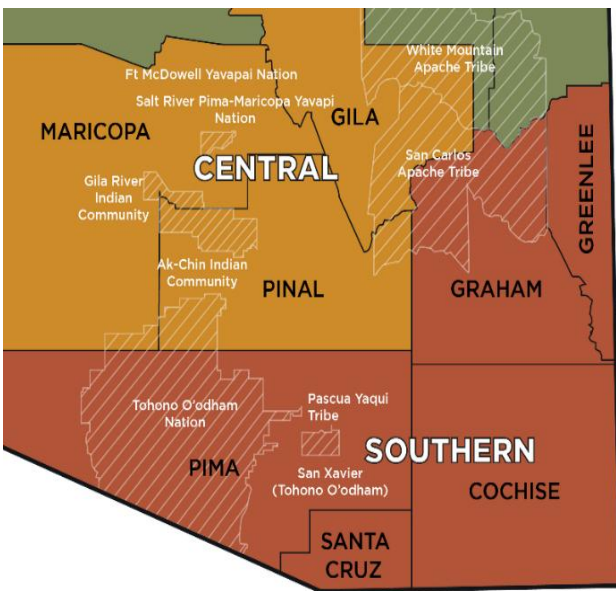




## Southern Region Vulnerability Profile 2025-2026

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

Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Santa Cruz

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

Graham County – San Carlos Apache Tribe  
 Pima County - Tohono O’odham Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, San Xavier Reservation

## 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:

Graham County – San Carlos Apache Tribe  
 Pima County – Tohono O’odham Nation, San Xavier, Pascua Yaqui Tribe

### Rural PCAs:

Cochise County – Benson, Douglas & Pirtle Ville, Willcox & Bowie, Bisbee, Sierra Vista  
 Graham County – Safford, Thatcher  
 Greenlee County - Morenci  
 Pima County – Ajo, Green Valley, Sahuarita  
 Santa Cruz County – Nogales, Rio Rico

## Urban PCAs:

Pima County – Casas Adobes, Catalina Foothills, Drexel Heights, Flowing Wells, Marana, Oro Valley, Picture Rocks, Tanque Verde, Tucson Central, Tucson East, Tucson Estates, Tucson Foothills, Tucson South, Tucson South East, Tucson West, Vail, Valencia West

## Population and Vulnerable Groups

The Southern Region has about 1,306,082<sup>1</sup> residents, though this varies due to the seasonal visitors and migrant workers. The area has higher rates of people with disabilities (14.9) and Medicare Beneficiaries (24.3) than the state average. Special attention should be given to vulnerable groups, including older adults, children, rural residents, those with transportation or language barriers, low-income individuals and people with limited access to health care. Notably, 24.6 live below 150% of the federal poverty level, and 21.9 of Arizona's total prison inmates are housed here, making both populations particularly vulnerable.

Risk Factors	Southern Region	Arizona
Persons with Disabilities under age 65 years (%) <sup>2</sup>	14.9%	13.6%
AHCCCS (Medicaid) Population <sup>3</sup>	341,734 (19.1%)	1,786,199
Medicare Beneficiaries <sup>4</sup>	317,671 (24.3%)	1,529,229
Electricity-Dependent Medicare Beneficiaries <sup>5</sup>	12,773 (19.3%)	66,172
Medically Uninsured (%) <sup>6</sup>	22.2%	23.5%
Population below 150% FPL (%) <sup>7</sup>	24.6%	20.8%
Correctional Facilities <sup>8</sup>	3	15
Correctional Facility Inmate Capacity (prisons only) <sup>8</sup>	7,760 (21.9%)	35,273

## Healthcare Utilization

The Southern Region has one outpatient health treatment center per 2,561 residents. This represents a share of Arizona's providers as well as emergency rooms visits and hospital beds, highlighting a high healthcare demand. Hospitals in the southern region are impacted by unpaid care for migrant patients.

Utilization	Southern Region	Arizona
Total Outpatient Health Treatment Centers (%) <sup>9</sup>	502 (18.1%)	2,914
Outpatient Health Treatment Centers (population:provider) <sup>9</sup>	2,561:1	2,602:1
Total Emergency Room Visits (%) <sup>10</sup>	388,753 (18%)	2,427,318
Acute Care and Critical Access Hospital Beds/1000 Residents <sup>10</sup>	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 15 general hospitals (19.5% of state total), 3 Level I trauma centers, 59 assisted living centers, 3,492 nursing home beds, and 34 home health agencies. There are 35 ground ambulance providers statewide, which service cover multi-regional areas.

Healthcare Infrastructure	Southern Region	Arizona
Acute Care Hospitals Hospitals <sup>9</sup>	15 (19.5%)	77
Critical Access Hospitals <sup>9</sup>	5 (29.4%)	17
Level I Trauma Centers <sup>11</sup>	3	15
Level III Trauma Centers <sup>11</sup>	4	9
Level IV Trauma Centers <sup>11</sup>	8	28
Behavioral Health Hospitals <sup>9</sup>	3	23
Long-Term Care Hospitals <sup>9</sup>	3	6
Assisted Living Centers <sup>9</sup>	59 (17.7%)	333
Long-Term Care/Nursing Home Beds <sup>9</sup>	3,492 (22.2%)	15,698
Home Health Agencies <sup>9</sup>	34 (15.2%)	223
Ground Ambulance Providers <sup>12</sup>	34 (26.8%)	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 building collapse/mine subsidence, drought, earthquake, fissure, flash flood, severe wind, wildfire, dam failure, levee failure, extreme cold and heat, and landslide. 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.

Southern Region Hazard Lists\* (Referenced from County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans):

Cochise County (2022) <sup>14</sup>	Graham County (2021) <sup>15</sup>	Greenlee County (2022) <sup>16</sup>	Pima County (2022) <sup>17</sup>	Santa Cruz County (2018) <sup>18</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Collapse/ Mine Subsidence</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Earthquake</li> <li>• Fissure</li> <li>• Flood/Flash Flood</li> <li>• Severe Wind</li> <li>• Wildfire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam Failure</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Fissure</li> <li>• Flood/Flash Flood</li> <li>• Severe Wind</li> <li>• Wildfire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Flooding/ Flash Flood</li> <li>• Levee Failure</li> <li>• Wildfire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Earthquake</li> <li>• Extreme Cold</li> <li>• Extreme Heat</li> <li>• Flood</li> <li>• Landslide</li> <li>• Severe Wind</li> <li>• Wildfire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam Failure</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Flooding/Flash Flooding</li> <li>• HazMat Incidents</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.

## Resources

1. Arizona Counties, Tribal Nations, and Population. Arizona Disability Data for Arizona - [Arizona-Demographics-Counties by Population Link](#). Published August 7, 2025. Accessed December 20, 2025.
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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.
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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.
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16. Greenlee County Emergency Management. [Greenlee County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). Published August 2021. Accessed December 22, 2025.
17. Pima County Office of Emergency Management. [2022 Pima County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). Published 2022. Accessed December 22, 2025.
18. Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Management. [2024 Santa Cruz Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). Published 2024. Accessed December 22, 2025.