

## Western Region Vulnerability Profile 2025-2026

The Western Region Vulnerability Profile provides an updated overview of the demographics, healthcare infrastructure, and hazard risks for the Western Region of the Arizona Coalition for Healthcare Emergency Response (AzCHER). The region includes three (3) counties and eight (8) Tribal Nations, which are medically underserved and geographically isolated from other healthcare services. It highlights the population characteristics, healthcare utilization, and regional resources critical for emergency planning and response.



### Counties<sup>1</sup>:

Mohave, La Paz, Yuma

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

Mohave County – Fort Mojave Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Kaibab-Paiute Tribe  
La Paz County – Colorado River Indian Tribes  
Yuma County – Cocopah Indian Tribe, Quechan Tribe

## Primary Care Areas

Primary Care Areas (PCAs) in Arizona are geographic planning units used to evaluate access to primary healthcare service and to identify communities that may be underserved or at risk for provider shortages. They are a key tool in healthcare planning, workforce analysis, and public-health decision-making, to include emergency preparedness in these communities.

### Indian PCAs:

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

### Rural PCAs:

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

## Population and Vulnerable Groups

The Western Region’s population is about 463,781<sup>1</sup>, with seasonal changes due to winter visitors and migrant workers. Disabilities affect 20.1% of residents and 8.6% are Medicare beneficiaries, both above state averages. Special attention goes to the elderly, young children, rural residents, those with transportation or language barriers, low socioeconomic status, and limited access to health care. About 28.4 live below 150% of the federal poverty level, and the region houses 22% of Arizona's prison inmates. Hospitals in the southern portion of the western region are impacted by unpaid care for migrant patients.

Risk Factors	Western Region	Arizona
Persons with Disabilities under age 65 years (%) <sup>2</sup>	20.1%	13.6%
AHCCCS (Medicaid) Population <sup>3</sup>	155,205 (8.7%)	1,786,199
Medicare Beneficiaries <sup>4</sup>	128,567 (8.6%)	1,529,229
Electricity-Dependent Medicare Beneficiaries <sup>5</sup>	5,682 (8.6%)	66,172
Medically Uninsured (%) <sup>6</sup>	22.9%	23.5%
Population below 150% FPL (%) <sup>7</sup>	28.4%	20.8%
Correctional Facilities <sup>8</sup>	2	15
Correctional Facility Inmate Capacity (prisons only) <sup>8</sup>	7,719 (22%)	35,273

## Healthcare Utilization

The Western Region has one outpatient health treatment center per 2,684 residents, accounting for 67% of Arizona’s providers. It also accounts for 67.1% of emergency room visits and 66% of acute care and critical access hospital beds statewide.

Utilization	Western Region	Arizona
Total Outpatient Health Treatment Centers (%) <sup>9</sup>	207 (7.5%)	2,914
Outpatient Health Treatment Centers (population:provider) <sup>9</sup>	2,191:1	2,602:1
Total Emergency Room Visits (%) <sup>10</sup>	151,715 (7%)	2,427,318
Acute Care and Critical Access Hospital Beds/1000 Residents* <sup>10</sup>	2.3	1.9

\*Federal Hospitals are *excluded* from the bed counts, as their data *is not* reported in the Arizona Department of Health Services dashboard.

## Healthcare Infrastructure

The Western Region has 7 acute care hospitals and 2 critical access hospitals.

The Western Region has 2.3 beds per 1,000 residents, which is higher than the state average. Regional facilities and resources that serve specific populations, including pediatrics, are crucial for the overall community response. The Western Region has 20 assisted living centers, 1,240 long-term care/nursing home beds, and 19 home health agencies.

Healthcare Infrastructure	Western Region	Arizona
Acute Care Hospitals <sup>9</sup>	7 (9.1%)	77
Critical Access Hospitals <sup>9</sup>	2 (11.8%)	17
Level I Trauma Centers <sup>11</sup>	0	15
Level III Trauma Centers <sup>11</sup>	2	9
Level IV Trauma Centers <sup>11</sup>	3	28
Behavioral Health Hospitals <sup>9</sup>	0	23
Long-term Care Hospitals <sup>9</sup>	0	6
Assisted Living Centers <sup>9</sup>	20 (6%)	333
Long-Term Care/Nursing Home Beds <sup>9</sup>	1,240 (7.9%)	15,698
Home Health Agencies <sup>9</sup>	19 (8.5%)	223
Ground Ambulance Providers <sup>12</sup>	15	127
Air Ambulance Providers <sup>13</sup>	Varies**	12

\* Federal Hospitals are *included* in the hospital counts, as their data *is* reported in the Arizona Department of Health Services dashboard.

\*\*There are twelve (12) air ambulances providers registered to provide care and transport patients 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

County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans identify key risks including dam failure, drought, flooding, hazardous materials incidents, severe wind, wildfire, biological disease event, extreme heat, power failure, and earthquake. These plans are updated every five years to evaluate risks to people and key facilities. Hazards are identified through a Threats and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA), with each county's process shaped by team expertise, risk assessment, history, mitigation options, state plan alignment, and overlapping hazard effects.

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

La Paz County (2020) <sup>14</sup>	Mohave County (2022) <sup>15</sup>	Yuma County (2019) <sup>16</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam Failure</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Flooding/Flash Flooding</li> <li>• Hazardous Materials Incident</li> <li>• Severe Wind</li> <li>• Wildfire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biological/Disease Events</li> <li>• Dam Failure</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Extreme Heat</li> <li>• Flood/Flash Flood</li> <li>• Hazardous Material Incidents</li> <li>• Power Failure</li> <li>• Severe Wind</li> <li>• Wildfire</li> <li>• Earthquake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Extreme Heat</li> <li>• Flooding</li> <li>• Severe Wind</li> <li>• Wildfire</li> </ul>

\*The list of hazards is alphabetical and not listed by threat level.

**Special Considerations for Vulnerable Populations**

Emergency planning should consider individuals who are elderly, very young, have disabilities, face transportation or language barriers, or have low socioeconomic status. The large inmate population is particularly vulnerable due to communal living and limited healthcare access.

## Resources

1. Arizona's Counties, Tribal Nations, and Population. Arizona Disability Data for Arizona - [Arizona-Demographics-Counties by Population Link](#). Published August 7, 2025. Accessed December 20, 2025.
2. Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. Persons with Disabilities [Arizona Development Disabilities Planning Council-Disability Data for Arizona Link](#). Published and accessed December 2025.
3. Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (Medicaid) Population - [AHCCCS Population Statistics Link](#)
4. Medicare Beneficiaries in Arizona. [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data Link](#). Published September 2025. Accessed December 20, 2025.
5. HHS emPOWER Map Medicare At-Risk Populations by Geography. [HHS emPOWER Map Electricity Dependent Link](#). Published and Accessed December 20, 2025.
6. Arizona Medically Underinsured Areas. [Arizona Medically Underserved Areas Biennial Report Link](#). Published October 2024. Accessed December 20, 2025.
7. Arizona Population below 150% Federal Poverty Level. [National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Link](#). Published and accessed December 20, 2025.
8. Arizona Department of Corrections Facilities and Correctional Facility Inmate Capacity. [ADC Data/Reports Link](#). Published October 2025. Accessed December 20, 2025.
9. Arizona Department of Public Health Licensing. [Provider & Facility Database Link](#). Published December 1, 2025. Accessed December 20, 2025.
10. Statewide Emergency Room Visits. [Arizona Department of Health Services Population Health and Vital Statistics Link](#). Published 2022. Accessed December 20, 2025.
11. Arizona Department of Public Health Designated Trauma Centers. [Arizona State Designated Trauma Centers Link](#). Published October 21, 2025. Accessed December 20, 2025.
12. Arizona Department of Health and Services Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System. [Bureau of Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System Ground Ambulance Provider Link](#). Published August 7, 2025. Accessed December 20, 2025.
13. Arizona Department of Health Services Bureau of Emergency Health Services & Trauma System. [Bureau of Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System Air Ambulance Provider Link](#). Published April 29, 2025. Accessed December 20, 2025.
14. La Paz County Emergency Management. [2020 La Paz County Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). Published 2021. Accessed December 22, 2025.
15. Mohave County Emergency Management. [Mohave County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). Published 2022. Accessed December 22, 2025.
16. Yuma County Emergency Management. [Yuma County Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). Published March 2019. Accessed December 22, 2025.