In this interview I will ask you to talk about AIDS. I want you to know that you don't have to answer all my questions. If you don't want to answer a question just let me know and I will go on with the next one. You can also ask me to stop the interview at any time. In this interview you will be asked to talk about everything you know about AIDS. I will first ask you to tell me everything you know about AIDS, then I will ask you some more specific questions. I may ask the same question more than once. I do this to make sure that you tell me everything you know and that I understand everything that you say. Please don't worry about whether your answers are right or not, just tell me everything that comes to mind.

My first question is:

I: Please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: Well, I know that it can be a sexually transmitted disease. I know that it's not really proven that you can get it through saliva or kissing. It's very dangerous. Although I did see a survey on TV the other day that it has gone down the percentage of people of getting AIDS more in the United States. Ah...although it was like major like fear a lot of people I know are afraid of it. \{Tape skipping\}

I: Uh-hmm

S: Pretty much, that's about it. You really don't know you can't really tell if somebody has it just by looking at them, till it's like really bad and you can like. You can really die from AIDS. I think maybe, I think you die from like when you get it you die from like you're, like you're inside like...when like you get another disease I think it's like pneumonia or something you die from that, just kill you, your white blood vessels or blood cells that help you fight communicable disease.

{[Tape fading in and out a lot]}

I: Um-humm

S: That's what it destroys, your T cells or whatever.

I: Anything else?

S: Humm, not that I can think of off hand.

I: OK Humm..can you tell me more about how AIDS and the AIDS virus is passed from one person to another? How AIDS is spread?

S: It can be spread through IV, or like by blood sent, blood test it can be mixed in the needle. It can be sexually transmitted. Ah, like I said there's not, I don't think there's any proof of it's by kissing. I don't know if they are doing more research on that or not.
I: OK, hum, you told that AIDS is passed on when you ah, you said something about a IV?

S: Yeah, like blood test, blood samples.

I: Huh-humm, can you tell me a little bit more about that?

S: Well, I don't know there is one lady who sued the doctor because she was, she got, wasn't there that one case where she sued a doctor because she got AIDS from, from the blood test, blood transfusion.

I: Uh-hmm

S: And she got AIDS from that and she sued, trying to sue the hospital for that.

I: Uh-hmm, ok that's the part when you said from a blood test, or blood transfusion?

S: Blood transfusion, yes.

I: Ok, uh hum, does it matter how often a person is ah exposed to you know, how often a person might have like unprotected sex, or a blood transfusion?

S: I think it does, cause you can never really be too, you always have to be as cautious as you can. I know, a lot of my friends not really are, but I mean I think you really need. Cause you never know what's out there. Not just AIDS, but other diseases.

I: Um-humm

S: You can get from that stuff.

I: Ok...humm.. can you tell me how a person can be able to prevent getting AIDS, if they are having unprotected sex? Or having a blood transfusion?

S: Well, best is ...I think just like, there isn't like really a cure for AIDS, but I mean the best is not to have sex, but when you do, I guess use a condom, or anything, or...when it's a blood transfusion you really can't tell if it's not, I mean you can't check it yourself, I mean you can have it re-tested and tested, there still might be some thing in it.

I: Um-hmm

S: You can get it.

I: Um-humm... ok...Is there anything that a person in this situation can do protect themselves from AIDS?
S: You mean like, sexually transmitted?

I: Um-hmm?

S: The safest way is not to have sex at all, unless you are like absolutely with that person that I mean, you never really know, I mean the person could lie to you and say that they never had sex before, but you really don't know if they have or not.

I: Um-humm. Ok, how well do you think this would really protect a person from getting AIDS?

S: You mean like, protection?

I: Um-hum?

S: Well, I don't know, I mean you can, you can protect it to certain point, but it's never really, not proved that it's like, I mean there is some cases where, I mean it's not all 100% safe.

I: Um-hum?

S: So it's not like all, I mean if you use a condom or protection or anything it's not like 100% safe. There is always a chance that you can get it no matter what.

I: Ok...Um...what do you think may lead a person to ah have unprotected sex?

S: Maybe, the only time well, if you would like, maybe they think they would like it better. If they would just, I don't really know, maybe more for adults, I mean like. A lot of kids I guess, like to do it but I don't know why, just if they are like, their hormones I guess cause they are young.

I: Um-hmm.

S: Just like to do it that way.

I: Ok, ah...what are the kinds of things that may mess up a person plans not to have unprotected sex?

S: Um...if you can scare them enough I guess to think that all the disease out there. I mean, I mean not all people are going to be scared enough, but like I know like, there are a lot of disease around, I mean like there is, I mean that scares like a lot of people off to know that, when some people don't really care.

I: Um-hmm.

S: And there is not much that you can do about that cause I mean, they don't really care
about, what like, they just think that they are never going to get it, and they think they are invincible, till it really happens to them.

I: Um-hmm, ok, I don't whether I was clear when I asked the questions, but ah..is there anything that ah.. like if a person plans not to have unprotected sex, what would might mess up their plans to not have unprotected sex?

S: Like, what do you mean, like if?

I: Like if a person, they had planned on using a condom and then ended up no doing it, not using a condom?

S: Oh, because, they would just think that I mean, at first maybe they would just think that they can't get it, and that they can do whatever they want and they are never going to get any disease of anything. So then they might like, try to convince their mate, that they are not going to get any disease or anything, and then one thing leads to another and they would probably end up doing it.

I: Um-humm. Humm, what effect does alcohol have on people?

S: Oh, I don't really believe in it myself, cause I don't do it. I mean as like the effect on people they think that, like, it makes them like they are having a good time but really it doesn't. I don't think it does anything for any body. Except, like I mean, people make a fool out of themselves mostly. They think that are having fun, but really in reality their not really. They are just like laughing and doing immature things when you think about what they are doing. It's really not like anything.

I: Humm..Does drinking make much of a difference in a persons risk of getting AIDS?

S: I think it would, because when ever people drink that become more vulnerable to doing things like I know a lot of people I know they when they drink they like their will like [inaudible] takes away like sense you [inaudible] something you wouldn't normally do you be embarrassed to do, you wouldn't be afraid to do it when you like cause you not, your are out of your state of mind and you wouldn't be, you'd be able whatever you want like. More vulnerable to doing that stuff.

I: Ok, Um...is it different for people who drink regularly compared with ah people who binge drink?

I: Is the risk different for people who drink a little bit everyday compared to with people who drink ah a lot every weekend?

S: I don't really think there much, well there might be a little difference but I think, any drinking like even if it's a little you can still be. You can still, like be, anybody can lead to an alcoholic.
I: Um-humm.

S: So it doesn't really, shouldn't, I mean there is a difference if you are an alcoholic I mean, that would like totally effect you because, you never would be like you'd always be like I mean you would always try to stay high so you wouldn't go through withdraw or whatever. And that would just effect you because you would always just be like, not yourself. But still by just a little bit of drinking it can always lead to be an alcoholic.

I: Um-hmm.

S: So it can still effect you.

I: Do you think, does it matter how often a person is exposed to AIDS?

S: Well, I know a lot of people, I mean it goes, you mean like information about it?

I: Ah, who maybe exposed to the AIDS virus?

S: Oh, not like information just like does it matter if they get it?

I: Does it matter how often a person maybe exposed to it. In terms of the getting it?

S: I would think it wouldn't to me, but some people just really don't care. I mean they just don't really like life and they don't really just don't care what happens, just, it doesn't bother them. But the others two, it would effect them cause you know they love what they do and stuff. [Inaudible] other people just really don't care.

I: Um-humm

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

S: When they get, well first they are effected with HIV. Um..a lot of people, I mean, you can try to keep it a secret because a lot of people will avoid you if you have AIDS. I mean not many people will, I mean it's like you lose a lot of friends if you have AIDS. It starts to take away your immune system you T cells or whatever and it like enables you to like be more weak to be susceptible to disease, and when you get pneumonia or something then you just like end up dying from that disease.

I: Um....Can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets AIDS and when he or she gets the, can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets the AIDS virus and when the person actually gets AIDS?

S: Ok, like whenever, at first you get HIV, but I mean it can be any period of time. You can be like a short time or like a long time, you can be out there like 10 years before you actually get like, before it destroys all your immune system. So it can be a pretty long time, or just like short like a couple years or so.
But you don't like really get it right away. I mean not like, just like instantaneously dead. It takes like over a long period of time.

I: Ok...hum...how long does it take for a person with AIDS, with HIV to develop AIDS?

S: Well, that's what I was saying, once you get HIV, I mean, you don't directly, you won't and like you don't directly develop like AIDS right from that. I mean it comes from that, but not like right away. It's just, first you get HIV and then it's like a long period of effective destroying your immune system, and like I mean it doesn't, it makes you like slow down and stuff and then end up in being AIDS, which becomes a serious case and which you get, you really have to really watch yourself as you go along as to, like a cold you can get, which can develop into a serious disease and result in death.

I: Ok...Ah....Does it take longer for some people then for others to develop AIDS?

S: Yeah, it doesn't, it's not, it depends on the case, I mean I don't know what what the case would be, I don't know what kind, how it would effect you. But I know that it's not always like there is not a set period of time once you become effected with AIDS. It's just, there's different periods of time for each one.

I: Ok...ah...can you tell me what HIV stands for?

S: Hetro immune...ah...I know it...something, virus. Hetro immunone, immune da virus or something like that.

I: Ok, and can you tell me what a "T" cell is?

S: That's just like, in your body that helps like, helps you become like immune from like diseases, like it helps you defend your defend, like your white blood vessels help you defend against disease like when you get a cold or something it helps to fight it so that you get better. And with those gone then you have nothing to fight little disease that come into you body and then there is nothing to fight them so that you just end up dying.

I: Ok, that's good. Hum...how can some one learn whether he or she has AIDS?

S: You can go and get a test done, there are test around probably a hospital. Or anything, I mean you can't tell like just by looking at yourself, you have to go I think maybe a blood test. Or maybe a urine test, I don't know. I know it's some kind of test. Probably blood.

I: Ok, ah...what does this test test for, do you know?

S: It test like in your blood stream, I mean, to see if you have the HIV in your blood stream or in your blood cells. That's why I think it's a blood test.

I: Do you know how this test works?
S: Well, when they take the blood I guess, maybe they put it in a something like an incubator or something, they like put it in a sample and like smear it I guess. Maybe, is it like, something like when you get like to see if you have like strep throat or something or anything you just like you smear and maybe an incubator to see if you, see if what's in the blood. See what develops, what kind of bacteria.

I: Ah, why would someone decide to be tested?

S: If they had unprotected sex and they didn't really know if their like their mate was like if he ever had sex before or if they didn't know if they had a blood transfusion and didn't really trust the doctor, or anything. I think it would be best if any body always, I mean, it would be good if they would go for a test every once in awhile. Or set a date where they would see if they had it or not so that they would know if they were infected or not.

I: Ok, hum... what would make you think that a person has AIDS?

S: I wouldn't really know, I mean you can't tell by looking at a person. I mean around school, I guess there are a lot of rumors and there a lot of rumors around Riverview. You can't really tell by looking at them. Humm, maybe if they some how disappear from school and there was like, something on, you would never be able to tell. Unless, it was told to you by like, like it was from the hospital or something.

I: Um-humm, ok, What kinds of people have a lot to worry about from AIDS?

S: Probably those who use un, do unprotected sex a lot and don't really care about what happens and they just, go a lot, and those people who have to get a lot of blood transfusions and that [inaudible] with their blood. And those who just use unprotected sex a lot.

I: Ok...ah...when can people stop worrying about AIDS?

S: I don't think you can never really stop worrying about it until it's like totally gone. I mean there is always one case, even if there is one case left, it can always spread from one to another. I mean, that's how it started so it can start like that again.

I: Ah-humm.

S: So I don't think you can never really stop worrying about it.

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

S: Well, it's not really, I mean that is a big deal. But, the survey did say that I saw the other day that AIDS, I mean there is being a lot of big deal, I think that is good because it has shown, it did show that that the increase of AIDS people is going down, is going down a sufficient amount. But it still has to go down a little more than that. So I think they should keep up the demand of what AIDS really is. To try to stop it from getting.
I: Ok...Where have you learned about AIDS?

S: I think it's, I learn a lot in health class or like when people come to the school, I mean there's a bunch of like different like maybe health like, health organizations that come to the school and always preach that and like tell about like all give us as much information you can about it. And also like if you pick up pamphlets around you can always get as much information you can. You can call anywhere and in the phone book there's a number you can call about it information about it. That's how, I just really learned about it by picking up pamphlets myself and learn it from like people who come here.

I: What things do they skip in classes at school about AIDS?

S: You mean when they are teaching it?

I: Um-humm?

S: They don't really, I guess some people are, some people that talk to us about it are trying to like I guess afraid to talk about sex cause I guess they think people will go out and do it. I mean, they are just afraid that all, that's all kids do and you know. It's not really like that all the time. I mean, a lot of adults think that we are just like, some teenagers can do that, but not all the time. So they are afraid to talk about like what you should do. I mean, some people are.

I: Um-humm. Ok. Do you think you know enough about AIDS to protect yourself from it?

S: I don't think I'll never know everything about AIDS. I mean I know a little. And less, some people do think they know everything. But I mean, I know enough myself to try to stay away from it. Stay away from unprotected sex, or just sex at all. Or anything, something, sort of that. But I'll never know everything about it.

I: Um-humm. Ok. Is there anything more you would like to know about AIDS?

S: I'd like to know like, I mean, where exactly, how it started exactly, I know. I don't know, did it come from an animal or something like that. I not really sure myself. Just basic stuff, I mean I know the basic stuff which is told to us every day like don't do it and like you know all the quotes and stuff, just don't do it and all that stuff. But it would be nice to know like a lot of stuff about it like it's background and all this. And how like, it would be nice if you can get a cure for it.

I: Uh-humm

S: Or just an immune thing.

I: Alright, humm...what does safe sex mean to you?
S: Safe sex is that the probably the only way if you were going to do it be the only way you should do it. I mean use protection. Try there is a I saw a couple months ago, I guess now a female condom out I guess, I mean try to use both ways anything I mean to protect yourself. I think, but the safest sex is no sex at all.

I: Uh-humm..ok..ah...AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV, what does that tell you about it?

S: Well, that you don't really get AIDS, I mean you get AIDS cause it develops from HIV. I mean you just get the HIV, which is like the start of it and that progresses into AIDS and which you can result in death and I mean HIV you can get it from a lot of things but I mean, it's just like not directly AIDS you get, first you get HIV which develops in to it.

I: Suppose there is a new disease and all you know about it is that it is caused by a virus. What information could you come up with a, from this knowledge about how this disease is transmitted or how it develops?

S: Well, it could probably be transmitted from any type of the blood. Transmitted from any blood or anything that has the cells or the bacteria and maybe from like urine or something like that. Or possibly from saliva or but it's not really hasn't been many proved test that it's transmitted from salvia.

I: Um-humm. Ok...Ah..would this ah..knowledge give you any information about how the disease could be treated?

S: Probably, if you know if you know who like how it effects, how it's getting into the blood. And how it can be transmitted you can try to maybe invent like an immune drug in which it could help. I mean, I'm like no doctor, I'm not an expert but I mean you could probably use the blood in some way to see how it develops. How the virus develops and try to stop, and see what would kill it and what would destroy it like from spreading.

I: What are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?

S: I don't really know, ah, I know that you should use them. And that's what is like told to use a lot. That you should always use condoms. Like I said, I know there is a female condom out now. I mean I guess if you use both of them, but it still won't be, there is no 100% way of stopping any sexual transmitted disease. Except if you don't have sex at all.

I: Ok, what else do condoms protect you against?

S: They, I mean they can help prevent most other sexually transmitted diseases. I guess like gonorrhea and hepatitis and all them. Those kind of sexually transmitted disease. STD's
I: Ah...What does IV drug use mean?

S: When it's intervenience, directly injected into the vein. Like if you, you mean like just drugs injected in the vein?

I: Um-humm

S: Just the like the vein I guess, you just like directly inject into there like intervenience way. But I mean you an always, if you share a needles you can get it from there. Cause it's transmitted from the vein into there and if you share needles that's another way to get HIV.

I: Ok, do you think needles can be cleaned?

S: Umm...well, I think that if you have, I mean you should never share a needle with someone if you are doing that. You shouldn't share it I mean you can always like I guess use an antiseptic or something to clean it but it's never going to be like totally clean. I mean that doesn't mean you can use the same needle. You should always like you are going to like even a doctor I don't that you mean they would use the same thing the whole time. Unless they would be absolutely safe.

I: And what do you mean by a antiseptic to clean a needle?

S: Well I guess doctor's do use something like that. Like when they like make it like so that no disease are transmitted into it.

I: Can you give me any example of an antiseptic, that might be use to clean the needle?

S: No, I don't, like I can't think of the name cause my doctor had one, he use, like when I got a shot he used something, I don't know whether it was a safe way but. I don't know if he, but I mean there is one really. I don't know the name of it. I do remember it though, I just can't think of it.

I: Ok, is there anything else that you would like to add, or any questions that you have?

S: I just like to say that the best way to not, the best way, the best safest sex, is no sex at all. And if you are going to get a blood transfusion or anything I mean take all the precautions to do anything you can so that you don't get the AIDS. I mean it is a disease and there is no cure for it. Or anything for it. I mean they are always working on it. And you should do what ever you can to stop it from being transmitted.

I: Ok, thank you very much.

S: Thank you