the number of miles flown is 0.05. This is down from 7.28 in 2001 and has since remained well under 1.0 since. Some reasons that airline crashes and fatalities have increased are due to new and improved safety and pilot protocols in place. These safety measures include safety audits, improved air traffic control technology and improved crashworthiness (flotation devices, oxygen masks, etc).

Comparing the fatality rate of airplanes (0.05) to the fatality rates of cars (1.11), there is no doubt that planes are safer. This can also be said considering that some years, no fatalities may occur by plane crash where there are many car crashes resulting in fatalities in a year.

Overall, there is a 2200% chance of being killed in a car crash than in a plane crash, based on the number of miles travelled. This is not to say cars are unsafe or are not evolving in safety measures; but the media telling the story that airplanes are not safe, and this is not true. It appears flying by plane is still the safest way to travel.