Number 5

In this interview I will ask you to talk about AIDS. I want you to know that 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 and then I will ask you some more specific questions. I may ask the same question more than once, I do this just to make sure you tell me everything you know and that I understand everything that you say. So 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 to me everything you know about AIDS?

S: Everything I know or everything I think?

I: Well

S: My opinion, or what I know are facts?

I: All of that?

S: All of it?

I: (yes)

S: Ok, I guess I really don't know much, just stuff that you learn like you know like movies you see in health class and that kind of thing. So I really don't know much about it. Just that it's deadly just the ways you get it. Hum...that's pretty much all I know. I mean I don't know anyone that has AIDS, or anything other than that.

I: Ok...hum..you did mention about the way that you get it? Can you tell me more about how AIDS, the AIDS virus is passed from one person to another?

S: Hum.. well I know that it's in your blood so you get it that way like if you exchange blood with another person. It's in like semen and that kind of thing. Like I guess, juices or stuff like that.

I: Uh-hmm...ok...ah...alrighty...Is there anything more you can tell me about that?

S: I guess not. I know you can't get it from hugging and kissing and that kind of thing.

I: Uh-hmm

I: Humm...does it matter how often a person ah...may ah...do the things that you talked about in terms of exchanging blood or umm...having sex?

S: What do you mean, how often they do it?

I: Yeah..does it matter how often?

S: No I don't think so.
I: Ok, hum...could you tell me how a person could be able to prevent from getting AIDS if they were involved in those kind of things?

S: Oh, will being careful. I mean, you know you have to be care using condoms you know. Being aware that the other person might have AIDS and not just sleeping around with other people. Finding out more about them about their background, who they have been with maybe. If not just being careful or not having sex at all would work.

I: And what about exchanging blood? How would a person be able to do that?

S: I don't hear of that happening very often, unless you have a problem and you need like you need blood and they give you blood and it just happens to be infected. But I don't think there is really a way you can prevent that.

I: Ah......What do you think may lead a person to hum..have unprotected sex?

S: Humm...being careless. Ummm...not thinking about it first or just assuming that I know this person, I know their name I'm sure that they don't have AIDS. Or just being wrapped up in the moment and really not thinking about it. It has to be on your mind you know, cause it's a problem. But just, just being careless, just not thinking before you act.

I: Ah...ok how would this make it more likely that they ah...a person ah.. would have unprotected sex? Or

S: Um..what do you mean?

I: Hum..when you talk about ah...being careless, how would that make it more more likely that the person would have ah...unprotected sex if they are careless.

S: You just, you don't think about it, you know you get into a situation and you don't really think about having protection or even at all whether or not you could get infected you just assume you won't so you just continue having sex, you don't think about it. Or like you know, like getting drunk maybe or being intoxicated or under the influence just then you really, you not yourself, you just do things without thinking at all.

I: Uh-humm...Ok...Hum.. What are the kinds of things that may mess up a person plans not to have unprotected sex?

S: Getting drunk. Getting into a situation that you can't really help. Hum..like just like getting drunk is a really good examples cause then your not yourself, you are not thinking you are just doing. Or if you can't avoid it, if you get raped I mean that kind of thing. Things that you really can't avoid. But people should, they shouldn't be messed up, you know if you go out and you know that that might be thing that's going to happen you should think about it before you leave.

I: Ok...Ah, what effect does alcohol have on people?

S: I think it makes them just act on what they think you know like it slows you down like you responses and you don't really consider a situation before you get into it. You just say, hey, it will be a good time, I might as well do it without thinking more about it first.

I: Uh-hmm...Does, do you think drinking makes much of a difference in a person's risk in getting AIDS?
S: Yes, cause then they don't think about protection and they don't think about what the consequences of doing it would happen. Of anything you know just purely instinct you just do it you don't think about it at all. You know.

I: Ok, how is this different for people who drink ah..on a regular basis compared to people who binge drink?

S: People who binge drink usually get more drunk or more likely to lose all of their morals when they do it cause they don't do it very often. People who drink like on a regular basis could kind of keep a cap on it and they know, you know that I might get a little bit crazy and that kind of thing.

I: Uh-hmm.

S: Either way it's not a good idea because you can't control how it will effect you. You know.

I: Uh-humm. Ok.. Ah...does it matter how often a person may be exposed to AIDS?

S: I don't think so, I don't think it matters if if repeatedly you like come in contact with a person, I don't think that that matters really. I could shake a person, I could hug a person with AIDS hundred times and not get it. Or just happen to walk up to someone once and you know happen to like they might have a cut or anything, so I don't think it matters how many times you are exposed to someone.

I: Uh-hmm. Ah...Can you tell me what happens when a person gets AIDS?

S: When they get it?

I: Uh-humm?

S: Not really, I mean I know they'll get sick and they I guess their immune system breaks down so they end up getting a lot illnesses that our immune system can usually take care of. Like cancers and amonia, that kind of or pneumonia, things like that you know. But I don't know much about it other than that. I mean I know what it is actually an illness, it's just it breaks down you immune system so you get illnesses of other kinds.

I: Uh-humm..ok.....Alright, can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets the AIDS virus and when he or she gets AIDS?

S: No, I really, I don't know, I really don't. I don't know the difference between HIV and AIDS? If that's what you mean like in the middle.

I: (Yes)

S: Like when HIV turns into AIDS, I don't know anything. I really, I've wondered that actually, but I don't know.

I: Ok...Do you know what HIV stands for?

S: Umm...Immune deficiency, I don't know, I don't remember. HIV I don't I know AIDS. But I don't know what HIV stands for.

I: Ok, alright. Hum...Do you know how long it takes for a person to develop AIDS?
S: No, I don't.
I: Ok. Do you know if it take longer for some people than for others to develop AIDS?

S: Probably, it's what you see, like some people can get it and die in a year and others can live through it for years and years. Just being sick all the time. You know, but surviving it. So, I don't know like a time limit I could give, no.

I: Umm...How can someone learn whether he or she has AIDS?

S: There are test I think, I mean there is like clinics and stuff that they will give you like blood test and that kind of thing.

I: Ok..Do you know what this test test for? How it works, how does it work?
S: Hum...hum..well I know it's a blood test but how it works I'm not sure. I've seen like television shows and stuff like they'll bring up these little models and little molecules and their cut them up and they'll say, this what it is and this is why it doesn't work, but you know that kind of stuff just goes over my head, cause I really don't understand the technical things.

I: (Yes)

S: Just that it's in your blood and that it's a cell that I guess mutates and they can't do anything about it. I mean, I'm really not sure.

I: Uh-hmm, Ok...Ah..why would someone decide to be tested?

S: Hum...I don't know, maybe if you find out that one of you partners did have AIDS, or some one that you knew personally had AIDS, or you think you might have it, I mean I'm not sure.

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

S: I don't know, I guess, I really don't know, I mean I guess there is really no symptoms that you could look at a person and see other then the fact that they are sick. But anybody can get sick. So it could be a number of things. So I really don't think I could like see someone and say hey I bet he has AIDS, or I bet she has AIDS.

I: Uh-hmm. Ok..Ah..What kinds of people have a lot to worry about from AIDS?

S: Hum..people who have a lot of unprotected sex, I guess. I mean that probably the only group I know of. You know, people who are careless like that and people who just don't care or think I'm never going to get it. You know, that kind of thing. I don't think there's like,...I hear there's like specifications, like this group people get more than like the white people get it more African, more than Mexican people, but I've, I really don't you know, I think it's anybody. Everybody, just people and people anyone can get it cause we are all the same no matter how you look at it you know.

I: (Yes)

S: So, I don't think there is any kind of group is more likely to get it more than others and people who are careless.

I: Uh-humm, ok..ah...when can people stop worrying about AIDS?
S: Humm...worrying like, personally, or is it like a big thing. Personally I don't think you can ever stop worrying about it. Cause it's there, you know, once you get older and you know, I mean now it's high school kids you really you don't a lot of sex with people, you really don't have to think about it, but as you get older and that kind of thing starts happening then you should start thinking about it. But stop worrying about, I don't know, until it's gone. And when it's gone you can stop worrying about it. But until then.

I: Ok...Ah...do you think people are making to big a deal about AIDS?

S: No, I don't think so. I think, it's a disease and it kills people. I don't think people are worrying about it, I think people are worrying about it not enough. You know, you don't hear like a lot of new break throughs on AIDS discoveries and that kind of thing. But I think people worry about a little bit less than they should.

I: Uh-huh..ok..Ah, where have you learn about AIDS?

S: Hum, will I guess in school, you know they have take this permission slip home, have you parents sign it whether or not they want you to see this video. Then you come in and you see, like little guys and little girls, that kind of stuff. But, other then that, you know health class and stuff, I haven't really seen, on TV when you're channel surfing and happen, there's a little molecules up on the stop and you just stop, Cause it looks neat and you end up watching it, but that's pretty much all I've ever seen on it.

I: Uh-huh, ok, Ah what things do they skip in classes at school about AIDS, when they talk about AIDS?

S: I don't know, hum.. well I think they skip, they say that it's, it's a disease but they don't tell you why, they don't tell you what is there that can't be changed. You know, what is in there that they can't fix. And then they really don't tell much about like HIV and AIDS, how what's the difference. You really don't learn, first you have HIV then you have AIDS, but it doesn't really tell you when you get to AIDS. And then they don't say stuff like, what exactly makes you sick, you know. And then they really don't talk about people, you know who have it, who feel it. On Widle, we watch Widle, in school, in the mornings, they had a girl on there who had AIDS and it really, they talked a lot about how she felt about how what it was like having it. But, in school you just learn this is how you get it, you know and then they kind a skirt that a little bit too. Cause they don't want to talk about sex during health class, cause then they'll people will laugh and that kind of thing. So they skip a lot of parts but they pretty much outline it for you, you know.

I: (Yes)

S: They just don't get into detail, and some people don't want to hear it, so they just, you know, unless you go up and ask, I want to know more about it, they'll be happy to tell you.

I: (Yes)

S: But just in school, they really don't tell you much at all.

I: (Yes)

S: Just warn you about it and tell you it's out there?

I: What is Widle?
S: Wide is humm, Channel One, it's like a news broadcast for teen, high school kids, and they have like high school kids who make it up. It's really neat, actually you should watch it. They have a lot of neat things on there.

I: (Yes)

S: But there was a girl, her name was Crystal Blake, I think I remember, Krysta Blake, I think, something like that, and they interviewed her and she had AIDS, and they did a couple like, they did a whole week on her they would have her talk and stuff and then like, this year they came back and she died. And I noticed that, I remember now, cause this morning they had the year end news or something and they have this long segment of little clips or what happened like during the year and they showed her face. That's what made me think or it.

I: (Yes)

S: It's neat and it tells you a lot about it, but they do that sometimes, I remember her.

I: Humm.. do you think you know enough about AIDS to protect yourself from it?

S: Hum...yeah, I think I do, I understand how you get, I understand where it comes from but I guess that's all you need to know to protect yourself from it. But if I every got it, you know, I would just be like, Whoa!, you know what does it mean. And then I would like think more about it, but for now I think I know enough.

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

S: Humm...I don't know, it's kind of depressing. It's kind a of sad to think about it. But I guess, knowing about it would help, would make me think about it. Not that I would want to. But I don't know, I guess I would like to know, like what I said, where does it, why can't they do anything about it you know. Like that kind of thing, like little flying molecule with the pieces, we tried this but it didn't work. More about that but explain, you know, simpler for me to understand.

I: Uh-humm...Ok...Ah what does safe sex mean?

S: Humm...it means to me it means well being protected like using condoms or stuff. Or knowing, being safe like knowing ok if I am going to have sex with this guy, I'm going to want to know if he's had sex before. And who it's been with. And if he has ever come contact with some else, you know. It's not just using a condom. It's thinking about the consequences of what might happen, if you do it with this person you don't know something about them..

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

S: Humm..well..I guess it starts in one stage and develops into another, but I don't know.

I: Ok....Suppose there is a new disease and all you know about it is that it is caused by a virus, what information can you come up with from this knowledge about how the disease is transmitted?

S: Hum..I'm not sure I don't know much about the development of it you know, why does it start out has HIV and develop into AIDS. And why do things do that you know, what's the difference. So I really don't know cause I can't explain, I don't know how it changes. Or what about it changes.
I: Ok, would you be able to humm...get any information ah..about how the disease could be treated, just from knowing that it's caused by a virus?

S: Probably, you know I mean, you know there's difference between virus's and other things, so I guess, it's just that it seems like if it's a virus you should be able to stop it before it grows into something else.

I: Uh-humm
Cause like if you have a virus you have the flu, you can usually stop that before it progresses into something else. But it, I don't understand why you can't stop it.

I: Hum...What does IV drug use mean to you?

S: Hum...I guess using needles. I mean that's what I would think when you say IV drug use.

I: Ok...Ah..do you think needles can be cleaned?

S: Humm..probably not. I mean I have learned they say that once, if you have AIDS in your blood and it leaves you body and it gets into the air, it will die. Like the virus in your blood will die. But then I don't understand like why do like college football, or high school football players, if they get blood on the jersey then you take it off and change, because the risk of AIDS. But I don't understand why, you know, why that could happen. But if they actually have to take off their jerseys and put on a new one because of the blood. You can't really clean a needle. Once it was inside you and it has your germs on it, I don't think you can remove them.

I: (Yes)

S: If that's what you mean?

I: (Yes) Ok..ah. Do you know what the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?

S: I don't have any clue. I didn't know there was a safer one as compared to another one.

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

S: Pregnancy, I think that's pretty much all. I mean it won't, yeah, I think that's all.

I: Ok, is there anything else that you would like to add, ah, or say right now?

S: Humm, no.

I: Ok, thank you very much

S: No problem.