

## Northern Region Vulnerability Profile 2024-2025 Update

### Jurisdictions

The Northern Region includes 6 Tribal nations and four Arizona counties.<sup>1</sup> There are 8 rural and 4 frontier census-recognized primary care areas (PCAs).<sup>1</sup> These PCAs include multiple medically underserved areas and are geographically isolated from healthcare services. Frontier designations represent the most isolated rural areas.

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

Hopi Tribe, Kaibab-Paiute, Navajo Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Yavapai Prescott Tribe, and Yavapai Apache Nation

### Counties:

Apache, Coconino, Navajo, Yavapai

### Indian PCAs:

Apache County – Navajo Nation  
Coconino County – Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe  
Navajo County – Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, White Mountain Apache Tribe

### Rural PCAs:

Coconino County – Flagstaff  
Navajo County – Snowflake/Heber, Show Low, Winslow,  
Yavapai County – Black Canyon City, Cottonwood\Sedona, Chino Valley, Prescott, Prescott Valley

### Frontier PCAs:

Apache County – Springerville/Eagar  
Coconino County – Grand Canyon Village, Page  
Yavapai County - Williamson



### Population and Vulnerable Demographics

Approximately 567,764<sup>2</sup> people live in the Northern Region, which is Arizona's largest region with diverse climate zones. This can cause both heat and cold-related illnesses in a single day.

During disasters, individuals with disabilities or functional needs may need special assistance from emergency management. The Northern Region has higher rates of residents with disabilities (16%) and Medicare beneficiaries (10.6%) compared to the state average.

Consider those who are very old, young, living in rural areas, facing transportation issues, limited in English proficiency, low-socioeconomic status, or have difficulty accessing health services. In the Northern Region, 33.5% live below 150% of the federal poverty level. The inmate population is also vulnerable due to limited access to care and congregate living conditions, with the Northern Region housing 2.2% of Arizona's prison inmates.

<b>Risk Factors</b>	<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>Arizona</b>
Persons with Disabilities (%) <sup>3</sup>	16%	13%
AHCCCS (Medicaid) Population <sup>4</sup>	181,842 (8.6%)	2,118,704
Medicare Beneficiaries <sup>5</sup>	158,304 (10.6%)	1,489,863
Electricity-Dependent Medicare Beneficiaries <sup>6</sup>	13,109 (19.8%)	66,351
Medically Uninsured (%) <sup>7</sup>	21.5%	23.9%
Population below 150% FPL (%) <sup>7</sup>	33.5%	21.6%
Correctional Facilities <sup>8</sup>	1	15
Correctional Facility Inmate Capacity-prisons only <sup>8</sup>	777 (2.2%)	35,511

### Healthcare Utilization

The Northern region has one provider for every 2,580 residents. These communities have fewer ambulatory care sites per elderly resident and lower hospital inpatient days than the state average.

<b>Utilization</b>	<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>Arizona</b>
Total Outpatient Health Treatment Centers (%) <sup>9</sup>	220 (66.5%)	2,777
Outpatient Health Treatment Centers (population:provider) <sup>9</sup>	2,580:1	2,676:1
Total Emergency Room Visits (%) <sup>10</sup>	163,344 (7.6%)	2,158,153
Hospital Beds/1000 Residents <sup>10</sup>	1,431 (6.7%)	21,335



## Regional Healthcare Infrastructure

All general hospitals in the Northern Region provide short-stay, acute care, and inpatient services within their Primary Care Area (PCA).

Regional facilities and resources catering to specific populations, including pediatrics, are vital for community response. The Northern Region has 1 Level I Trauma Centers, 2 behavioral health hospitals, 1,227 nursing home beds, and 28 ground ambulance providers.

Healthcare Infrastructure	Northern Region	Arizona
General Hospitals <sup>11</sup>	7 (9.2%)	76
Critical Access Hospitals <sup>12</sup>	6 (3.5%)	17
Level I Trauma Centers <sup>13</sup>	1	14
Level III Trauma Centers <sup>13</sup>	1	6
Level IV Trauma Centers <sup>13</sup>	6	27
Behavioral Health Hospitals <sup>11</sup>	2	22
Long-term Care Hospitals <sup>11</sup>	0	5
Adult ICU bed capacity <sup>14</sup>	11 (6.1%)	179
Pediatric ICU bed capacity <sup>14</sup>	1 (6.2%)	16
Assisted Living Centers <sup>15</sup>	33(10.1%)	328
Nursing Home Beds <sup>15</sup>	1,227 (7.6%)	16,101
Home Health Agencies <sup>15</sup>	22 (9.6%)	228
Ground Ambulance Providers <sup>16</sup>	28 (1.7%)	115
Air Ambulance Providers <sup>16</sup>	Varies*	13

\*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 conducted every five years to assess risks to people and critical facilities. Hazards were identified through a Threats and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA). Each county's process was influenced by the planning team's experience, risk considerations, historical context, mitigation potential, alignment with state plans, and hazard effect duplication.

Northern Region Hazard Lists (Referenced from County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans and 2019 AzCHER CHVA):

Apache (2017) <sup>17</sup>	Coconino (2021) <sup>18</sup>	Navajo (2017) <sup>19</sup>	Yavapai (2023) <sup>20</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood/Flash Flood</li> <li>• Severe Wind</li> <li>• Wildfire</li> <li>• Winter Storm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildland Fire</li> <li>• Flood/Flash Flood and Post Wildfire Flood/ Debris Flows</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Public Health Outbreak/ Pandemic</li> <li>• Excessive Heat</li> <li>• Hazardous Materials/ Pipeline Failure/ Transport Accident</li> <li>• Dam Failure</li> <li>• Earthquake and Seismic Hazards</li> <li>• High Winds/ Tornado</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam Failure</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Flood/Flash Flood</li> <li>• Hazardous Materials Incidents</li> <li>• Levee Failure</li> <li>• Severe Wind</li> <li>• Wildfire</li> <li>• Winter Storm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earthquake</li> <li>• Flood</li> <li>• Landslide/ Mudslide</li> <li>• Severe Wind</li> <li>• Wildfires</li> <li>• Winter Storm</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