

Western Region Vulnerability Profile 2024-2025 Update

Jurisdictions

The Western Region includes 6 Tribal Nations and 3 Arizona Counties. There are nine Rural, two Frontier*, and two Indian census-recognized Primary Care Areas (PCAs). These PCAs include multiple Medically Underserved Areas and are geographically isolated from healthcare services.

Tribal Nations:¹

Hualapai Tribe, Kaibab-Paiute Tribe, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribe, Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe, Cocopah Tribe

Counties:

Mohave, La Paz, Yuma

Indian PCAs:

Mohave County – Hualapai Tribe
La Paz County – Colorado River Indian Tribe

Frontier PCAs:

Mohave County - Colorado City
La Paz County – Quartzsite

Rural PCAs:

Mohave County – Kingman, Golden Valley, Bullhead City, Lake Havasu City
La Paz County – Parker
Yuma County - Fortuna Foothills, San Luis, Somerton, Yuma



Population and Vulnerable Demographics

The population in the Western Region is approximately 435,613². The population varies seasonally with winter visitors staying for 30 days or longer, and migrant/agricultural workers coming into communities during the winter growing season.

During disasters, individuals with disabilities and functional needs may need special assistance. The Western Region has higher percentages of people living with disabilities (19.7%) and Medicare beneficiaries (8.3%) compared to the state average.

Consideration is taken for those who are elderly, very young, live in rural areas, have transportation issues, limited English proficiency, low socioeconomic status, or difficulty accessing health services. 29.9% of the population is below 150% of the federal poverty level. The inmate population is vulnerable due to the number of non-citizen inmates, limited care access, and congregate living conditions. The Western Region houses 22.5% of Arizona's prison inmates.

*All PCAs with less than 6 persons per square mile are coded Frontier if not designated as an Indian Primary Care Area.

Risk Factors	Western Region	Arizona
Persons with Disabilities under age 65 years (%) ³	19.7%	13%
AHCCCS (Medicaid) Population ⁴	176,575 (8.3%)	2,118,704
Medicare Beneficiaries ⁵	125,046 (8.4%)	1,489,863
Electricity-Dependent Medicare Beneficiaries ⁶	5,781 (8.7%)	66,351
Medically Uninsured (%) ⁷	24.5%	23.9%
Population below 150% FPL (%) ⁷	29.9%	21.6%
Correctional Facilities ⁸	2	15
Correctional Facility Inmate Capacity-prisons only ⁸	7,993 (22.5%)	35,511

Healthcare Utilization

The Western Region has an outpatient health treatment center for every 2,191 residents.¹ Ambulatory care sensitive conditions - care that if delivered properly would not result in hospitalization – relieves the burden on the hospital system.

Utilization	Western Region	Arizona
Total Outpatient Health Treatment Centers (%) ⁹	207 (7.5%)	2,777
Outpatient Health Treatment Centers (population:provider) ⁹	2,191:1	2,676:1
Total Emergency Room Visits (%) ¹⁰	151,715 (7%)	2,158,153
Hospital Beds/1000 Residents ¹⁰	1,157 (5.4%)	21,335



Regional Healthcare Infrastructure

The Western Region has 6 general hospitals and 2 critical access hospitals.

Arizona has 1.9 beds per 1,000 residents. Regional facilities and resources that serve specific populations, including pediatrics, are crucial for the overall community response. The Western Region has 93 specialty beds, 4 skilled nursing facilities, 392 nursing beds, 14 licensed home health agencies, 76 licensed pharmacies, and 14 certified ambulance services.

Healthcare Infrastructure	Western Region	Arizona
General Hospitals ¹¹	6 (7.9%)	76
Critical Access Hospitals ¹²	2 (11.7%)	17
Level I Trauma Centers ¹³	0	14
Level III Trauma Centers ¹³	2	6
Level IV Trauma Centers ¹³	2	27
Behavioral Health Hospitals ¹¹	0	22
Long-term Care Hospitals ¹¹	0	5
Adult ICU bed capacity ¹⁴		
Pediatric ICU bed capacity ¹⁴		
Assisted Living Centers ¹⁵	20 (6%)	328
Nursing Home Beds ¹⁵	1,259 (7.8%)	16,101
Home Health Agencies ¹⁵	19 (8.3%)	228
Ground Ambulance Providers ¹⁶	15	115
Air Ambulance Providers ¹⁶	Varies*	13

*There are 13 air ambulances registered to provide care and transport within Arizona, most 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 the highest risks to people and critical facilities. Hazards were identified through a Threats and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA). The process was influenced by the planning team's experience, relative risk, historical context, mitigation potential, state plan alignment, and duplication of hazard effects.

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

La Paz County (2020) ¹⁷	Mohave County (2022) ¹⁸	Yuma County (2019) ¹⁹
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dam Failure• Drought• Flooding/Flash Flooding• Hazardous Materials Incident• Severe Wind• Wildfire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biological/Disease Events• Dam Failure• Drought• Extreme Heat• Flood/Flash Flood• Hazardous Material Incidents• Power Failure• Severe Wind• Wildfire• Earthquake	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drought• Extreme Heat• Flooding• Severe Wind• Wildfire

Resources

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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.
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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.
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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