Executive Summary
Airline Safety

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Problem

Here we have the age-old question – which is safer? Flying or Driving? Just the thought of being suspended at an altitude of 35,000 feet and at a speed of 500mph makes us nervous. Air crashes are often deemed catastrophic due to the number of people involved and low survival rate. On the other hand, we feel much safer commuting, running errands or going to vacation by driving a car. The data shows otherwise.

Observations

The total US airline fatalities from 2000-2018 are 778 and World airlines fatalities during the same years are 13,496. That is a 7-fold difference. However, total fatalities caused by driving vehicles in US from 2000-2018 are 723,869. That is roughly 900 times more fatalities compared to airline fatalities in US. There is a clear distinction that vehicle fatalities are higher.

The operations of airlines have significantly increased from 1940's to 2000's. Number of departures increased both in the US and all over the World. Significant advancements occurred in the aviation industry which resulted in better airplanes and strict aviation standards which also contribute to the safety.

Price per ticket for the domestic flights have lowered when prices for all other commodities increased over the years. Affordability and comfort make flying more desirable than on road transportation.

Conclusion

Aviation safety does not have a clean record, but is cleanest compared to other modes of transportation. Though flight fear still exists, safety in addition to affordability, convenience and accessibility has made airline travel much desirable to general public.

Data

- https://aviation-safety.net/airlinesafety/
- https://www.airlines.org/data/