TOMORROW'S RESEARCHER NEWS

UPDATE ON ALBERTA'S TOMORROW PROJECT
ESTABLISHED IN 2000 TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CANCER AND CHRONIC DISEASE

ALBERTA'S TOMORROW PROJECT
Inspiring research for a healthier tomorrow

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 1 | WINTER 2026

Happy New Year from ATP!

Happy New Year! ATP is excited to ring in 2026, which will bring a new year of data collection.

We, along with the other regional studies in the CanPath partnership, will collect detailed diet and activity data from our participants. Funded by a CIHR grant, the PI team of Drs. Rachel Murphy, Sharon Kirkpatrick and Jennifer Vena are leading the HEALthy Eating and Supportive Environments (HEAL) study. Data collection is underway and will continue through 2027. Participants are completing multiple surveys over one year to capture dietary intake and daily activities. Data will be linked to information about the neighborhood built and food environments using postal codes. Due to the large number of participants and breadth and depth of data, it will be the biggest diet and activity data collection ever in Canada! Some participants will also be invited to take part in a sub-study called CHARM (CHARacterizing heterogeneity in dietary intake among structurally excluded populations using Multidimensional data). Participants will be asked to provide a fasting blood sample and an optional stool sample to explore how diet impacts metabolic health. The data generated by these projects will help answer the objectives of the HEAL and CHARM grants about the relationships between diet, the food environment, and health. The detailed diet and activity data will also be made available for any external researcher to request to support a wide range of research on diet, activity, and cancer and chronic diseases.

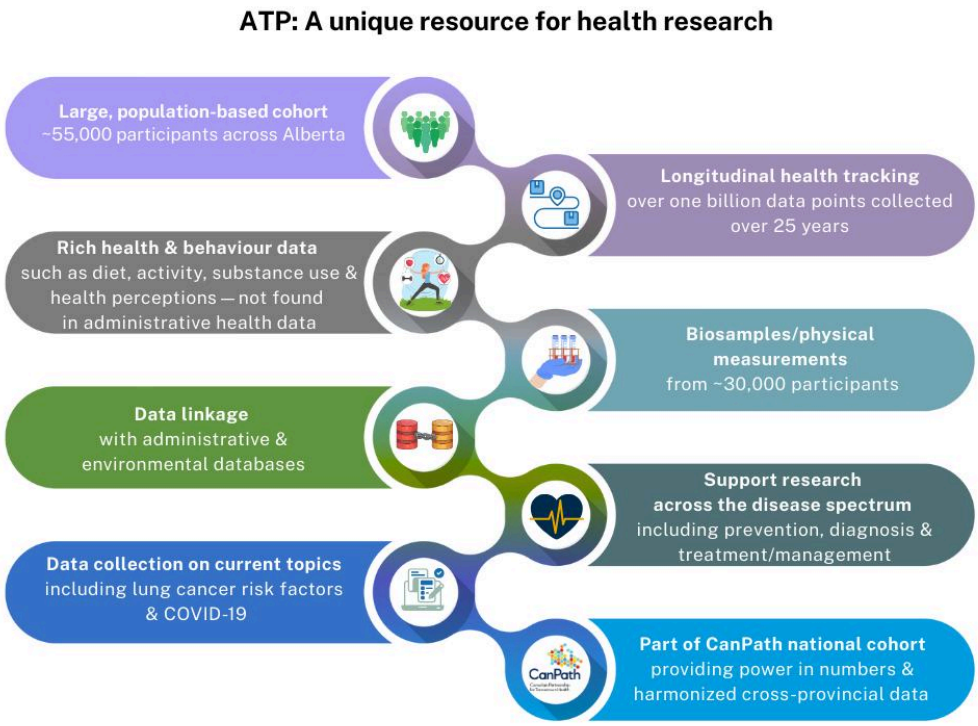
Thank you to those who have already used ATP data. Your studies demonstrate how population-level data can identify risk factors, inform prevention strategies, and guide improvements in care.

For those who have not yet explored ATP data, we encourage you to consider the unique opportunities this cohort data provides — from long-term follow-up to rich contextual insights that are difficult to capture elsewhere.

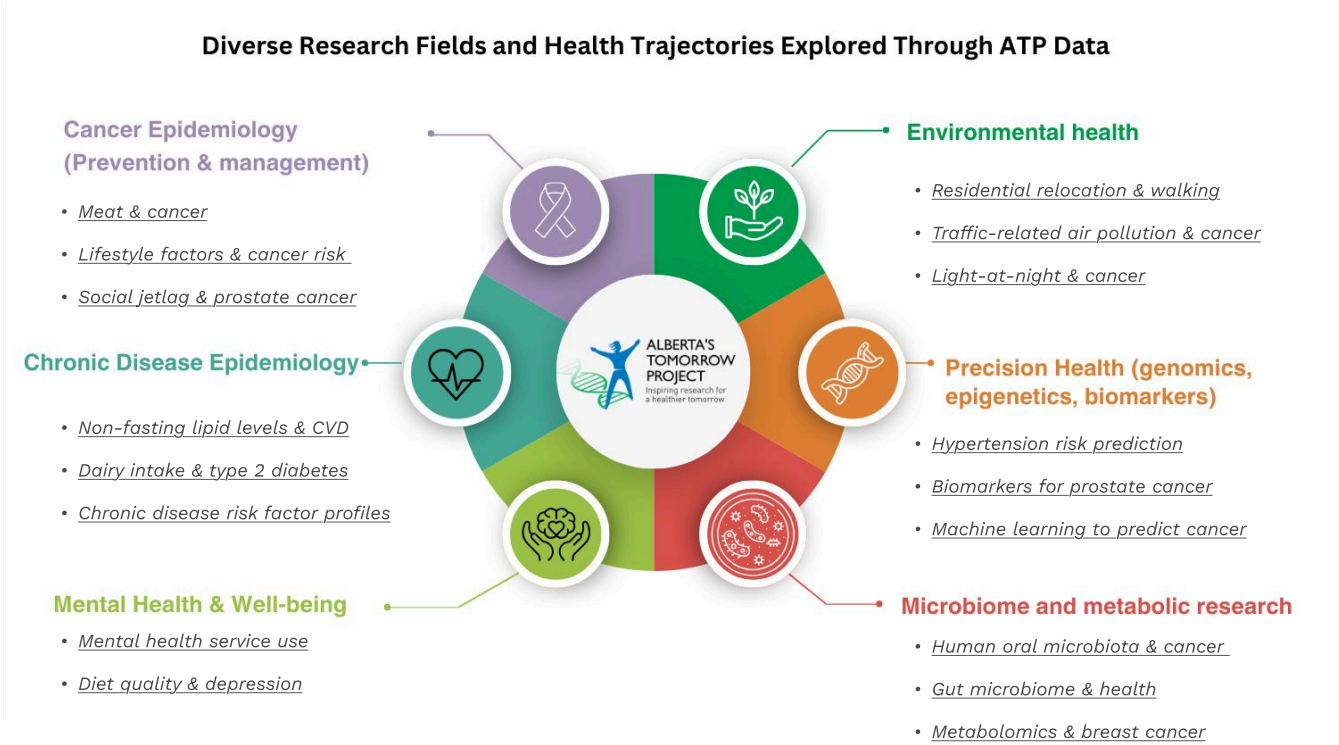
Whether you are a long-time user or exploring the cohort for the first time, we look forward to supporting your efforts and seeing the discoveries you make. Wishing you inspiration, success, and fulfillment in the year ahead.

25 Years of Impact: Exploring ATP's Research Footprint

Alberta's Tomorrow Project (ATP) is a comprehensive resource that includes survey-based data, linked administrative data, and biosamples with biomarker data, providing an exceptional foundation for advancing health research.



ATP data can support a wide spectrum of research across the cancer and chronic disease continuum in adulthood and older age. The graphic below shows the diverse range of projects that have utilized ATP data.

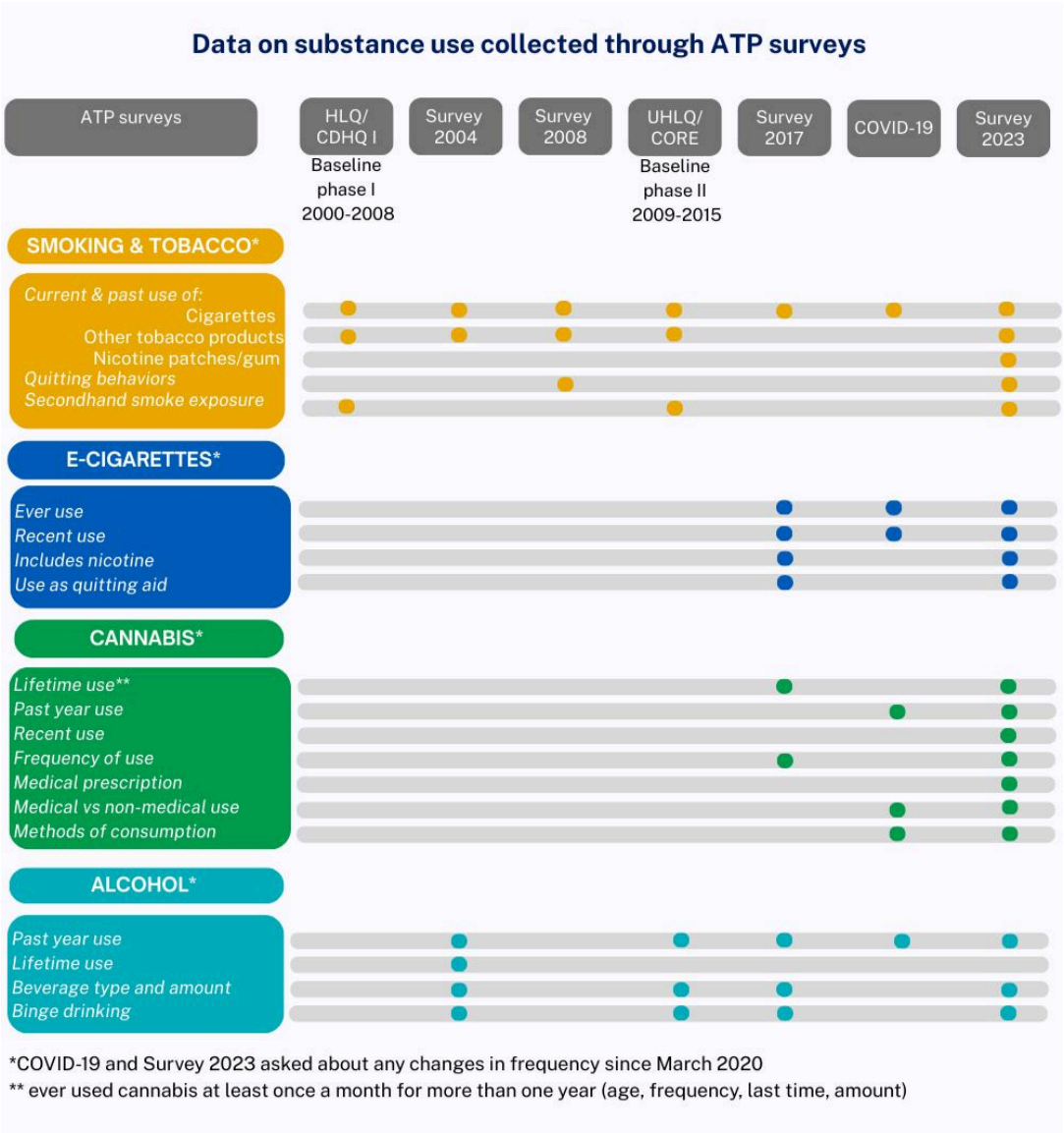


As a reminder, we're waiving dataset fees for all approved research projects until December 31, 2026. This is your chance to unlock valuable ATP data at minimal cost. (Please note: Application and biosample fees and misc. charges may still apply)

Explore our website and YouTube channel for valuable insights, and reach out — we're excited to support your research!

Exploring Substance Use and Exposure

Use of substances such as alcohol and tobacco are major modifiable risk factors for cancer and chronic diseases in Canada. ATP has collected extensive information on substance use — including alcohol, tobacco, and environmental tobacco exposure (secondhand smoke). In response to the growing use of e-cigarettes/vaping and legalization of cannabis, information on the use of these products has been included since 2017. Researchers are welcome to use this longitudinal information to better understand consumption changes over time and potential impact on health outcomes. Check out the summary below for the substance use domains captured in ATP surveys; or, to explore the masterlist of ATP survey topics, click here.



Our survey in 2023 captured comprehensive information on substance use and related behaviors – see the table below for an overview.

Substance	Category	Prevalence
Tobacco use	Current*	4% (686)
	Former	43% (8,653)
	Never	53% (10,409)
Current exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke	Yes (at least once per week)	7% (1,382)
	No (monthly or less)	93% (17,820)
E-Cigarette use	Current*	1% (181)
	Former	4% (688)
	Never	96% (18,699)
Cannabis use	Current*	10% (1,929)
	Ever use**	44% (8,499)
	Never	46% (8,946)
Alcohol consumption	Weekly (at least once per week)	51% (9,987)
	Monthly (at least once per month)	19% (3,816)
	Less than once a month	17% (3,306)
	Former	9% (1,815)
	Never	3% (653)

*Use over the last 30 days
**Ever used, even once

To find out more or to access data, please visit the ATP Research Portal or contact atp.research@cancercarealberta.ca. You can also see what is available using the Survey 2023 Data Dictionary.

Make ATP part of your next funding application

The spring cycle of grant opportunities is approaching! We would love to explore if ATP can support your research. Not sure if we have what you need or need a Letter of Support? We are here to help! We can help you identify available data related to your research interests. Contact us for more information at atp.research@cancercarealberta.ca.

Upcoming grant opportunities:

1. **CIHR Project Grant (Spring 2026)**

   Registration deadline: February 4, 2026
   Application deadline: March 4, 2026
   Anticipated notice of decision: July 22, 2026
   Funding start date: October 1, 2026

2. **CIHR Team Grant: Beyond Treatment – Advancing Cancer Survivorship:** This funding opportunity supports projects focused on key areas in cancer survivorship, including breast cancer, mental health, and others. With an increasing number of cancer survivors, there is an urgent need to understand how people are living beyond cancer and the associated healthcare needs. ATP follow-up surveys collect health and behavioural data, including participants who have experienced cancer, and linkage to the Alberta Cancer Registry allows for identification of cancer cases, treatment information, and discharge information. These linked data provide a unique opportunity to investigate health behaviours and outcomes in survivorship.

   Registration deadline: February 24, 2026
   Application deadline: May 20, 2026
   Funding start date: October 1, 2026

3. CIHR Team Grant: Health Effects of Ultra-Processed Foods (UPFs): This funding opportunity supports projects relevant to a variety of research areas around UPFs, including mechanisms of health effects, health effects in older persons, biological mechanisms and development of cardiovascular diseases, and structural determinants. ATP has collected diet and nutrition data through a food frequency questionnaire at baseline and is also collecting detailed year-long dietary intake information via the HEAL (diet and physical activity study), which can be utilized to identify ultra-processed food (UPF) items. Health outcomes such as cancer or cardiovascular conditions can be determined using self-reported survey data or through linked data from the Alberta Cancer Registry and other administrative datasets.

   Letter of Intent deadline: January 22, 2026
   Full application deadline: November 24, 2026
   Funding start date: June 1, 2027

4. Geoffrey Ogram Memorial Research Grant Funded by Lung Cancer Canada, this grant supports advancement in lung cancer research programs that are anywhere on the continuum from basic, high impact discovery to translational work of direct relevance to the clinic and beyond. ATP has longitudinally collected data on lung cancer risk factors, such as tobacco use, occupational data, and environmental factors. Recently, ATP expanded this effort by administering the Lung Cancer Risk Factors Study, which gathered comprehensive information on a wide range of risk factors for lung cancer, including exposures in the home and radon testing (the data from this survey will be available in 2026).

   Full application cycle: Spring 2026

5. Cancer Research for Screening and Prevention Funded by the Government of Alberta, the objectives are to: 1) support cancer research, focusing on prevention, early detection and screening to improve the overall health of Albertans; 2) build capacity for cancer research and innovation excellence with eligible institutions to promote implementation, collaborations and investments; 3) promote investment in cancer research that supports sustainability of the health care system.

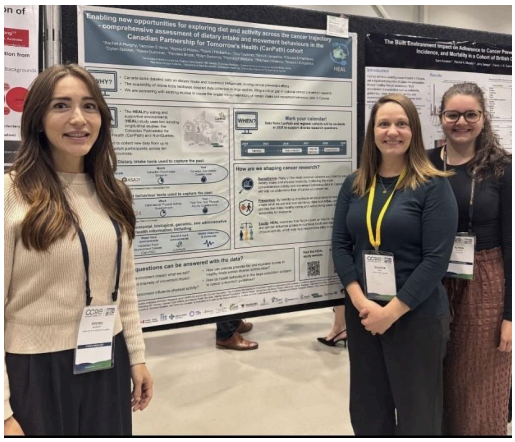
   Expression of interest submission: Spring 2026

ATP at the Canadian Cancer Research Conference (CCRC) 2025

From November 2–4, the Canadian Cancer Research Conference (CCRC) was held in Calgary, Alberta. Researchers leveraging data from ATP showcased groundbreaking work at the CCRC 2025! Among them, Dr. Parveen Bhatti (University of British Colombia) gave a compelling talk on the link between outdoor artificial light at night and breast cancer risk. His work examined how light intensity and wavelength — critical factors in melatonin suppression — may influence cancer development.
Below, you'll find poster highlights featuring innovative studies that leveraged ATP data.

Poster Highlights:

- Dr. Rachel Murphy (University of British Colombia), Dr. Jennifer Vena (ATP) and Alyssa Milano (BC Cancer) presented information on the HEALthy Eating and Supportive Environments (HEAL) study on diet and activity (data expected by 2028!)
- Alyssa Milano (BC Cancer) presented on the CHARM (CHARacterizing heterogeneity in dietary intake among structurally excluded populations using Multidimensional data) study. In this HEAL sub-study, some participants will be invited to provide a fasting blood sample and an optional stool sample to assist researchers in studying the relationship between diet and metabolic health.



Dr. Rachel Murphy, Dr. Jennifer Vena, and Alyssa Milano (from left to right)

- Melanie Matté (University of Calgary) presented on integrating CANUE and ATP data for the Know Your Exposure project, in which a group of ATP participants tested a mobile phone app that monitors environmental and occupational exposures.
- Dr. Grace Shen-Tu (ATP) promoted the ATP data and biosample available for request.
- Laura Grant (ATP) shared opportunities available with ATP and the Alberta Cancer Research Biobank (ACRB).
- Dr. Jianyi Xu (ATP) examined how self-reported cervical cancer screening data from ATP surveys compared with administrative health records using linked data.
- Dr. Sara Nejatinamini (ATP) explored geographic disparities and key determinants of cervical cancer screening using ATP data.

We are looking forward to the next CCRC in 2027 in Montreal!

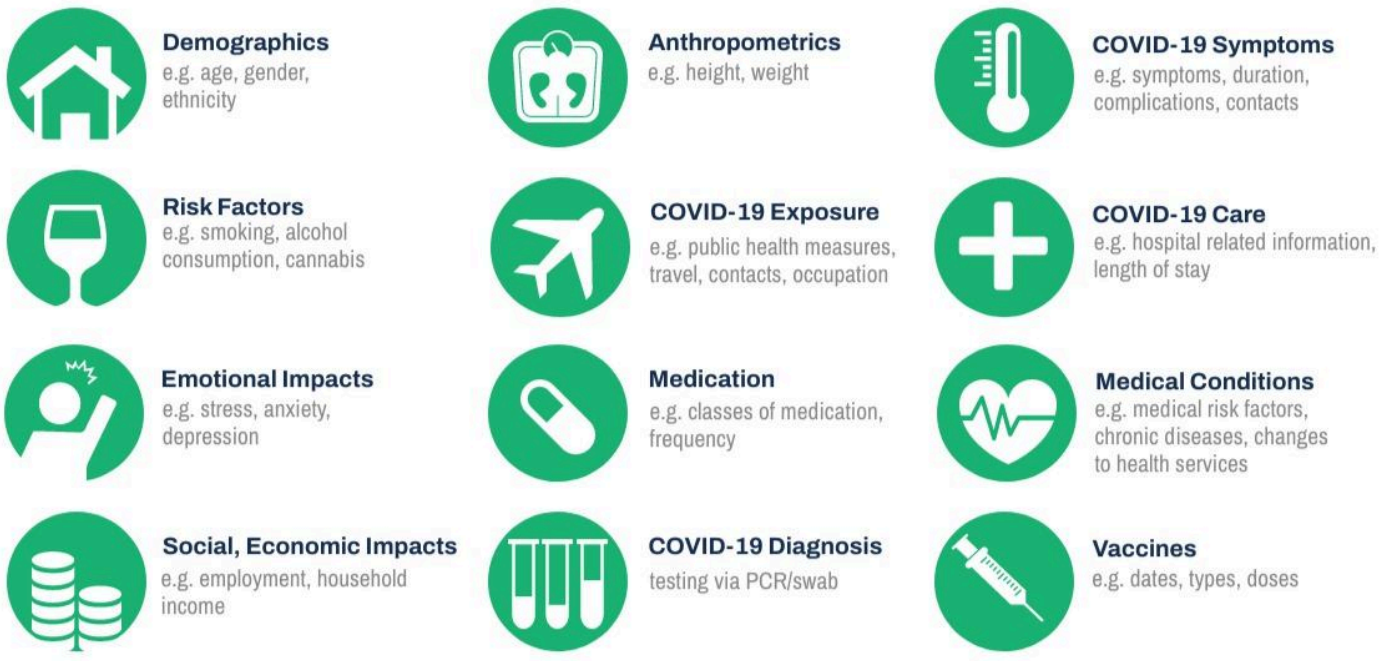
New Publication

COVID-19 antibody testing study: a nested substudy within Alberta's Tomorrow Project (ATP) in Alberta, Canada

BMJ Open. 2025;15(11):e101336. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2025-101336.

ATP recently published findings from its COVID-19 Antibody Testing (CAT) sub-study, conducted between 2020 and 2022. Nearly 4,100 participants from across Alberta completed surveys and provided blood samples every four months for a year (plus saliva samples at one timepoint), helping to understand the spread and impact of SARS-CoV-2. ATP also took this opportunity to collect comprehensive data on sociodemographic, environmental and lifestyle factors (including mental health and access to healthcare services). Preliminary findings in the publication also suggested pandemic-related mental health and financial challenges, particularly among younger participants. Data are now available for request. You can also see what is available using the CAT Data Dictionaries and Masterlist of COVID-19 survey domains.

Domains captured on the CAT study surveys



Before You Go: Notes & Useful Links

Interested in using ATP data?

Please visit ATP's Researcher Portal to submit a feasibility inquiry or contact us at atp.research@cancercarealberta.ca for more information and support.

Looking for details?

Head over to the ATP website to explore the full Masterlist of Survey Domains and ATP Data Dictionaries.

Explore publications based on ATP data

Browse recent publications based on ATP data. Here's a few of the newest releases:

- Khan et al. The relationship of occupational and recreational solar ultraviolet radiation with the risk of prostate cancer. Cancer Epidemiol. 2025:97:102872.
- Ye et al. Metformin use and risk of total joint replacement in patients with diabetes. BMC Musculoskelet Disord. 2025 31;26(1):312.
- Darvishian et al. Provincial Variation in Adherence to Breast Cancer Screening in Canada. Cancer Med. 2025;14(6):e70543.
- Brennand et al. Unilateral Oophorectomy and Age at Natural Menopause. BJOG. 2025;132(3):337-345.

Follow us for updates and insights

Stay connected with updates and insights — follow us on YouTube and LinkedIn.

We'd love your input!

Have ideas for future ATP surveys or data topics? Reply to this email and let us know.

Sign up for the ATP Researcher Newsletter here!

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ALBERTA'S TOMORROW PROJECT | 25 YEARS TOWARDS A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

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