



IMPACT REPORT

December 2-3, 2021
Online • #2021uscha

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 25th annual conference.



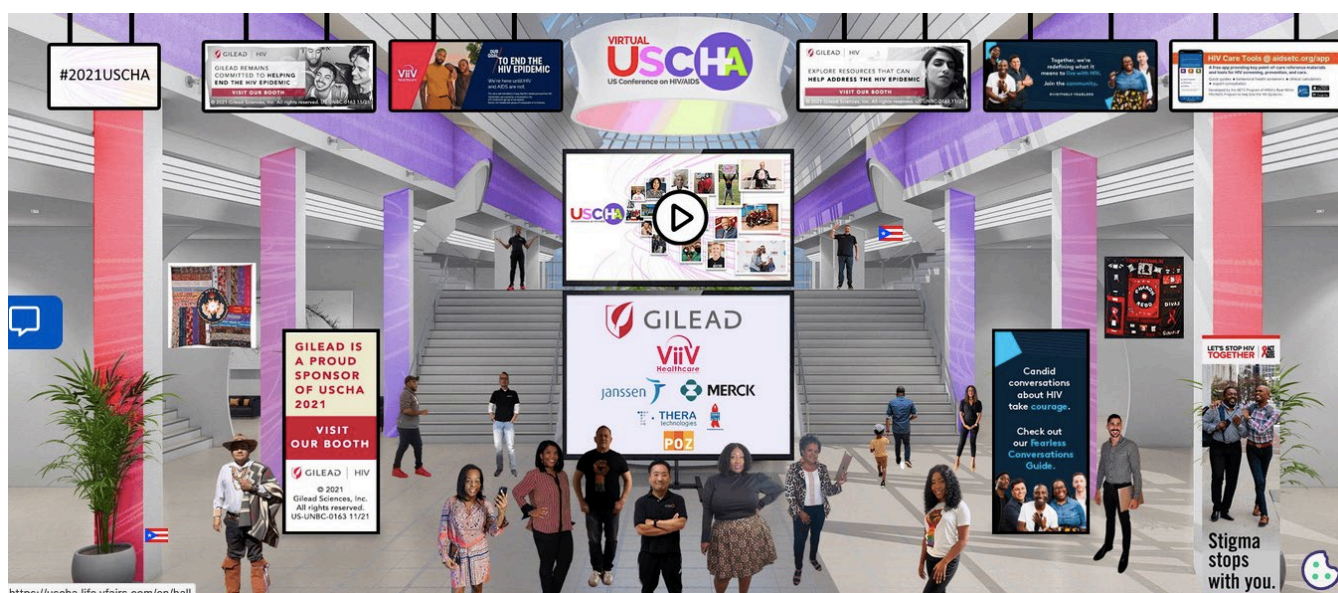
The 2021 USCHA was scheduled October 29 – 31 in Washington, DC. In August, USCHA was moved to the virtual format due to upticks in the Delta variant.

More than 2,700 people registered to attend the conference.

FORMAT

This year's USCHA was a two-day online conference that featured four plenary sessions, an exhibit hall, institutes, and workshops. USCHA offered more than 140 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.

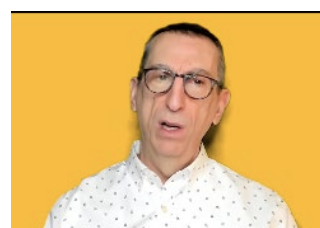
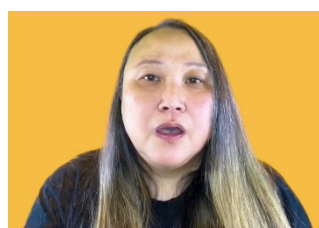
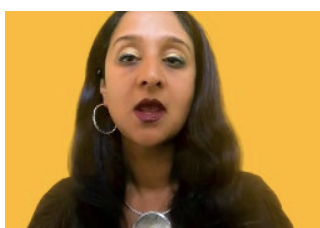
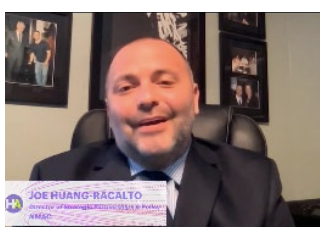
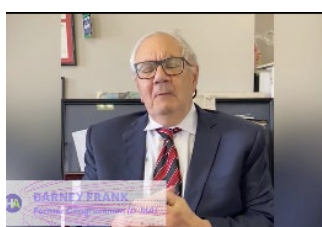
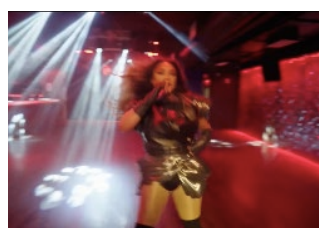


OPENING PLENARY

Federal Perspectives on HIV in the COVID Era

This year's Opening Plenary focused on the federal response to HIV in the COVID environment. Dr. Anthony S. Fauci gave an update on the latest in HIV Treatment, vaccines and cure research. Harold Phillips, the Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy and the newly decorated four-star admiral in the Public Health Service, Assistant Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine gave a live address on the Biden/Harris administration's plan to end the HIV epidemic and the community's role in its implementation.

Additionally, representatives from the PLHIV Caucus discussed the importance of having a PLHIV federal policy agenda and the importance of quality of life. USCHA honored House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for her tireless work championing HIV issues in Congress to effect positive change in the lives of persons living with HIV and AIDS.



GILEAD PLENARY

Voices of Resilience: Forging Progress and Urgency in Challenging Times

The Gilead Sciences plenary featured grassroots advocates working in the Southern U.S. to address barriers to helping end the HIV epidemic, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A panel discussion explored how these advocates are helping forge progress, through innovation and resilience in challenging times. Panelists included:

- Host: Tori Cooper, Director of Community Engagement for the Transgender Justice Initiative, Human Rights Campaign
- Tony Morrison, Senior Producer, Good Morning America Digital
- Karl Schmid, Broadcaster and Executive Producer, Plus Life Media
- Joaquín Carcaño, Director of Community Organizing, Latino Commission on AIDS, Latinos in the South Program
- Tony Christon-Walker, Director of Prevention and Community Partnerships, AIDS Alabama
- Kayla Gore, Founder, Tiny House Project, Executive Director, My Sistah's House
- Antoinette Jones, HIV Peer Specialist and Advocate, SisterLove, Inc.
- Zakia McKensey, Executive Director and Founder, Nationz Foundation
- José Romero, HIV Racial & Language Justice Consultant and Founder, A Positive Approach



ViiV PLENARY

Self, Identity and Culture: How culture and identity shape and inform each other

Culture plays a critical role in resolving the tension between how we are seen and how we see ourselves – and if we create nuanced and accurate cultural portrayals of identity and experience, we have an opportunity to reduce stigma and change perception - impacting everything from HIV to institutional inequality. This session explored how BIPOC and LGBTQ identities are shaped (and maintained) in mainstream culture and how exploring these identities serves as a mechanism for bringing us together.

Panelists included:

- Moderator: Darnell Moore, Director of Inclusion Strategy for Content & Marketing at Netflix
- George Johnson, Award-Winning Black Non-Binary Writer, Author, and Activist
- Imara Jones, Creator of TransLash Media
- Jesús I. Valles, Educator, Storyteller, and Performer



CLOSING PLENARY

Foundation Stones to Building the EHE Effort in Indian Country Presented by the American Indian/Alaska Native CAP

This plenary highlighted the work of those addressing HIV and COVID in Indian Country, rural states, and among Alaska Natives with limited infrastructure. This plenary addressed these challenges and provided innovative solutions by Indian Country—making the case to support Native HIV care by providing essential building blocks. Speakers:

- Laura Platero, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
- Annette Hubbard, Ninilchik Village Tribe Health & Community Department
- Rick Haverkate, Indian Health Service
- Christopher Paisano, NMAC



ATTENDEES

The 2021 USCHA had a total of 2,781 attendees in these categories:

- Sponsors
- Exhibitors
- Speakers
- Host Committee
- CAPs
- Youth Scholars
- 50+ Scholars
- Gay Men of Color Fellows
- Volunteers
- Vendors
- Media/Press



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 2021 USCHA, Youth Initiative (YI) Scholars attended webinars related to health communication, health literacy, and stigma in preparation to plan and facilitate their own HIV community project this upcoming spring. These sessions were facilitated by YI Champions (formerly known as Peer Educators/Mentors). During their last webinar at USCHA, scholars were able to use their knowledge from previous webinars hosted by the YI in epidemiology, biomedical treatment, and public health to strategize ways to decrease stigma related to HIV.

**youth
initiative**

In addition, scholars gained a chance to meet and network with leaders from ViiV Healthcare. At the ViiV Healthcare meeting, the YI program presented their World AIDS Day (WAD) media project featuring YI program staff, scholars, champions, and friends of the program from across the nation to highlight the importance and significance of WAD, HIV prevention and treatment, and our commitment to ending the HIV epidemic.

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

USHCA offered five virtual lounges at this year's conference: the Trans Lounge, the 50+ Lounge, the Youth Lounge, the PLWHA Lounge, and the ESCALATE/ELEVATE Lounge. Inside the lounges, participants could find opportunities to network, learn more about HIV programs and services, take part in fun activities, or just enjoy the company of others.

The ELEVATE lounge was hosted by the ELEVATE Team and featured four webinars:

- *Community Health Workers (CHWs) and their Impact in the HIV Service Delivery System,*
- *Preparing People with HIV for Involvement in Community Engagement Activities,*
- *Using Health Literacy Strategies to Increase Involvement of PWH in Care and Community Planning*
- *Preparing for Employment*

After each webinar the attendees were engaged in discussion about the webinars and their content. We hosted two ELEVATE Interest meetings with one focused on the Latinx Community. Attendees were offered the opportunity to apply for ELEVATE.

The lounge session also included 15-minute talk sessions titled "Let's Talk About It" where we discussed the HRSA Videos "Ryan White Anniversary" and "Curtis: The Road from Here."

The ESCALATE lounge provided conference attendees with the opportunity to meet and participate in a demonstration of the ESCALATE training. Participants experienced the first module focusing on the history of medical racism in the United States.

In addition, participants learned about eligibility and how to apply for the three ESCALATE tracks – training, technical assistance, and learning collaboratives. Lastly, participants reviewed critical components of ESCALATE's evaluation process including evaluation tools, framework, and preliminary training outcome data.



EXHIBIT HALL



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

INSTITUTES

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

CONSENT

Presented by
Paul Grace – Neal
Alpha Omega Kappa Fraternity Inc.
Transgender Education Association of Greater Washington
(TGEA)

Meeting Room

Objectives

Describe	Describe the racial and ethnic disparities impacting people with HIV including disease incidence, prevalence and poorer health outcomes.
Describe	Describe the racial and ethnic disparities impacting people with Covid-19 including disease incidence, prevalence and poorer health outcomes.
Recognize	Recognize how systemic racism, both historic and present day has created and/or maintained racist policies that perpetuate present day racial and ethnic disparities.

Zoom Video

Asian Americans COVID Experience

COVID-19 Related Outcomes	Risk of Exposure	COVID-19 Risk Factors	Barriers to Care	Vaccination	Business	Unemployment	Anti-Asian Violence	Other
• 45% of Asian Americans deaths for the first seven months of 2020, second highest in census, compared to other race groups	• 45% of high school medical students have a higher percentage of Asian American students than other race groups	• Higher rates of hypertension (28%), diabetes (28%), and stroke (28%) than the US national average	• 45% of Asian Americans live in crowded housing	• 45% of Asian Americans live in crowded housing	• 45% of Asian Americans live in crowded housing	• 45% of Asian Americans live in crowded housing	• 45% of Asian Americans live in crowded housing	• 45% of Asian Americans live in crowded housing

Updated 5/11/2021

WHY EVERY(BLACK)BODY?

EVERY(BLACK)BODY honors the history and diversity of the Black diaspora.

EVERY(BLACK)BODY embodies collective liberation from systems that do not value us and the internal struggles they engender.

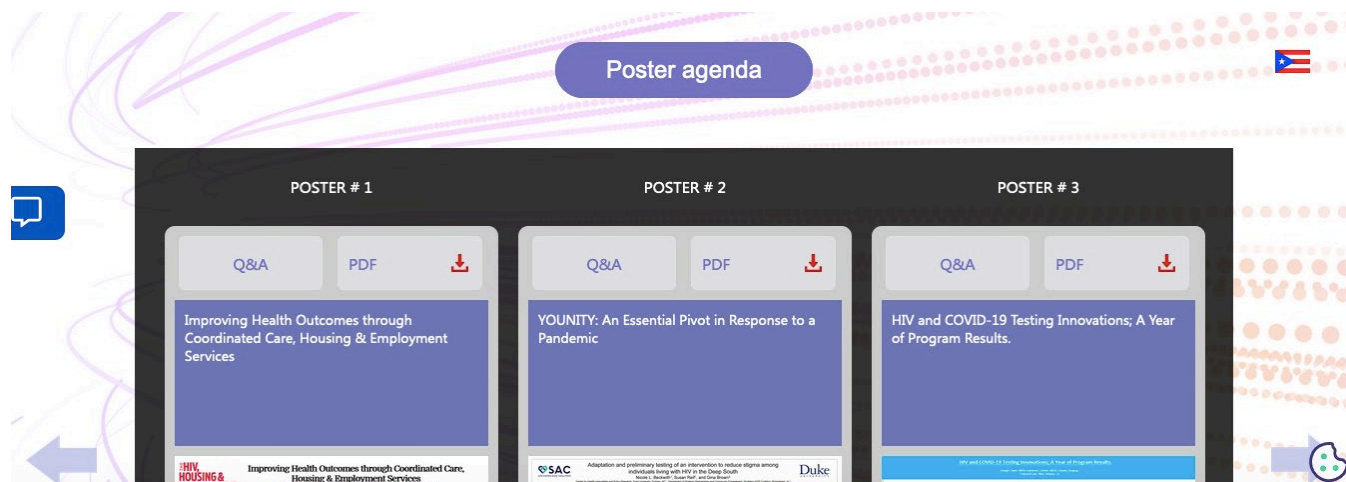
EVERY(BLACK)BODY values the various ways individual experiences of Black people are both unique and intersected.

EVERY(BLACK)BODY is a coalition effort dedicated to the well-being of people living with HIV and to the improvement of the physical and mental health of all our communities.

back row

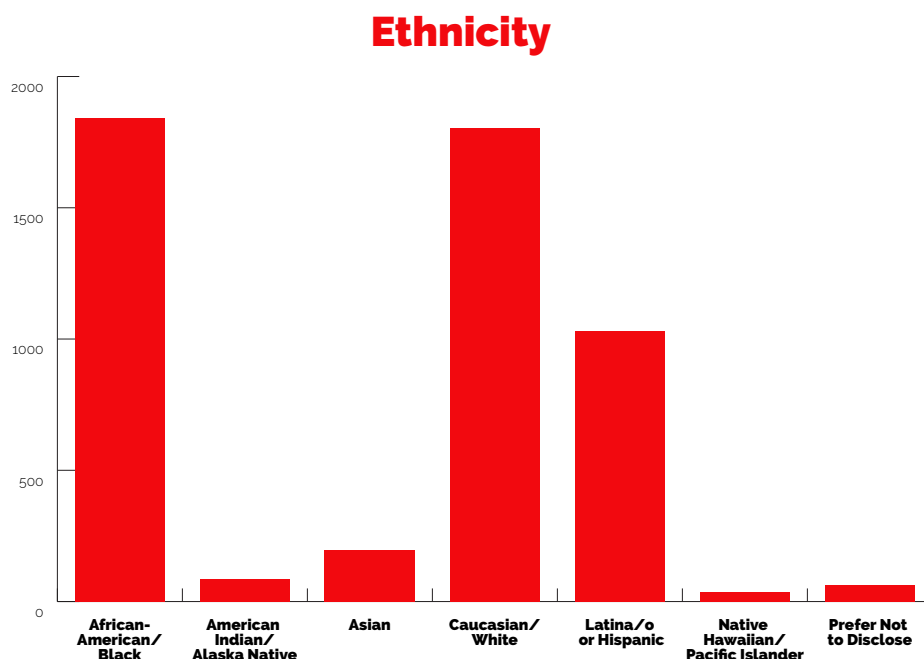
back row

POSTER PRESENTATIONS



For the first time at an NMAC virtual conference, more than 20 poster presentations were held. Topics included Covid-19, PrEP, mental health, and substance abuse.

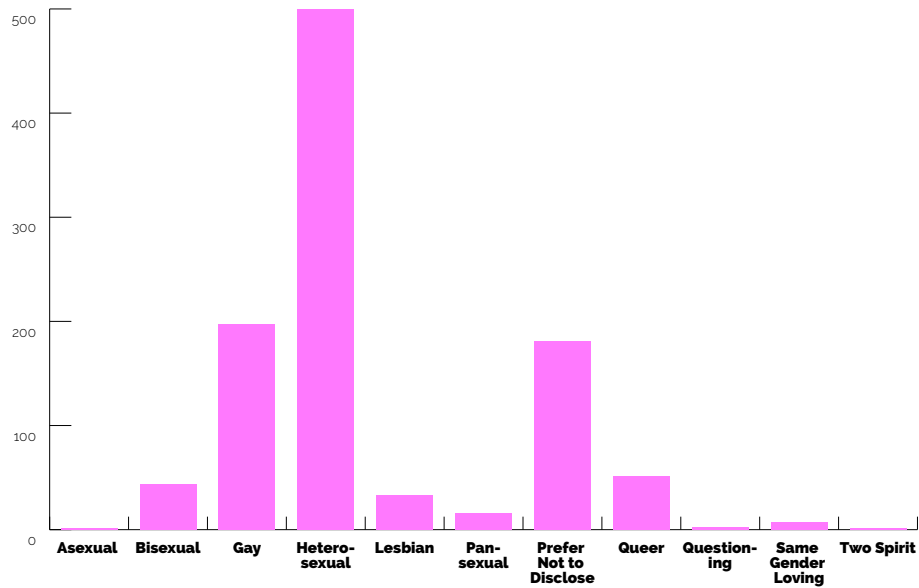
ATTENDANCE



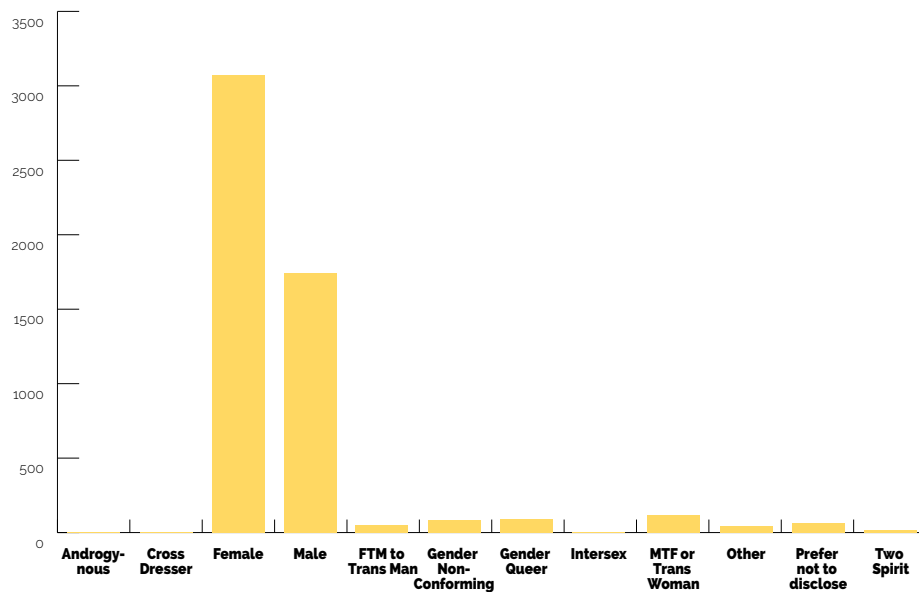
**Numbers are representative of USCHA participants that disclosed their demographic information. Does not include entire attendance.*

ATTENDANCE

Sexual Orientation



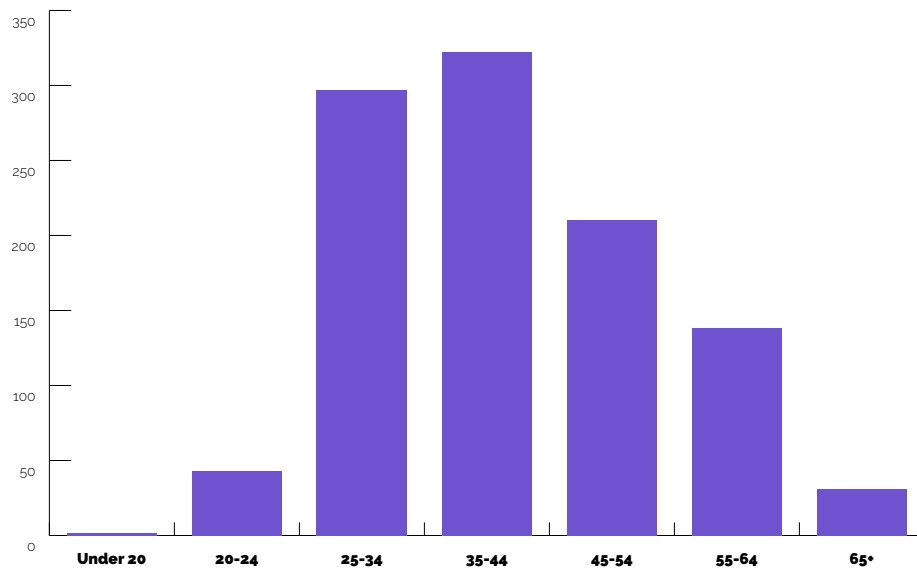
Gender Identity



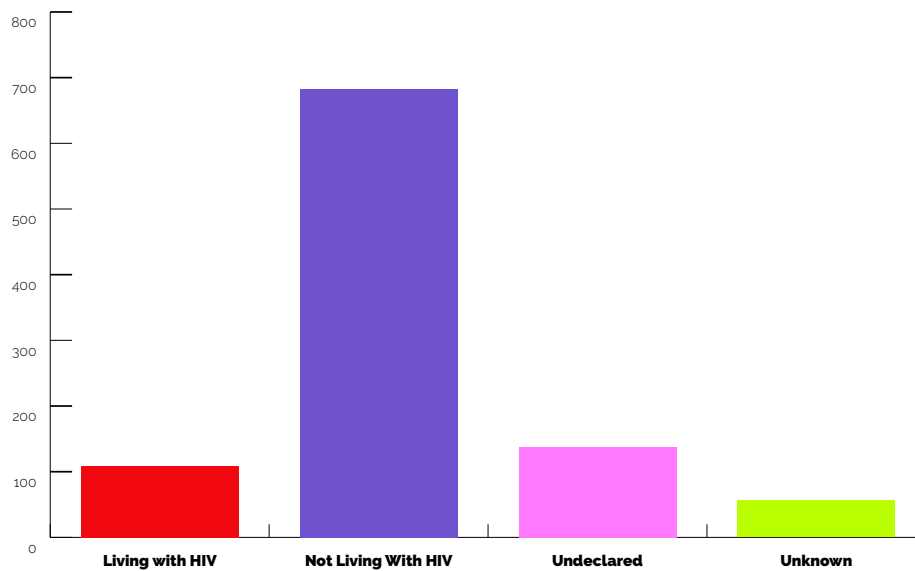
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ATTENDANCE

Age Range



HIV Status



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

QUOTES

I feel like you all did a terrific job trying to adapt from an in person conference to a virtual conference and still keep it fun and interactive.

I liked the powerful performances and the mutual feeling of seeking freedom and healing.

I learned a lot. The conference put me back in touch with some of the reasons I chose helping people with HIV in my professional life.

I was really surprised at how smooth and clearly the virtual format was laid out. Literally, I was able to "walk" the entire event and enjoy what I wanted to enjoy without any issues or tech frustrations. BIGGER SURPRISE and the experience I loved the most and am already talking about to friends and co-workers is the FAUCI panel and full screening. It has immediately become one of my top 5 all-time films on HIV/AIDS.

I especially loved the lounge because the panel/presenters were very informative. I would like to say thank you to everyone that put this conference together.

The reduced cost and online platform make it so much more accessible to a greater pool of staff. You guys do the best job of a total conference platform compared to any other I've been to in the past two years.

The speakers and attendants were so cool, this was my first time attending something like this and I made a few connections across the US.

SPONSORS

A Special Thank You to our Sponsors

who have made significant contributions to the United States Conference on HIV/AIDS.

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