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, 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 you say. Please don't worry about whether your answer 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 AIDS is a deadly disease. And I know you can get it from sexual intercourse, needles and blood transfusions.

I: Ok, Is there anything else?

S: No.

I: Ok, Can you tell me more about how AIDS is passed from one person to another? Or how AIDS is spread?


I: Ok. Hum...does it matter how often a person has sex, or uses needles?

S: Yeah, because they are at a higher risk.

I: Ok, Can you tell me how a person can be able to prevent getting AIDS if they are having sex, or using a needles?

S: By practicing safe, safe sex.

I: Ok, what about with the needles?

S: I'm not sure.

I: Ok. Ah...What do you think may lead a person to have sex or unsafe sex?

S: Not having protection at the time. And not thinking, just going ahead with the action.

I: Ok. Do you know what kinds of things that may mess up a person plans ah..not have unsafe sex?

S: Peer pressure.

I: Anything else?

S: Or maybe being forced by the person.
I: Ah-hum...Ok...Ah..What effect does alcohol have on people?

S: Makes them goofy. Some people use it to make themselves feel better, or other people just use it just something to do I guess at a party of something, cause everyone else is doing it.

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

S: Yeah, because, when drinking some times you don't think as straight as, when you're sober. So that maybe, that maybe the reason why you may practice unsafe sex.

I: Ah-hum..Ok. Is this different, how is this different for people who drink on a regular basis, compared with people who binge drink?

S: There is a slight difference, because people that are drinking constantly...may ah.....are usually not thinking as well as the people that aren't. And the may just go ahead and do something that they may not be to thrilled about once they are sober.

I: Ah-humm. Do you know what binge drink is?

S: Is it, not drinking all the time?

I: No, cause when you binge drink is like someone who would sit down and just ah drink ah like all in one night. You know like, 10 or 12 beers or something.

S: Oh, then they may, they both have the risk then. The same.

I: You think the risk would be about the same?

S: Yeah.

I: Ok. Does it matter how often a person is exposed to AIDS?

S: No.

I: Ok, Ah why not do you think?

S: Cause if you're exposed to AIDS, just being there with some one who has AIDS, I don't think that the risk is there more if you know the person has AIDS because, just that you know the fact that you know.

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

S: Once the contract the virus, they get sick, lose of weight, maybe swollen glands, then they are fine for a couple months, then they get sick again. Body parts just die, slowly die, each body part dies slowly.

I: Ok. How can some one learn whether he or she has AIDS?

S: By going and getting a blood test taken. At the doctors.

I: Ok. What does this test test for. How does it work, do you know?
S: I would think that you just go in and the doctor takes blood samples, then your blood is studied. And if the virus is in your blood, then they let you know that you have the AIDS.

I: Ok. Why would someone decide to be tested?

S: They may go get tested, both partners, the partners may go get tested to see if each other has AIDS, or if anyone has anything wrong. Or if some one has a feeling the may have the AIDS virus, they may want to go get checked.

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

S: ....By the way they practice their sex, or maybe by using needles. If they, you know they use needles you may think that they, may have the AIDS virus.

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

S: I think everyone in general as a lot to worry about AIDS. But I think maybe more the gay society has more to worry about AIDS.

I: Ok, When can people stop worrying about AIDS?

S: I don't think ever, because even if they find a cure that may cure the AIDS, some people may not know they have the AIDS virus, and it just may eat away. So I don't think ever.

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

S: No. Because you can contract the AIDS virus easily and once you get it, there is noting you can do about it. It can kill you. It will kill you.

I: Where have you learned about AIDS?
S: We studied it in 5th and 6th grade. Then in our 7th and 10th grade health classes. And there are times in classes, sometimes we may talk about it if it's hit the news. And just by reading the newspapers and watching television.

I: Ok. What things do they skip in AIDS classes at school.

S: They pretty much tell you everything. Cause it is a deadly disease and people should be warned.

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

S: Yes.

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

S: I'd like to know as much as possible.

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

S: Just the sound of HIV sounds deadly.

I: Do you know what HIV stands for?
S: .....Like...Human, deficiency virus. Something like that.

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

S: You have to see a doctor. To find out how the virus comes about and how it may be able to be treated or how you can get it.

I: Uh-hmm...Ok..What does safe sex mean to you?

S: By knowing you partner well enough to know if they have the virus or AIDS or any other disease. And doing it by using protection.

I: Ok..Do you know what are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?

S: No I don't.

I: What else do condoms protect you against?

S: Child birth, and other diseases.

I: What does IV drug use mean?

S: Means using drugs through needles into you vain.

I: Do you think needles can be cleaned?

S: No.

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

S: No.

I: Thank you

S: Thank you