

Biospecimen Resources for Population Scientists

<https://epi.grants.cancer.gov/biospecimens.html>

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Biospecimens are valuable in population studies and may be vital in order to understand disease etiology, discover biomarkers for early detection of disease, identify susceptible subgroups, select most appropriate treatments, or develop effective screening methodologies. The NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) is interested in fostering collaborations and sharing biospecimens to maximize research efforts. We have compiled a selected list of biospecimen resources for population scientists. This website also contains best practices and expectations for biospecimen research, examples of biospecimen sharing policies, and request forms from NCI-funded population-based studies.

Potential Sources of Biospecimens for Investigators

- **Cancer Epidemiology Descriptive Cohort Database (CEDCD)**

<https://cedcd.nci.nih.gov>

The goal of this searchable database is to facilitate collaboration and highlight research opportunities within existing cohort studies. The CEDCD contains descriptive information about cohort studies following groups of people over time for cancer incidence, mortality, and other health outcomes. In addition to general study information, the CEDCD also includes biospecimen information for the studies.



- **NCI-Funded Cancer Epidemiology Projects Involving Biospecimens**

<https://epi.grants.cancer.gov/biospecimens/#nciresources>

The Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program (EGRP) in DCCPS supports a variety of research involving biospecimens. This webpage includes links to EGRP's active grants collecting DNA, serum or plasma, tissue, urine, or fecal specimens and saliva for biomarkers.

- **NCI Specimen Resource Locator**

<https://www.specimens.cancer.gov/>

A biospecimen resource database designed to help researchers locate resources that may have the samples needed for their investigational use.

- **NCI Human Biospecimen Resources**

<https://dctd.cancer.gov/ResearchResources/ResearchResources-human-tissue.htm>

Links to multiple resources, including NCI's Cooperative Human Tissue Network and the National Clinical Trials Network Biospecimen Banks.

Best Practices and Expectations for Biospecimen Research

- **NCI Best Practices and Standard Operating Procedures for Biospecimen**
<https://biospecimens.cancer.gov/bestpractices/>
The Biorepositories and Biospecimen Research Branch (BBRB) in NCI's Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis is active in development and improvement of policy for biospecimen resource management and collection, supports research informing best practices, and more.
- **Suggested Elements of Resource Sharing Plans for Biospecimen Management and Sharing**
<https://epi.grants.cancer.gov/funding/biospecimen-sharing.html>
Biospecimen utilization is the process of biospecimen management in an effort to promote collaboration and timely research. The Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program (EGRP) encourages investigators to consider the long-term trajectory of resource sharing and NIH investments when developing the Resource Sharing Plan.

A description of biospecimen management and sharing in the Resource Sharing Plan section of the grant application that provides complementary information to the Data Management and Sharing plan is strongly encouraged. Read more about the suggested Resource Sharing Plan elements for biospecimen management and sharing.

Other Biospecimen Resources

- **Informed Consent for Research with Data and Biospecimens: Points to Consider and Sample Language for Future Use and/or Sharing**
<https://go.nih.gov/cQseVJ5>
This document is intended to provide sample language to investigators and IRBs when developing consent for secondary use of data/biospecimens.

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