Number 21

I: In this interview I will ask you to talk about AIDS. I want you to know that you don't have to answer all the questions if you don't want to. If you don't want to answer a question, please 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'll first ask you to tell me everything you know about AIDS. And then I will ask you some more specific questions. It may seem like I'm asking you the same question several times. But I just have to make sure that I ask everyone the same questions, and I may ask you to explain something that you say. And that is just to make sure that I know exactly what you are trying to tell me.

I am taping this so I may ask you if you shake your head just to say something, because I am not doing a video tape. I need you to say something so, when I listen to the tape later on, I can hear what you say. Ok?

My first question is:

I: Please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: ...Like what?

I: Everything. Like what is AIDS?

S: .....(no response)

I: Have you ever heard the word AIDS?

S: Yeah

I: Can you remember anything at all about it?

S: Only the government, you mean the way how you get them?

I: You can tell me that? I'm starting with a very general question and I will ask you a bunch of other questions, that will be more about specific things. So I am just going to start with just asking you, tell me everything you know about AIDS? Anything that comes to mind.

S: ...I know like the way you catch AIDS from ah, from ah people using the same needle over and over again.

I: (Yes)

S: And hum,.....wild ways, like if you touch somebody else's blood.

I: (Yes)

S: Guess hum, if you stepped on something that was like rusted or something, ........

I: Ok. So you told me that AIDS is passed on when people use the same needle over and over again. Can you tell me more about it? Like how does a person get AIDS from using a needle over and over again?

S: Ok. Say you meet someone like using a a crack needle or something.
I: (Yes)

S: And one person already used it already, and another person uses it and they like, when the person like has sex with, somebody then, ok that person had AIDS. I mean, they ain't going to know that they had it until like 3 to 12 days or something like that. Just having sex with the other people. The next person gets it.

I: Ok. Does it matter how often a person uses the same needle over and over?

S: Does it matter?

I: I'm sorry? Does it matter? Yeah

S: You mean like in what way?

I: Ah, does it make a difference how often a person uses a needle over and over?

S: You mean just that one person?

I: Yeah

S: I know it'd make a difference, but two people using it the same time. I do.

I: Ok, and what does it make a difference?

S: Cause

I: If two people are using it?

S: Cause blood's coming out one person and when that person get done using it, and the next person going to use it, without scalding it out.

I: Ok, And what do you mean by scalding it out?

S: Like, ok see like you boil some hot water on the stove, with a needle you just put a lot of hot water up in there. Clean it out from there. Just doing it like three times, keep on cleaning it.

I: Ok. Can you tell me how a person may be able to prevent getting AIDS if they are using the same needle over and over?

S: How could they just get it?

I: How could they prevent getting AIDS if they're using, more than one person is using the same needle?

S: Easy from that person's blood, is coming from one person and then it's going to the next person into the next person.

I: Ok. Is there anything a person in this situation can do to protect themselves from getting AIDS?

S: ....Ok, like in sex, you don't want to get AIDS all you have to do is wear a protection. I mean not all protection is going to keep you from getting it though. You got to wear, ....
I: Ok
S: You got a wear them.

I: Ok, I'm trying focus just on the sharing the needles right now, ok then I'm going to ask the same questions about having sex. Ok. Hum, so what do you think may lead a person to using a needle over and over again?

S: Just going in like that.

I: I'm sorry

S: That, catching the AIDS. HIV.

I: Ok. What are the kinds of things that may mess up a person plans not to share needles? Like if they're going out and they say to themselves ok, tonight I'm not going to share needles. What kinds of things may happen that may lead them to sharing needles even though they planned not to?

S: ......That person, tell that one person that they can't use a needle. I mean, the person ain't going to use it.

I: Ok. And ah, I think you also said that someone could get AIDS from touching someone else's blood. Is that what you said?

S: No, it's like this ok, touch somebody else's blood.

I: You said.

S: It's like this, say if that person had AIDS and then I mean losing blood, and like there was a person that wanted to be stupid in their head and just went over and touched the blood.

I: Ok

S: They going to catch it like that.

I: Ok. Hum, would it matter how often a person would touch that blood that came from a person with AIDS?

S: Would it matter how often they do it?

I: Yeah

S: What you mean?

I: Would that change their chances of getting AIDS if they touch their blood?

S: No

I: So, I guess I'm not sure when you say that a person goes over and touches the blood, from someone who has AIDS, how does touching the blood give that person AIDS?

S: Oh

I: Do you know what I am asking?
S: ...mean, mean like this, I mean like in, ok, say somebody was having sex, and the person that they were having sex with they had AIDS,

I: Yeah

S: And like say a person that caught that AIDS got stabbed and something like that, and was losing blood somebody went to go help them, I mean they are going to get blood on them and they are going to catch the AIDS.

I: Ok, Can you tell me how a person can be able to prevent getting AIDS if they are helping someone? Like you said in that situation that someone's been stabbed and they are losing blood, and someone steps up to help them, and that blood gets on to the person helping. Is there anything that person can do that's trying to help. The other person to prevent getting AIDS?

S: Not getting it? .......Yeah

I: What can they do?

S: I mean if they are like, say they're like in the same house...

I: Yeah

S: But like somebody robbed them and came up in there and stabbed that person, I mean all that person gotta do is to go get some towels or something. Just wear gloves or something.

I: Ok. And how well do you think that would really protect a person from getting AIDS? You know, using towels, putting on gloves?

S: .......... (No response)

I: Do you think that would help them?

S: Yeah

I: Ok, hum, and you also said that a person may get AIDS from having sex with other people? Can you tell me how that happens?

S: .......Ah, having sex without, you can catch AIDS anyway, without using protection.

I: And what do mean by protection?

S: Use latex condoms.

I: And ah, how well do you think that really protects a person from getting AIDS? If they use latex condoms?

S: ..........How well do you, what's you saying?

I: How well will using latex condoms protect a person from getting AIDS?

S: It would help them.

I: Like how much protection would it give them do you think?
S: ........ (Yawning) Enough so they don't catch them.
I: Does it matter how often a person would have sex?
S: Does it matter how much? Say it over?
I: I mean would that change they chances of getting AIDS?
S: From using condoms?
I: If they are using condoms?
S: Yeah
I: How often they have sex?
S: ......A lot.
I: How would it change?
S: But hum, I mean....
I: Their chances of getting AIDS?
S: You can't just catch them all like, I mean ok, they are going from one person to the next person to the next person.
I: Yeah
S: I mean, ah, if you got a real good, I want to know who else you go with, from one person to the next person.
I: Ok. Hum, what do you think may lead a person to having unprotected sex?
S: Huh.
I: What kinds of things that may make it more likely that a person would have unprotected sex?
S: Without using a condom?
I: Yeah
S: ........ (No Response)
I: Like say if someone leaves their house and they say, their plan for the night is they're, if they have sex they're going to use protection. And then what things could happen that would change their mind.
S: From using a condom?
I: Yeah
S: ........ Might be just in a wild mood by that time.
I: What do you mean wild mood?

S: Like, like some people when they start getting, they just forget to pull out the condom. They just go on without it.

I: Ok. Hum, what effect does alcohol have on people?

S: Like what happened to AIDS? This ain't dealing with AIDS no more?

I: Ah, this is another general questions, I guess we are just kind of going off the topic, but what effect does alcohol have on people?

S: ......I don't even know. People act wild drinking alcohol.

I: How do they act?

S: Stupid. Some people don't know how to act. I mean my girl's one, she's just in a whole other world. She just drinks beer all the time. My dad used to be like that, drinking liquor and all that, come home acting stupid. Cussing people out, really acting stupid.

I: Does drinking make much of a difference in a person risk of getting AIDS? Do you think?

S: No

I: And is it any different for people who drink regularly compared to people who binge drink?

S: Say that again?

I: Sure. Is there any difference for people who drink regularly compared with people who binge drink?

S: .... (Yawning) To get AIDS?

I: (Yes)

S: I don't know how you can get AIDS drinking.

I: Ok. Ah, does it matter how often a person is exposed to AIDS? Like how often they come in contact with AIDS?

S: ......(no response)

I: Does that change how likely they are to catch it?

S: How likely....What's that mean?

I: Hum, like how often a person comes in contact with AIDS. Does that change how like it is that they are going to get it?

S: I mean they are not going to know they got it.

I: Ok
S: Until they go to the doctor's for a check up or something.
I: Ok
S: Get a shot, it cost around 5 dollars. When they start getting skinny and stuff. Losing weight.
I: Can you tell me what happens when a person gets AIDS?
S: What happens?
I: Yeah
S: They just starting losing weight.
I: Anything else?
S: ......no.......... 
I: Ok. And how long does it take for a person ah, to develop AIDS? Like you said that they are not going to know right a way that they have it. Why aren't they going to know?
S: When they find out is when they go for a check up that's the only time they'll find out.
I: Ok
S: Or they might even know when the start getting skinny. That's just if they know about AIDS.
I: Ok
S: Some people stupid out there.
I: Does is take longer for some people than for others to start getting skinny and losing weight?
S: ....
I: Or is it about the same for all people who get AIDS?
S: ..........[inaudible]....... 
I: And how can someone learn whether he or she has AIDS?
S: ......How can they learn?
I: Yeah. How can they find out?
S: .....Easy, read about that type of stuff.
I: I think you said if you go to the doctor for a check up. You can find out?
S: Oh, yeah...they take your blood test.
I: Do you know how that works?
S: No
I: Or do you know what they are testing for?
S: Oh, they might just, (yawning) the person might just be going up for a check up.
I: Yeah
S: And the doctor won't mess around and just say they got AIDS. Once they start looking at their blood.
I: Ok. Why would someone decide to be tested do you think?
S: I mean tested for AIDS?
I: (Yes)
S: .....I mean, ...some people might not be like that though, one of the people that knows about that type of stuff, I mean that's what I don't know. Unless they start getting skinny and stuff.
I: Ok. What would make you think that a person has AIDS?
S: What would make me think it?
I: Yeah
S: I don't even know.
I: If you met someone...
S: See, if I thought somebody had AIDS, I wouldn't even think of that. I probably think they doing crack if they get skinny.
I: What kinds of people have a lot to worry from AIDS?
S: ......(Yawning)
I: When can people stop worrying about AIDS at all?
S: ......Tell everybody to stop. Magic Johnson can't stop thinking about that.
I: Do you think people are making too big of a deal out of AIDS?
S: ......Like what?
I: Like, you see it on TV all the time, hear about it on the radio. You may read about it in the newspaper or something. Think you may hear about these ah, benefit concerts and you know quilts being made and. Do you think that's too big of a deal.
S: Mean there ain't nobody in Pittsburgh catching that type of stuff. It's just people from the wild type. Places like out of town and stuff.
I: Like, where from out of town do you think, you said wild places out of town?
S: California, New York. Ah they're all wild places.
I: Where have you learned about AIDS?
S: I learned about it coming here.
I: Ok. What things do they skip in AIDS classes at school? Health Class?
S: Hum, [inaudible] pretty soon about [inaudible] school. [Inaudible]
I: Do you think you know enough about AIDS to protect yourself from it?
S: Naw, you gotta find out more about that.
I: Is there anything more you would like to know about AIDS?
S: Yeah
I: Yeah. Can you tell me?
S: Anything, I don't really know none of these I don't know these....
I: Ok. AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV, does that tell you anything about it? What kinds of stuff does that tell you about it?
S: Like what, you mean it's bad?
I: Ok, what bad about it?
S: You mean, you can die from it.
I: What causes people to die from it?
S: ......Oh, just having it. I mean Magic Johnson he's going to die pretty soon. I mean, he ain't got too long. Really
I: How much longer do you think he has?
S: Sometime, I mean, I mean around this year he's going to die.
I: How long has he had it? I can't remember when they first announced that he had it?
S: I think he got it 93' or 92'.
I: Ok. So after people learn that they have AIDS how long do you think they have before they die?
S: ......Some people they just die right then and there.
I: Ok. Suppose there is a new disease and all you know is that it is cause by a virus, can you, do you have any guess' on how the disease is transmitted if I tell you it's some new disease and it's a virus?
S: ...........(no response)
I: Like how people can catch it?
S: ..........(no response)
I: Ok. Hum can you guess how the disease may develop that's if it is a virus?
S: ..........I don't know.
I: Ok. Can you tell me anything about how the disease may be treated?
S: .......
I: If I tell you this new disease is virus?
S: Ah?
I: If I tell you there is a new disease and it's a virus, do you have any questions as how it would be treated? How, you know what you could do about it?
S: ....Can't you use medicine for that type of stuff?
I: Ok. What kind of medicine do you mean?
S: I don't even know.
I: Ok
S: Never knew you could use medicine for it.
I: What does safe sex mean?
S: .......What you mean.
I: Can you tell me what you think safe sex means?
S: Safe sex?
I: (Yes)
S: Using condoms.
I: Ok
S: Some people might not even do that stuff, for some of them to have safe sex.
I: How do they have safe sex?
S: Without doing it.
I: Without doing what?
S: What did you say?
I: Without doing what?
S: Oh, I mean having sex?
I: What are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?
S: ..........There ain't no safe condoms.
I: Well, what kind are the least safe to use for AIDS?
S: What kind?
I: Yeah
S: The least?
I: Yeah, what kind will give you the least protection from AIDS.
S: Latex
I: Ok. What else do condoms protect you against other than AIDS?
S: Catching the tick. Whatever they call that.
I: Ok.
S: The crawlers, the crabs. It can keep from catching that.
I: Ok. What does IV drug use mean?
S: Huh?
I: What does IV drug use mean?
S: I don't know.
I: Ok. Do you think needles can be cleaned?
S: Needles.
I: Yeah
S: Drug needles.
I: Yeah. Do you think they can be cleaned?
S: Yeah
I: How do you clean them?
S: I mean....I forget what that word was. Have scalding hot water.
I: Yeah
S: You gotta have bleach you can use bleach to do it if you want. Or clean it out.
I: Well how do you use bleach?

S: Pour some of it, pour some of it like in a bottle or something like one of them little baby bottles and put it in that. Just put the needles right in the thing and squeeze it all out.

I: Ok. Is there any other way you can clean needles?

S: (No)

I: Ok.