

Southern Region Vulnerability Profile 2024-2025 Update

Jurisdictions

The Southern Region comprises four Tribal nations and five Arizona counties. It contains 18 rural and 3 frontier census-recognized primary care areas (PCAs). These PCAs encompass several medically underserved areas and are geographically distant from healthcare services. PCAs with fewer than 6 persons per square mile are coded as Frontier unless designated as an Indian Primary Care Area.

Tribal Nations:¹

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

Counties:

Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Santa Cruz

Indian PCAs:

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

Frontier PCAs:

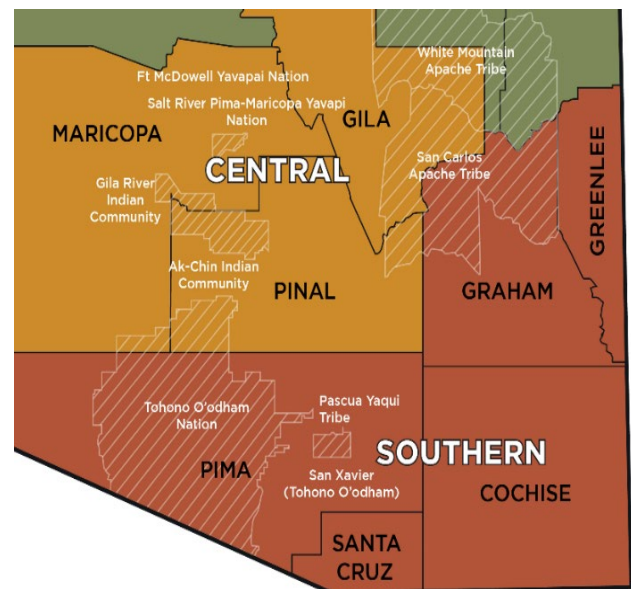
Cochise County – Willcox & Bowie
Greenlee County – Morenci
Pima County – Ajo

Rural PCAs:

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

Urban PCAs:

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

Around 1,285,854² people reside in the Southern Region. The population fluctuates with winter visitors staying over a month and migrant workers arriving during the winter growing season.

During a disaster, individuals with disabilities, access and functional needs may need special assistance from the emergency management system. The Southern Region has higher proportions of people with disabilities (14.4%) and Medicare beneficiaries (24.2%) compared to the state average.

Considerations should be given to individuals who are very old or very young, live in rural areas, have transportation difficulties, have limited English proficiency, have low socioeconomic status, or face challenges in accessing health services. In the Southern Region, 25.4% of the population lives below 150% of the federal poverty level. The inmate population is vulnerable due to limited access to care and congregate living conditions. The Southern Region houses 22.4% of Arizona's total prison inmate population.

Risk Factors	Southern Region	Arizona
Persons with Disabilities under age 65 years (%) ³	14.4%	13%
AHCCCS (Medicaid) Population ⁴	394,165 (18.6%)	2,118,704
Medicare Beneficiaries ⁵	311,193 (20.9%)	1,489,863
Electricity-Dependent Medicare Beneficiaries ⁶	12,653 (19.1%)	66,351
Medically Uninsured (%) ⁷	20.6%	23.9%
Population below 150% FPL (%) ⁷	25.4%	21.6%
Correctional Facilities ⁸	3	15
Correctional Facility Inmate Capacity-prisons only ⁸	7,995 (22.5%)	35,511

Healthcare Utilization

The Southern Region has one primary care provider per 1,884 residents. Proper treatment of ambulatory care sensitive conditions can reduce hospitalizations and ease the burden on hospitals.

Utilization	Southern Region	Arizona
Total Outpatient Health Treatment Centers (%) ⁹	502 (18.1%)	2,777
Outpatient Health Treatment Centers (population:provider) ⁹	2,561:1	2,676:1
Total Emergency Room Visits (%) ¹⁰	388,753 (18%)	2,158,153
Hospital Beds/1000 Residents ¹⁰	3,848 (18%)	21,335



Regional Healthcare Infrastructure

The Southern Region is served by a total of 14 general hospitals and 5 critical access hospitals.

Regional facilities and resources serving specific populations, including pediatrics, are important to community response.

Healthcare Infrastructure	Southern Region	Arizona
General Hospitals ¹¹	14 (18.4%)	76
Critical Access Hospitals ¹²	5 (29.4%)	17
Level I Trauma Centers ¹³	2	14
Level III Trauma Centers ¹³	1	6
Level IV Trauma Centers ¹³	8	27
Behavioral Health Hospitals ¹¹	3	22
Long-term Care Hospitals ¹¹	2	5
Adult ICU bed capacity ¹⁴	29 (16.2%)	179
Pediatric ICU bed capacity ¹⁴	5 (31.3%)	16
Assisted Living Centers ¹⁵	59 (18%)	328
Nursing Home Beds ¹⁵	3,548 (22%)	16,101
Home Health Agencies ¹⁵	36 (15.8%)	228
Ground Ambulance Providers ¹⁶	36 (31.3%)	115
Air Ambulance Providers ¹⁶	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 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

1. Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Tribal Homelands in Arizona, <https://itcaonline.com/maps/>. Published 2023. Accessed November 26, 2024.
2. United States Census Bureau, County Population Totals and Components of Change 2020-2023, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-counties-total.html>. Published 2020. Accessed November 26, 2024.
3. Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, <https://addpc.az.gov/disability-data-arizona>. Published 2021. Accessed November 26, 2024.
4. Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), AHCCCS by County, https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/PopulationStatistics/2024/PopulationbyCounty_11052024.pdf. Updated November 5, 2024. Accessed November 5, 2024.
5. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Data.CMS.gov, Summary Beneficiary Enrollment/Medicare and Medicaid Reports/Monthly Enrollment. Updated November 2024. Accessed November 26, 2024.
6. US Department of Health and Human Services, HHS empower Map, Medicare Data Totals by Selected Geographics. <https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/empowermap>. Published November 2024. Accessed November 26, 2024.
7. National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, Arizona Insurance Table, https://hdpulse.nimhd.nih.gov/data-portal/healthcare/table?age=174&age_options=age_6&demo=00043&demo_options=insurance_12&healthcaretopic=040&healthcaretopic_options=healthcare_3&race=00&race_options=raceall_1&sex=0&sex_options=sex_3&statefips=04&statefips_options=area_states and Arizona Poverty Table, https://hdpulse.nimhd.nih.gov/data-portal/social/table?age=001&age_options=ageall_1&demo=00009&demo_options=poverty_3&race=00&race_options=raceall_1&sex=0&sex_options=sexboth_1&socialtopic=080&socialtopic_options=social_6&statefips=04&statefips_options=area_states. Published 2022. Accessed November 5, 2024.
8. Arizona Department of Corrections, Commitment History, <https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjojoiNzlmN2VhODktNTYzZS00YmUzLTlhYzEtZW11ZTlzZTc1YjhlIiwidCI6IjE5MGVhN2RmLTg5MjctNDgwMi05OTZiLTVhM2I5YjQ4YTM5OSJ9>. Published October 2024. Accessed November 5, 2024.
9. Arizona Department of Health Services, Population Health & Vital Statistics, Outpatient Health Treatment Centers, <https://www.azdhs.gov/licensing/index.php#databases>. Published November 2024. Accessed November 26, 2024.
10. Arizona Department of Health Services, Population Health & Vital Statistics, Emergency Room Visits, <https://pub.azdhs.gov/health-stats/hip/index.php>. Published 2022. Accessed November 26, 2024.
11. Arizona Department of Health Services, Public Health Licensing, Provider and Facility Database, Medical, Hospital Report, <https://www.azdhs.gov/licensing/index.php#databases>. Published November 2024. Accessed 11, 2024.
12. 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 November 26, 2024.
13. Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona State Designated Trauma Centers, <https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/emergency-medical-services-trauma-system/trauma/az-designated-trauma-centers.pdf>. Updated November 5, 2024. Accessed November 26, 2024.
14. Arizona Department of Health Services, EMResource monthly average hospital reporting 2024. Received December 4, 2024.

15. Arizona Department of Health Services, Public Health Licensing, Provider and Facility Database, Assisted Living Homes, Nursing Home Beds, and Home Health Agencies, <https://www.azdhs.gov/licensing/index.php#databases>. Published November 2024. Accessed 11, 2024.
16. Arizona Department of Health Services, Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System, <https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/emergency-medical-services-trauma-system/index.php#ambulance-ground-program-con> and <https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/emergency-medical-services-trauma-system/index.php#ambulance-air-program-home>. Updated June 14, 2024. Accessed November 26, 2024.
17. Cochise County. 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 November 26, 2024.
18. 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.
19. Pima County Department of Emergency Management. Mohave County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. <https://pima.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11290650&GUID=2669413D-29AA-4021-BAD8-A4913CE40189>. Published 2022. Accessed November 26, 2024.
20. Santa Cruz County Department of Emergency Management. Yuma County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. <https://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20240/Santa-Cruz-County-Multi-Jurisdictional-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan-2024-?bidId=>. Published 2024. Accessed November 26, 2024.

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