

## Tuberculosis and Ethnic Communities in Canada

**TB is preventable, treatable, and curable**

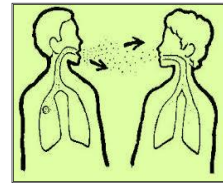


In 2013, according to the World Health Organization, an estimated 9 million people worldwide became sick with Tuberculosis (TB). The reported incidence of active TB disease in the general Canadian population is the lowest in the world. Over the past decade, 80% of the immigrants and refugees who have come to Canada have originated from countries that have a high incidence of TB. Although they only account for about 22% of Canada's population, they account for approximately 71% of all cases of TB.

The CEC has gathered data on TB-related statistics reported in the home countries for five communities (Chinese, East Indian, Egyptian, Filipino, and Vietnamese) selected for the project "Hepatitis C and Other Related Communicable Diseases in High-Risk Immigrant Ethnic Communities." It is possible that some of the data reported may be applicable to these selected populations in Canada.



TB is an infectious disease caused by a bacterium. TB usually affects the lungs but it can affect other parts of the body such as lymph nodes, bones, intestines, or brain. TB is spread from person to person through the air when someone with TB in the lungs coughs, sneezes, or talks.



When an individual has both TB and HIV, each disease speeds up the progress of the other.  
**TB treatment and medication are free in Canada. TB can be prevented.**

Information on TB for each of the communities is available in the *Fact Sheets* in English and in the language of each of the five communities. For detailed information please refer to the 2015 Training Manual for Healthcare Providers, Part 2: "*Hepatitis C and Other Communicable Diseases in High-Risk Immigrant Ethnic Populations: Sexually Transmitted Infections and Tuberculosis Co-infections.*" All resources are available on the hepatitis C portal of the CEC website ([www.ethnocultural.ca/hepC](http://www.ethnocultural.ca/hepC)).

*Disclaimer: The information provided is for reference only. For details on the diseases, please consult a healthcare professional.*