

## Central Region Vulnerability Profile 2024-2025 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). These PCAs include multiple medically underserved areas and are geographically isolated from other healthcare services.

### Tribal Nations:<sup>1</sup>

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:

Gila, Maricopa, Pinal

### Indian PCAs:

Gila County – San Carlos Apache

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

Pinal County – Gila River Indian Community

### Rural PCAs:

Gila County – Payson, Globe

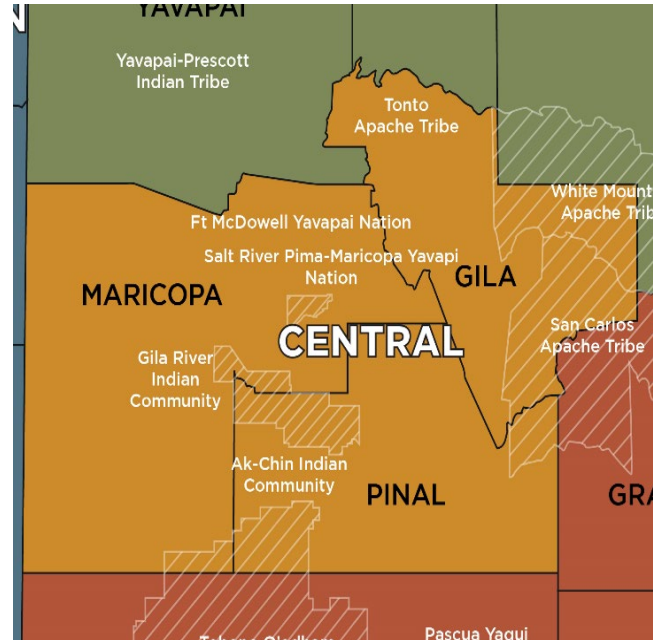
Maricopa County – North Gateway/Rio Vista Village, Desert View Village, Deer Valley Village, Paradise Valley Village, Scottsdale North, Surprise North & Wickenburg, Surprise South, Peoria North, New River/Cave Creek, Anthem, Fountain Hills/Rio Verde, Sun City West, Glendale North

Pinal County – Saddlebrooke, Coolidge, Eloy

### Urban PCAs:<sup>1</sup>

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

Approximately 5,124,113<sup>2</sup> people reside in the Central Region. The population fluctuates with winter visitors staying for over 30 days and migrant workers arriving during the winter growing season.

During disasters, people with disabilities and others with special needs often need extra help from emergency services. In the Central region, rural counties have more people living below the poverty line and more Medicare beneficiaries compared to urban counties. Similarly, the number of Persons with Disabilities is highest in the largest county but doubles in the smallest county.

Considerations should be included for individuals who are very old or very young, live in rural areas, face transportation challenges, have limited English proficiency, have low socioeconomic status, or encounter difficulties accessing health services. Approximately 23.2% of the population lives below 150% of the federal poverty level. The inmate population is considered vulnerable due to limited access to care and communal living conditions. The Central Region houses 52.9% of Arizona's total prison inmate population.

Risk Factors	Central Region	Arizona
Persons with Disabilities (%) <sup>3</sup>	16%	13%
AHCCCS (Medicaid) Population <sup>4</sup>	1,366,122 (64.5%)	2,118,704
Medicare Beneficiaries <sup>5</sup>	895,320 (60%)	1,489,863
Electricity-Dependent Medicare Beneficiaries <sup>6</sup>	34,808 (52.4%)	66,351
Medically Uninsured (%) <sup>7</sup>	23.8%	23.9%
Population below 150% FPL (%) <sup>7</sup>	23.2%	21.6%
Correctional Facilities <sup>8</sup>	9	15
Correctional Facility Inmate Capacity-prisons only <sup>8</sup>	18,786 (52.9%)	35,511



## Healthcare Utilization

The Central region has one provider for every 2,772 residents, totaling 66.5% 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 Outpatient Health Treatment Centers (%) <sup>9</sup>	1,848 (66.5%)	2,777
Outpatient Health Treatment Centers (population:provider) <sup>9</sup>	2,772:1	2,676:1
Total Emergency Room Visits (%) <sup>10</sup>	1,454,341 (67.3%)	2,158,153
Hospital Beds/1000 Residents <sup>10</sup>	14,799 (69.4%)	21,335

## 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 116 assisted living centers, 10,067 nursing home beds, 151 licensed home health agencies, and 35 ground ambulance providers.

Healthcare Infrastructure	Central Region	Arizona
General Hospitals <sup>11</sup>	49 (64.5%)	76
Critical Access Hospitals <sup>12</sup>	4 (23.5%)	17
Level I Trauma Centers <sup>13</sup>	11	14
Level III Trauma Centers <sup>13</sup>	2	6
Level IV Trauma Centers <sup>13</sup>	11	27
Behavioral Health Hospitals <sup>11</sup>	17	22
Long-term Care Hospitals <sup>11</sup>	3	5
Adult ICU bed capacity <sup>14</sup>	109 (60.9%)	179
Pediatric ICU bed capacity <sup>14</sup>	11 (68.7%)	16
Assisted Living Centers <sup>15</sup>	216 (65.9%)	328
Nursing Home Beds <sup>15</sup>	10,067 (62.5%)	16,101
Home Health Agencies <sup>15</sup>	151 (66.2%)	228
Ground Ambulance Providers <sup>16</sup>	35 (30.4%)	115

Air Ambulance Providers <sup>16</sup>	Varies*	13
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\*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):**

<b>Gila County (2019)<sup>17</sup></b>	<b>Maricopa (2021)<sup>18</sup></b>	<b>Pinal (2022)<sup>19</sup></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change</li> <li>• Dam Inundation</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Flooding/Flash Flooding</li> <li>• Hazardous Materials Incident</li> <li>• Severe Wind</li> <li>• Transportation Accident</li> <li>• Wildfire</li> <li>• Winter Storm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam Inundation</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Extreme Heat</li> <li>• Fissure</li> <li>• Flood/Flash Flood</li> <li>• Levee Failure</li> <li>• Severe Wind</li> <li>• Subsidence</li> <li>• Wildfire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam Failure</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Earthquake</li> <li>• Extreme Heat</li> <li>• Fissure</li> <li>• Flood/Flash Flood</li> <li>• Levee Failure</li> <li>• Severe Wind</li> <li>• Subsidence</li> <li>• Wildfire</li> </ul>



## Resources

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## 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