TOMORROW'S RESEARCHER NEWS

ALBERTA'S TOMORROW PROJECT
Inspiring research for a healthier tomorrow

A Message from Our Directors: Meet ATP

Jennifer Vena (left), ATP Scientific Director
Shandra Harman (right), ATP Strategic Director

Welcome to Alberta's Tomorrow Project (ATP)!

If you are new to ATP – it is a long-term cohort study that began in 2000 to better understand the causes, prevention, and management of cancer and chronic diseases. After recruitment ended in 2015, we had almost 55,000 participants enrolled in the study. ATP is also part of the Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow's Health (CanPath), a consortium of similar studies across Canada, representing all 10 provinces and over 330,000 participants.

Over time, participants have provided information on health, lifestyle, family history, medications, substance use, and screening practices, along with physical measurements and biosamples. They also consented to linkage with administrative health records to track health services and outcomes over time.

In 2016, we opened the doors for researchers to access the data and biosamples. We're here to support you — if you're designing a new study, applying for a grant, looking for data for a trainee, or exploring national data through CanPath. We invite you to explore our website and YouTube channel and reach out to connect with us. We look forward to supporting your research!

ATP Turns 25

It's our birthday! In the last 25 years, ATP has collected over one billion data points to help support research, inform policies, and improve cancer and chronic disease outcomes.

Highlights from ATP's 25-year journey include:

✓ Nearly 55,000 participants completed baseline health and lifestyle questionnaires.

✓ Over 29,000 participants provided biosamples, including blood and urine.

✓ Between 2017–2025, ATP collected three follow-up surveys (Survey 2017, COVID-19 Survey, Survey 2023).

✓ We wrapped up our most recent follow-up survey in 2023 (data now available).

With over 400,000 surveys completed by participants and thousands of biological samples collected, ATP is here to support your research into cancer and chronic disease risk factors and etiology.

Thank you to our funders, staff, and most importantly our participants for making 25 years possible!

25 YEARS
ALBERTA'S
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How are we celebrating?

Dataset fees will be waived for all approved research projects until December 31, 2026!*

*Application fees and miscellaneous hours will still apply.

Survey 2023 Data Now Available!

Survey 2023 Topics

Demographics — e.g., age, gender

Anthropometrics — e.g., height, weight

COVID-19 — e.g., infections, vaccinations, 'long COVID'

Mental Health — e.g., stress, anxiety, depression, resilience, flourishing

Risk Factors — e.g., smoking, e-cigarettes, cannabis, alcohol

Health Conditions — e.g., cancer & chronic diseases, family history

Social, Economic — e.g., employment, income, social support

Preventive Health — e.g., primary care, cancer screening

Health Services — e.g., disruption due to COVID-19, mental health service use

Lifestyle — e.g., sleep, shift work, sun exposure

Occupation — e.g., current and longest jobs

Additional Dimensions — e.g., dietary intake, physical activity, cell phone use

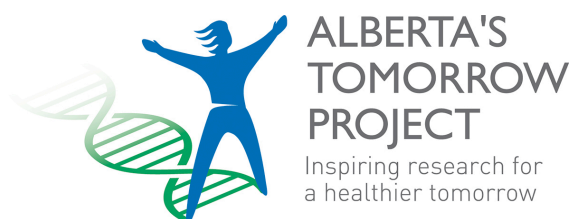ALBERTA'S TOMORROW PROJECT — Inspiring research for a healthier tomorrow

In 2023, we rolled out our third cohort-wide follow-up survey since 2015. It collected a wide range of information on health and lifestyle behaviours. Key updates included socioeconomic factors and health services such as cancer screening, as well as substance use. New information was collected on aspects of mental health, such as stress, social support, resilience and flourishing, as well as smartphone use. Brief diet and physical activity tools were also collected on an optional additional survey.

Requesting the Survey 2023 dataset:

Use the ATP researcher portal or contact atp.research@ahs.ca to request the data or find out more. You can also peruse what is available in our Survey 2023 Data Dictionary

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Data Linkage Spotlight: Alberta Cancer Research Biobank (ACRB)

Unlock unique research opportunities with pre- and at-diagnosis samples from the same individuals.

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Alberta Cancer Research **bio**bank

Did you know that **99%** of ATP participants consented to data linkage? Options for data to link to includes administrative health records, environmental exposures, and more, allowing you to create a more complete picture of Albertans' health and lifestyle.

For this issue of our newsletter, we are excited to highlight our collaboration with the Alberta Cancer Research Biobank (ACRB). ATP collected biosamples from cancer-free participants (2008-2015) and ACRB collects biosamples from patients at time of cancer diagnosis. By partnering, we can address a critical gap in cancer research by providing access to biosamples both before and at time of diagnosis.

What Makes This Linkage Partnership Special?

- **400 participants** appear in both ATP and ACRB biobanks
- **Longitudinal samples** span before and at time of cancer diagnosis
- **Comprehensive collection** of blood (ATP+ACRB), DNA (ATP+ACRB), and tissue (ACRB only)

Want to Apply?

If you are interested in utilizing both repositories, ATP and ACRB have a coordinated access process. Contact us to get started:
- ATP: atpresearch@ahs.ca
- ACRB: bio.bank@ahs.ca

Other Linkage Opportunities:

- Alberta Cancer Registry (ACR) data
- CANUE environmental exposure data
- Alberta Health Services and Alberta Health administrative health data through Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit (AbSPORU)
- Cancer screening data
- Alberta Precision Labs
- … and more! (contact us to learn more)

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Studying lung cancer beyond smoking

Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death in Canada, with nearly 40% of cases occurring in individuals who have never smoked or smoked minimally. While tobacco smoke is the primary cause, environmental exposures — particularly to radon gas — are also major contributors, with radon responsible for about 1 in 6 lung cancer cases nationally.

Alberta's Tomorrow Project (ATP) and the Evict Radon National Study (**ERNS**) have partnered to collect data that will help refine lung cancer risk prediction, supported by a Cancer Research for Screening and Prevention grant. All ATP participants will be invited to complete a lung cancer risk factor survey and 5,000 participants will be invited to measure radon levels in their home. Additionally, those enrolled in both ATP and ERNS will be asked to consent to data sharing, allowing radon exposure data to be integrated into ATP and made broadly available for future research.

LUNG CANCER RISK FACTORS STUDY

A Collaboration with Alberta's Tomorrow Project (ATP) and the Evict Radon National Study (ERNS)

SURVEY

All ATP participants invited to complete the Lung Cancer Risk Factors Survey

RADON TEST KITS

A sub-set of participants (up to 5,000) will receive a kit to measure radon levels in their home

DATA LINKAGE

ERNS will share radon data with ATP for participants who are in both cohorts and have provided consent

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Make ATP part of your next funding application

With grant season looming, consider if ATP can support your research. You may already have plans for the fall competitions — but now is a great time to start thinking ahead for the spring cycle. Not sure if we have what you need or do you need a Letter of Support? We are here to help! We can walk you through what we have in your areas of interest. Contact atp.research@ahs.ca.

Upcoming grant opportunities:

- **Canadian Cancer Society 2026 Challenge Grants**: Funded by Canadian Cancer Society (CCS), this grant aimed at solving pressing problems in cancer. Abstract registration due by October 8th, 2025.

- **CIHR Project Grant:** Fall 2025 and Spring 2026: This CIHR project grant program supports innovative research projects in any area of health, including fundamental, applied, or health systems research. It welcomes new, incremental, innovative, and/or high-risk lines of inquiry or knowledge translation approaches. Registration deadlines are August 13th for fall 2025 and February 4th for spring 2026. The full application deadlines are September 10th, 2025, and March 4th, 2026, respectively.

- **Health Systems catalyst competition**: Funded by O'Brien Institute for Public Health, this grant support progress toward the Institute's Better Healthcare goal, a dedicated Health Systems Catalyst competition is being held to fund the early stage of well-aligned projects deemed likely to leverage external funding and societal impact. Register for a Chalk Talk before August 30th and the full application deadline is October 1st, 2025.

- **Geoffrey Ogram Memorial Research Grant**: Funded by Lung Cancer Canada, this grant supports advancement in lung cancer research programs that are anywhere in the continuum from basic, high impact discovery to translational work of direct relevance to the clinic and beyond. The full application deadline is September 30th, 2025.

Before You Go: Notes & Useful Links

Interested in Using ATP Data?
Please visit ATP's Researcher Portal or contact us at atp.research@ahs.ca for more information and support.

Explore Publications using ATP Data
Browse recent publications based on ATP data.

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.

No longer want to receive ATP Researcher Newsletter and updates? Just reply to this email to unsubscribe.

Contact Us

In Partnership With

Alberta Health Services

Alberta Government

ALBERTA CANCER FOUNDATION

CANADIAN PARTNERSHIP AGAINST CANCER
PARTENARIAT CANADIEN CONTRE LE CANCER

CanPath Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow's Health