I: Okay. 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. 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 that 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.
And please if you could speak up cause we you know are recording this so we'll be able to
hear you.

S: Okay.

I: Um, my first question is: Please tell me everything you know about AIDS.

S: Um...I know that it starts out with the HIV virus and then um the full blown AIDS comes
after that? Um. I know you can get it through sexual intercourse, um using drugs with uh
needles. Um, I know that you can't get it uh through uh anything like kissing or touching or
anything like that. You can get it through um blood like transfusions. Um, let's see what
else I know...anyone can get it no matter what age you are. Um...I think that's I think that's
pretty much all. That I can think of right now. (laughs)

I: Okay. Can you tell me more about how uh uh the AIDS virus or HIV is passed from one
person to another...how it's spread?

S: Um, I know you can only get it through um I think you can only get it through mostly
blood, with um use by using uh needles from drugs, um from transfusions in a hospital, um
or through sexual intercourse.

I: Okay. Does it matter how often a person um has uh sexual intercourse or uh uses
needles?

S: Um. No.

I: Okay. Can you tell me how a person uh can be able to prevent getting AIDS if they are
having sex or using uh uh drugs with needles?

S: Um...I don't think they is any way to prevent it if you use drugs with a needle, but if you
have sex if you use a condom, I think I think that's the only way.

I: Okay. Um. How well do you think this would really protect a person from getting
AIDS, using a condom?

S: Um...I think if if you're gonna have sex, I think using a condom is probably the only way
that you can uh protect yourself but I think there's always a chance that that if the other
person you're having sex with has AIDS there's always a chance that you can get it.

I: Um. What do you think may lead a person to um have uh to use uh drugs and uh
needles?
S: Mmm. (Silence) Uh, let's see. One uh one reason could be peer pressure. Another reason could be maybe uh their family life is bad or or something that happens at home that drives them to use drugs.

I: Okay. Uh...what are the kinds of things that may mess up a person's plans uh not to use drugs or not to have sex?

S: Um...well...uh usually people who use drugs or have sex their parents aren't around, so if they would have a party or if they would have people come over while their parents weren't home, if they're parents came home that would mess the plans up.

I: Mm-hum.

S: Um or if they were at anyone's house that was having a party or anywhere where any adults were weren't there, if any adults would would uh come to be there, then that would ruin the plans.

I: I think I may have uh misstated it...but if they had planned not to have sex and uh or not to use drugs, what would mess up their plans if they planned not to.

S: Uh. Another reason could be peer pressure. If they're pressured enough. Or maybe uh it could be if they're attacked or for some reason if they're forced to.

I: Uh. What effect does alcohol have on people?

S: Um...if they drink enough and get drunk, they can uh just totally lose uh all consciousness. They can um just do things that they normally wouldn't do. They can basically I guess be a threat to anyone around them and themselves.

I: Okay. Does drinking make much of a difference in person's risk of getting AIDS?

S: I think it could because uh if you were with a person who has AIDS and you didn't know it or even if you did know it. If you drank enough and got drunk enough just to not know what you're doing or not think clearly and if you did have sex with them or you did share drugs with them um and you normally wouldn't then you could get AIDS that way.

I: Okay. Um...do you think it's different for people who drink regularly compared with people who binge drink, in terms of their risk of getting AIDS? Do you know what binge drinking is?

S: Is it um when you drink on and off or...?

I: When you drink when you binge drink it's like you just sit and you just drink and drink and drink and drink.

S: Uh. No I don't think there is a difference.

I: You don't think there's any difference?

S: No.

I: Okay. Um...does it matter how often a person is exposed to the AIDS virus?
S: Um...no.

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

S: Um...I know at first first of all they get HIV before they get the full-blown AIDS and uh when they get HIV I know something about their t-cell count goes down and that makes susceptible to uh it makes them more susceptible to uh getting other diseases or if they just get a common cold then it can turn into something very serious.

I: Mm-hum.

S: And uh when they get AIDS all I know is that they just get very sick and it's hard for them to move around a lot, to do anything.

I: Okay. Um. Can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets HIV and when he or she gets AIDS?

S: Well I think when you have HIV you're not uh it can be a very long time before anything serious happens to you, it can be years and years so even if you have HIV you're I think you can still lead a normal life and you don't have to get sick for a very long time so...

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

S: I think it just varies person to person. I think it it can take maybe a month or two or less or it could take ten or twenty years.

I: Mm-hum. Okay. How can someone learn whether he or she has AIDS?

S: Um. If you go to a hospital they can do blood tests on you and they'll tell you that way. I think that's the only way you can find out.

I: Okay. Uh. What does this test test for? Do you know how it works?

S: Um...I don't I don't really know what they do, all I know is that they take blood from you and they test it for the HIV virus and then you just go back and they tell you if you have it or not. That's all I know.

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

S: Well, if they suspect that if they had sex with someone and they suspected that person had AIDS they can get tested or even if they don't suspect that their partner has AIDS they can just get tested uh just to make sure nothing's wrong, just to protect themselves or protect their partner or partners.

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

S: (silence) Just by looking at somebody I don't think you can tell if they have AIDS or not because they look the same as everybody else. Um. If if I saw someone who looked very sick and or was so sick that they couldn’t move then AIDS would probably come to my mind as a possibility but there could be others too.

I: Mm-hum. Uh what kinds of people have a lot to worry about from AIDS?

S: Um...I think people who are homosexual have have to worry about AIDS because from what I know if you're homosexual you get there's a greater risk of you getting AIDS than if
you're heterosexual. But even if you're heterosexual I think you still have the uh same risk as as anybody else to get AIDS.

I: Okay. When can people stop worrying about AIDS?

S: I think the only time people can stop worrying about AIDS is uh if when they find a cure. And until they find a cure since it's a deadly disease then I think everyone should worrying about it.

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

S: No.

I: Why?

S: Um. Well, when you get AIDS, even though you you don't get the full-blown AIDS and it takes awhile before you even do get sick, in most cases, I'm not gonna say it's proven cause I don't know, but in most cases uh people get so sick that they usually die and I think that for people to die and for so many people to die of AIDS is because so many people have died of AIDS so far I think everyone should worry about it.

I: Okay. Where have you learned about AIDS?

S: Um. I've learned from my parents, from health classes in school, and I talk about it with my friends and I I've heard a lot about from television and radio. And I think that's all.

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

S: Mmm. We we don't really have AIDS classes in school. We have health and um the last time I took health was two years ago when I was a sophomore and I remember they did um a chapter on AIDS but it only lasted maybe a week or two and they they really didn't they only said um the basic things like you can't get AIDS from kissing anyone or touching anyone and um if you have sex you should use a condom and they didn't really get into to what really happens if you have the HIV virus or when you really get AIDS.

I: Okay. 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: Um. I think I pretty much know how the ways you can get it and if there's any more information that scientists figure out or find out in the the future, I would hope that they would make that public so the people so people can know more about how to protect themselves.

I: Um. AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV. What does that tell you about it? About AIDS?

S: Just that it's called HIV it doesn't really tell me anything. Um and unless someone explains what HIV is.

I: Mm-hum. Do you know what HIV stands for?
S: I used to I don't (laughs) remember right now.

I: Okay. Suppose there is a new disease and all you know is that it is caused by a virus. What information can you infer from this knowledge about how the disease is transmitted or how the disease develops or how it could be treated?

S: Uh, if you just know it's a virus then you don't really know how it's transmitted, so it could be transmitted from anything and so that wouldn't really protect people. But um...if that's the only thing you know then you don't really know much (laughs) to do anything.

I: Okay. Uh. What does safe sex mean?

S: To me, safe sex means that if you're going to have sex and just to protect yourself by using a condom...

I: Mm-hum.

S: And...I think that's all.

I: Okay. Uh. Can you tell more about condoms, like what are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?

S: Um...what I know the safest condoms to use are latex and that's basically all I know.

I: Okay. What else do condoms protect you against?

S: Um, they protect you against other diseases such as the ones I know of are syphilis and gonorrhea and other than AIDS and other than those two that's all that I know of.

I: Okay. What does IV drug use mean?

S: Um, I think that means that if you're gonna use drugs then then that means when you use them with a needle and you just you stick the needle in some part of your body, usually your arm or your leg. That's all I know about that.

I: Okay. Do you think needles can be cleaned?

S: Um. I think they can be cleaned in in by the proper people or by the proper environment such as a hospital but if you're not in a hospital or if you're not a nurse or a doctor I don't think they can be properly cleaned.

I: Okay. Is there anything else that you would like to add or say?

S: I don't think so.

I: Okay. Alright. Thank you very much.

S: Okay. You're welcome.

I: Alright.