



Western Region Vulnerability Profile 2023-2024 Update

Jurisdictions

The Western Region includes 6 Tribal Nations and 3 Arizona Counties. There are 9 rural, 2 frontier*, and 2 Indian census-recognized primary care areas (PCAs).¹ These PCAs include multiple medically underserved areas and are geographically isolated from healthcare services.

Tribal Nations:¹

Hualapai Tribe, Kaibab-Paiute Tribe, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribe, Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe, Cocopah Tribe

Counties:¹

Mohave, La Paz, Yuma

Indian PCAs:¹

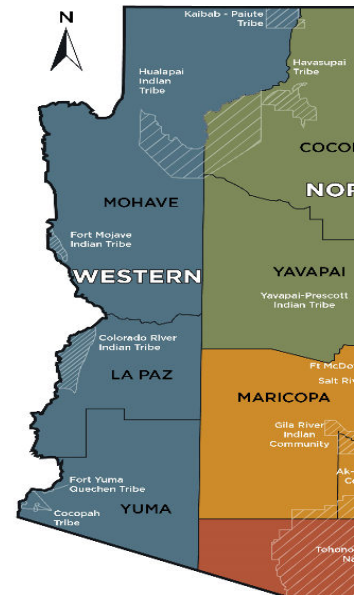
Mohave County – Hualapai Tribe
La Paz County – Colorado River Indian Tribe

Frontier PCAs:¹

Mohave County - Colorado City
La Paz County – Quartzsite

Rural PCAs:¹

Mohave County – Kingman, Golden Valley, Bullhead City, Lake Havasu City
La Paz County – Parker
Yuma County - Fortuna Foothills, San Luis, Somerton, Yuma



Population and Vulnerable Demographics

The population in the Western Region is approximately 438,889.¹ The population varies seasonally with winter visitors residing in the area 30 days or longer, and migrant/agricultural workers coming into communities during the winter growing season.

During a disaster, individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs may require special assistance from the emergency management system. In the Western Region, there are higher proportions of persons living with disabilities (20.3%) and who are Medicare beneficiaries (8.4%) than the state average.¹

Considerations for those who are very old or very young, live in rural settings, have transportation challenges, have limited English proficiency, have low-socioeconomic status, or face challenges accessing health services should be included as well. 43.6% of the population lives below 200% of the federal poverty level; about 1 in 3 children under age 12 also live in poverty.¹ The inmate population is vulnerable due to access to care and congregate living conditions. The Western Region houses 22.5% of the total prison inmate population of Arizona.⁵

*All PCAs with less than 6 persons per square mile are coded Frontier if not designated as an Indian Primary Care Area.

Risk Factors	Western Region	Arizona
Persons with Disabilities under age 65 years (%) ¹	20.3%	13.2%
AHCCCS (Medicaid) Population ³	181,684 (8.2%)	2,204,332
Medicare Beneficiaries ⁴	120,467(8.4%)	1,441,510
Electricity-Dependent Medicare Beneficiaries ⁴	6,088 (8.7%)	70,276
Medically Uninsured (%) ¹	11.7%	10.6%
Population below 200% FPL (%) ¹	43.6%	33%
Children < age 12 in Poverty (%) ¹	29.5%	20.7%
Correctional Facilities ⁵	2	16
Correctional Facility Inmate Capacity-prisons only ⁵	7,751 (22.5%)	34,488

Healthcare Utilization

The Western Region has one provider for every 979 residents.¹ Ambulatory care sensitive conditions - care that if delivered properly would not result in hospitalization – relieves the burden on the hospital system.

Utilization	Western Region	Arizona
Total Primary Care Providers (%) ¹	497 (5%)	9,751
ACSS/1000 Residents Age <65 ¹	48.1	34.5
Total Emergency Room Visits (%) ⁶	140,959 (7.4%)	1,899,554
Hospital Beds/1000 Residents (%) ¹	2.1 (1.2%)	1.9
Hospital Inpatient Days/1000 Residents Age <65 ¹	1,024	1,122

Regional Healthcare Infrastructure

There are 6 general hospitals and 2 critical access hospitals in the Western Region.¹

Diverse regional facilities and resources that serve specific populations, including pediatrics, are critical to the whole community response. The Western Region has 93 specialty beds, 4 skilled nursing facilities, 392 nursing beds, 14 licensed home health agencies, 76 licensed pharmacies, and 14 certified ambulance services.¹

Healthcare Infrastructure	Western Region	Arizona
General Hospitals ¹	6 (8.4%)	71
Critical Access Hospitals ⁷	2 (11.7%)	17
Behavioral Health Hospitals ⁹	1 (4%)	25
Long-term Care Hospitals ⁹	0	6
Specialty beds ¹	93 (2.5%)	3,645
Adult ICU bed capacity ⁸	137 (5.7%)	2,371
Pediatric ICU bed capacity ⁸	0	165
ED bed capacity ⁸	216 (6.3%)	3,392
Skilled Nursing Facilities ¹	4 (3.9%)	102
Nursing Beds ¹	392 (3.3%)	11,632
Licensed Home Health Agencies ¹	14 (7.8%)	179
Licensed Pharmacies ¹	76 (5.7%)	1,332
Certified Ambulance Services ¹	14 (13.2%)	106
Air Transport Services ¹⁰	Varies*	70

*There are seventy air ambulances registered to provide care and transport within Arizona, the majority of them helicopters. Air ambulance coverage areas often span large, multi-regional areas, and therefore cannot be broken down by region.



County Hazard Identification Summary

County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans are administered once every five years to identify the greatest risk of loss to people and critical facilities. Hazards were identified through a Threats and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA). Experiential knowledge of the planning team, considerations of relative risk, historic context, potential for mitigation, alignment with state plans, and duplication of effects for each hazard influenced each County's process.

Western Region Hazard Lists (Referenced from County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans):

La Paz County (2020) ¹¹	Mohave County (2022) ¹²	Yuma County (2019) ¹³
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dam Failure• Drought• Flooding/Flash Flooding• Hazardous Materials Incident• Severe Wind• Wildfire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biological/Disease Events• Dam Failure• Drought• Extreme Heat• Flood/Flash Flood• Hazardous Material Incidents• Power Failure• Severe Wind• Wildfire• Earthquake	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drought• Extreme Heat• Flooding• Severe Wind• Wildfire



Resources

1. Arizona Department of Health Services Data, Reports & Maps, Statistical Profiles-Primary Care Area Statistical Profiles. <https://www.azdhs.gov/prevention/health-systems-development/data-reports-maps/index.php#statistical-profiles-pca>. Published 2022. Accessed December 13, 2023.
2. Arizona Department of Health Services, Population Health and Vital Statistics, Population Denominators, Table 10A-1 Population by Gender and County of Residence, Arizona. <https://pub.azdhs.gov/health-stats/report/ahs/ahs2019/index.php?pg=local>. Published 2021. Accessed December 7, 2023.
3. Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Population Highlights. https://azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/PopulationStatistics/2023/PopulationbyCounty_12012023.pdf Published December 1, 2023. Accessed December 12, 2023.
4. US Department of Health and Human Services, HHS empower Map, Medicare Data Totals by Selected Geographics. <https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/empowermap>. Published December 12, 2023. Accessed December 12, 2023.
5. Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation & Reentry. Corrections at a Glance. <https://corrections.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/reports/Daily%20Count/2023/12132023%20daily%20count.pdf>. Published December 13, 2023. Accessed December 13, 2023.
6. Arizona Department of Health Services, Population Health and Vital Statistics, Hospital Inpatient Discharges & Emergency Room Visits Statistics. <https://pub.azdhs.gov/health-stats/hip/index.php?pg=diagnosis>. Published 2020. Accessed December 13, 2023.
7. The University of Arizona, Center for Rural Health, Arizona Critical Access Hospitals. https://crh.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2022-11/20221109_FlexFastFacts.pdf. Published January 2022. Accessed December 7, 2023.
8. Arizona EMResource. Updated December 12, 2023. Accessed December 12, 2023.
9. Arizona Department of Health Services, Public Health Licensing, Provider & Facility Databases, All Licensed Providers, <https://www.azdhs.gov/licensing/#databases>. Published November 1, 2022, Accessed December 12, 2023.
10. Arizona Department of Health Services, Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System, Bureau Graph Gallery, Regional EMS and Statewide EMS, <https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/emergency-medical-services-trauma-system/index.php#graph-gallery-regional> and <https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/emergency-medical-services-trauma-system/index.php#graph-gallery-statewide>. Published 2022. Accessed February 28, 2023.
11. La Paz County. Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. <https://www.co.la-paz.az.us/DocumentCenter/View/6282/2020-La-Paz-County-Multi-Jurisdictional-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan--FEMA-Approved>. Published 2020. Accessed December 13, 2023.
12. Mohave County Department of Emergency Management. Mohave County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. https://www.lhcaz.gov/docs/default-source/department-documents/hazardmitigationplan.pdf?sfvrsn=b86e2a7c_11. Published 2022. Accessed December 13, 2023.
13. Yuma County Department of Emergency Management. Yuma County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. <https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/41739/637165746725670000>. Published 2019. Accessed December 13, 2023.

Glossary

ACS	Ambulatory Care Site
AHCCCS	Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
HHS emPOWER map	<p>Over 2.5 million Medicare beneficiaries rely on electricity-dependent medical equipment, such as ventilators, to live independently in their homes. Severe weather and other emergencies, especially those with long power outages, can be life-threatening for these individuals.</p> <p>The HHS emPOWER Map is updated monthly and displays the total number of at-risk electricity-dependent Medicare beneficiaries in a geographic area, down to the ZIP Code.</p> <p>The HHS emPOWER Map gives every public health official, emergency manager, hospital, first responder, electric company, and community member the power to discover the electricity-dependent Medicare population in their state, territory, county, and ZIP Code. When combined with real-time severe weather and hazard maps, communities can easily anticipate and plan for the needs of this population during an emergency.</p>
FPL	Federal Poverty Level
PCA	Primary Care Area: A Primary Care Area is a geographic area in which most residents seek primary health services from the same place(s). The PCA is meant to depict the "primary care service seeking patterns" of the residents.
Specialty Beds	The number of hospital beds located at "Specialty" hospitals, such as emergency or surgical hospitals