Number 32

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 my question. 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 some more specific questions. I may ask the same question more then once. I do this to make sure you tell me everything you know and that I understand everything that 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 am not going to report to the people here what you have said.

My first question is:

I: Please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: Hum, I know it's, you get HIV before you get AIDS. I know it's a virus. And I know, hum, AIDS doesn't show up to maybe 10, 15 years if it every does. And I know you can get it from sex, needles, drugs, and hum by blood transfusion. That's all I know about AIDS.

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

S: Sex, needles, and giving blood, no not giving blood, blood transfusion. Cause people who have low blood, or something they have and they get that. Bad blood or something [inaudible].

I: (Yes) Ok, you told me that AIDS is passed on when you ah, you use needles. Can you tell me more about that.

S: Hum, from drugs and, I mean what do you mean?

I: Ah, you said that hum,

S: Using the same needles without cleaning.

I: (Yes)

S: Hum, from ah, like my blood and your blood mix, if ah, that's how it could be passed.

I: Ok. And you said that hum, AIDS is passed on when you, ah with sex. Can you tell me more about that?

S: Ah, When you don't use condoms from the different fluids in your body. The mucus membranes in your body.

I: Ok. Ah, What do you mean when you talk about transfusions?

S: Hum, ....like at the hospital whenever you need blood, or if you don't have enough, how they give it, how they give you a pint or two. I don't know how it works, but if like, if it was
bad blood and they didn't really check on it for. If they couldn't find something and it was getting mixed in your blood, then you could get AIDS that way.

I: Ok. Ah, can you tell me how a person can prevent getting AIDS it they are having a transfusion or ah, sharing needles or having sex?

S: Use a condom, ah make sure that they test the blood, I mean cause you can't say well you can't have it cause you might die. If you want to get the blood transfusion. And clean the needles with bleach and water, and sterilize the needles. If you want do drugs.

I: How well do you think this would really protect a person from getting AIDS?

S: You mean if they do the right things?

I: (Yes)

S: I think it would protect them. I mean because there is no way they could get it if they, if they hum, you know do the right thing, use needles, clean needles, and use rubbers. And so forth.

I: What do you think may lead a person to hum, have sex or share needles?

S: Peer pressure, or hum, stress. Taking the problems out on other things.

I: Can you explain how that would work?

S: ...I mean if you think that every body else is doing it, and you want to fit in, or that may be peer pressure. But if you have problems and you don't know who to talk to, you might take it out on drugs.

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

S: Say that again?

I: Like if a person goes out planning not to have sex, or use drugs. What do you think may mess up their plans not to do that?

S: Oh, If they get drug or if they if they are getting high. Or hum, if they were forced in some way or another.

I: (Yes). Ah, what effect does alcohol have on people?

S: It make them forget or unconscious it could black you out. It could make you do stupid things that you don't know you are doing. You don't, you can't think right. Your mind is not right.

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

S: Yeah, I think it does. Because if you drink and cause you don't know what you are doing or you might you do something that you don't want to do. I mean if I went to a party and I wasn't the going doing anything, but I start drinking and I could, it's easier to have sex if some body like kind a wanted to and then, I wouldn't be in my right state of mind to say no. So, I think.
I: Is this risk different for people who drink a little bit every day compared to people who drink a lot every weekend?

S: .....The person who drinks more often might have a higher risk. But it's the same, I think it's the same. Because if you drink, you could get AIDS, I mean if somebody has AIDS and you have sex with them, it's not going to take a months or what ever. You could get, I mean it's not. I think they're at higher risk if they do it all the time because they are not really cautious all the time if they are doing stuff. But.

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

S: No. Well, what do you mean exposed to AIDS? How often?

I: How often?

S: I don't understand what you mean?

I: Hum, well you know does it matter how often a person may come in contact with HIV virus?

S: If they already have it?

I: No if they don't have it.

S: Aids. I don't understand. Say it again?

I: Hum, does it matter how often a person is exposed to or comes in contact with HIV, with the virus?

S: If I didn't have it and somebody I came in contact? As long as I'm not having, do anything, you know. I mean you can't get it if you know you shake hands or if you are just around that person.

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

S: Hum, they get sick. Hum, and their immune system doesn't work like it's suppose to. And they start getting, bruises and it's easier for them to catch a cold. And you know they'll get sick fast and they'll die.

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

S: Hum....hum, they start getting sick and then they die I mean. I don't know the symptoms.

I: Ok, you mentioned before about a ah, you know a different things. Can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets the virus or HIV and when he or she gets AIDS?

S: Hum. HIV. When you have HIV, you don't really get AIDS yet. You really don't have it, you get it like maybe 10 to 15 years of whatsoever down the line. And then you start I guess, that's when you start getting sick and when your body starts, I guess your immune system works down that period of time. And then you start getting really sick.

I: Hum, How long does it take for a person with HIV to develop AIDS?
S: Hum, about 10 years.

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

S: (Yes) it does. I think it does.

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

S: Hum, by getting blood token from the hospital, AIDS test.

I: Ah, what does this test test for? Do you know how it works?

S: Hum, I'm not sure. I guess low blood cells or something, I not sure.

I: Ok, why would someone decide to be tested?

S: Because maybe they were drunk, or they used drugs and they had sex and they didn't know their partner or they, they didn't hum, maybe they didn't use something and they wasn't sure about if that person had anything or not.

I: Ah, what would make you think that a person has AIDS?

S: ...I wouldn't really think, excuse me, I wouldn't really think if a person has AIDS unless they start lookin' sick. I mean I really couldn't, I don't think I could be able to tell if somebody had AIDS. Unless they like, those leasers and different things on their body or something. I don't think I'd be able to tell.

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

S: People that are sexually active, people who use drugs. And people that hum, have blood transfusions or that have to get blood.

I: Ah, when can people stop worrying about AIDS?

S: When ever they start cleaning needles, using condoms. And if they are certain that ah, the hospital and different things are checking the blood carefully.

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

S: No.

I: Why?

S: Because people, a lot of people think that they can't get it. And if they make a bid enough deal about it, it makes them think about, you can get it. I mean, people think that it's just certain people that can get they don't think that they can get. They think it's just for gay people, I guess.

I: Ah, ok, where have you learned about AIDS?

S: Different movies, like "Philadelphia" and hum some programs people with blood transfusions, will say how they get AIDS. Or, hum, health class we talk about AIDS sometimes. Watch different movies on it.
I: What things do they skip about AIDS in health classes at school?

S: Hum, they well, we don't really talk about it as much as we should. They don't really, I mean when they do talk about it they I think they say pretty much of everything how you can get it. But I mean they don't really go into a, we don't really talk about that a lot.

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

S: I think I do.

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

S: Hum, no.

I: What does safe sex mean?

S: Safe sex mean, hum using condoms or no sex at all.

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

S: Latex. Latex with spermicide. Latex with spermicide.

I: What else do condoms protect you against?

S: Hum, std's and, and getting pregnant.

I: Ah, what does IV drug use mean?

S: IV drug use. ........hum, when you, when you do drugs with needles. I'm not sure.

I: Ok. Do you think needles can be cleaned.

S: Yeah, I think so.

I: How would you go about doing it, or do you have any idea how they would be cleaned?

S: Hum, soak them in bleach and water, and then bleach again and then water. Sterilize them and that. I don't know, maybe alcohol.

I: Ok