



Northern Region Vulnerability Profile 2025-2026

The Northern Region Vulnerability Profile provides an updated overview of the demographics, healthcare infrastructure, and hazard risks for the Northern Region of Arizona Coalition for Healthcare Emergency Response (AzCHER). The region includes four (4) counties and nine (9) 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.



Counties¹:

Apache, Coconino, Navajo, Yavapai

Tribal Nations¹:

Apache County – Navajo Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Zuni Indian Tribe

Coconino County – Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Havasupai Tribe, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe

Navajo County - Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe

Yavapai County - Yavapai Apache Nation, Yavapai Prescott Tribe

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:

Apache County – Navajo Nation

Coconino County – Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe

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

Rural PCAs:

Apache – Springerville

Coconino County – Grand Canyon Ville, Page

Navajo County – Snowflake/Heber, Show Low, Winslow,

Yavapai County – Black Canyon City, Chino Valley, Cottonwood\Sedona, Prescott, Prescott Valley, Williamson

Urban PCAs:¹

Coconino County – Flagstaff

Yavapai County – Prescott, Prescott Valley

Population and Vulnerable Groups

About 571,490 people live in Arizona's Northern Region, the state's largest area with varied climates that can cause both heat and cold health risks. This region has higher rates of residents with disabilities (15.5%) and Medicare recipients (28.4%) than the state average.

Risk Factors	Northern Region	Arizona
Persons with Disabilities (%) ²	15.5%	13.6%
AHCCCS (Medicaid) Population ³	161,201 (9%)	1,786,199
Medicare Beneficiaries ⁴	16,091 (28.4%)	1,529,229
Electricity-Dependent Medicare Beneficiaries ⁵	12,749 (19.3%)	66,172
Medically Uninsured (%) ⁶	17.9%	23.5%
Population below 150% FPL (%) ⁷	32.9%	20.6%
Correctional Facilities ⁸	1	15
Correctional Facility Inmate Capacity-prisons only ⁸	847 (2.4%)	35,273

Healthcare Utilization

The Northern region has one provider for every 2,646 residents. These communities have fewer ambulatory care sites per elderly resident and lower hospital inpatient days than the state average.

Utilization	Northern Region	Arizona
Total Outpatient Health Treatment Centers (%) ⁹	216 (7.4%)	2,914
Outpatient Health Treatment Centers (population:provider) ⁹	2,646:1	2,602:1
Total Emergency Room Visits (%) ¹⁰	183,850 (7.6%)	2,427,318
Acute Care and Critical Access Hospital Beds/1000 Residents* ¹⁰	1.8	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 region hosts 9 general hospitals (11.7% of state total), 1 Level I trauma center, 33 assisted living centers, 1,234 nursing home beds, and 21 home health agencies. There are 35 ground ambulance providers statewide, which service cover multi-regional areas.

Healthcare Infrastructure	Northern Region	Arizona
Acute Care Hospitals ⁹	7 (9.2%)	77
Critical Access Hospitals* ⁹	6 (3.5%)	17
Level I Trauma Centers ¹¹	1	15
Level III Trauma Centers ¹¹	1	9
Level IV Trauma Centers ¹¹	6	28
Behavioral Health Hospitals ⁹	2	23
Long-Term Care Hospitals ⁹	0	6
Assisted Living Centers ⁹	221 (66.4%)	333
Long-Term Care/Nursing Home Beds ⁹	9,732 (62%)	15,698
Home Health Agencies ⁹	22 (9.6%)	223
Ground Ambulance Providers ¹²	28 (1.7%)	127
Air Ambulance Providers ¹³	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 flash flooding, severe wind, wildfire, mudslides, winter storm, drought, pandemic, excessive heat, hazardous materials incidents, dam failure, earthquakes, and levee failures. 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.

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

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

*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.

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. Apache County Emergency Management and Preparedness. [2017 Apache County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). Published 2017. Accessed December 20, 2025.
15. Coconino County Emergency Management. [2021 Coconino County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). Published 2021, updated January 2022. Accessed December 20, 2025.
16. Navajo County Emergency Management and Preparedness. [2024 Navajo County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). Published 2024. Accessed December 20, 2025.
17. Yavapai County Emergency Management. Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. [2023 Yavapai County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). Published 2023. Accessed December 20, 2025.