

What's the real disease?

The Tackling TB Stigma initiative addressed TB-related stigma & access to on-going care for newcomer populations in Toronto.

For the full report, visit: <https://accessalliance.ca/tacklingTBstigma>

TUBERCULOSIS



Two major groups affected by TB in Canada are Indigenous communities and newcomers*. Newcomers with TB face many challenges – a diagnosis can harm their chances at immigration status & employment. They may not get connected to critical services like on-going primary care, where TB care is best supported &/or managed.

Lastly, negative perceptions around TB within their own communities leaves newcomers facing increased isolation.

*Newcomers to us means immigrants and refugees.

HIV/AIDS



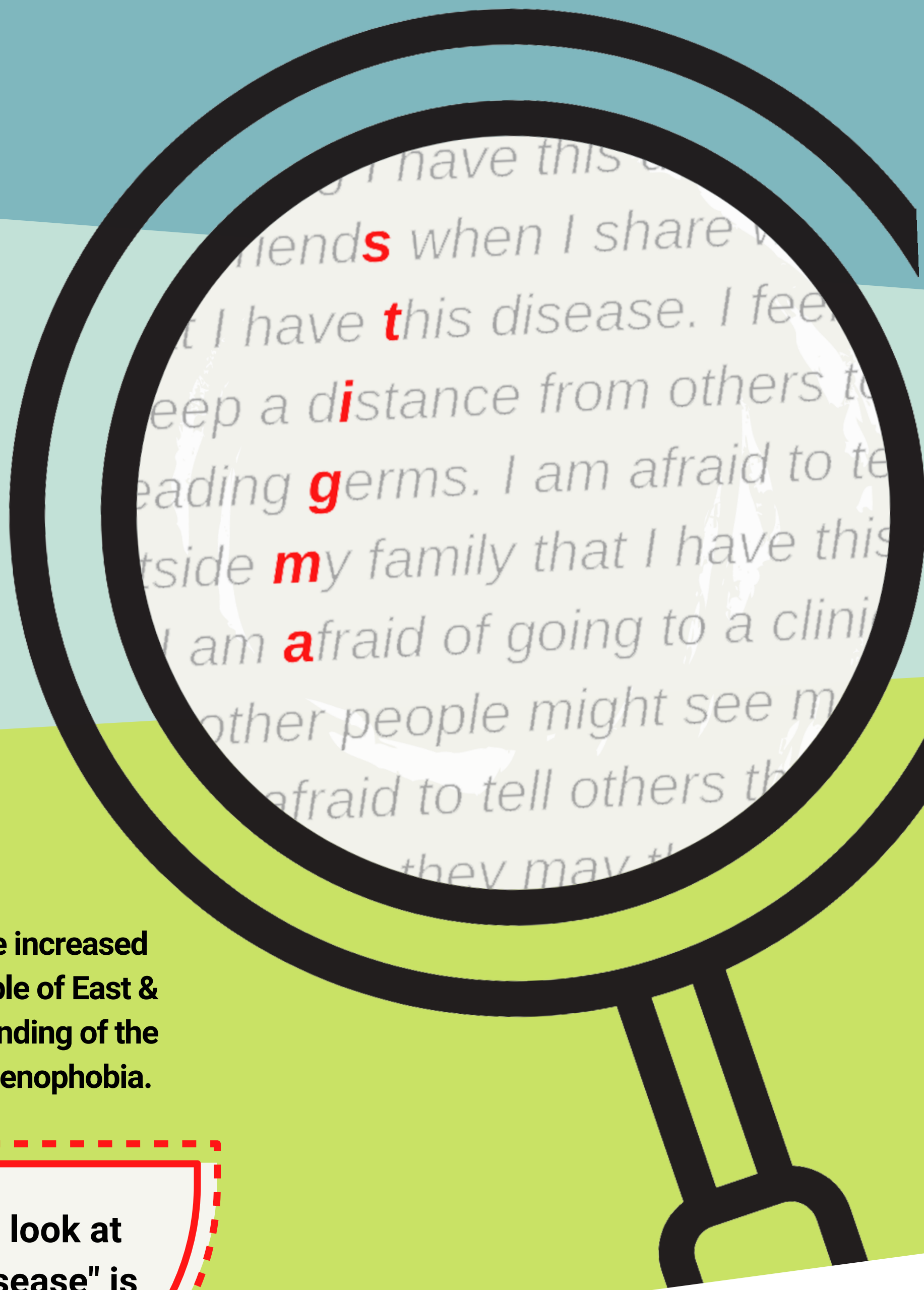
At its emergence in early 1980s Canada, the health system was slow to respond to what was considered a "gay disease". Despite thousands of deaths within the gay community, a culture of fear and blame against those living with HIV predominated. The result was criminalization and a total lack of response in the provision of care.

COVID-19



Experiences of race-based harrassment and attacks have increased since the start of the pandemic, in particular against people of East & South Asian descent. This stems from a lack of understanding of the disease epidemiology, layered over existing racism and xenophobia.

They say history repeats itself... As we look at these 3 epidemics, it's clear "the real disease" is stigma, this is where our system falters in its response and people are "mistreated".



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