

Number 26

I: My first question is: Please tell me everything you know about AIDS.

S: Um..Like you can get it from ah having unprotected sex...um through like one of your parents having it. Then just getting it that way and um sharing needles or any other ah bodily fluids and that. Um...like if you get a test and that, at like you don't like, get the answer over the phone and that cause only you have to know they won't even tell your parents and that, that you got to go in person and that cause they don't know whether you want anybody else to know or not. And they might think that somebody else calling just to see if you had it.

I: Can you tell me more about how the AIDS virus is passed on from one person to another? You mentioned a couple of different ways. Can you think of any other ways?

S:It's as many as I can think of.

I: You told me that AIDS is passed on if a person's parents may have it. Can you tell me a little bit more in detail what you mean by that? Like how exactly does that happen?

S: Like, if they have it, it's carried in the, like genes of the sex chromosome. [inaudible] and then it's just passed on. Like that way.

I: Ok, passed on?

S: Like when they have, when the parents have intercourse and ah the sperm gets with the egg, and if one of them had AIDS in it in the genes and then the kid could get it.

I: Does it matter. Can you tell me how can a person be able to prevent getting the AIDS virus if their parents have it, if one of their parents has it?

S: uh-hmm (no)....

I: Is there anything that the parents could do to prevent their child from getting it. If one of them is carrying the AIDS virus?

S: Not really.

I: And you also told me that AIDS is passed on when people share needles. Can you tell me a little bit more about that? How does that happen?

S: Um...I guess someone goes to shoot the drugs and that some of their blood is on the, could be on the needle and if they had AIDS or one of the people that's in the group that's um... shooting up the drugs if they use the same needle, that AIDS can get in the next people down the line that use it.

I: Does it matter how often a person would share a needle?

S: Not really. It could be one time if the person had AIDS.

I: And can you tell me how a person can be able to prevent getting the AIDS virus if they are sharing needles? Is there anything they could do?

S: Um...like...the only thing that they could do is sterilize the needle but you can't always keep doing that cause there will probably be a little bit on the needle even if you try to sterilize it at that time.

I: How can you sterilize a needle?

S: Like your...sometimes alcohol but like heat and stuff like burning it with the lighter of something.

I: And you said something that you can't always keep doing that?

S: Yeah...um...after...so many times put it in and like sometimes you might not have the material or, or else just the drugs just mess up your mind and you forget, you could forget it like one time. And then AIDS could go into somebody.

I: And how well do you think that sterilizing the needles would really protect a person from getting the AIDS virus?

S: Um...if it's sterilized good enough and that's the only thing that they are doing that could pass it, then they probably won't get it but...there's only like probably 50% chance that actually happens.

I: Of ... what actually happens?

S: Them actually sterilizing it to the exact point when it's where they definitely wouldn't get it.

I: And, what do you think might lead a person to share needles?

S: Um...you just either you hear people talk about doing that kind a of drug or... they do it...or their friends just talk them into it. Being like saying everybody does it or something like that then they just go and try it and then the drug will get em hooked on it...so then and they think that in order to get it without paying too much for it that you go and doing with their friends and then they probably only got to pay a little bit or maybe not any of it.

I: What are the kinds of things that may mess up a person plans not to share needles?

S: ...Just like if like if something was going on at home and that while they was thinking and that they shouldn't do this cause it would mess up life and something happened and [inaudible] somebody and cause they tell them that this drug can take all that pain and stuff away and you

won't feel like that and all that and then they'll just try it to see and they will get hooked on it.

I: You also told me that the AIDS virus maybe passed on when people have unprotected sex? Can you tell me a little bit about that happens?

S: Um...They...

I: For instance what do you mean when you talk about unprotected sex? What does that mean?

S: Like not using a condom and the other stuff like nonoxyl 9 and that. Like when they have sex if they don't use a condom when one could of had sex and it did like get into the their system through like the sperm and that, that or like just...they don't actually have to be a like regular sex. It could be like oral sex or something like that.

I: Does it matter how often a person has unprotected sex?

S: Um...not really..like it could be a one time too or they could get it lucky that one or two times [inaudible] and not get it then, and then one times they just say why I ain't got it then that time and I'll just go out and do it again and then they could get it then.

I: Could you tell me how a person can be able to prevent getting the AIDS virus if they are having unprotected sex?

S: Um.....cause could you repeat that?

I: Could you tell me how a person may be able to prevent getting the AIDS virus if they are having unprotected sex?

S: Um...like mainly they um...get tested and that and if you ain't had within that then...they just try and start having protected sex and that or maybe the partner or taking the initiative if they know or if they got AIDS then just tell the other person to use a condom or them use a condom themselves.

I: And how well do think that would really protect a person from getting the AIDS virus? Using a condom?

S: Um...it would just depend on the situation cause the condoms ain't 100% fool proof and that. Like, they like bust then they could get AIDS then or, but other then that if it don't bust then most of the time was pretty certain that they won't get it.

I: And what do you think might lead a person to having unprotected sex?

S: Um...or they just don't want to use a condom or they ain't gottem on em at that time.

I: What are the kinds of things that may mess up a person plans not to have unprotected sex? Like if they ah...go out one night and when they leave they say to themselves 'Ok I am not going

to have unprotected sex tonight', what do you think may mess up their plans?

S: Like if they were going to a bar or something they could get drunk and then just go back to one of them places and then they wouldn't even be thinking about what they said before and they could just start having sex and could have forgotten to put a condom on.

I: And the other thing you mentioned ah.. was that the AIDS Virus is can be passed on through bodily fluids? Can you tell me what you meant by that? Like what kinds of bodily fluids?

S: Like could be in the blood or like...or like the semen...you have to have a lot of saliva in order for it for um..to get passed that way, but that's one of the ways. I forget how much they said had to it's got to be I think they said that almost a gallon or something like that.

I: A gallon?

S: Somewhere, it's like a lot of saliva has to be contained in order for it to be like that cause it's like minimal amount on a blood or something in the saliva. But like if someone could go to the bathroom and either get semen or blood on the seat then, then um...or someone's got a cut or it could get in there or something like that.

I: And does it matter how often a person, for instance, if blood or semen got on the seat and the person was cut does it matter how often a person would be exposed in that way?

S: Not really if it's on there and it ain't cleaned up and the person got a cut it could just go up in there.

I: Is there anything a person in this situation could do to protect themselves from AIDS?

S: Um... probably like cover up the cut somehow like if they had anything to do it with like clean the seat some how.

I: How well do you think that would really protect the person from getting the AIDS virus?

S: Um...it probably protect them a good bit but like most of the other things it ain't 100% certain.

I: What effect does alcohol have on people?

S: They don't, like it messes with their brain and causes them to think other ways it could cause them to be angry and that about something that happen before or just something didn't even happen and they just thinking that it could have then they could react on it or it just it just mess up the mind and they wouldn't think about things and just go and do something.

I: Does drinking make much of a difference in a person risk of getting the AIDS virus?

S: Little bit it cause like if you drink and that and if you get to drunk or and that you might

forget to put on a condom and if that person has AIDS, you could get it then or something like that.

I: How is this different who people drinking regularly compared to people who binge drink?

S: Um...if they would drink regularly they probably would know ah when they should stop and that and like...

I: When they should stop..what?

S: When they should stop at their limit at if they when they think they going get drunk but if they don't usually stop then then they could um...do something that um...

I: Well is a person risk of getting the AIDS virus any different for people who drink regularly compared to people who binge drink?

S: Probably not..like..if they drink enough for that one certain time then it could happen.

I: Does it matter how often a person is exposed to the AIDS virus?

S: Not really like... one time, I mean that could get it and that and like can't get rid of it.

I: Could you tell me what happens when a person get the AIDS Virus?

S: Um.....

I: When a person is first infected um... with the AIDS virus can...what happens?

S: Um..really when they are first infected with the thing, nothing really happens and it's like they could have couple things wrong with them but, if you just got infected right then like one day and like say the next day you went and got tested it wouldn't come up cause there's like six month window period sometimes. And um... but it..it's like not all that harmful as a [inaudible] is what like if you give it give the virus to somebody else it could develop into AIDS faster for them and cause they immune system is different and that.

I: Can you tell me about what happens when a person gets AIDS?

S: Um...like breaks down the immune system and then they get real sick and that and like towards the end end of their life cause of the AIDS they start getting like lesions on their skin and that.

I: Anything else?

S: Not that I could think.

I: Can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets the AIDS virus and when he

or she gets AIDS? So what happens in the time you know you mention a little bit about that.

S: Um...Mainly they, six month window period is like there between the time they got infected and then whatever time you get tested like you have sex and you are planning on getting tested to see if you got it then, you might as well just wait six months just to make sure, or then if you feel that you might have HIV then just by don't have sex until you get your check.

I: How long does it take for person with HIV to develop AIDS?

S: At different it's between the person cause it's like some people immune system is stronger and it could or it just not attacking all that much. It's just like the difference between the persons immune system.

I: How could someone learn if he or she has HIV?

S: Um...mainly though the test after that period of time.

I: What does this test test for? Like how does it work? What does the test do?

S: Like they just take blood out then test it somehow and that will let you know whether you have HIV or not.

I: Why would someone decide to be tested?

S: Um...cause maybe they either had a drug problem or they shared needles, or they had unprotected sex or something like that.

I: What would make you think that a person has AIDS?

S: Um...mainly... with me I'd get a little suspicious if they like they was really shy around talking about sex and that cause or anything in like how you could get AIDS cause they could of got it at from that way that your talking about, but not all the time that it's like that cause some people just don't like talking about that cause they know what could happen from that or they just... they just feel that it's not right to talk about that like...they're not ready to talk about sex yet, or stuff like that.

I: What kinds of people have a lot to worry from AIDS?

S: Um.....Mainly everybody got to worry about it cause their ain't no one type of person can get it any way. Any certain way but...after the main thing it's just unprotected sex and sharing needles.

I: When can people stop worrying about AIDS at all?

S: Um...like really never stop worrying about it, but they could worry about it a little less when they find a cure for it, but you still got to worry about it to some extend and cause even if they do

got a cure or the cure might not actually be 100% then or not.

I: Do you think people are making too big of a deal out of AIDS?

S: Some people do if they like...like kind of stay away from people if they find out if they got AIDS or something like that. Or just like some people joke around about how people having AIDS and they never know of maybe the person could have AIDS. Or like one another thing like that is some people could just be saying that and they could have the AIDS themselves. And they are just trying to ah...like make themselves look a little better like no one will know if I have it if I talk about other people having it.

I: What...sorry, Where have you learned about AIDS?

S: Um...mainly through my years of placement. I heard about it right before but not enough to really know about it. Then when I got in placement I just found out more about it because I just started watching videos and stuff about it and then I asked about it. Then we just started having some groups on it. That's mainly how I found out everything. And I got some of the little books in the mail for it.

I: What things do they skip in AIDS classes?

S:I don't know.

I: Do you think you know enough about AIDS to protect yourself from it?

S: Yeah, pretty much.

I: Is there anything more you like to know about AIDS?

S: Yeah, I like to know ah..a lot about it. It's because there could be some new things coming about with it then if I didn't find that out, I could probably get it that way if I ended up doing it.

I: AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV. What does that tell you about it? Does it let you know anything?

S: Um...Mainly...if you in...let's you know if you might get a blood test and they say that you got HIV you'll know that if sometime you could possibly get AIDS but if you didn't know or that that was the virus that leads up to AIDS then if they told you that you wouldn't think nothing of it. And that then you just think it's another virus and it could be cured and that.

I: Suppose that there is a new disease and all you know is that it's caused by a virus. What information can you tell me from just hearing that much? Like, can you tell me how the disease is transmitted, if you knew that this new disease was a virus?

S: Not actually, because viruses can be transmitted different ways.

I: Could you tell me how the disease develops if you knew it was a virus?

S: Um...different

I: And you tell me how the disease can be treated, if you know it was a virus?

S: Um... like you would have to like.. find out from a hospital
is their stuff that they heard that kind of a virus and if they found a cured for it.

I: What does safe sex mean?

S: Wearing a condom and like nonoxyl 9.

I: Can you tell me a little more about condoms, what are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS, do you know?

S: Mainly just, latex condoms, it doesn't like that they name of it is just as long as it's latex.

I: What else does condoms protect you against?

S: Pregnancy...and that or any other sexually transmitted disease.

I: What does IV drug use mean?

S: Um.....I don't know.

I: Do you think needles can be cleaned?

S: They could...but they.....it's not 100% certain....like before I said that they could be cleaned to certain extend and and uh like might be certain but there is also the chances of stuff getting up inside the hole in the needle and burning it with the lighter wouldn't actually get them to well and do you like use alcohol or just rub it over top then, they won't probably won't get inside there too, and you could still get it that way.