Above the Clouds

The Human Cost

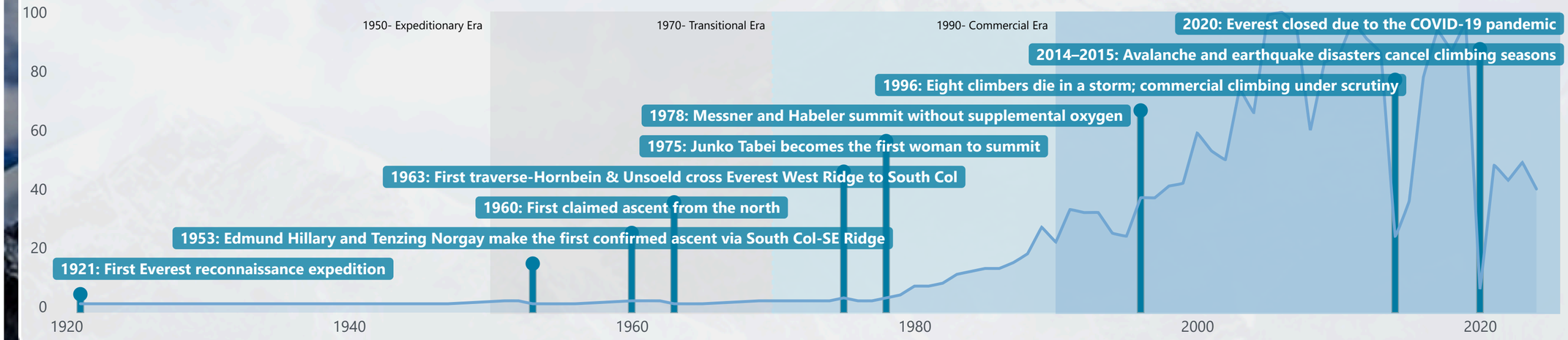
After major disasters like the 1996 storm, avalanches, and COVID closure, Everest expeditions quickly rebounded. Before the 1990s, climbs were limited by access and technology. In the 1970s–80s, focus shifted to individual and technical feats, making Everest a stage for diverse records beyond elite alpinists. The Commercial Era's growth reflects global adventure tourism and guided climbs, opening Everest to less-experienced climbers. Climbers prefer to ascent during Spring

Md Mizanur Rahman Nayan

Clear all slicers

Expeditions	Ascender	Summit
2261	21344	12712

Expedition by Year



Commercial Expeditions has raised significantly after 1990, which has impacted on the summit as well

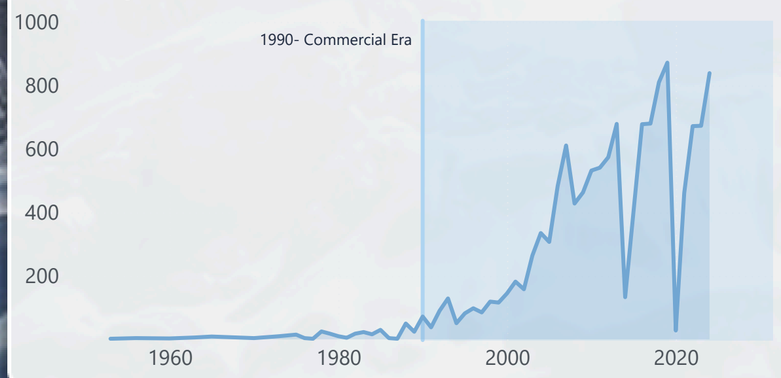
Filter

Used Oxygen	False	True
Used Ski	False	True
Used Paraglider	False	True

Climbers from around the world have been drawn to Everest, with participation growing especially rapidly in recent decades, reflecting its status as a global mountaineering icon

Summits remained rare until the 1990s, when commercial expeditions drove a sharp rise, punctuated by dips after disasters and the 2020 pandemic closure

Summit by Year



Most ascents occur in spring via the South Col-Southeast Ridge and North Col- Northeast Ridge, showing climbers' preference for established, safer routes

Autumn | Spring | Summer | Winter

Total Summits
12712

	Spring	Summer	Winter
	Southern Side 8972		S Col-SE Ridge 8927
	Northern Side 3704		S Col SE Ridge 23
	Western Side 92		E Face-S Col-SE 6
	Eastern Side 74		Lho La-W Ridge 5

The Human Cost

The Mountain's Dangers

Above the Clouds

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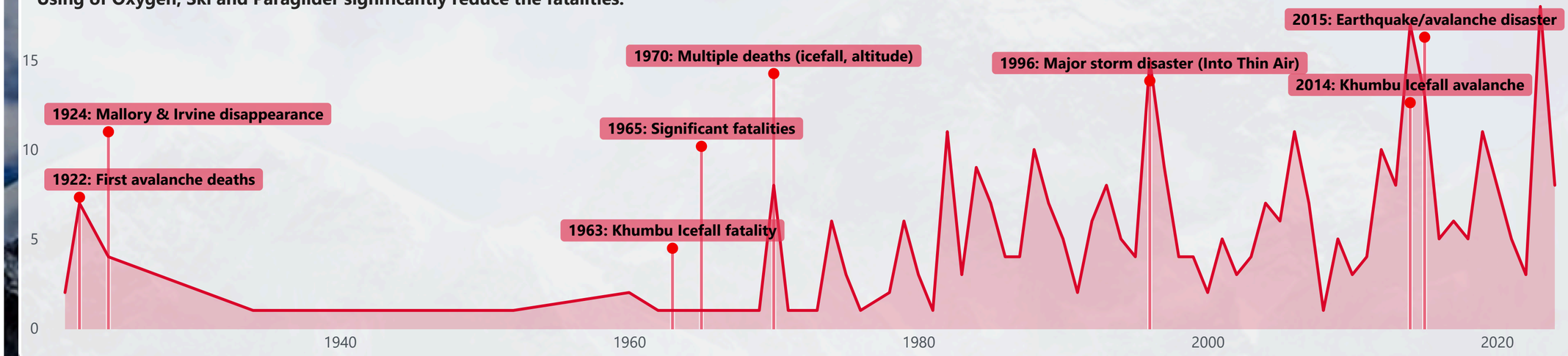
Early Everest deaths spiked during pioneering attempts, with tragedies like the 1922 avalanche and Mallory & Irvine's 1924 disappearance. Fatalities rose in the 1960s–70s as more teams pushed new routes and higher altitudes. The 1996 storm and the 2014–15 avalanches caused sharp peaks, but climbing resumed quickly each time. Despite better gear and experience, deaths persist due to crowding, unpredictable weather, and the mountain's inherent risks. Sherpas consistently face higher danger, reflecting their crucial-and hazardous-support roles. Using of Oxygen, Ski and Paraglider significantly reduce the fatalities.

Total Fatalities

339

Fatalities Rate

1.59%



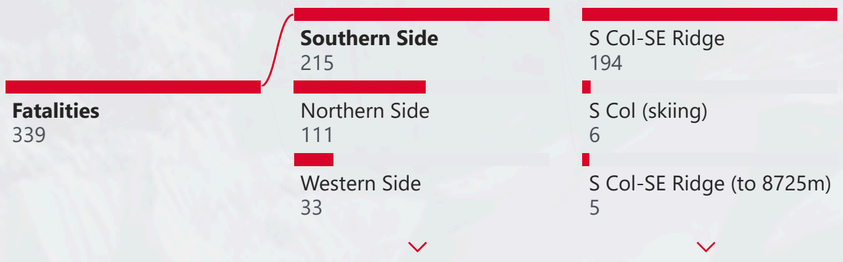
Filter

Used Oxygen	False	True
Used Ski	False	True
Used Paraglider	False	True

The South Col-Southeast Ridge and North Col- Northeast Ridge, are the most used and most fatal route, not because it's most dangerous, but because of sheer traffic volume

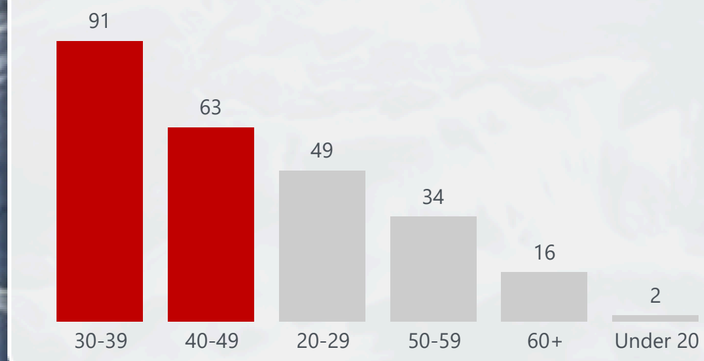
Deadliest Route

Autumn | Spring | Summer | Winter



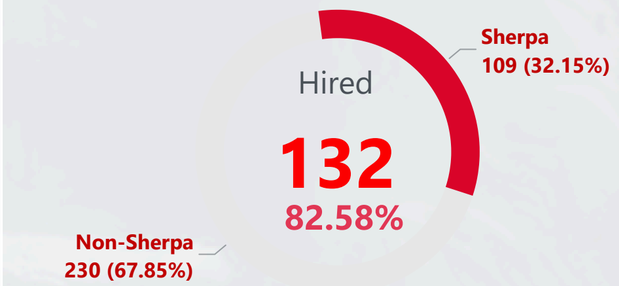
Most Everest deaths occur among climbers in their 30s and 40s (35.69 %). As younger and older climbers attempt less, fatalities are highest in prime adult age groups.

Fatalities by Age Group



About 32.15 % of all deaths on Everest are hired elite Mountaineers Sherpas, representing 82.58 % of all hired Personnel fatalities

Sherpa Fatalities



The Mountain's Dangers

The Human Cost

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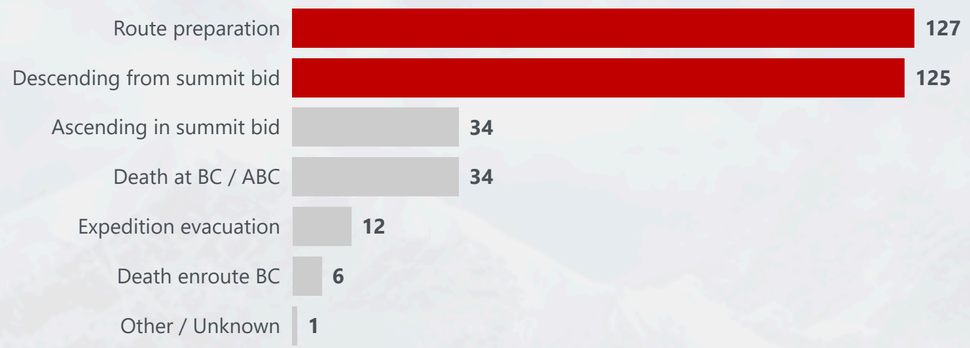
Clear all slicers

The most dangerous aspect of climbing Mount Everest is not trying to summit but to get back down. About 74% of the deaths are being caused by Route Preparation and descending from summit bid.

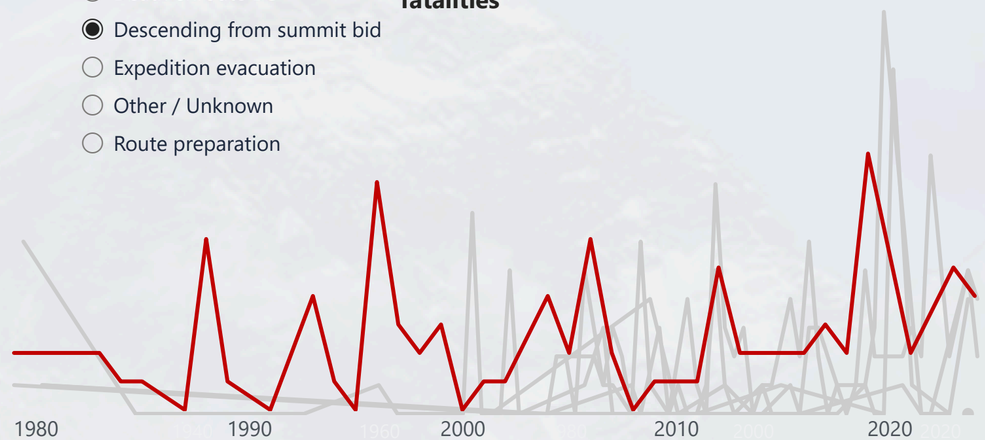
Fatalities by Death Class



Above the Clouds

- ○ Ascending in summit bid
- ○ Death at BC / ABC
- ○ Death enroute BC
- ◉ Descending from summit bid
- ○ Expedition evacuation
- ○ Other / Unknown
- ○ Route preparation

But using modern Oxygen especially after 8000 m, ski and paraglider while descending, significantly reduce the fatalities

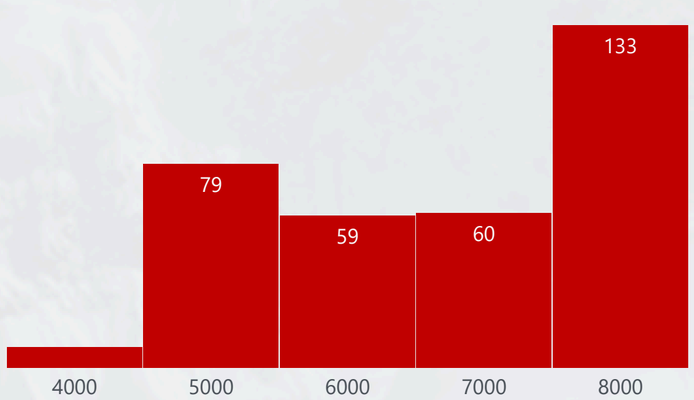


Filter

Used Oxygen	False	True
Used Ski	False	True
Used Paraglider	False	True

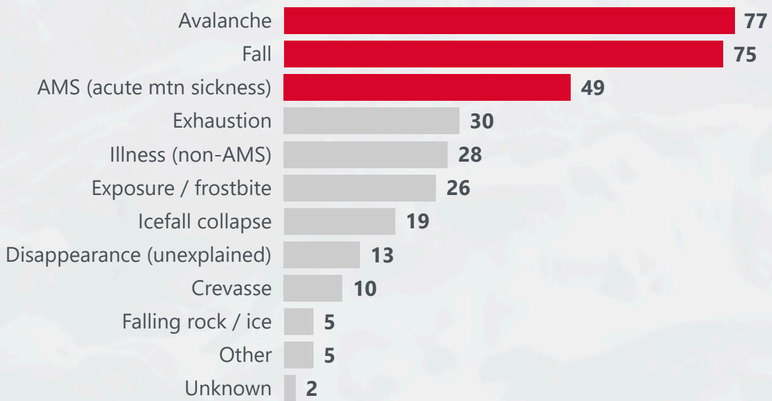
The "death zone" above 8,000 meters is responsible for the majority of deaths, with 39 % documented. This extreme altitude strains the human body to its breaking point and allows very little room for mistakes.

Deadliest Height



Avalanches and falls (59.29%) are the leading causes of death, followed by acute mountain sickness (AMS) and exhaustion. These risks come from both the mountain's natural dangers and the physical challenges of high altitude.

Fatalities by Death Cause



Frostbite and cold injuries (158 cases) and trauma/accidents (124 cases) are the most common non-fatal outcomes, underscoring the mountain's relentless physical toll even on those who make it home

No of Injury by Injury Type