Number 29

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 about AIDS. 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 every thing you know and that I understand everything you say. Please don't worry about whether you answers 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 gonna 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 you can get it through having sexual intercourse and through blood transfusion. It doesn't start out as AIDS, it starts out as HIV and it progresses. It can't be spread through like kissing or anything or touching. Um it can mainly..like you can try and prevent it by not having sex or always using protection. And...I don't know..that's about it.

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

S:  Um...by like some like bodily fluids, and like mixing like um...or...I don't know.

I:  You told me that AIDS is passed on when you, you said have sex? Can you tell me more about that? Is there anything more you can tell me about that?

S:  Um...just from like if the man has it and then he can give it to the women from when he, I don't know like ejaculates in. The girl can give it to like the man like when she's having sex, just like bodily organs. You can get it through like you have a cut or something down there or on your leg. I don't know or something.

I:  You also told me that AIDS is passed on when you get a blood transfusion. Can you tell me more about that?

S:  Like the AIDS like can be, I don't know, I don't want to say living, like it can just appear after, they take the blood from someone and then if you get a transfusion and it's being put into you and they can maybe not have told and like they may not tell if the blood had, if it was infected or not.

I:  What do you mean when you talk about a blood transfusion?

S:  Like if you have anemia of your blood cell count is low something and you really need the blood.

I:  Does it matter how often a person has a blood transfusion?
S: No, I don't think.

I: Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting AIDS if they ahh... if they are getting a blood transfusion or they have sex?

S: Um... well from sex they can talk to their partner and found how many people they have been with and if they know any of them has had the disease. And through transfusion, I'm not sure how you could prevent that. Oh, I remember, you can also get through like needles and stuff, through drug use and stuff. [Inaudible-3 words]

I: O.K. What do you think may lead a person to ah...use needles drug use, to use drugs.

S: Why would they use the needles?

I: Yes

S: Um... to get the drug directly into their blood stream so that it effects them.

I: Imagine a person goes out planning not to have sex or to use drugs. What do you think may mess up these plans?

S: Um... like if they were drinking or something, that could like um..make them like do it without like you know not really planning on it or just friends and peer pressure, could like [inaudible] doing that.

I: Ah, what effect does alcohol have on people?

S: It's a depressant and it makes you like um...not really like coherent about stuff around you and ...makes you like tired and stuff. Messes up your speech.

I: Ok, does drinking make much of a difference in a persons risk of getting AIDS?

S: Maybe some what because your more likely, like to have like sex or not mean, well you realize you doing it but you are more liking to have sex when like when your drinking. So like yeah it could maybe spread AIDS like more life if some body has it. Cause your not going to ask them like your the partner like questions if you would maybe if you were sober.

I: Ok, is this risk getting AIDS different for people who drink a little bit every day compared to people who drink a lot every weekend?

S: Yeah, I think it's different for people who drink a little bit everyday because they are more immune to the alcohol, so their going to be more aware of things, then a person that just drink on the weekends. Because they don't drink it just to get drunk and then, I don't know, more messed up.

I: Does it matter how often a person is exposed to HIV?

S: Does it matter like um...?

I: Does it make a difference in their risk?

S: Um ...yeah. Because if you are around it more some thing accidental could happen, like I don't know like for instance like with blood or some thing and if
you are trying to help them then you.

I:  Can you tell me what happens when a person gets infected with the AIDS virus?

S:  Um...It starts out slow I guess in your body and some times it's just different for people
I guess it takes some people longer to get the full blown um disease but for others it
happens quickly and it can kill them quick.

I:  Ok, can you tell me about what happens when a person develops AIDS?

S:  Um...just starts taking over their body and start eating different parts and like totally
wipes out everything.  It like inhibits your body to function.

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

S:  By going to get tested.  Like they just take blood and they test it.

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

S:  Um...it test I think maybe I don't know like your blood cell counts and see if like if their
alright I guess.  Um it takes a couple weeks to get back.

I:  Why would someone decide to be tested?

S:  Just to check themselves to make sure.  I mean cause some times you can get tested and
come out negative but then like a few years down the road you could be positive, so I think
it's good to get tested.  Cause you may not know, cause you couldn't of been aware of
maybe at a time your partner did have it.

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

S:  Nothing really unless there's some thing physically about them, or if they look like if
that they were like getting like I don't know emaciated looking or some thing and they had
those big scares on their face or something.  That's the only thing, other than that it could be
anyone.

I:  Ok, what kinds of people have a lot to worry about from HIV or AIDS?

S:  People that are heavy drug users or that have a lot of sex or people with like diseases that
may need blood transfusion or more susceptible for getting AIDS.

I:  When can people stop worrying about AIDS?

S:  They can't until they find a cure.  That is the only way they can stop worrying about it.

I:  Do you think people are making too big a deal of AIDS or HIV?

S:  No..cause it's spreading faster like the United States and every where.

I:  Where have you learned about HIV?

S:  Um...every where like through my counselors and stuff and um...TV.  Pamphlets,
magazines, doctors.
I: What things... What things do they skip about AIDS in health classes in school.

S: um...I don't really know because I never had a real health class that taught about AIDS or talked about it a lot. So I won't really know.

I: Do you think you know enough about AIDS or HIV to protect yourself from it?

S: Yeah I know, I think I know now more than what I did. Yeah

I: Is there anything more you would like to know about AIDS or HIV?

S: Um...I just like to I don't know. I just wish that people would be honest and like tell you straight out if they have been susceptible to it or not, instead like every body keeping it hush hush I think it should be talked about it more.

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

S: It's starts off like out like sort of smaller and I guess it takes over more, I don't know. Guess some more.

I: Ah, do you know what HIV stands for.

S: Ah.. I forget it but it's something immune deficiency or something. I don't know.

I: What does safe sex mean?

S: Using protection. Protecting yourself. Using a condom or I don't know, methods of birth control that aren't going to get you... I don't know to catch anything.

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

S: Um...I forget the name of it but they I think their like they have like some kind of lubricate on it or spermicide or something that, I don't know they said they think it can like stop it or stop AIDS of something, I don't know. I forget what's it's called.

I: Ok, what else do condoms protect you against.

S: Getting pregnant. Um...some other sexually transmitted diseases too.

I: What does IV drug use mean?

S: Drugs that are shot right into your veins.

I: Do you think needles can be cleaned?

S: Um...yeah, if they are like sterilized, I guess.

I: How do you, do you know how needles can be cleaned?

S: I guess it's like boiled in hot water comes in to kill the disease or I don't know like then wipes in alcohol or something. I don't know.