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 to ask you some more specific questions. Now, 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. And if you could just keep in mind that we are recording this so you can you know try to speak a little clearly.

My first question is: Please tell me everything you know about AIDS.

S: Um...I know that you can get it through sex and sharing needles and blood transfusions but it's not that common cause they check blood. And I know the HIV is [inaudible] I don't know.

I: Okay. Could you just speak up a little bit more?

S: I'm sorry.

I: Okay. I'm pretty sure we have you on here but you know...just to be sure. Um...is there anything else that comes to mind about AIDS, that you know about AIDS?

S: Not right away.

I: Okay. Uh...could you tell me a little bit more about how AIDS is uh passed from one person to another, how HIV is spread?

S: Um...I don't know. I guess...when they share needles I guess their blood gets on it and then they stick it in to them and it gets into their blood and then you exchange fluids in sex. That's it.

I: Mm-hum. Okay. Alright, um. What do you mean when you talk about um the using of needles of...

S: When they took drugs and each [inaudible] ... share them.

I: Okay. Does it matter do you think how often a person uh shares needles or has sex?

S: Yeah. Well if it's a different if it's with the same person then they know they don't have AIDS then I don't think it matters. They shouldn't share needles and shouldn't do drugs but...um...if you have sex with the same person and you know they don't have AIDS it shouldn't matter, but if you do it with a lot of other people it should.

I: Mm-hum. Okay. Can you tell me how a person can be able to prevent getting AIDS if they're sharing needles or having sex?

S: Not to do it.
I: But what if how could they protect themselves if they are?

S: Um...make sure the person doesn't have AIDS and get checked for it. And be conscious.

I: Mm-hum. Okay. Um. How well do you think this would really protect a person from getting AIDS?

S: Good, if they know if the person has it or not.

I: Okay. What do you think may lead a person to um uh using uh drugs with needles or having sex?

S: I don't know about drugs cause I don't believe in it, but having sex cause they love someone or if they just make it, I guess.

I: Okay. Um, if a person had plans not to have uh not to use drugs or not to have sex, what might mess up their plans about that, about not having sex or not using drugs?

S: Their friends.

I: Okay. Anything else?

S: I don't know. The way people treat them. If they don't feel good about themselves. Their parents [inaudible] watching them do it, if they do it.

I: Okay. Uh, what effect does alcohol have on people?

S: Makes them more outgoing, at least the people I've seen in the past. Makes some of them violent. And others just rude.

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

S: Probably.

I: How how so, do you think?

S: Cause if they're drinking sometimes it doesn't make you think straight and you could have sex or share needles or do things that could get cause you to get AIDS and cause they weren't thinking right to do those things and they could get it.

I: Okay. Um...okay, do you think it's different for some people who drink regularly compared to people who binge drink? Do you know what binge drinking is?

S: Sort of.

I: Where someone just sits down and drinks and drinks and drinks and...

S: Do I think it's different?

I: Yeah. Do you think their risk of getting AIDS is different?

S: No, I don't think so.

I: Okay. Does it matter how often a person is exposed to AIDS?
S: Maybe, I suppose. Is that like being around someone that has it? Or...

I: Being around someone that has it or um...uh having sex, or...sharing needles...

S: If you have sex or share needles, then yeah. With people who have AIDS, but if you're just around someone and nothing goes on that you can get, it shouldn't hurt you.

I: Mm-hum.

S: That shouldn't matter.

I: Okay. Uh can you tell me what happens when a person gets AIDS?

S: Um...there's cells, what are they called, t-cells or whatever,

I: Mm-hum, can you speak...

S: ...in your system outside it deteriorates and it's harder to fight off infections and then if they get sick they could die.

I: Okay. Um, let's see. How can someone learn whether he or she has AIDS?

S: Get tested for it?

I: Anything else?

S: I don't know of anything.

I: Okay. Do you know what this test is for or what it tests for or how it works?

S: No.

I: Could you speak up a little?

S: No.

I: Okay. Uh, why would someone decide to be tested?

S: Because they might have put themself at risk and they want to know...if they have it or not.

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

S: Mean if I just saw them? I wouldn't think that unless they told me.

I: Mm-hum.

S: Cause there would be no reason to.

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

S: People that do a lot of drugs that involve needles, and people that go around and sleep with a lot of people.
I: Mm-hum.

S: I can't think of anyone else.

I: Okay. Well what would you consider a lot of people?

S: Probably I don't know maybe more than [inaudible] more than one, but like maybe five six people a week or just everyday they go [inaudible] with someone else.

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

S: They can't? I [inaudible]

I: Okay. [Inaudible] Do you think people are making too big a deal about AIDS?

S: Sometimes. Sometimes not.

I: Why?

S: Cause sometimes it's all people will talk about, like there's no other problems and that's all you have to worry about, and sometimes they have to teach us about it so sometimes they don't say enough, show the right things.

I: Mm-hum. Okay. What should we really be worrying about?

S: What people do. Guess worrying about how to cure it, but we should worry more about what kids and other people are doing to get it, work on that before [inaudible] teach them.

I: Mm-hum. Okay. Uh, where have you learned about AIDS?

S: My friends and TV.

I: Okay. Uh, what things do they skip in AIDS classes at school?

S: I don't remember my classes that well so I really couldn't say.

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

S: Myself, yeah.

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

S: Not really.

I: No?

S: Because I'm not worried about getting it because I don't put myself at risk, so not right now.

I: Okay. Uh, what does safe sex mean?

S: It means a lot of things. To me it does.
I: Mm-hum.
S: Do you want to know specifically?
I: Yeah.
S: Not to do it or to use a condom to protect yourself.
I: Anything else?
S: (silence or [inaudible])
I: Okay. Um, can you tell me more about condoms, about what are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?
S: I don't know. I couldn't tell you.
I: What else do condoms protect you against?
S: Sometimes pregnancy. I don't know that much.
I: Okay. Uh, what does IV drug use mean?
S: It means inter-venous, isn't that the word, needles, when you use a needle to inject a drug into your vein.
I: Okay. Uh, what do you think uh do you think needles can be cleaned?
S: Can they be cleaned?
I: Mm-hum.
S: Yeah.
I: Do you know how?
S: No. I guess if they sterilize them...there has to be something out there to clean them.
I: Mm-hum. You haven't heard about any one uh cleaning needles? Okay. Is there anything else you'd like to add or say?
S: Not that I know of.
I: Okay. Alright, thank you very much.
S: Mm-hum.