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 specific questions. I may ask the same question more than once. I do this to make sure you tell me everything you know and that I understand everything 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: I know that there is no cure for it as of yet. It’s transmitted through blood transfusion, blood transfusions and sexual intercourse. It’s basically killed when it hits the air. That’s about all.

I: Ok...hum...can you tell me anything more about why it's killed when it hits the air?

S: No.

I: Ok...hum...can you tell me more about how AIDS is passed from one person to another? How is AIDS spread?

S: It can hum...be...if AIDS is in the, AIDS is in the blood and if you get a blood transfusion you can pick it up that way. Through sexual intercourse, ah I think it’s in the sperm. And hum...that's about all I know.

I: Ok.....ah...Does it matter how often a person ah...may have a blood transfusion or have unprotected sex?

S: No, once is enough to catch it, the AIDS virus.

I: Ok...ah...Can you tell me how a person can [tape faded]

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I: Can you tell me how a person can prevent

[TAPE FADED OUT COMPLETELY]

protected sexual intercourse.

I: What do you think may lead a person to have unprotected sex or get a blood transfusion?

S: Hum... an accident would lead a person to have a blood transfusion or a medical reason for a blood transfusion. And unprotected sex, failure to plan ahead.
I: Ok....hum...What are the kinds of things that may mess up a persons plans not to have unprotected sex?

S: Hum..........not expecting to have sex that particular time. Just failure to plan ahead.

I: Ah-humm...Ah...What effect does alcohol have on people?

S: With respect to the AIDS or on if I drank right now what would it do?

I: Just, what effect does it have on people?

S: It ah...alcohol is a social lubricant and....it reduces inhibition. In a person.

I: Ok....ah....What do you, what do you mean by social lubricant?

S: It just reduces inhibition in a person and they can socialize and maybe express themselves more fully or express themselves in ways they wouldn't if they had not been drinking.

I: Uh-hmm....ok...Does drinking make much of a difference in a person risk in getting AIDS?

S: Yes, if a person becomes sexually promiscuous when drinking. When under the influence of alcohol. I think it does.

I: Ok...hum..Is it different for people who drink on a regular basis ah, their risk of getting AIDS, as opposed to people who binge drink?

S: .......No, I think it depends on the person personality of how they act when they drink.

I: Ok, hum...does it matter how often a person is exposed to AIDS?

S: Yes, if you are exposed more times, I think you have a better chance of catching the virus.

I: Ok, ah...can you tell me what happens when I person gets AIDS?

S: It starts out, it's an HIV virus, I don't know much about that virus. But, it breaks down the immune system and they can live for up to 10-12 years after catching the virus. And it may take a few years to, for the virus to be detected.

I: Ok, Can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets AIDS or HIV and when he or she gets the AIDS, gets ill?

S: No.

I: Humm..Do you know how long it takes for a person with AIDS to develop ah AIDS, with HIV to develop AIDS?

S: I think four, four to six years.

I: Ok....ah...Do you think, does it take longer for some people than for others.
S: Yes.
I: Ok, ah...How can someone learn whether he or she has AIDS?
S: A blood test.
I: Ok...Ah...What does this test test for? Do you know how it works?
S: I think it just test for the HIV virus.
I: Ok...Do you know how it works?
S: No.
I: Ok...Why would someone decide to be tested?
S: Hum...they might be planning on giving blood and, they might be planning on having sex, or getting married. Or they may have already had sex, and just they would like to know.
I: Ok..Ah...What would make you think that a person has AIDS?
S: I don't think that I could tell until the virus is fully developed and they were probably about at death. And probably from seeing the movie "Philadelphia" they develop cyst, or blood scares on the body. That would be my only way of knowing.
I: Ok...Ah...What kinds of people have a lot to worry about from catching AIDS?
S: What was the question?
I: What kinds of people have a lot to worry about from AIDS?
S: Hum....Do you mean which kind of people are most susceptible to catch the virus?
I: Hum...yeah?
S: Hum...people who are accident prone. Or that will need blood transfusions. Or sexually promiscuous people.
I: Ok, And ah..what would you call a person, I mean what would you say would be a sexually promiscuous person?
S: Somebody who has sex with a lot of people in a short amount of time.
I: Ok...hum...When can people stop worrying about AIDS?
S: ...........I don't think ever. I think even if a cure is found, that you can still, you'll still be able to catch the virus, it's just that you will be able to be cured. But, maybe the cure won't work for everybody and the only way people would stop worrying about is if it just disappeared. I don't see the virus disappearing.
I: Ok....Do you think people are making to big a deal about AIDS?
S: No.
I: Ah, where have you learned about AIDS?

S: In six grade I had...probably a couple, maybe two one hour sessions in the classroom learning about AIDS. And in 7th grade health, 10th grade health, and what I have read in the newspapers and seen on TV.

I: Ah, what things do teachers skip in AIDS classes at school?

S: They skip telling us about a test. How the test for the AIDS virus. Never learn what the test is all about. ....Hum, they cover how you can get it and approximately how long it takes to develop. I'm not sure really what they skip, because they skipped it. So.

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

S: Yes.

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

S: ....................Yes.

I: What would that be?

S: Hum...I'd like to know more about the stages. From when you get the virus to when you die. How close they are to a cure. How much an AIDS test cost. Where a test, where you can be tested for the AIDS virus. And hum, that's about it.

I: AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV, what does that tell you about it?

S: ....................What does the HIV, tell me about AIDS?

I: Uh-hmm...hum..AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV. What does that tell you about AIDS, that it's caused by a virus. Does that tell you anything?

S: Hum..No, not much.

I: Ok....Ah...What does safe sex mean?

S: ...Planning ahead before you have sex. Hum...making sure you have a condom available. That's about it regarding AIDS.

I: Ok, Can you tell me more about condoms. What are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?

S: I have no idea what the safest condoms is.

I: Ah, what else do condom protect you against?

S: Any sexually transmitted disease and pregnancy.

I: Ok...ah..What does IV drug use mean?

S: The user of the drug injects himself with a needle to get the drug into his body.

I: Do you think needles can be cleaned?
S: No, no I don't think needles can become entirely sterile.

I: Is there anything else you would like to add, or say.

S: No.

I: Thank you very much.