

Isabella Sturm
DSC 640
Project Task 1
2021-09-26

There seems to be no basis for claims that airline travel is more dangerous than other types of transportation. In fact, it could still be considered the safest option. Based on the analysis into trends of airline crashes and fatalities compared to those of road transportation, airline crashes are trending down while car travel remains high, fluctuating only by time of year.

To show fatalities of the original airline dataset which aggregates the incidents, fatal accidents, and the fatalities over two 15-year timeframes, I used bar charts and stacked bar charts to show how the trend of fatalities and airplane crashes trend down. I used a scatterplot to show the trend of fatalities compared to the available seat kilometers per week since these are both continuous data fields. I used a line chart to show the trends of vehicle fatalities over five years, grouped by month just to show how high vehicle fatalities are compared to airline fatalities. The Airline Fatalities chart shows the top airlines responsible for fatalities.

I tried to pull raw data from the Aviation Safety Network where the aggregated dataset came from using Beautiful Soup but ran into issues using both url requests and downloading the source data to pull out the data from the tables, so I couldn't get a more direct comparison of airline vs car crashes and fatalities but the data still shows that airline travel results in less fatalities than airplane fatalities, considering thousands of people die in car crashes every month compared to hundreds of people over several years in plane crashes.

Sources:

<https://github.com/fivethirtyeight/data/tree/master/airline-safety>
<https://www.nhtsa.gov/file-downloads?p=nhtsa/downloads/FARS/>