

## Eagle Aviation

# Traveling Long Distance? What the Data Tells Us About Safety.



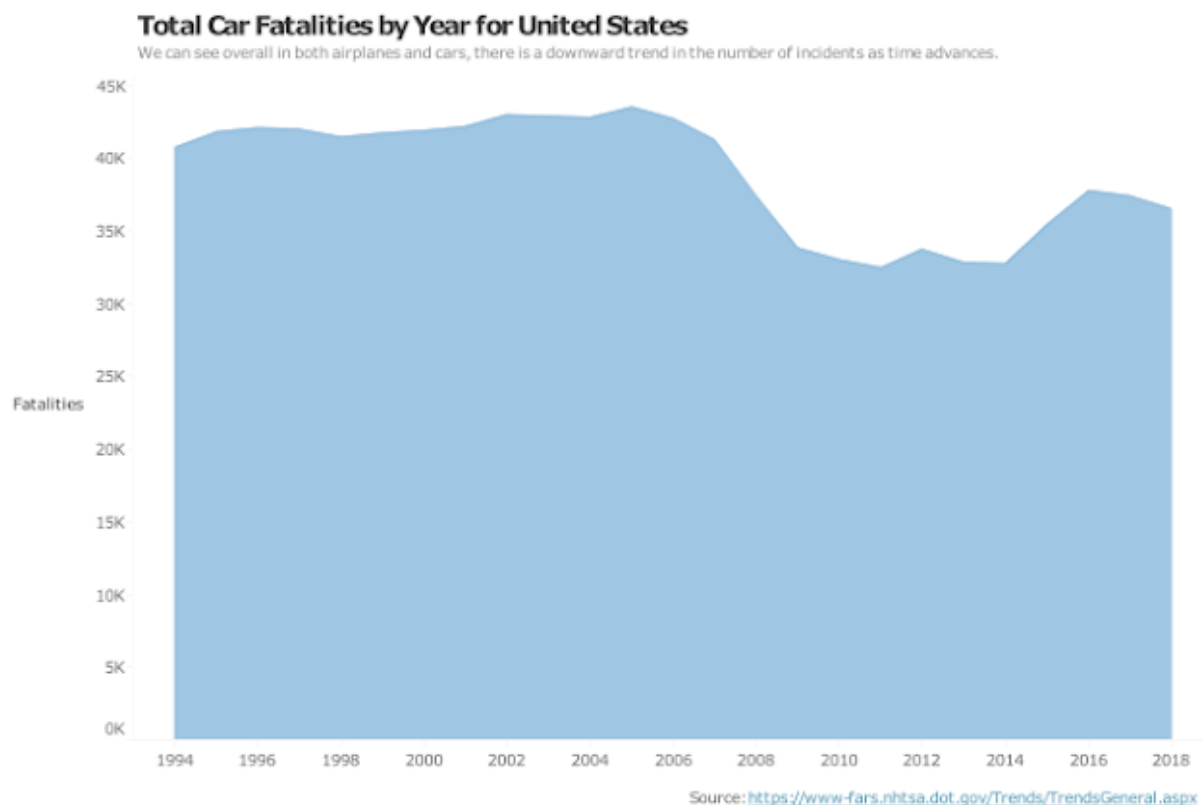
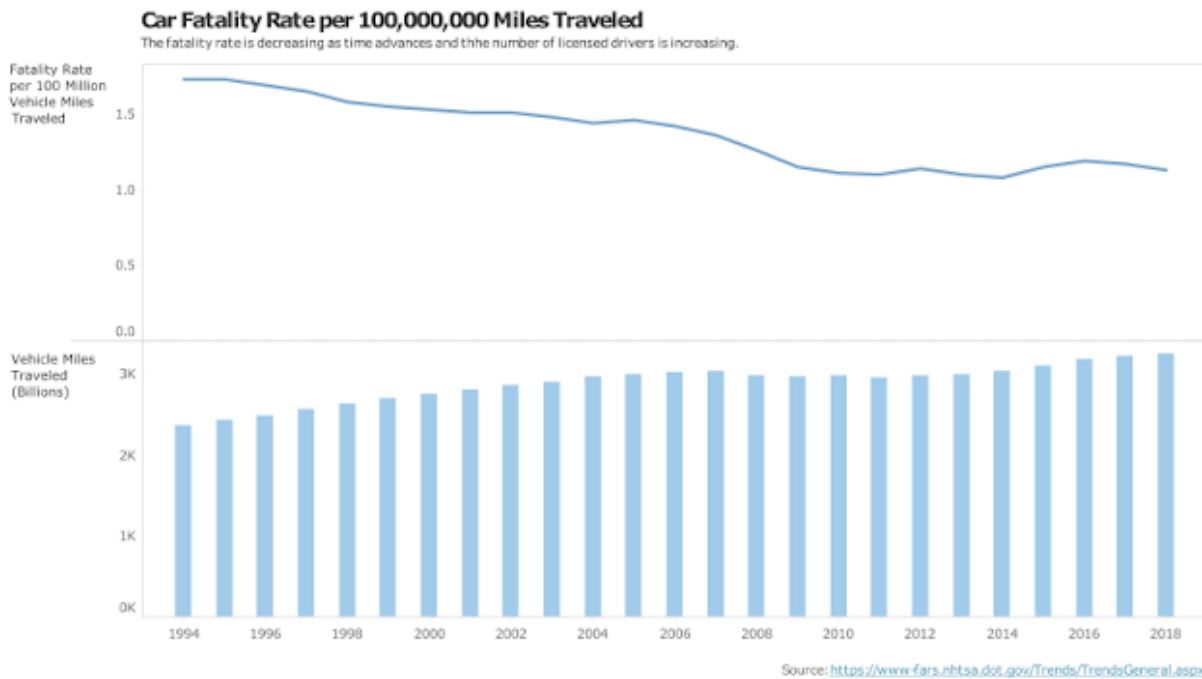
October 25, 2020

Have you ever contemplated taking your family vacation by automobile? Due to complications of motion sickness, this was the only way that my family could travel. As time progressed, I became more aware of the dangers in the world and even made a career of it. Had I known then what I know now, I would have thought twice about traveling by car.

How many of you have been in a car accident, how many of you know someone who was killed in a car crash? In 2018 for the United States alone, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration



(NHTSA) there were 3,240,000,000 miles traveled by vehicle with a fatality rate of 1.13 per 100,000,000 miles traveled. That about 36,500 vehicle fatalities in 2018! With 365 days in a year, that is an average of 100 people per day killed in a car crash across the United States.



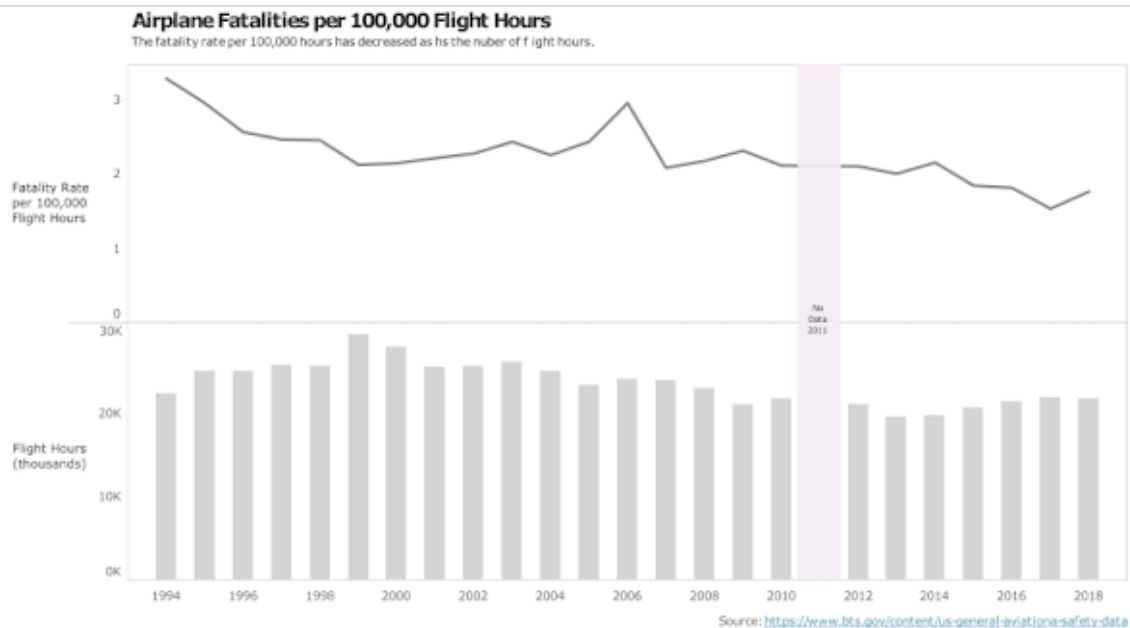
Looking at air travel is a little different because it is recorded in flight hours and not miles. Chicago's O'Hare International Airport (ORD) is 1005 miles from Orlando International Airport (MCO) and takes 2 hours and 24 minutes to complete the journey or about 400

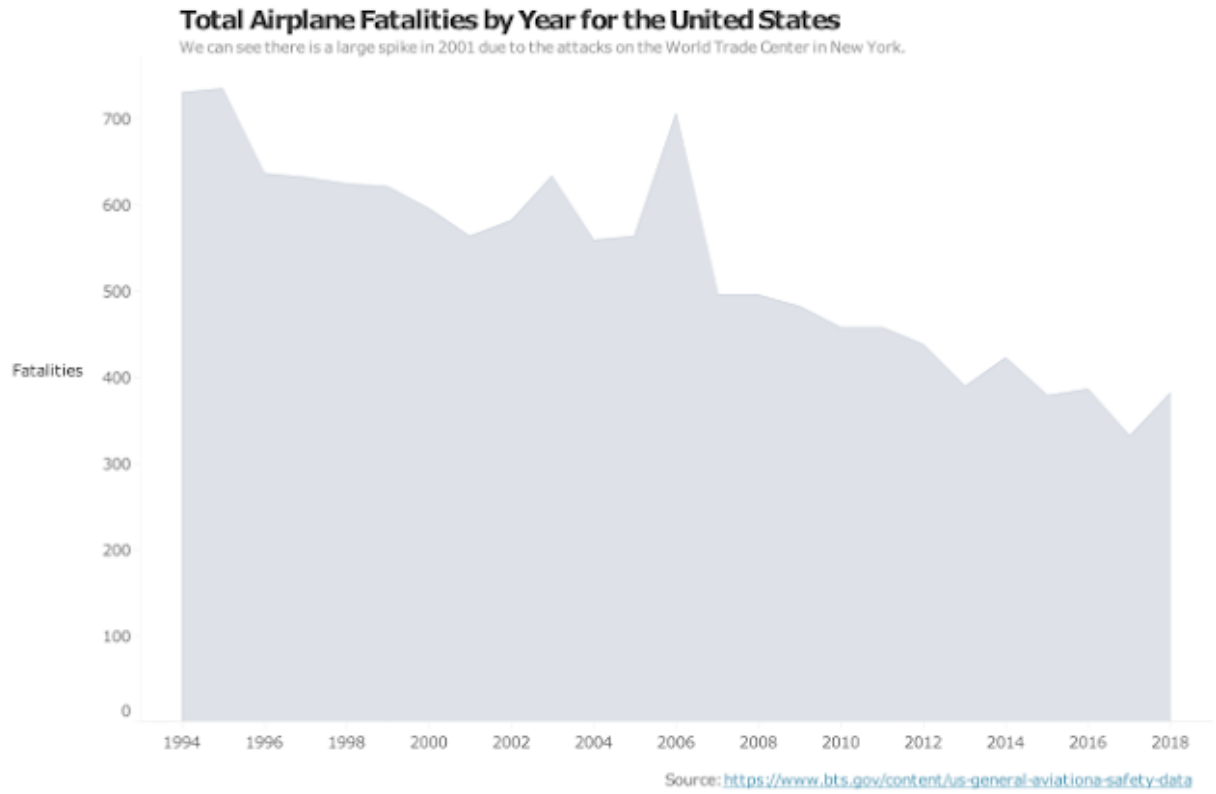


miles traveled in one hour (Distance between Chicago, IL (ORD) and Orlando, FL (MCO), 2020).

According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics for 2018, commercial airlines in the United States logged 21,663,000 flight hours. At the 400 miles per hour estimated above, that is over 8.6 billion miles traveled!

They also reported a death rate of 1.76 per 100,000 flight hours and a total fatality number of 381 for the same year.

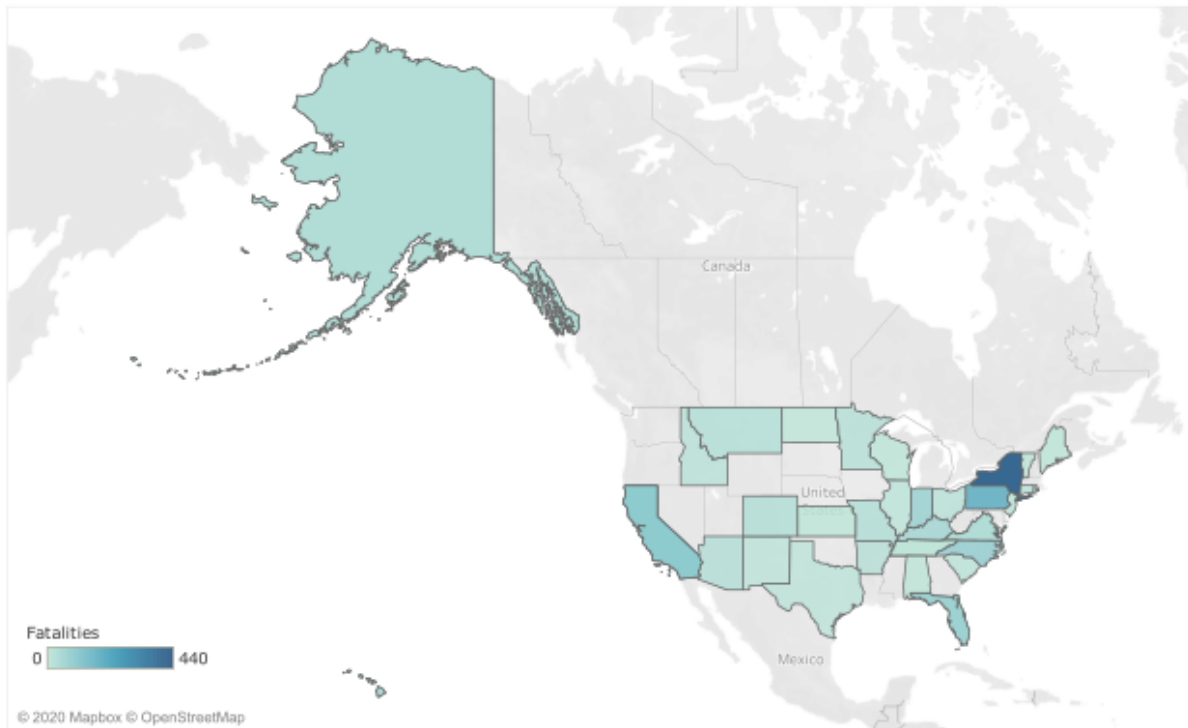




With the exception of New York due to the events of 11 September 2001, the fatalities per state are low for commercial airlines.

### Airline Fatalities by State (1994 - 2009)

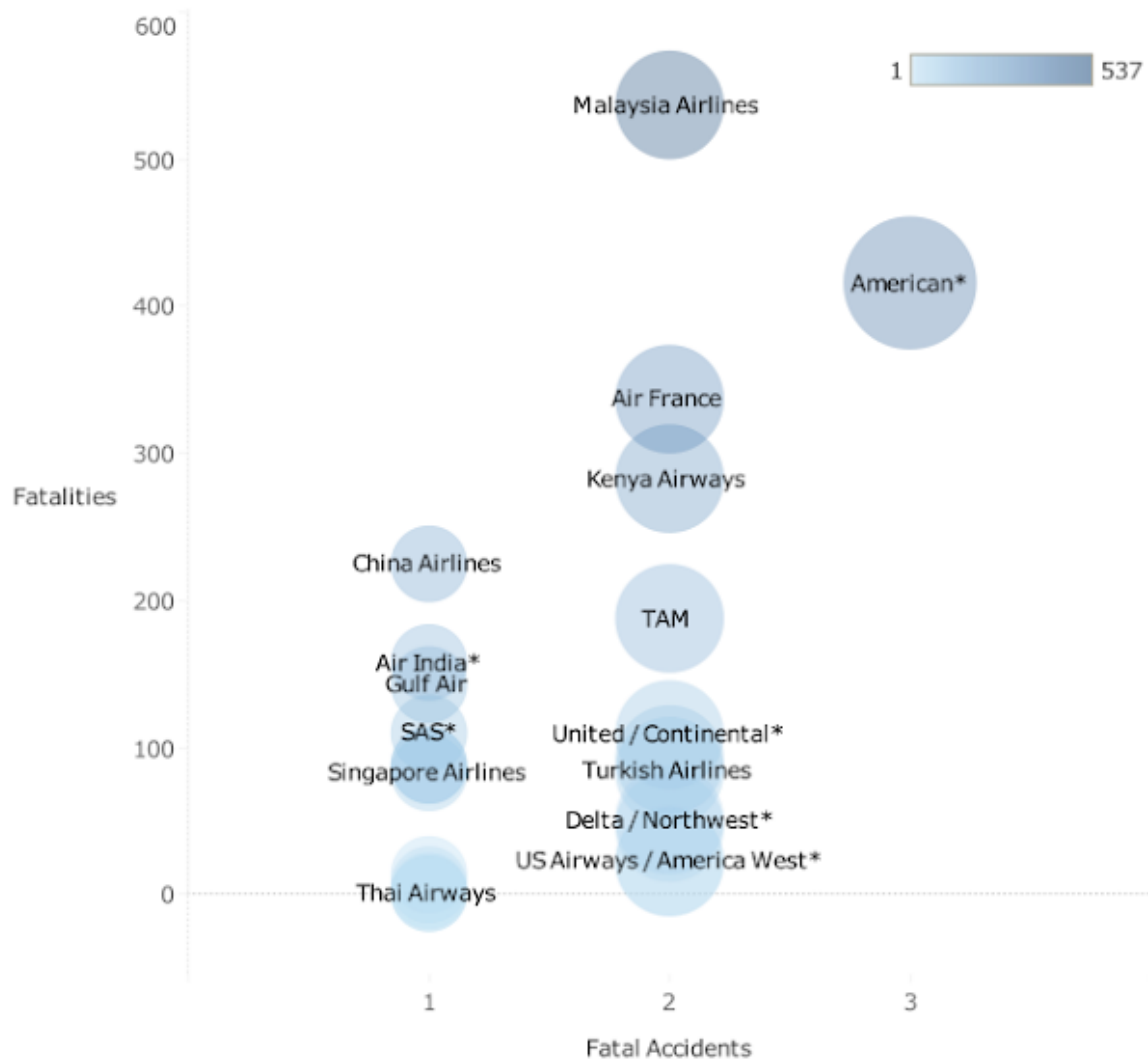
Anything labeled charter, private, cargo, helicopter, military or government were removed as we are only focusing on commercial airlines.



Source: [https://data.world/youngb1801/air01/workspace/f?agentid=haveliw&datasetid=airplane-crashes-1908-2009&filename=Airplane\\_Crashes\\_and\\_Fatalities\\_Since\\_1908.csv](https://data.world/youngb1801/air01/workspace/f?agentid=haveliw&datasetid=airplane-crashes-1908-2009&filename=Airplane_Crashes_and_Fatalities_Since_1908.csv)

We are able to travel to across the globe with the use of airplanes, so how do the numbers change when we look at world totals? The data collected is for fatal incidents from 2000 thru 2014 collected from the Aviation Safety Network. The maximum number of fatal incidents for any single airline was 3 during this time. This was for American Airlines which had two incidents involved in the 2001 World Trade Center incident (Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 2020; Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 2020). Since these events security has been greatly increased to protect everyone. Looking at the figure below, even in the event of a fatal incident, the number of fatalities is low per airline.

## Fatal Incidents by Airline 2000 - 2014



Finally we can compare the percent of airplane fatalities across the globe to the car fatalities for the United States. Airline fatalities account for only 3 percent of the total for these two groups. Considering the number of passengers and flight crew aboard a commercial airplane, that is a significant gap!

### Percent of Total Fatalities (1994-2010)

The total fatalities for cars is collected for the United States only and the total for airplanes is collected worldwide.



Source:

Car Data - <https://www.fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/Trends/TrendsGeneral.aspx>

Airplane Data - <http://www.baaa-acro.com/statistics/death-rate-per-year?page=1>

In summary, despite recent events in the airline industry, air travel is still a safer option than traveling by automobile. Of the total fatalities from 1994 thru 2010, airline fatalities for the

world equaled 3 percent of the total and car fatalities for the United States only was 97 percent. Next time you have the option to drive or fly, think about the safety of those traveling and consider air travel!

#### References:

*Distance between Chicago, IL (ORD) and Orlando, FL (MCO).* (2020). Retrieved October 20, 2020, from Air Miles Calculator: <https://www.airmilescalculator.com/distance/ord-to-mco/>

Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc. (2020). *September 11 attacks*. Retrieved October 21, 2020, from Britannica: <https://www.britannica.com/event/September-11-attacks>



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