



12 Awesome Tweets and 1 Video That Recap the U.S. Conference on AIDS

Protesters storm the stage! Mother Elektra slays! POZ films it all!

September 10, 2019 By [Trent Straube](#)

The federal plan to end HIV got top billing at the United States Conference on AIDS (USCA), but activists and the HIV community stole the spotlight. Click on the POZ on Location video above to see for yourself.

We rounded up a dozen tweets that capture the magic and mayhem of USCA, which took place September 5 through 8 in Washington, DC. Held in a different city each year, the conference is spearheaded by NMAC, formerly the National Minority AIDS Council. As you'll see, the event includes workshops, panel discussions, big-room speeches, networking, poster presentations, booths, films and even some runway.

HAPPENING NOW: [@MSNBC](#)'s [@JoyAnnReid](#) is moderating [@NMACCommunity](#)'s first plenary at the [#2019USCA](#) on ending the HIV epidemic.

pic.twitter.com/yOo9uyb4RD

— MSNBC Public Relations (@MSNBCPR) [September 5, 2019](#)

The subject of the opening plenary—as well as many of the workshops—was the Trump initiative “Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America.” MSNBC’s Joy Reid moderated a discussion with federal health leaders, including Robert Redfield, MD, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Anthony Fauci, MD, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

“Over twenty states and US territories criminalize people living with HIV.” [@nainadevi](#), Executive Director of the Positive Women’s Network speaks on the criminalization and tracking of people living with HIV.

[#2019USCA](#) [#EndTheStigma](#)

pic.twitter.com/FSTxR92ZCv

— Lillian Lennon (@mslillianlennon) [September 5, 2019](#)

As is tradition at USCA, a protest erupted onstage during the opening plenary (a powerful but respectful protest, it should be noted). The message? Activists voiced their concern to federal leaders about the government’s collection of HIV data and surveillance; they also demanded to be included in the government’s efforts to end the epidemic. Watch the video in the tweet above to hear Naina Khanna of the Positive Women’s Network-USA spell it all out.

The plenary session “Celebrating U=U and Its Critical Role in Ending the HIV Epidemic” also stoked excitement. The inspiring message that undetectable equals untransmittable resonated strongly with the HIV community. So did the pledges to fight stigma and spread the U=U message to all, as did the directive to hire and support trans women.

Period! I urge all my cis brothers and sisters to aspire to

be this kind of ally to the [#trans](#) community. Stop

tokenizing trans ppl to relive our traumas & using our

likeness without compensation. Hire trans women! Hire

black and brown trans women! [#2019USCA](#)

[#TransLivesMatter](#) pic.twitter.com/Hv5WXenvMV

— Nya Cruz (@NyaAsiaSF) [September 7, 2019](#)

A series of workshops were offered each morning, afternoon and early evening—in total, more than 160 to choose from. Topics ranged from mental health and substance use to Black masculinity and women’s prevention, and from HIV cure research to Ryan White HIV funds. The tweets below capture but a sliver of the educational and inspirational offerings.

“At 22%, Asian-Americans have the highest rate of undiagnosed HIV of any race/ethnicity, and diagnoses are increasing, within the fastest-growing minority in the U.S.” From the [#2019USCA](#) session, “Krazy Poor Asians Gone Wild: Engaging the Asian Community and New Leaders” pic.twitter.com/1ncUgHQeQu
— Men’s Health Foundation (@MensHealthFound)
[September 5, 2019](#)

Enraging, powerful & motivating presentation on voter suppression, viral suppression and liberation with folks from [@AIDSAlabama](#) and [@uspwn](#) ????? ????? ?????
pic.twitter.com/dRSDFYQSo8
— Kelly Flannery (@KellyFlannery8) [September 7, 2019](#)

participating in the community roundtable portion of the Latinx Institute of the [#2019USCA](#)
pic.twitter.com/O1aSgkfkKe

— Brian Romero, LMSW (@Brianr8278) [September 5, 2019](#)

Happening Now! Breastfeeding & HIV in the Era of U=U:
Research, Policy, and Lived Experiences

Our presentation includes listening session & we'd LOVE to hear directly about experiences from women living w/ HIV. Join us in Archives room ongoing through 6:15pm [#2019USCA](#) [#UUUSCA](#)
pic.twitter.com/0wletBdPG8

— The Well Project (@thewellproject) [September 6, 2019](#)

In the exhibit hall, stakeholders in the HIV community set up booths and networked and chatted with attendees. POZ had a booth, as did other media, along with pharmaceutical companies, AIDS service organizations, health care groups and others.

The exhibit hall is bouncing right now! Also fresh baked cookies available! [#2019USCA](#)
pic.twitter.com/zAVpnMhtHf

— NMAC (@NMACCommunity) [September 5, 2019](#)

Let's not forget the fun! There were film screenings and a special exhibition ball—including a special appearance by Pose star Dominique Jackson, aka Mother Elektra.

When your presence has been blessed by THE
[@tyraaross](#) ! [@NMACCommunity](#) [#2019USCA](#)
[pic.twitter.com/oaoUF8uvAb](#)
— T???? (@TianaaWoah) [September 5, 2019](#)

Everyone is getting down at the [#2019USCA](#) luncheon
plenary! [@NMACCommunity](#) [pic.twitter.com/aa2hRIJsTg](#)
— Nya Cruz (@NyaAsiaSF) [September 7, 2019](#)

This year's USCA marked a milestone for NMAC executive director Paul Kawata: He celebrates 30 years at the organization fighting to end the epidemic. He received special recognition from DC Mayor Muriel Bowser. (To read POZ's interview with Kawata, click [here](#).)

Our leader Paul Kawata receives a special recognition
from [@MayorBowser](#) for his 30 years of work.
[#2019USCA](#) [pic.twitter.com/MT8bnsMFu0](#)
— NMAC (@NMACCommunity) [September 5, 2019](#)

The power of USCA doesn't end with the last session and workshop. As Davina Conner (aka Pozitively Dee) notes, attendees take the education and inspiration back with them to their communities.

This photo from [#2019USCA](#) gives me the biggest

smile. to [#EndTheEpidemic](#) it takes a village to do this. I want to once again thank the [@NMACCommunity](#) for highlighting [@PreventionAC](#) and the [#UequalsU](#) family/ambassadors. pic.twitter.com/n8AvRMqC1Y
— Pozitively Dee Discussion (@DavinaConner)
[September 9, 2019](#)

That's a dozen tweets—and it's only a tiny sampling of what you'll find on social media. Search [#2019USCA](#) and [@nmaccommunity](#) for much, much more. And here's a bonus tweet for 2020.

Thank you all for an amazing [#2019USCA](#)! We will see you all next year at [#2020USCA](#) in [#PuertoRico](#)!!!
pic.twitter.com/A9MxyOpE6Z
— NMAC (@NMACCommunity) [September 8, 2019](#)

For more about this year's USCA, read Kawata's blog post "[We Can End the HIV Epidemic by Working Together](#)," and see our article "[Ending the Epidemics #InTheirMemory](#)."