



Southern Region Vulnerability Profile 2023-2024 Update

Jurisdictions

The Southern Region includes four Tribal nations and five Arizona counties. There are 18 rural and 3 frontier census-recognized primary care areas (PCAs).¹ These PCAs include multiple medically underserved areas and are geographically isolated from healthcare services. All PCAs with less than 6 persons per square mile are coded Frontier if not designated as an Indian Primary Care Area.

Tribal Nations:¹

Pascua Yaqui, San Carlos Apache, Tohono O'odham, San Xavier-Tohono O'odham

Counties:¹

Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Santa Cruz

Indian PCAs:¹

Pima County – Tohono O'odham Nation, San Xavier, Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Frontier PCAs:¹

Cochise County – Willcox & Bowie
Greenlee County – Morenci
Pima County – Ajo

Rural PCAs:¹

Cochise County – Benson, Douglas & Pirtleville, Sierra Vista, Bisbee
Graham County – Thatcher, Safford
Pima County – Picture Rocks
Santa Cruz County – Rio Rico, Nogales

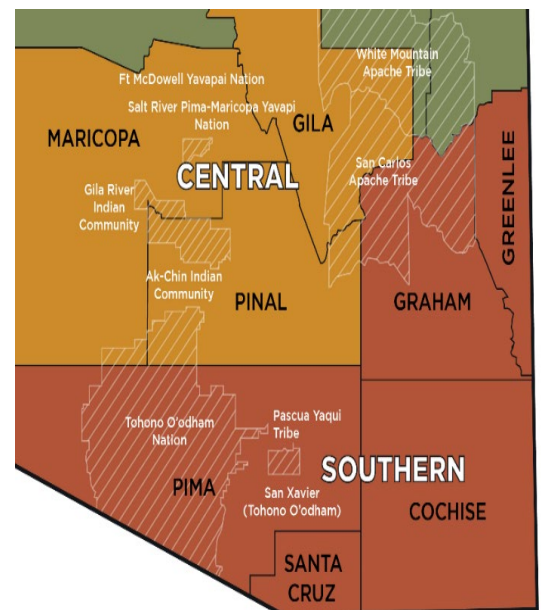
Urban PCAs:¹

Pima County – Tanque Verde, Catalina Foothills, Oro Valley, Marana, Vail, Casas Adobes, Tucson West, Tucson Central, Tucson Foothills, Tucson Southeast, Tucson East, Tucson South, Flowing Wells, Tucson Estates, Drexel Heights, Valencia West, Green Valley, Sahuarita

Population and Vulnerable Demographics

About 1,282,633 people live in the Southern Region.¹ 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 Southern Region, there are higher proportions of persons living with disabilities (14.6%) and who are Medicare beneficiaries (21.2%) 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. 39.1% of the population in the Southern Region lives below 200% of the federal poverty level; about one in four children under age 12 also live in poverty.¹ The inmate population is vulnerable due to access to care and congregate living conditions. The Southern Region houses 19.8% of the total prison inmate population of Arizona.

Risk Factors	Southern Region	Arizona
Persons with Disabilities under age 65 years (%) ¹	14.6%	13.2%
AHCCCS (Medicaid) Population ³	472,352 (18.7%)	2,515,522
Medicare Beneficiaries ⁴	300,913 (21.2%)	1,413,896
Electricity-Dependent Medicare Beneficiaries ⁴	13,177 (19.5%)	67,417
Medically Uninsured (%) ¹	7.7%	10.6%
Population below 200% FPL (%) ¹	39.1%	33%
Children < age 12 in Poverty (%) ¹	23.5%	20.7%
Correctional Facilities ⁵	3	16
Correctional Facility Inmate Capacity-prisons only ⁵	6,726 (19.8%)	33,810

Healthcare Utilization

The Southern Region has 1 primary care provider for every 1,884 residents.¹ Ambulatory care sensitive conditions - care that if delivered properly would not result in hospitalization – relieves the burden on the hospital system.

Utilization	Southern Region	Arizona
Total Primary Care Providers (%) ¹	1,884 (19.3%)	9,751
ACSSs/1000 Residents Age <65 ¹	39.3	34.5
Total Emergency Room Visits (%) ⁶	413,151 (17.3%)	2,380,581
Hospital Beds/1000 Residents (%) ¹	2.1	1.9
Hospital Inpatient Days/1000 Residents Age <65 ¹	1,058	1,122

Regional Healthcare Infrastructure

The Southern Region has 16 general hospitals and 6 critical access hospitals.¹

Diverse regional facilities and resources that serve specific populations, including pediatrics, are critical to the whole community response. The Southern Region has 523 specialty beds (all in Pima County), 24 skilled nursing facilities, 2,923 nursing beds, 35 licensed home health agencies, 244 licensed pharmacies, and 32 certified ambulance services.¹

Healthcare Infrastructure	Southern Region	Arizona
General Hospitals ¹	16 (22.5%)	71
Critical Access Hospitals ⁷	6 (35.2%)	17
Behavioral Health Hospitals ⁹	3 (12.5%)	25
Long-term Care Hospitals ⁹	2 (33.3%)	6
Specialty beds ¹	523 (14.3%)	3,645
Adult ICU bed capacity ⁸	378 (15.9%)	2,371
Pediatric ICU bed capacity ⁸	12 (7.2%)	165
ED bed capacity ⁸	496 (14.6%)	3,392
Skilled Nursing Facilities ¹	24 (23.5%)	102
Nursing Beds ¹	2,923 (25.1%)	11,632
Licensed Home Health Agencies ¹	35 (19.5%)	179
Licensed Pharmacies ¹	244 (18.3%)	1,332
Certified Ambulance Services ¹	32 (30.1%)	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.

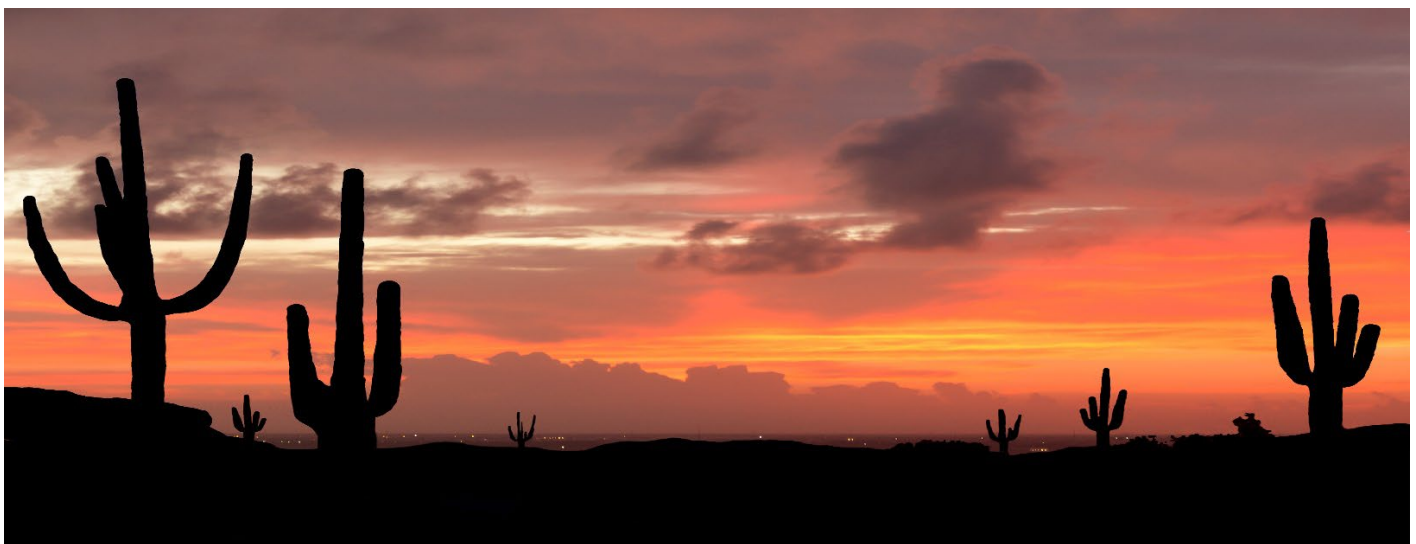


County Hazard Identification Summary

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.

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

Cochise County (2022) ¹¹	Graham County (2021)	Greenlee County (2022) ¹²	Pima County (2022) ¹³	Santa Cruz County (2018) ¹⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Collapse/ Mine Subsidence • Drought • Earthquake • Fissure • Flood/Flash Flood • Severe Wind • Wildfire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dam Failure • Drought • Fissure • Flood/Flash Flood • Severe Wind • Wildfire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought • Flooding/ Flash Flood • Levee Failure • Wildfire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought • Earthquake • Extreme Cold • Extreme Heat • Flood • Landslide • Severe Wind • Wildfire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dam Failure • Drought • Flooding/Flash Flooding • HazMat Incidents • Wildfire



Resources

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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.
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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. Cochise County Emergency Services Department. Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. <https://www.cochise.az.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10093/Cochise-County-Multi-Jurisdictional-Plan-2022-Final-PDF?bidId=>. Published 2022. Accessed December 13, 2023.
12. Greenlee County Department of Emergency Management. Greenlee County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. https://www.co.greenlee.az.us/pdf/Greenlee%20County%20MJMHMP%202021_MainBody_FinalDraft_v1.pdf. Published August 2021. Accessed December 13, 2023.
13. Pima County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. https://webcms.pima.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/Government/OEMHS/2022%20MJHMP%20Final%20Submittal%2009232022%20to%20FEMA.pdf. Published 2022. Accessed December 13, 2023.
14. Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. https://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9430/SantaCruz-County-Multi-Juris-Haz-Mit-Plan_2018_FinalDraft_v2-with-redactions-for-website. Published July 2021. 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