

Air Travel – How Safe is it?

The main reason about the media hype and public buzz on airline disaster is the risk sensitivity. Aviation accidents holds our attention, creates fear and tends to twig in our minds, giving us the negative impression that these events are common incidences no matter how rarely they occur. It is how we humans are designed, what we see is what we believe. If we are bombarded with airplane accidents on news, social media or any popular avenue then we are more likely to get affected by it. A general assumption when we think about the safety during transportation is that road travel is better than Air travel. Most of the time people think Air travel is riskier. After all, an air crash is catastrophic, with more loss of life, injury and property damage than a car accident. But is it true?

Airline accidents are highly publicized when they occur however airline accidents are extremely rare. These accidents are so rare that airline travel is statistically the safest mode of transportation overall. Based on actual data, we clearly show that Airline travel is the safest mode of transportation and is much safest when compared to automobiles which usually is the preferred mode.

- Whatever the vehicle, highways are by far the most common place of transportation fatalities in the United States: 94%. If deaths that take place at rail-highway grade crossings are included, the total is even higher, at just over 95%.
- Out of the 36,096 highway fatalities in 2019, 12,239 were occupants in car, 9,976 were occupants in small trucks, and 5,014 were motorcyclists.
- Excluding acts of suicide and terrorism, commercial aviation was the safest mode of travel in the United States, with 0.07 fatalities per billion passenger miles: “A person who

took a 500-mile flight every single day for a year, would have a fatality risk of 1 in 85,000.”

- The United States has the largest air travel market of any single country, with more than 926 million passengers being transported in 2019.
- Since 2009 there has been increase in revenue passenger miles with the highest being in 2019 with 101,794,185,000.
- Operating revenue of U.S airlines reached an all-time high of 248 billion U.S dollars in 2019.

Based on above statistics we can safely assume that airline is the safest mode of transportation.

So, let's all remove the negativity and fly to reach our destination - Be it for business or pleasure.

References:

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