

# WHAT SHOULD YOU REALLY BE AFRAID OF?

Fear, as FDR noted in 1933, paralyzes those who succumb to it. And yet much of what we worry about today is based on hype rather than reality. Yes, media headlines are partially to blame. But some things (sharks!) are just downright scary. Using the most recent U.S. data available, we hereby present a list of unsettling threats and their far riskier counterparts.

MURDERS (2008) <b>14,180</b>	SUICIDES (2008) <b>33,289</b>
CHILDREN ABDUCTED BY STRANGERS (1999) <b>115</b>	CHILDREN WHO DROWN IN POOLS (2008) <b>288</b>
BURGLARIES (2007) <b>2.2 MILLION</b>	IDENTITY THEFTS (2006) <b>8.3 MILLION</b>
SHARK ATTACKS (2009) <b>28</b>	DOG BITES <b>4.5 MILLION*</b>
AMERICANS KILLED BY TERRORIST ATTACKS AROUND THE WORLD (2008) <b>33</b>	AMERICANS WHO DIE FROM THE SEASONAL FLU <b>36,171*</b>
DEATHS BY ALLERGIC REACTION TO PEANUTS <b>50-100*</b>	DEATHS BY UNINTENTIONAL POISONING (2008) <b>27,531</b>
WOMEN WHO DIE FROM BREAST CANCER (2009) <b>40,170</b>	WOMEN WHO DIE FROM CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE (2008) <b>432,709</b>
FATAL AIRLINE ACCIDENTS (2005) <b>321</b>	FATAL CAR CRASHES (2008) <b>34,017</b>
AMERICANS AUDITED BY THE IRS (2009) <b>1.4 MILLION</b>	U.S. DEATHS (2007) <b>2.4 MILLION</b>

\* ANNUAL AVERAGES  
AND ESTIMATES

SOURCES: AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY; AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION; CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION; CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION; FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION; INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; INTERNATIONAL SHARK ATTACK FILE; NATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM CENTER; NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION; NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD; NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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