



Family Reunion 2

IMPACT REPORT

Virtual Conference
October 19-21, 2020

#2020uscha

uscha.life

About USCHA

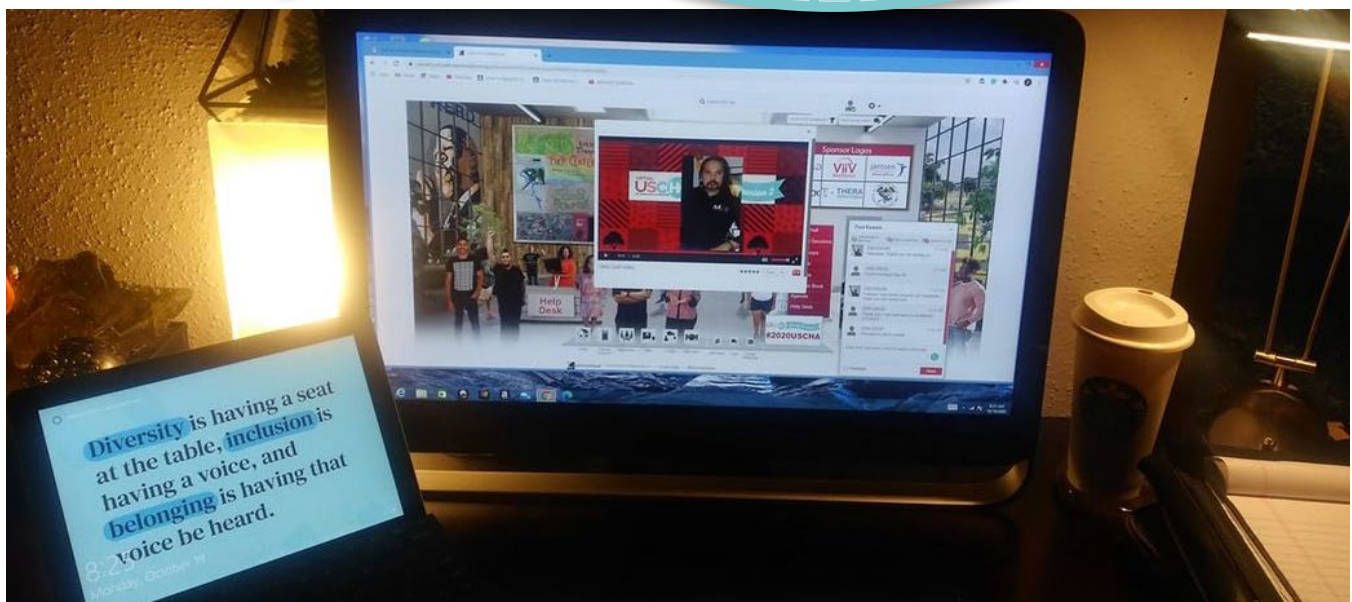
NMAC leads with race to **urgently fight** for **health equity** and **racial justice** to end the HIV epidemic in America. The United States Conference on HIV/AIDS (USCHA) is the largest HIV-related gathering in the United States, bringing together thousands of participants from all segments of the HIV epidemic. This year was the 24th annual conference.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's conference was held online instead of in person. The theme for this year, "Family Reunion 2," reflected the need for connection and support in the face of isolation brought on by the pandemic.

More than 6,000 people registered to attend the conference.

Format



This year's USCHA was a three-day online conference that featured four plenary sessions, an exhibit hall, institutes, and workshops. USCHA offered nearly 100 workshops and institutes at three levels of instruction (introductory, intermediate, and advanced).

Introductory levels were primarily didactic. Intermediate level sessions were didactic and interactive, while advanced level sessions were designed to maximize interaction between attendees and participants.

Opening Plenary

This year's opening plenary consisted of pre-recorded segments, including remarks from NMAC Executive Director Paul Kawata, Black AIDS Institute Executive Director Raniyah Copeland, NMAC Conferences Director Tara Barnes-Darby, and community leaders and advocates. The plenary was a ringing endorsement of Black Lives Matter and for equality and equity for all.



Gilead Plenary

“Creating A Different World”

Gilead’s plenary was a live discussion on how to remove stigma and prejudices that create inequalities and health disparities within our system. Panelists included:

- Moderator: Bevy Smith, TV Personality and Entrepreneur
- Dr. Lisa Fitzpatrick, MD, MPA, MPH, Infectious disease physician, CDC-trained medical epidemiologist, and founder of Grapevine Health
- Kendrick T. Clack, MS, APRN, FNP-C, AAHIV-S, Minority health advocate and the leading voice of healthcare service in marginalized communities
- Raniyah Copeland, MPH, President, Black AIDS Institute



ViiV Plenary

“Positive Action: How Arts and Culture Can Spark Change and Combat Stigma”

ViiV's expert panel discussion spotlighted culture work developed by ViiV Healthcare and their Positive Action grantees and partners and examined the intersection of health disparities, COVID-19, HIV and activism – and how arts and culture can help people understand more clearly the work that needs to be done to address these issues moving forward. Panelists included:

- Moderator: Marc Meachem of ViiV Healthcare
- Dwain Bridges of THRIVE SS discussing Outrun the Sky and its impact on audiences
- Jennie Smith-Camejo of PWN discussing the impact of the PWN Cares series on WOCLWH
- Roxie Johnson, actress in Take My Hand, sharing her awareness experience
- Louie Ortiz-Fonseca, creator of The Gran Varones, discussing how his work is reframing HIV and changing the narrative
- Cory Gibson, actor, Ms Hope Chest in AMAIC
- George Johnson, BET



POSITIVE ACTION : HOW ARTS AND CULTURE CAN SPARK CHANGE AND COMBAT STIGMA

PANELISTS



DWAIN BRIDGES, MBA
Co-founder and Director of Operations and Finance, THRIVE SS



JENNIE SMITH-CAMEJO
Communications Director, Positive Women's Network - USA



LOUIE ORTIZ-FONSECA
Creator, Gran Varones



CORY GIBSON
Actor, *As Much As I Can*



MICHAL (ROXIE) JOHNSON
Actress, *Take My Hand*



MODERATOR
GEORGE M. JOHNSON
BEST-SELLING AUTHOR, WRITER, ACTIVIST



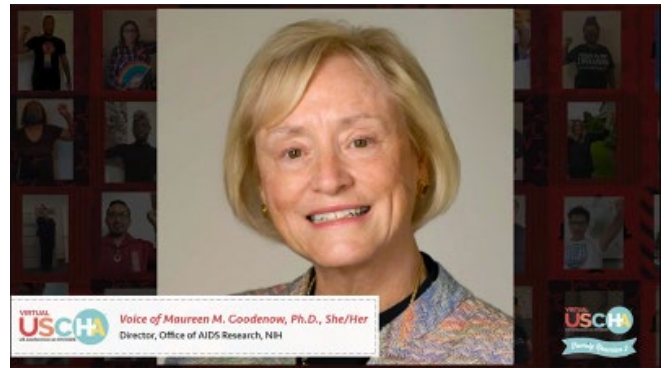
HOST
MARC MEACHEM
ViiV HEALTHCARE HEAD, US EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



ViiV Healthcare acknowledges these speakers have no disclosures and were compensated for their participation in this panel discussion.

Closing Plenary

This year's closing plenary featured recorded interviews with multiple federal leaders in the plan to end the epidemic, including Harold Phillips, Chief Operating Officer of Ending the HIV Epidemic; Dr. Maureen Goodenow, Director, Office of AIDS Research, NIH; Dr. Jonathan Mermin, Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, CDC; Dr. Laura Cheever, Associate Administrator for HIV/AIDS Bureau, HRSA; and Dr. Neeraj Gandotra, Chief Medical Officer, SAMHSA. The plenary closed with remarks from Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of NIAID.



Attendees

USCHA attendance included the following groups:

- Sponsors
- Exhibitors
- Speakers
- CAPs
- Youth Scholars
- 50+ Scholars
- Gay Men of Color Fellows
- Reclaiming Our Place at the Table Advocates
- Scholarships
- Media/Press
- Workshop Liaisons
- Lounge Coordinators
- Job Fair Participants



50+ Strong & Healthy Scholars



The COVID-19 pandemic has added additional hurdles to those aging with HIV. On our HIV 50+ Strong and Healthy program we thrive to create a space to amplify their voices and advocacy work while at the same time breaking with isolation. For this year's USCHA we held workshops featuring some of the members of the cohort. They were able to talk about the mini-grant projects sponsored by NMAC, how to build virtual communities during this COVID era, among other topics. We also invited experts from the field to talk about the National Agenda to end HIV, comorbidities, and aging-related health issues. But not everything was so serious, we also had an amazing virtual party filled with a lot of dancing and laughs!

Youth Scholars

During USCHA, Viiv Youth initiative hosted four days of half-day HIV-related trainings. Before USCHA, there was a pre-meeting that allowed the Youth Scholars to grow closer to each other through bonding games and activities. The scholars were also able to meet and hear about the personal lives of the sponsors of the program.

During the conference, the youth had a series of webinars they attended. The topics discussed during the webinars were disclosure, marketing and communication, and structural stigma. These webinars served as guides to assist with planning and implementing of their World HIV/AIDS Day projects. Lastly, the scholars were also able to explore the conference by going to the Youth Institute, job fair, and plenary sessions.

youth initiative

Gay Men of Color Fellowship

HIV prevention doesn't stop because of COVID-19. At the Gay Men of Color fellowship program, we train members on current biomedical prevention methods while supporting them to pass that information to peers in their communities. As part of USCHA, we developed workshops featuring some of our members to showcase the work they do in their communities and also how they have been able to overcome the challenges of the pandemic to implement the program. Conversations revolved around safer sex during COVID, peer-education efforts to empower and advocate, and how racism is impacting access to biomedical prevention among gay men of color.



Gay Men of Color Fellowship
Biomedical HIV Prevention

Lounges

USCHA offered four virtual lounges at this year's conference: the Trans Lounge, the 50+ Lounge, the Youth Lounge, and the PLHIV Lounge. Inside the lounges, participants could find opportunities to network, take part in fun activities, or just enjoy the company of others. With so much isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the lounges became popular places to socialize.



Institutes

Institutes are in-depth sessions that focus on the issues of impacted populations and interest groups. This year's topics included COVID, hepatitis, aging, housing, youth, trans populations, and racial/ethnic groups. Institutes are conducted by conference partners and NMAC's Constituent Advisory Panel members.



Exhibit Hall/Job Fair

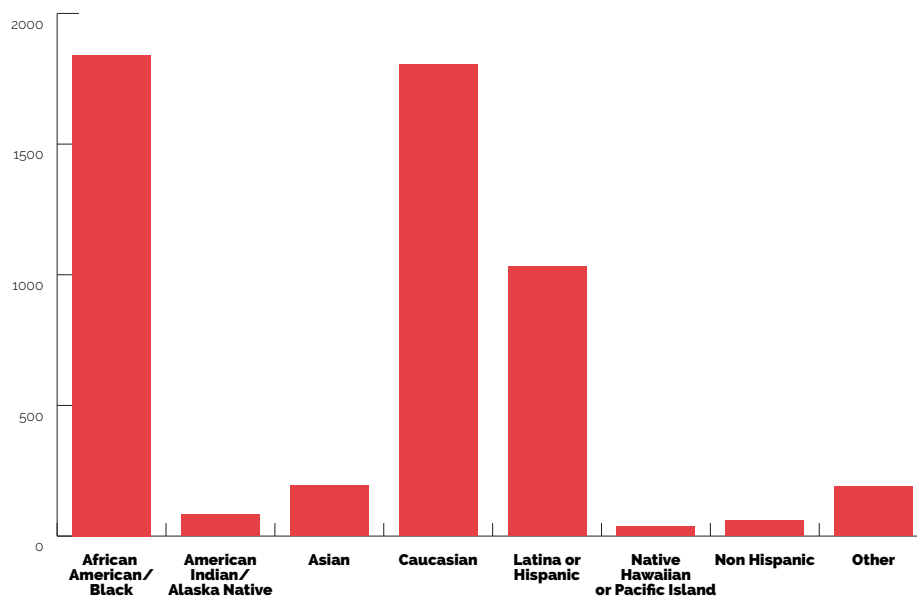


Nearly 40 companies, organizations, and providers took part in the USCHA Exhibit Hall, offering attendees an opportunity to learn more about their services.

For the first time, USCHA offered a jobs fair to match hiring organizations with community members looking for employment. Nearly 30 organizations participated.

Attendance

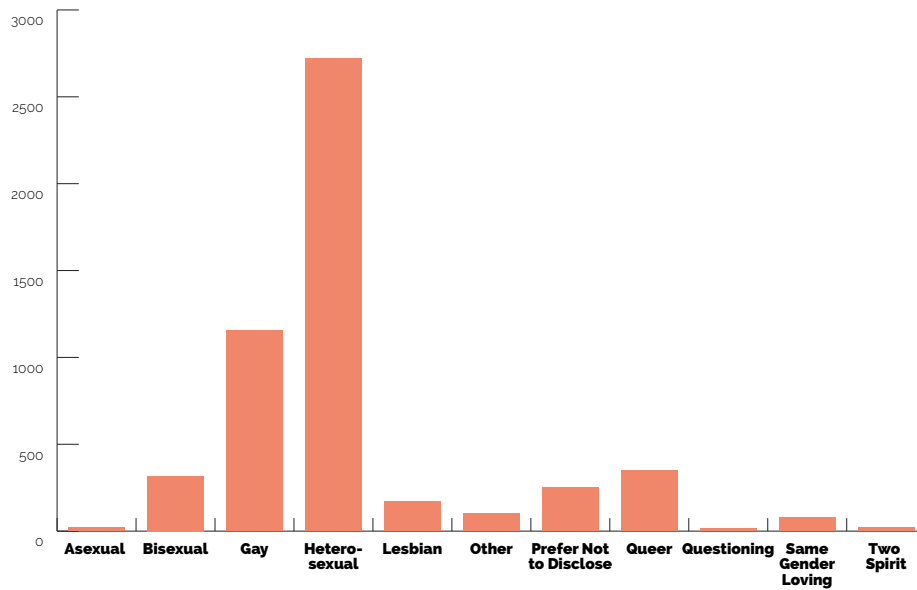
Ethnicity



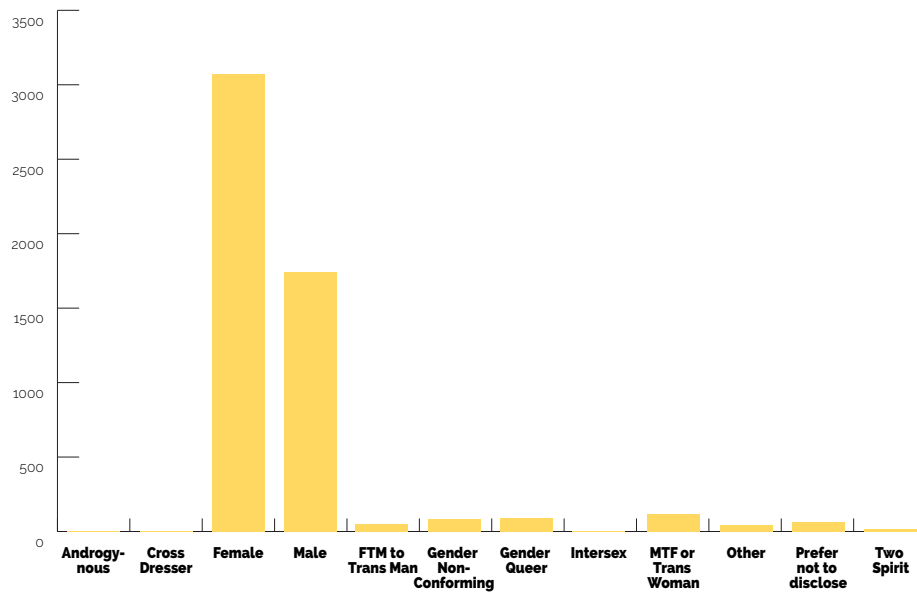
*Numbers are representative of USCHA participants that disclosed their demographic information. Does not include entire attendance.

Attendance

Sexual Orientation



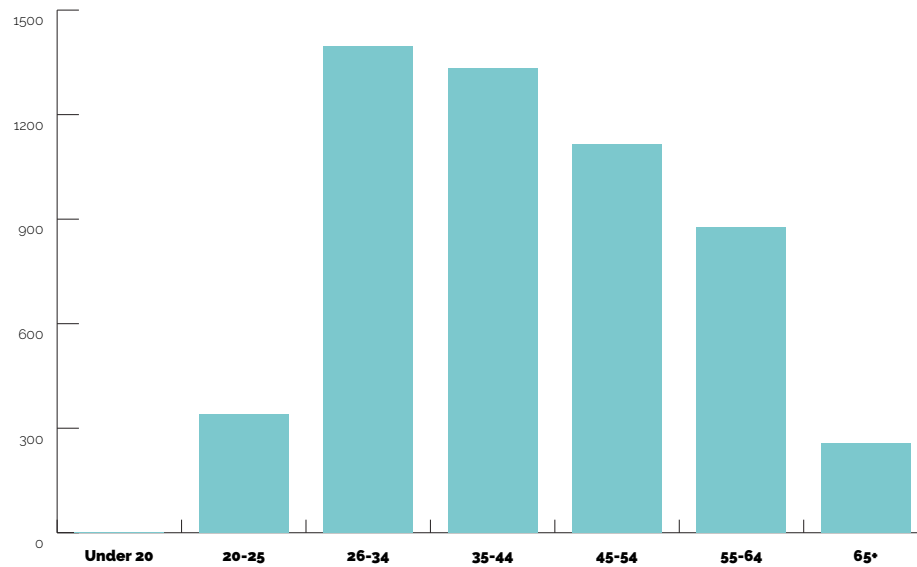
Gender Identity



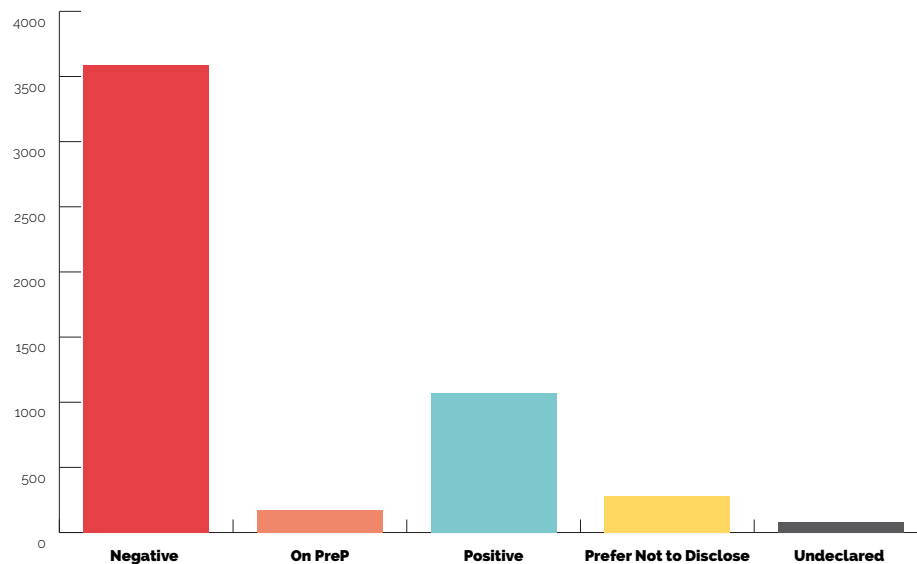
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Attendance

Age Range



HIV Status



**Numbers are representative of USCHA participants that disclosed their demographic information. Does not include entire attendance.*

Quotes & Affirmations

Thanks to everyone for making this happen...what an incredible virtual conference, my first! I can't imagine all the hard work involved, I am super impressed. Here's hoping that 2021 allows us to be together again.

This conference is excellent! Thank you to all sponsors, NMAC and all attendees for a much needed forum for so many communities. USCHA 2020 is a bright light during these challenging times. Stay well.

Thanks to everyone for making this happen...what an incredible virtual conference, my first! I can't imagine all the hard work involved, I am super impressed. Here's hoping that 2021 allows us to be together again.

The virtual platform was extremely impressive and very easy to navigate. This is one of the best virtual conferences I have attended.

The set up was phenomenal it was like being at the conference. The Topics were great and the interviews and real time sessions were on par.

This conference is so much more person/community-focused compared to others that are for providers and staff. I love the presentations by PLWHA for PLWHA.

The topics were very relatable to the work that I do. The speakers were REAL and engaging. Awesome job overall despite the limitations due to the current pandemic!

USCHA did not disappoint me. I may not have been able to join all the workshops but thanks to Demand I have been able to see what I wanted. Thanks Paul and staff for a great conference even if you couldn't go to Puerto Rico.

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A Special Thank You to our Sponsors
who have made significant contributions to the United States Conference on HIV/AIDS.

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