

Central Region Vulnerability Profile 2023-2024 Update

Jurisdictions

The Central Region includes 7 Tribal Nations and 3 Arizona counties. There are 15 rural and 4 Indian census-recognized primary care areas (PCAs).¹ These PCAs include multiple medically underserved areas and are geographically isolated from other healthcare services.

Tribal Nations:¹

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Gila River Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Tonto-Apache Tribe, Tohono O’odham, San Carlos

Counties:¹

Gila, Maricopa, Pinal

Indian PCAs:¹

Gila County – San Carlos Apache

Maricopa County – Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian

Pinal County – Gila River Indian Community

Rural PCAs:¹

Gila County – Payson, Globe

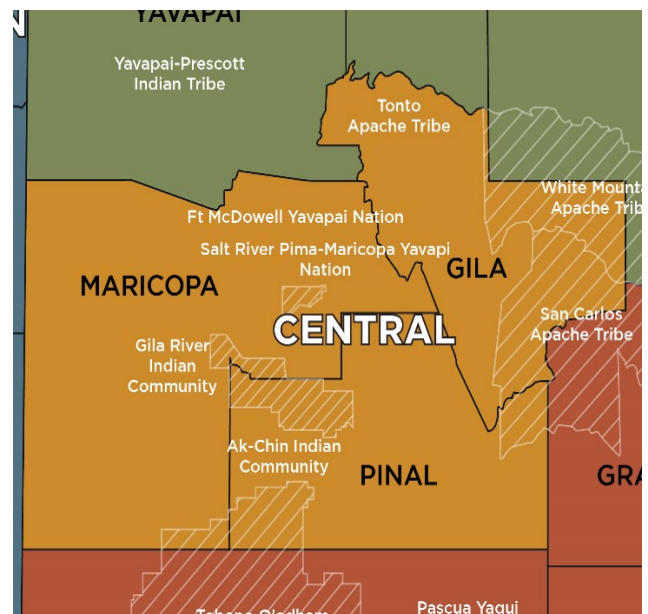
Maricopa County – North Gateway/Rio Vista Village, Desert View Village, Deer Valley Village, Paradise Valley Village, Scottsdale North, Surprise North & Wickenburg, Surprise South, Peoria North, New River/Cave Creek, Anthem, Fountain Hills/Rio Verde, Sun City West, Glendale North

Pinal County – Saddlebrooke, Coolidge, Eloy

Urban PCAs:¹

Maricopa County – Paradise Valley Village, North Mountain Village, Camelback East Village, Alhambra Village, Maryvale Village, Encanto Village, Estrella Village & Tolleson, Central City Village, Laveen Village, South Mountain Village & Guadalupe, Ahwatukee Foothills Village, Scottsdale Central, Scottsdale South, Peoria South, Buckeye, Glendale West, Glendale Central, Sun City, El Mirage & Youngtown, Paradise Valley, Goodyear & Litchfield Park, Avondale, Mesa North, Mesa West, Mesa Central, Mesa East, Mesa Gateway, Tempe North, Tempe South, Gilbert North, Gilbert Central, Gilbert South, Chandler Central, Chandler North, Chandler South, Queen Creek, Sun Lakes

Pinal County – Apache Junction, Gold Canyon, Florence, San Tan Valley, Maricopa, Casa Grande



Population and Vulnerable Demographics

About 5,094,890 people live in the Central Region. The population varies seasonally with winter visitors staying 30 days or longer, and migrant/agricultural workers coming into the 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 Central region, there are demographic disparities between rural and urban counties where the former record higher proportions of persons living below the FPL (including children <12) and those who are Medicare beneficiaries. This is also the case with the Persons with Disabilities where the figure reflects the largest county but is doubled in the smallest county.

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. 34.6% of the population lives below 200% of the federal poverty level; 24.3% of children under age 12 also live in poverty.¹ The inmate population is vulnerable due to access to care and congregate living conditions. The Central Region houses 52.0% of the total prison inmate population of Arizona.

Risk Factors	Central Region	Arizona
Persons with Disabilities under age 65 years (%) ¹	16.2%	13.2%
AHCCCS (Medicaid) Population ³	1,419,817 (64.4%)	2,204,332
Medicare Beneficiaries ⁴	874,690 (60.7%)	1,441,510
Electricity-Dependent Medicare Beneficiaries ⁴	37,424 (53.3%)	70,276
Medically Uninsured (%) ¹	9.9%	10.6%
Population below 200% FPL (%) ¹	34.6%	33%
Children < age 12 in Poverty (%) ¹	24.3%	20.7%
Correctional Facilities ⁵	9	16
Correctional Facility Inmate Capacity-prisons only ⁵	17,920 (52.0%)	34,488



Healthcare Utilization

The Central region has one provider for every 1,532 residents, totaling 69.3% of the total number of primary care providers in Arizona. Ambulatory care sensitive conditions - care that if delivered properly would not result in hospitalization – relieves the burden on the hospital system.

Utilization	Central Region	Arizona
Total Primary Care Providers (%) ¹	6,760 (69.3%)	9,751
ACSS/1000 Residents Age <65 ¹	45.2	34.5
Total Emergency Room Visits (%) ⁶	1,273,768 (67.1%)	1,899,554
Hospital Beds/1000 Residents (%) ¹	1.2	1.9
Hospital Inpatient Days/1000 Residents Age <65 ¹	1,087	1,122

Regional Healthcare Infrastructure

Diverse regional facilities and resources that serve specific populations, including pediatrics, are critical to the whole community response. The Central Region has 2,873 specialty beds, 111 skilled nursing facilities, 11,028 nursing beds, 131 licensed home health agencies, 953 licensed pharmacies, and 36 certified ambulance services.

Healthcare Infrastructure	Central Region	Arizona
General Hospitals ¹	36 (50.7%)	71
Critical Access Hospitals ⁹	5 (29.4%)	17
Behavioral Health Hospitals ⁹	17 (70.8%)	24
Long-term Care Hospitals ⁹	3 (50.0%)	6
Specialty beds ¹	2,873 (78.8%)	3,645
Adult ICU bed capacity ⁸	1,729 (72.9%)	2,375
Pediatric ICU bed capacity ⁸	154 (93.3%)	166
ED bed capacity ⁸	2,441 (72.0%)	3,444
Skilled Nursing Facilities ¹	68 (69.8%)	102
Nursing Beds ¹	11,028 (66.6%)	11,632
Licensed Home Health Agencies ¹	116 (64.8%)	179
Licensed Pharmacies ¹	923 (69.3%)	1,332

Certified Ambulance Services ¹	36 (33.9%)	106
Air Transport 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.

Central Region Hazard Lists (Referenced from County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans and 2023 AzCHER CHVA):

Gila County (2019) ¹¹	Maricopa (2021) ¹²	Pinal (2022) ¹³
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Dam Inundation • Drought • Flooding/Flash Flooding • Hazardous Materials Incident • Severe Wind • Transportation Accident • Wildfire • Winter Storm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dam Inundation • Drought • Extreme Heat • Fissure • Flood/Flash Flood • Levee Failure • Severe Wind • Subsidence • Wildfire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dam Failure • Drought • Earthquake • Extreme Heat • Fissure • Flood/Flash Flood • Levee Failure • Severe Wind • Subsidence • Wildfire



Resources

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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.
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12. Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management. Maricopa County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/75143/Maricopa-County-MJMHMP-2021_MJPT-Final-2021-11-02. Published 2021. Accessed December 13, 2023.
13. Pinal County Department of Emergency Management. Pinal County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. <https://www.pinal.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7436/2022-Pinal-County-Multi-Jurisdictional-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan-PDF>. Published 2022. Accessed December 13, 2023.
14. AzCHER Central Region Community Hazard Vulnerability Assessment. Updated January 2022.
15. US Census Bureau QuickFacts Population Estimates, July 1, 2022, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045222>. 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