I: In this interview I will ask you to talk about AIDS. I want you to know that don't to have to have to answer all my questions. If you don't want to answer a question just let me know and I will go one 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 you answer are right or not, just tell me everything that comes to mind. You don't have to talk about yourself or your behavior.

No one else will hear the tape but me, and I'm not going report to the people here what you said. My first question is:

I: Please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: I know that it's a situation blood disease or it can be transmitted by sharing needles. And there is no cure for it yet. And...that's about it.

I: Can you tell me more about how AIDS is passed on from one person to another?

S: Can be either passed by sex, by sharing needles or oral sex.

I: O.K. You told me that AIDS is passed on when you ah...share needles? Can you tell me more about that?

S: Well if you are shooting up a drug, and you share a needle with someone that has AIDS, it's very possible for you to contract the disease.

I: Ok, and ah..you also mentioned ah having sex. Umh... Can you tell me more about that and how it is passed?

S: Well if you had sex with somebody that has AIDS, or may have had sex with somebody that had AIDS then it's very possible for you to contract it.

I: Does it matter how often a person shares a needle or has sex in terms of their risk in getting AIDS?

S: No, you can AIDS on a first time you have sex or you've shared a needle with someone has had it.

I: Can you tell me how a person can prevent ah getting AIDS if they are sharing needles or having sex?

S: Well, if you are sharing needles, don't share them. Get a different needle every time you shoot up. Or stay away from having sex. Or protect yourself.

I: What do you mean by protect yourself?

S: Use contraceptives like birth control or condoms or [inaudible] something.
I: How well do you think this would really protected a person from getting AIDS?
S: It depends on how effective your birth control is.

I: What do you think might lead a person to have sex or ah..oral sex and also ah..sharing needles? What do you think might lead a person to do that?
S: Peer pressure. Defiance against their parents. Mainly anything, just wanting to do it. Experimenting.

I: Imagine a person goes out planning not to have sex or to have oral sex or to share needles. What do you think may mess up these plans not to do that?
S: Being with friends that are trying to persuade you into to doing it.

I: Anything else?
S: ..... 

I: What effect does alcohol have on people?
S: Well, if you use numerous amount of if you can get drunk or high or anything, and then people can take advantage of you and you can contract any disease.

I: Does drinking make much of a difference in a person risk of getting AIDS?
S: No... well yeah.. actually it does, cause if your drinking than you have more of chance of getting...taken advantage of and you can get it, but you can get either way, whether you are drinking or not.

I: Is the risk of getting AIDS different for people who drink a little bit every day compared to people who drink a lot every weekend?
S: Well it depends on whether they drink with friends or not. But if you drink a lot, then I guess you would have a greater risk of getting a disease, because you're putting yourself in that position to be taken advantage of.

I: Does it matter how often a person is exposed to AIDS?
S: No. I think being around it the first time or doing something with somebody who has it one time you can get it.

I: Could you tell me what happens when a person gets infected with the AIDS virus?
S: Well you can't usually detect it for about 10 years and then if you don't have it um...I think that they can treat it if you only have it if they detect it early. But if you don't detect it in the early stages I think it's pretty much on it's own.

I: Can you tell me about what happens when a person develops AIDS.
S: Well, I don't know.

I: Can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets the AIDS virus or when he or she gets AIDS?
S: Well they AIDS virus is more ... I don't know it's non- I guess it's non-detectable but when you get AIDS, it's worse. Because it's more advanced into the AIDS disease.

I: How long does it take for a person with the AIDS virus to develop AIDS?

S: It depends on what stage they are in. From the beginning I'd say to about 10 to 15 years.

I: Does it take longer for some people than for others?

S: Yes, because if your immune systems is really developed then they could probably start to fight it off. But you don't have a good immune system then it's not going to do much help.

I: How can someone learn whether he or she has AIDS?

S: Well you can usually get blood test or urine sample or just go to the hospital and ask em for a checkup and they can check.

I: What does this test test for? How does it work?

S: Well they run your blood through a machine and I guess it checks for any disease and not just AIDS.

I: Why would someone decide to be tested.

S: Because they might have an idea that they have it, or just because they want to make sure before they do have sex or get married. Make sure they are not giving their partner anything.

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

S: You can't tell from the outside. Unless they get tested and they tell you.

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

S: Anybody. It's not just a disease that goes to certain group of people. Anybody can get it.

I: When can people stop worrying about AIDS?

S: Whenever they get a cure for it.

I: Do you think people are making to big a deal of AIDS?

S: No. It's a big disease and it has to be worried about because if you don't worry it then you are not going to care whether your partner has AIDS or anything and then you are going to contract it.

I: Where have you learned about AIDS?

S: School. Health class, at the group home we have discussions about it.

I: What things do they skip about AIDS in health classes at school?
S: How it can be treated. Where they have a cure for it. The newest stuff. They mainly just have the facts from back back in whenever the days that the disease first came up they don't have any new information yet.

I: 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: Just what they can do to prevent from getting AIDS besides abstinence and staying away from drugs.

I: Ok.. AIDS is cause by a virus called HIV. What does that tell you about it, about the disease?

S: Just that it is deadly.

I: Ah, what does safe sex mean?

S: Protect yourself, stay away from it.

I: What are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?

S: I don't think there are any safe ones. I think you just have to either use abstinence or condom with another contraceptive to prevent from getting any disease.

I: What else do condoms protect you against?

S: Sometimes getting pregnant. It depends on how effective they are. I don't think there is any condom that 100% protective and yet. [Inaudible - 5 words] I don't think that it protects you from anything. I mean you can get any disease. I mean the condom could fall off or it could have holes in it. Anything can just leak thorough it.

I: What does IV drug use mean?

S: Um... it means intravenous or that......I don't know.

I: O. K. Do you know what HIV means?

S: Uh Uh (meaning no)

I: Do you think that needles can be cleaned.

S: No, I don't think there is anything that can clean a needle I mean you can probably use alcohol but I don't think it will clean it from any disease.