I: In this interview I will ask you to talk about AIDS, and 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 to the next one. I would like you to tell me everything you know
about AIDS, and I will first ask you some general questions, and then I will go on with
some more specific ones. I will sometimes repeat the same question several times. This to
make sure that I understand what you're trying to tell me, so..
Please don't worry about whether your answers are right or wrong, because there is no
right or wrong. I just want to know what you know.
Also, you don't have to talk about what you do or about your behavior. I just want to
know what you know. And also, no one will hear this tape but me.
So my first question is.. please tell me everything you know about AIDS.

S: Um.. I know you you can get it through drugs and drug needles, sex, um, I know you
can't catch it by coughing on anyone or sneezing, things like that.

I: Are there any other things you can think of?

S: Like other ways you can catch it?

I: Yeah, or other things.

S: Like what it stands for? I don't know what it stands for.

I: So, you told me that you can get AIDS when you share needles. Can you tell me how
that works?

S: Well, someone could be infected, I guess with HIV. And um.. he uses a needle or she,
and then he shares it with someone else, and inserts it, you know, it goes into his body or
whatever I don't know. And that's how it works. And sex.. someone could be infected
with it and just having sex, and you can get it. Unprotected or I don't know if you can get
it <inaudible>

I: Does it matter how often a person shares needles?

S: No.

I: Can you explain me why you think so?

S: Um, I mean, it can happen the first time. I think it can happen the first time.

I: Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting AIDS from sharing a needle?

S: How can you prevent it? With sharing? I don't think they can prevent it. I don't think
they can do it. Because, I don't think, I think that um.. let's see, drugs or, if you try to
clean the needle out you know.. I guess the germs will still be in there, I'm not sure. I
assume that it would be. I don't think you could, you know, clean up all the germs, you
know.

I: Um.. let me see, what do you think may lead a person to share needles?

S: Why do I think they share needles?
I: What do you think may lead a person to share needles?

S: Not having money to get their own, or they're really feeling for it, and they want it, they have to have it. So if their - if someone else is using it - it's their friend's or whatever, so it's theirs so just take it or leave it.

I: Imagine a person is planning to go out and not share needles. Um.. What do you think may mess up their plans?

S: What?

I: Imagine a person is planning to not share needles, but then they do it anyway.. What do you think may have caused in the change in plans?

S: Anything. Peer pressure. Because their friend is doing it. Oh come on, you know. <inaudible>

I: You also told me that AIDS can be passed on when people have sex. Can you tell me more about that?

S: I guess it's by someone who is infected, and they have sex with them, and they can catch it also. Most definitely, if unprotected.

I: So do you think there is a way that a person can prevent um.. protect themselves when they have sex?

S: Yeah. I mean, they can use condoms. But there's not a 100% chance that they won't get it when they use condoms.

I: So you don't think it's really safe - perfectly safe?

S: Right.

I: Does it matter how often a person has sex?

S: No. I can think they can catch it also - the first time. It just works its way slowly, but it will be there. You know, they will be infected.

I: What do you think may lead a person to have unprotected sex?

S: Filling. And um they may trust their partner, and think they don't have anything just by looking at them or something or just thinking they're not having sex with people, you know, and have it.

I: OK, same question. Imagine a person goes out planning not to have unprotected sex. What do you think may mess up their plans?

S: Just wanting you know, filling, or, just you know, or thinking or trust their partner that they're not having sex with anyone, and they don't have a disease.

I: What effect does alcohol have on people?

S: <inaudible> emotional, I can't think of the word dysfunctional emotional problems, frustration, depression.
I: Do you think drinking makes much of a difference in a person's risk to get AIDS?

S: No. What? Do I think alcohol can cause a person to get AIDS?

I: No, but does it make a difference in the risk of getting AIDS? So it's not the same - I'm not asking if it causes it, but..

S: Can it um.. I think I understand. Like um.. say that someone was drinking and say that this person usually used condoms and they drink and you know, they didn't wear a condom - Is that what you're saying?

I: Hm-mm.

S: Yeah, somewhat. I mean, it depends on how much they had to drink. Some people have a tendency - they can drink a lot, but they still have a tendency of knowing what is going on, still knowing what they're doing, or remembering.

I: Do you think it's different for people who uh drink a little bit every day or drink a lot say once a week?

S: Can you repeat that?

I: OK. In their risk of getting AIDS, like what you just explained, do you think it matters if they drink every day - a little bit, or a lot every week?

S: I don't know. I can't, I can't.

I: Well, have you ever heard about the term binge drinking?

S: Binge? No.

I: Well, it means that you um you don't drink every day, but when you drink, you drink a lot. And the question is - in their risk of getting AIDS or having - doing something that they may regret later on, because they don't know what they are doing - does it matter if they binge drink or not?

S: No, I don't think so, because one-one-one way or another, some time they're gonna use a condom or not. I mean, even though drinking does affect you know a person, how much they drink is you know, I don't know. I mean, it's gonna affect them one way or another, if they drink or not. I mean, um, I guess that's it.

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

S: No. What do you mean? If I'm just around a person sitting there and they have AIDS or if I'm.. how often do I have sex with a person with AIDS?

I: Yeah or any other way you get in touch with um..

S: And you're saying does it matter? I mean which way; if I'm just sitting around a person and have physical contact with 'm or

I: No. When the AIDS-virus really gets into your body. Does it matter how often that happens?

I: Um. Imagine that you share needles or you have sex or whatever.

S: Right.

I: Um. That's a way that they say that they call you're exposed to the AIDS-virus, if you're doing that with an infected person. Does it matter how often you were exposed to the AID-virus in one of these ways?

S: I don't think so. Uh. <inaudible> OK, I don't think, it doesn't matter.

I: Yeah, I realized I asked the question before. Uh. Can you tell me what happens when a person gets infected with the AIDS-virus?

S: Um I don't know.

I: Can you guess?

S: I don't think they um... I mean it's in their.. something to do with the white blood cells? I don't know. I know it takes time to reach to get AIDS, but I mean it just doesn't.. I don't know. Like when they get AIDS or HIV?

I: HIV.

S: What are you saying? When they get HIV what? Do they..

I: What happens? How does it work?

S: It's.. OK. It's already in their body, but it's.. I guess it takes time to grow all over your body. Or work through your whole body. I know it.. I think it messes with the blood cells especially. That's about it.

I: Can you tell me what then happens if a person develops AIDS?

S: Hm. I know they're sooner to die. They have more problems, complications, I guess. I don't know what kind of complications, but.. um.. Maybe they need more treatments, I don't know. They need to be in the hospital more often, or something.

I: Can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets HIV and when they get AIDS?

S: Um. AIDS - I think they're just sooner to die, they're closer to die. HIV - they have more time because it's just getting immune to their body. It's not all worked up in their body.

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

S: I'm not sure. Maybe 4 to 6 years?

I: Does it take longer for some people than for others, do you think?

S: I'm kinda thinking yes and no, I'm not sure.
I: Well, why do you think yes and why do you think no? It's OK not to have exactly clear thoughts on this, I just wanna know what you're thinking.

S: OK. Um. Take for instance that they - if um if the baby was born with AIDS, I guess it would have a chance to die sooner, because it's - they got it quicker. And say like, a teenager, or an older woman or a man, they were to get it like in their twenties or thirties, I think they would um I think it would take longer for them to die because maybe their immune system is stronger, or something. I don't know. That's what I was thinking.

I: But you're not sure about it?

S: No, I'm not sure.

I: Is there anything else that you were thinking?

S: No.

I: How can someone learn whether they have HIV?

S: Um. Well, basically, just getting regular check-ups. Um. I don't know if there's something else. I'd say check-ups. Just getting regular check-ups.

I: Do you know how this check-ups work?

S: Uh, just get a blood test. I think a blood test.

I: Do you know what the blood test tests for?

S: HIV.

I: And do you know how it works, or?

S: Heehee, know I don't. I don't know how it works. I don't know how they see it. I don't know. I don't know.

I: Why would you think someone would decide to be tested?

S: Just because they're scared or may not trust their partner. Um. Maybe it's a little symptom, like say if they had um I mean they just had real symptoms and they can't think of anything else, so they may think of AIDS - or HIV and um they would test choose to test for AIDS or HIV. There's a difference between AIDS and HIV right?

I: Hm-mm.

S: OK. HIV.

I: Um.. You're not sure about the difference?

S: No. I know HIV is like just starting to get the AIDS. That's what I know. Is that what it is basically?

I: Well, I'll explain after the interview, OK?
S: OK, that's OK, haha, OK.

I: I will. Just remind me. Um. What would make you think that a person has HIV?

S: Um. Unprotected sex or them using needles, using one another's needles. I can't think of any other way you can catch it, besides needles or unprotected sex. I can't think of any other ways. I know this lady, when I was in middle school, she came to our school. You know and everyone was rowdy and that <inaudible>. She was telling a story - is it all right if I tell you this?

I: Yeah!

S: OK, she was telling this story about - I forgot her name. She was telling some story about a guy named Bob and his girl named Jen and Bob you know. Well, making a long story short: Bob had used a needle way back at a party and Bob got to college and everything and he got married and they didn't have any kids. They just got married and everything and Bob just decided one day to get an HIV-test and Bob had AIDS and she said that's the story about me. That's my husband and me and that just woke everybody up.

I: And she didn't know.

S: No. She didn't know until you know, he came in and told her, so. That's the only way I know. By needles or unprotected sex.

I: Um. What kinds of people do you think have a lot to worry from AIDS or HIV?

S: What do you think I have to worry about?

I: No, what kinds of people have a lot to worry?

S: Oh, those who have unprotected sex, or just uses someone else's needles. Yeah. I just thought of something um no., that's good. I was just thinking in the hospitals like how they say hazardous needles. Those could be infected also. Yeah.

I: So that's needles again.

S: Right.

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

S: What like do you mean like do I think they're risking <inaudible>? 

I: No, do you think um.. do you think they are too..

S: Too worried about it?

I: Yes, too worried, or too much talk about it. Too much research about it, too much.. 

S: Do I think they're.. OK. So what was the question?

I: Do you think people are making too big a deal about AIDS?
S: No. I mean the more like people are aware of the disease that they can prevent from getting it. And they know more about it, so that they can know more about it, so that they can be more educated about it, to prevent it, so..

I: Where have you learned about AIDS?

S: I'd say pamphlets, um, people talking about it or speakers like this was in Dallas, speakers in <inaudible>, which was our middle school, just people talking about it. Oh. We had one last year. We had a discussion about it in ninth grade. Um. Like how you can catch it and stuff. I can't even remember but we had a discussion about it. That's basically it.

I: Was this in health class?

S: Hm-mm.

I: Do you think - oh you say you think you don't remember, but I'll ask the question anyway - do you think they skip certain things about AIDS do you think they skip in health classes at school?

S: No, they um were getting kind of like somewhat personal, you know. Just they just would ask you questions like how you think you would catch it. Like wearing someone else's underwear or you know just basically questions you would think about and how you could catch it. And they told us, no you can't catch it that way. That's it.

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

I'm not sure. I don't know.

I: Do you feel safe?

S: Yeah, I feel safe.

I: Um. I there anything you'd like to know more about AIDS.

S: Yeah. Oh yeah. Like exactly what is it? You know like, what is the difference between HIV and AIDS? Yeah, I would like to know more about it. And if there are any more preventions from it. And other uses, you know, other ways you can get it. I'd like to know more about it.

I: I have some more specific questions about things and words people use. Um. AIDS is caused by a virus caused HIV. What does it tell you about it that HIV is a virus?

S: Not that I know of. I don't know. I don't know. I don't know anything about it. I think if I was told I'd remember. So I don't know.

I: Um.. Can you tell me more about condoms?

S: Like how you use them?

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

S: I guess the lady condoms. Um. Like how waidaminute. What do you want to know about that? Like how you can catch AIDS from 'm or..
I: Well I mean there are different kinds of condoms right?

S: Well, I only know two.

I: Which one of these do you think is the safes to use.. for protection against AIDS?

S: I don't think none of them would be. Either of them could break or bust. I don't think there is a safe condom. The only thing that could be safe is not to <inaudible> or not to have sex.

I: What do you think the term safe sex means?

S: Not having sex. Uh.. What was that word uh?

I: Safe sex.

S: No, no, the word for not having sex.

I: Abstinence.

S: Abstinence. I've been doing that for 2 years. I think that's the best way. I mean, because you don't have to worry about anything, because <inaudible>

I: What does IV drug use mean?

S: IV drug use..

I: Have you heard about it?

S: IV drugs?

I: Yes, or IV drug use.

S: Is that a needle?

I: Yes.

S: Is it like if you have an IV in the hospital? <inaudible> I don't know - and you put an infected needle in the IV? Ummm.. I don't know.

I: But you have heard about the term, right? Have you heard it before?

S: I don't think so. IV use, no.

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