

Health Equity & Anti-Black Racism in Ontario, Canada

Investigative Report: The Gap Between Policy Rhetoric and Lived Protection



Birth

Elderhood





Typestroter keystroke

The Promise: Universality and Equity

- • **The Mandate:** Ontario Health is legally tasked to reduce disparities and recognize diversity.
- • **The Definition:** Access based on need, not ability to pay.
- • **The Rhetoric:** A “one-size-fits-all” system marketed as fairness.

CONNECTING CARE ACT,
2019 - OFFICIAL FILE

The public health care system should be guided by a commitment to equity and to the promotion of equitable health outcomes.



EVIDENCE

The Reality: A Shameful Admission

CONNECTING CARE ACT,
2019 - OFFICIAL FILE

The public health care system should be guided by a commitment to equity and to the promotion of equitable health outcomes.



Pandemic didn't create the gap. It exposed it.

EVIDENCE

“
That in 2023 we still speak about the exacerbation of pre-existing inequities should fill us with shame.

— Wellesley Institute

The Failure:
“One-size-fits-all” has not delivered for Black populations.

The Mechanism: Blocked Pathways to Care

White Canadians

8 MONTHS

Black Caribbean Canadians

16 MONTHS

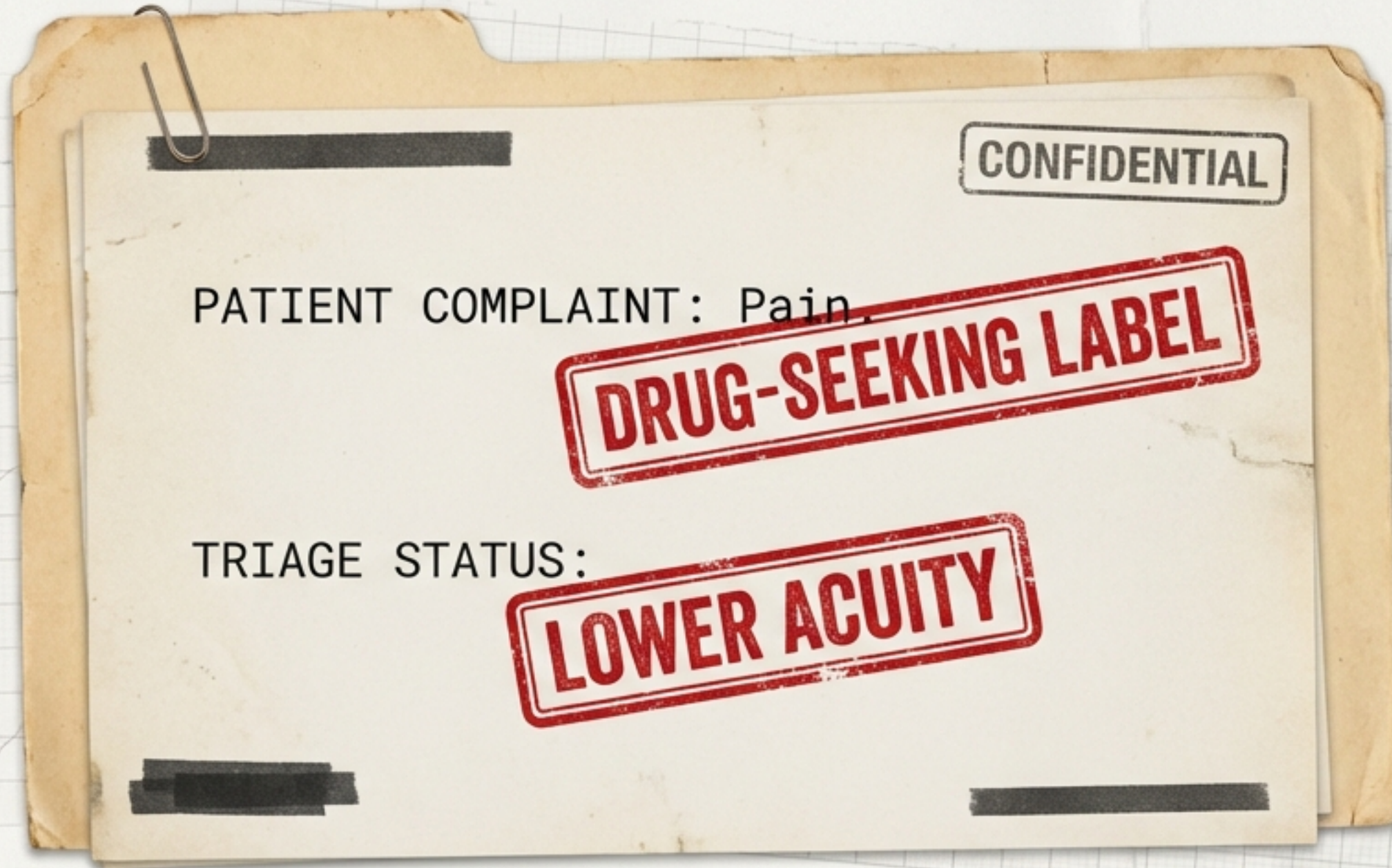
Immigration
Status Delay
(3 Months)

Financial
Cost

Lack of Culturally
Safe Providers

Structural Barriers:
3-month OHIP wait
periods delay HIV and
chronic disease
treatment, forcing
patients to wait for
emergency status.

The Clinical Environment: Dismissal and Delay



Consequences of Racism in Care

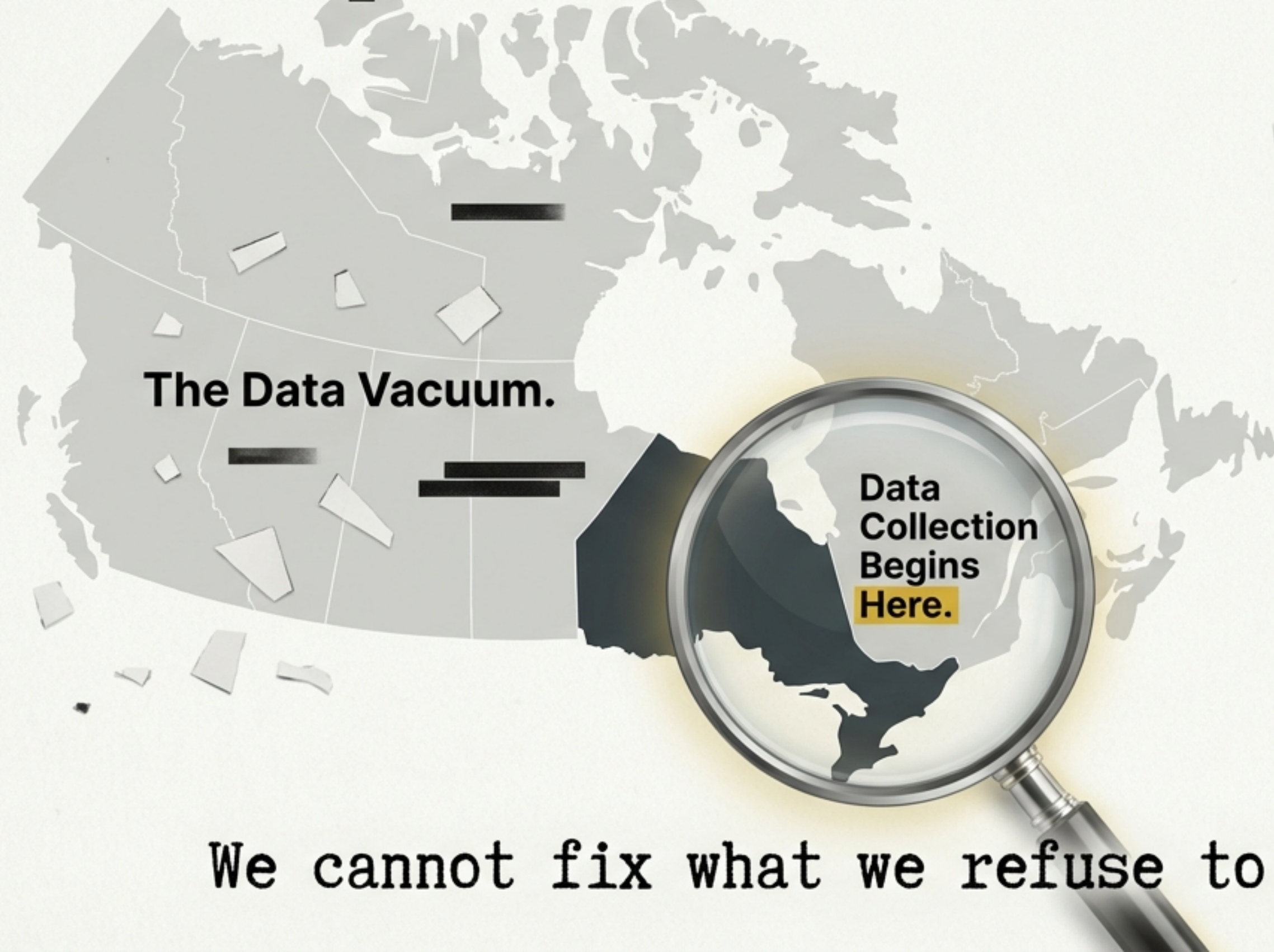
- Systemic stereotyping leads to inadequate pain management.
- Higher rates of adverse effects post-surgery.
- The Joyce Echaquan Case: Death resulting from overt racism in care.

'Colourblind' medicine creates a data vacuum where harms go unmeasured.

Lifespan Impact: The 'Weathering' Effect



The Scope: Ontario as a National Mirror



Fact Box: The Systemic Echo

Credentialing Barrier:
Internationally trained
physicians (ITPs) licensure
rates:

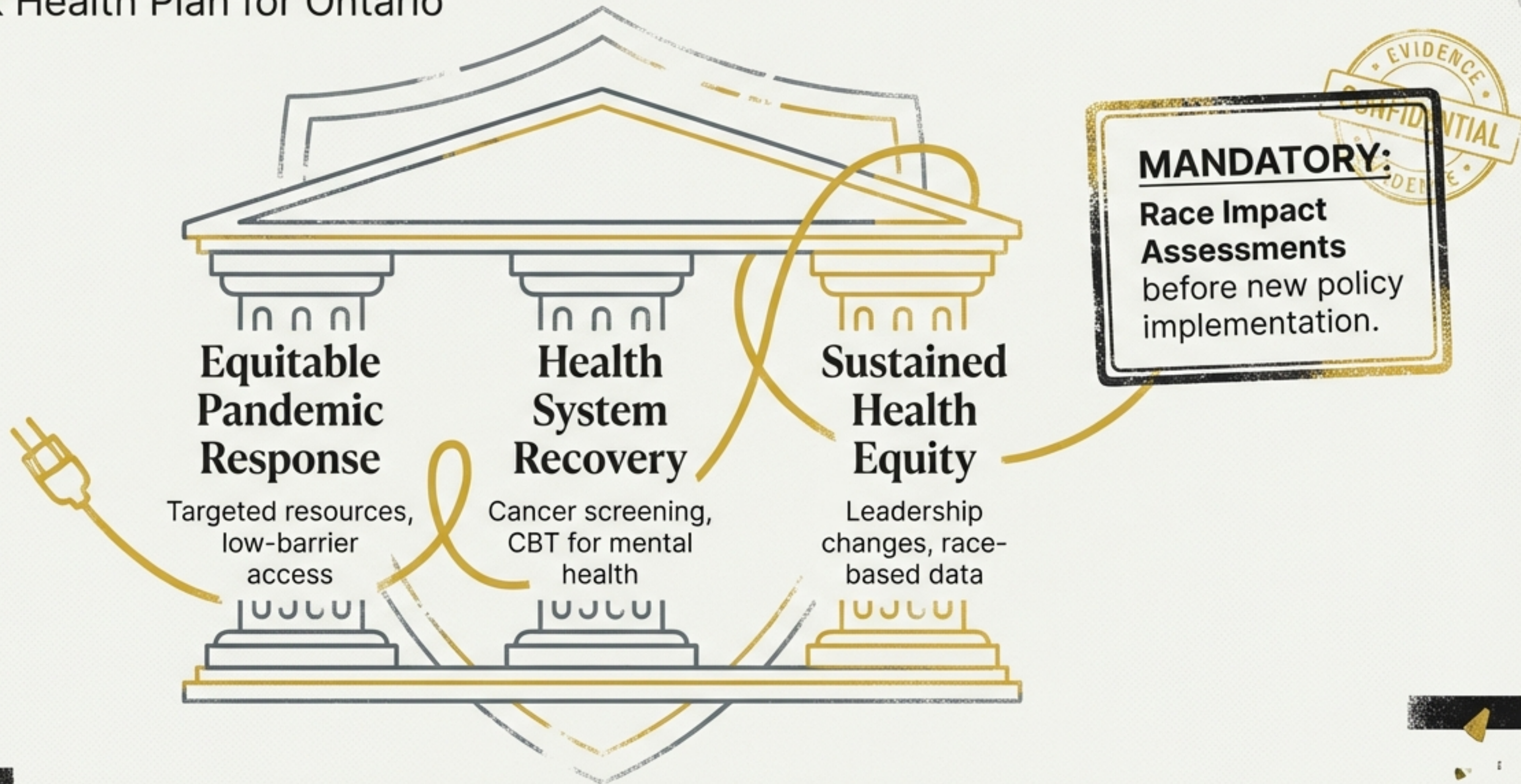
Immigrant IMGs
abroad: **84.7%**

Securing licensure in
Canada: **13.6%**

We cannot fix what we refuse to measure.

The Solution: Protection Through Accountability

The Black Health Plan for Ontario



Partners: Ontario Health, Wellesley Institute, Black Health Alliance.

Data Sovereignty: The EGAP Framework

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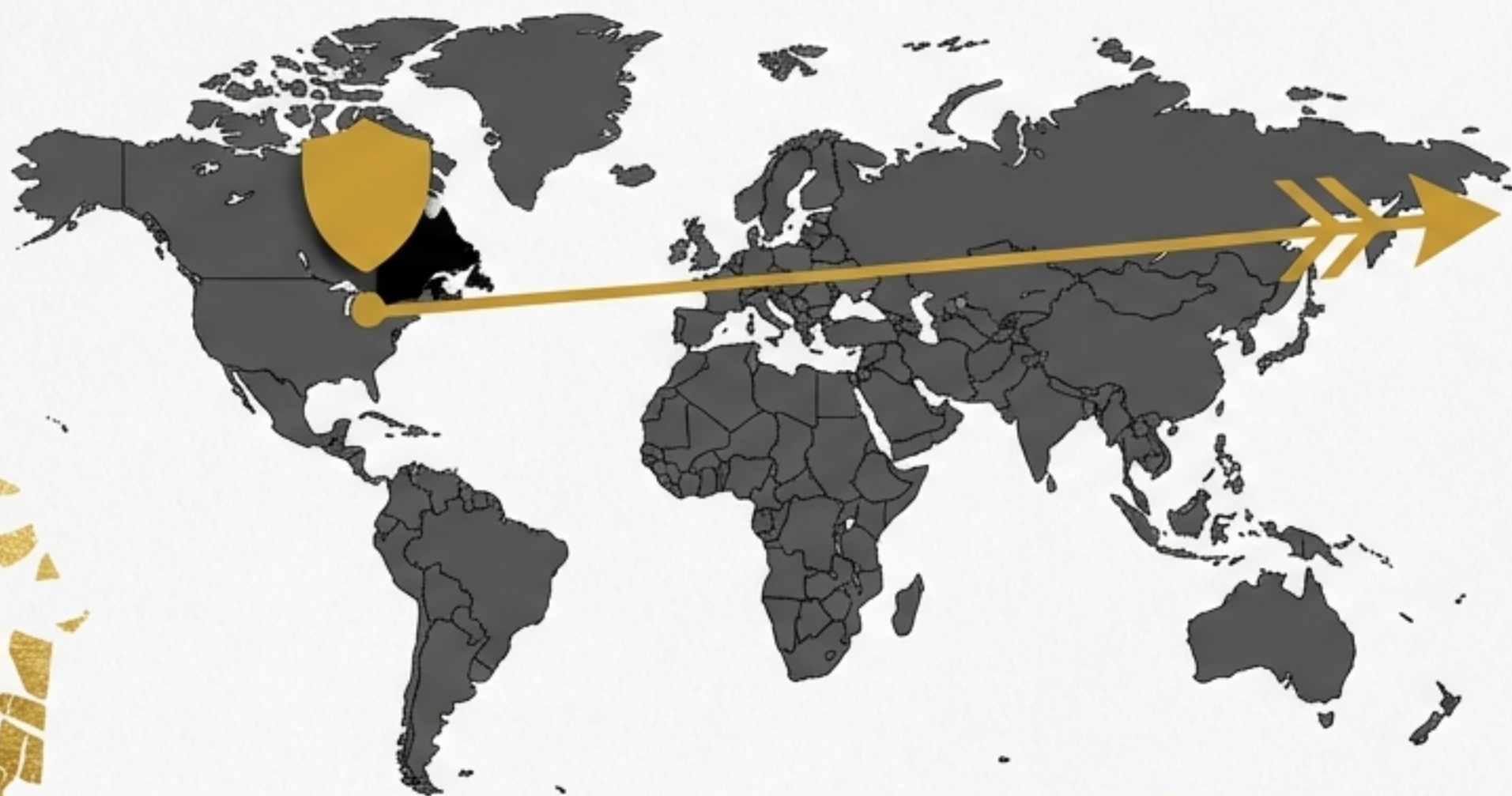
Objective: Black communities must own and control their collective data.

Shift: From "Consultation" to "Leadership".

Action: Promote Black staff to senior positions to reflect the community served.

Sustaining Equity: The Global Journey Continues

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Transformational Shift

FROM →

TO →

Victim-Blaming
(Diet/Exercise)

System-Fixing
(Housing/Access)

Rhetoric

Funded Policy

Survival

Health
Sovereignty

Ensuring Black families have the
institutional support to thrive.

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Editorial

Paper White

Investigative Editorial

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“PROTECT YOUR HEALTH. KNOW YOUR SYSTEM.”

Afro Mosaic: The Global Black Lifespan Journey



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“Health is a human right. Protection is a community duty.”

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