



**Abstract Title:** Atlantic partnership for tomorrow's health: Opportunities for collaborative health research

Ellen Sweeney  
Atlantic PATH

Yunsong Cui

Vanessa DeClercq

Cynthia Forbes

Scott Grandy

Jason Hicks

Melanie Keats

Louise Parker

Zhijie Michael Yu

Trevor Dummer

## Introduction

The Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project (CPTP) is a multi-centered prospective cohort study with data on 300,000 Canadians. The Atlantic Partnership for Tomorrow's Health (PATH) is a regional cohort of CPTP with participants from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador. Atlantic PATH was established in 2009 to examine the genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors that may influence the development of cancer and chronic disease.

## Objectives

The primary objectives of Atlantic PATH include (i) the development of a databank containing biological samples, health and health-related measures; and (ii) encouraging and facilitating the use of the databank by researchers, with an emphasis on cancer etiology and other chronic disease.

## Methods

A thorough and standardized questionnaire was implemented across all five cohorts. A secondary questionnaire was completed to provide additional data with questions unique to the Atlantic provinces. Participants also provided biological samples (blood, saliva, urine, and toenails), and non-invasive physical measures (height, weight, hip and waist circumference, body composition, and blood pressure).

## Results

A data and biological samples repository was created to house the baseline data for Atlantic PATH, including harmonized data for 31,173 participants aged 35-69. Approximately two-thirds of participants have been diagnosed with at least one

chronic condition with 5% having four or more.<sup>1</sup> Seventy-one percent of participants were overweight or obese.<sup>2</sup> Commonly reported conditions include arthritis (26.5%), hypertension (25%), asthma (11%), irritable bowel syndrome (9%), and diabetes (7%).<sup>3</sup> The research platform will be enriched by longitudinal data from follow-up questionnaires and linkage to administrative health databases.

## Conclusions

The research platform at Atlantic PATH represents a unique resource for Canadian and international researchers interested in health services, health utilization, population health, and epidemiological research.

## Cite this document in APA:

Sweeney, E., Cui, Y., DeClercq, V., Forbes, C., Grandy, S., Hicks, J.,...Dummer, T. (2018, September). *Atlantic partnership for tomorrow's health: Opportunities for collaborative health research*. Paper presented at the Healthy Living, Healthy Life: Collaborative Health Conference on Research, Practice and Community Innovations Conference, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS. Retrieved from <https://ojs.library.dal.ca/HLHL/>

**CC BY-NC-SA**

---

<sup>1</sup> Authors et al. (2017). "Multimorbidity in Atlantic Canada and association with low levels of physical activity." *Preventive Medicine*, 105.

<sup>2</sup> Authors et al. (2017). "Association Between Dietary Patterns and Adiposity in Atlantic Canada." *Nutrients*, 9(10).

<sup>3</sup> Authors et al. (2017). Cohort Profile: The Atlantic Partnership for Tomorrow's Health (Atlantic PATH) Study. *International Journal of Epidemiology*.