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Project Task 3

Some murmurs surround the idea, traveling by air is not a safe method of transportation. This is a very misunderstood theory that is simply without merit. Air travel is one of the safest modes of transportation you can take. To understand this, you have to look at other aspects of travel. This can be viewed as the number of accidents to the number of deaths. So, why do airliners have this notion looming over its head? Accidents get extensive national media exposure; this presents that false narrative without factual data to support it. Another point unlooked is how a single airline accident can produce much higher numbers than most other travel methods. Looking at this pearly on statistics in 2015, according to the National; Transportation Safety Board, you would have had a 1 in 114 chance of dying in a car crash on a given day while having a 1 in 9,821 chance of dying in a plane crash. In the United States alone during that same period, there were 32,166 fatal motor vehicle accidents while also in the United States, 27 airline crashes. For that year, vehicle fatalities totaled over 35,00 deaths, while the 27 airline crashes resulted in zero deaths.

This, however, cannot be said for all airline crashes around the world. Let us look at some data to help bring this into perspective. The two graphics, shown below, Figure 1 and Figure 2 depicting motor vehicle and airline fatalities from the years 2000 to 2009. The average fatal accident in those ten years was 37,117 for motor vehicle fatalities and 1,104 airline fatalities. Now let us focus on just one year for each graphic. In 2005, Figure 1, shows the worst year for motor vehicles statistically, where there were 39,250 fatalities, in contrast to airliners shown in Figure 2, which had 1,306.

It should be noted that the vehicle fatalities shown in Figure 1 are only from the United States, while airline fatalities are global numbers. With such low numbers of fatalities here in the US and worldwide, it is not hard to understand that flying is the much safer option in contrast to motor vehicles. However, I understand why most of the public assumes the opposite. The majority of vehicle accidents across the US are minor with little to no injuries, while one airline accident can become catastrophic. The hard part for most travelers, even with the statistics in their favor, is that they don’t have that feeling of being in control when flying. Traveling by air leaves the traveler at the mercy of someone else; while traveling by motor vehicle, they have the control.

With just this bit of information, you should by now understand and maybe even feel better about your next travel destination. Traveling by air “is” the safer option; not only are you safe up in the skies, but your travel time will be much less than if you had to travel by motor vehicle. So, set your mind at ease, and as they used to say at Southwest, “you are now free to move about the country.”

Chart

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Figure 1 Motor Vehicle Fatalities Sense 2000

Chart, bar chart

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Figure 2 Airline Fatalities Sense 2000