TAPE 18:

(starts in the middle of the interview. First [up to 079 on counter] was National Public Radio in the background)

S: ...'cause the person that drinks you know might get drunk with a partner one night, know what I'm saying?

I: Mm-hum.

S: ...and have sex and you know have, but no rubber on or a condom, you know what I'm saying? And that can be a risk, a high risk too.

I: Mm-hum.

S:...cause you don't know how many people that that girl did that with, you know what I'm saying? Or that guy did that with. Know what I'm saying? He coulda got drunk with two today and you know yesterday got drunk with another female, you know what I'm saying, had sex with her, and then you call you over the next day and you know both then using a rubber so if she, the girl he had yesterday, had HIV, you know, he had sex with two today and y'all drunk you know what I'm saying then use no condom then he pass the HIV through that through to you, you know what I'm saying, so it would be most likely and if a person that's not drunk, you know what I'm saying, they'll be thinking like you know, up on their p, up on his or her P's and Q's you know what I'm saying, thinking like now I'm using a rubber, know what I'm saying, a condom or whatever you know so I can you know will be alert if anything. That's why it's most likely for a person like that.

I: Okay. Is, do you think it's different for people who drink regularly compared with people who binge drink?

S: Repeat that again.

I: Do you think it's uh different, the the risk of getting AIDS is different for people who drink regularly compared to people who binge drink? Do you know what a binge drink is?

S: Na-uh. (No.)

I: Like if you you know like just drink a whole lot ah uh alcohol all at one time.

S: Mm-hum.

I: Um, like instead of you know some, as opposed to somebody who uh, so like you know maybe they drink you know pretty regularly normal amounts of alcohol as opposed to someone who just on the weekend just drinks two or three you know...

S: Yeah well, the person that's binge drinking catch it too. They're probably not, not faster but at least, most high rate at that you know particular time of catchin' HIV because um, like he, he get drunk on a weekend and [inaudible] you know what I'm saying, you go out drunk and you then drink a whole bunch of liquor and beer and you know alcohol period. Know what I'm saying? You all drunk and staggering you know what I'm saying. You got laid down on a bed, you know what I'm saying, you all laughin' and jokin' and he then, you know, start havin' sex with you and by that time he ain't had no rubber on, but a person that would drink regularly like like drink one beer you know what I'm say, might be buzzed a
little bit but still up on the Pís and Qís cause he knows whatís goiní on, like you know, like hold on, I'm in the wrong situation here you know.

I: Okay. Does it matter how often a person comes in contact with the AIDS virus?

S: Does it matter how often?

I: Mm-hum.

S: Yeah, because people should just you know think before they act, know what Iím saying? Thereís too many people out there with the HIV you know and donít even know they have it.

I: Mm-hum.

S: Just probably runniní around you know haviní sex with people and donít even know they have HIV.

I: Mmm.

S: So itís more common for stuff like that that would happen.

I: Mm-hum. Can you tell me what happens when a person gets the AIDS virus?

S: What happens to them?

I: Yeah. When they get the AIDS virus.

S: Well they're probably like from watching TV and seeing programs and stuff like, after a while their immune system start breakiní down you know they start catchiní, gettiní sick, know what Iím sayiní? They don't really got the AIDS, AIDS virus yet but you know, but they've got the virus know what Iím sayiní? And now you know, no one like, like interactiní with people in sports and all that like Magic Johnson know what Iím sayiní?

I: Mm-hum.

S: Start happeniní and stuff happen like that. You know what Iím sayiní and you know they, their self-esteem start lettiní down, thinkiní that since they got that virus, you know what Iím sayiní, other people are better than them.

I: Mm-hum.

S: And they feel you know kinda lower, in a lower rank so that at last are haviní to feel bad for theirself.

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

S: When a person gets AIDS you said. They get sick know what Iím sayiní? Start probably losiní weight or whatever, you know. Hair might get a little shorter you know and start gettiní chills and cold and all that. And you know canít go like, canít get out the bed or whatever...

I: Mm-hum.
S: ...or from watchiní TV you know and listeniní about it [coughing] say you were figuriní that they would be like very sick know what Iím sayiní. You losiní weight...probably have to go to the hospital.

I: Um, okay. Can you tell me more about the time between when a uh...okay...is there any way someone can learn whether he or she has the AIDS virus?

S: Well, to me if you're younger like me, know what Iím sayiní, a young person? You would think like, 'I want to do this right now', you know what Iím sayiníí? But a older person you know would probably wait you know and go through the process and you know and have a test done you know what Iím sayiní see whatís goiní on with that person that youíre with or if not only that you know what Iím sayiní...not really, I donít really, I canít really say 'cause I donít know.

I: Mm-hum. You mentioned a a test. Uh do you know what the test tests for? Do you know how it works?

S: Well I know like they take a test like take some blood from you, you know and like six months later you know theyíll tell you if, you know, you came up negative or positive, you know and it works to tell you, you know if you have it or not. It like they can tell you you came up negative you know, and you might, you know like negative that means you like might have it right? Or positive means you have, might have it right?

I: Mm-hum. You mentioned a a test. Uh do you know what the test tests for? Do you know how it works?

S: What negative and positive?

I: Yeah.

S: Wee, hold on. [clears throat] Yeah positive means you might have it and negative means you donít have it.

I: Okay.

S: So you know they might say, you come up positive and you know come back in another six months and to take another test, you know and you might come up, you might come up negative.

I: Mm-hum.

S: So thatís what them tests is for you know what I'm sayin', to help you understand whatís goiní on with your body and with yourself.

I: Mm-hum. Uh, why would someone decide to be tested?

S: Because they figured that like if someone was raped or something you know and the person, you know had intercourse with ëem and you know released the uh...cum and um you know they would figure they would need testing 'cause they donít know if that person had HIV or they can find out like if that person did something with this person and that person might have used drugs or somethiní so they might wanna get tested from that or, you know what I'm sayiní', or just like figured like if you hear a girl have too many partners, sex partners then you ain't usiní rubbers and you figure she might have got AIDS or you gotta disease or something you would want to get tested off of that too.
I: Mm-hum.

S: So that's probably why a person would want to go get tested.

I: Um, what would make you think that a person has the AIDS virus?

S: (silence) I don't know. Probably a person that would act weird. Like wanna do it to everybody, you know, have sex with everybody. She know she got like HIV or he know he got HIV you know and he would want to do it, you know with no rubber or something. Okay, you, or you know what I'm sayin' he might just be havin' a cold all the time you wonder why he got a cold, it's summertime, 90 degrees, he got a cold outside. That might be a symptom or somethin'. Might start losin' a little bit a weight, so you like think like something's wrong you know. I don't know what it is...

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

S: Well a lot of people that have sex a lot, that do it with different partners.

I: Mm-hum. Do you know when people can stop worrying about AIDS at all?

I: You can never stop worrying about AIDS. 'cause you never know when the next person have it. And condoms don't work 100%.

S: Mm-hum..

I: So you can never stop worryin' about AIDS.

S: Okay. Do you think people are making too big a deal about AIDS?

I: No because that's a serious disease and it's killin' half of our population.

S: Mm-hum. Um, what do you think we should be wor-, what what should we really be worrying about?

S: Worryin' about yourself, if you gonna catch it or not. And watchin' your own step.

I: Okay. Um, where have you learned about AIDS?

S: In school. In sex education classes and uh television, watchin' television and that's like, seein' programs and you know and all that.

I: Mm-hum.

S: Some here.

I: Okay. What things uh do you think they skip in the AIDS classes at school?

S: Well they really don't skip nothing because they really tryin' to tell you, you know what's goin' on you know and try to tell, change all of us to watch ourselves and people be doing, see what we doing.

I: Okay. Do you think you know enough about AIDS to protect yourself from it?
S: I'm sayin', I don't know, I know a fair amount of stuff about AIDS to protect myself but I don't know a lot because you know I don't really know what I, what's really goin' on unless I talk to a person that was to have it or something, you know, or, you know, a person that been around people that had it. Know what I'm sayin'? So but I really, I know a fair bit you know to keep myself out to use, you know, condoms and stuff, watch who I, you know, have sex with, try not to have sex with a person that have sex with ano...other people too much.

I: Mm-hum. Is there anything you would like to know more about?

S: I would basically like to know like how to watch out for it. Well, you don't know how to watch out for it 'cause you don't ever know when it's gonna happen. But like, like I would wanna know like if, how would, you know like, if you like, if you figure you you are, you know cool and all you know, you figure you in health, how would you like if you had it or not, know what I'm sayin'? You's afraid to take the the test, like what I would like, I would know, wanna know what, what to do. And if I did have it you know I would wonder what to do if I, like if I get helped or something.

I: Mm-hum. Okay. Does it really matter that AIDS is caused by a virus?

S: Yes, because like nearly everyone, it's like a sexually transmitted disease and that's like a virus, like a cold. Somebody cough in your face a couple of times you caught that cold virus you know what I'm sayin'? Like the flu virus that be goin' around you caught the, like somebody sendin' the flu and it is going around through the air. But instead it is goin' around through sex and through other things like that.

I: Mm-hum. Suppose there is a new disease and all you know is that it is caused by a virus.

S: I would want to learn more about it. How to prevent from gettin' it.

I: Okay. Um, what could you tell about, you know this disease just from the know...from just knowing that it was caused by a virus about like the transmission or...

S: Yeah this must be a you know a [inaudible] disease a disease, that like that might be able to take you off the earth or something you know what I'm sayin', like AIDS, it must be even worse than AIDS because it's called a virus you know what I'm sayin', ain't no name or something, then maybe everything's caused by a virus, caused by a virus.

I: Okay, uh what does the phrase 'safe sex' mean to you?

S: Safe sex means keep safe you know what I'm sayin' use condoms a lot, about every time you have sex you know what I'm sayin' and watch what you're doin', watch who you have sex with. Keep safe.

I: Mm-hum. Okay, can you tell me more about condoms? What are the the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?

S: Well I have them when I be goin' for a physical they be like givin' me Trojans. You know what I'm sayin' or uh, the uh, I don't know the name...

I: Do you know what kind of condoms they are?

S: Like that type of condoms they got some like it's not the plastic or nothin' it is the kind of skin, like animal skin or something like that. Kinda thick type that help me, you know what I'm sayin'? I'm sayin' that if you know...you gonna have sex and you got a condom in your
pocket, it's better to either try to use it than not to try to use it because even though if it's a cheap brand like Blue Ribbon or something, sayin' it would be better to use that than not to use it because you know if that cheap condom might save you from catchin' the HIV virus. It might help you you know you never know. So it would be better to use it if you not, than rather than nothing.

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

S: Havin’ kids. You know, catchin' other sexually transmitted diseases. And all that stuff.

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

S: IV mean like people shootin' up. I mean like that's a very high risk of catchin' AIDS because you know the blood that was on the needle or you know that went into the vein coulda brought back out whatever was in your vein put it and you're goin' into another vein, you know what I'm sayin'. I would be afraid to use it cause you might, you could die or something from that. And not, not knowing what you're doin', know what I'm sayin'. I would be afraid to use it.

I: (Silence) Do you think uh...okay. Do you think I, uh needles can be cleaned?

S: You mean drug needles?

I: Mm-hum.

S: No because [inaudible] might be lots of drugs, cocaine or whatever dope and it's goin' into your system, you know what I'm sayin', and you're pullin' it out and usin' it. Besides, needles might be able to be cleaned, like naw, once you use them, you know, you like, you hafta throw it away unless you have diabetes or something you gotta clean it off with alcohol, you can clean them off like that.

I: Mm-hum.

S: You know what I'm sayin'. Or just use a new needle all the time.

I: Mm-hum.

S: ...but I don't know if they can be cleaned or not, but to me I don't think they can be cleaned.

I: Mm-hum.

S: Cause that's, that, it still might be on there, inside. Say you can, can get on the outside but you ain't get, you, you might bring it in with water or push it out, know what I'm sayin', but it still might be, you know.

I: Mm-hum. Okay, you said um HIV. Do you know what HIV is?

S: Um...Well, I know it's AIDS, I mean, the virus of AIDS.

I: Mm-hum.

S: I don't know what like...I don't know like a HIV, what it stands for. I'd like to know.
I: Okay. Okay, is there anything else um more you uh didnít tell me that you would like to
tell me uh about AIDS?

S: Not really.