The focus of my dashboard is the relative safety of airline travel versus car travel. I wanted to verify that, despite the recent accidents, airline travel is still very safe especially when compared to traveling via a car. What I was able to determine was that in the last several decades airline travel has increased, while also increasing safety.

The initial dataset that I had displayed fatalities between two sets of 15 years. The most recent 15 years, 2000 to 2014 saw a 50% decrease in fatalities. If we expand the date range back to 1970, we see that fatalities due to airplane accidents have steadily decreased. To put this in a slightly different context, not only are fewer people dying from plane accidents, but there are fewer plane accidents all together. In the years between 1970 and 2014, the peek accident total is less than 100 hundred. And yet the number of accidents has still steadily decreased, to a less than 20 accidents in 2009! This is all while serving over 597 million passenger miles.

In the dashboard, I make it clear that just between the years 2004 and 2009 there were more than 30,000 fatal car accidents each year. Note that this isn’t total accidents as there are significantly more accidents that include only injury or property damage, nor is this the total number of fatalities as a single fatal accident can result in more than 1 fatality. If we do a direct comparison between car and airplane fatalities, the numbers aren’t even close. On the positive side, car fatalities were on the decline. But these numbers do not reflect more recent data in which, anecdotally, distracted driving has increased, potentially causing a rise in car fatalities.

**Data References:**

Passenger Data: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IS.AIR.PSGR?end=2018&start=1970&view=chart>

Departure Data:

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IS.AIR.DPRT?end=2018&start=1970&view=chart>

Airplane Crash & Fatality Data:

<https://data.world/hhaveliw/airplane-crashes-1908-2009/workspace/file?filename=Airplane_Crashes_and_Fatalities_Since_1908.csv>

Car Accident Data:

<https://cdan.dot.gov/query>