First I have to tell you exactly what's going on. I have to do that. So, in this interview I will ask will 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 you can just tell me and we will skip it and will go on with to the next one. Ah, you can also ask me to stop the interview at any time. Like I just told you. So, I will ask you to talk about AIDS, and I will first ask you to tell me just things you know. Then I will ask you more questions about that. I may sometimes ask you the same question several times, but I do that to make sure that I understand what you are trying to say. I may not really understand it the first time. Please don't worry about whether your answer are right or not, because I want to know what you know and what you understand about it. So there are no right or wrong answers.

And you don't have to talk about yourself or your own behavior I want you know what you understand about it. Don't worry about that. No one from Auberle or from your home will hear this tape. This is only for the people from CMU. And your name won't be on it so it will not be able to trace it back. That's what basically it's about.

My first question is:

I: Please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: It can be passed through like, needles, and like mostly it has to be through blood and that you can get it from unprotected sex. And I learned, well school I learned that whenever you have it you lose "T" cells and that is what makes you die. That the disease doesn't make you die. The "T" cells do.

I: (Yes)

S: And people can have AIDS, they might not be able to know about it from seven years, or something like that. And I know like, I don't know that's all there is.

I: Ok, So you told me that it can be passed on from one person to another when you share needles?

S: Yeah

I: Can you tell me more about that?

S: Like drug needles, or if someone has AIDS and say they pierce their belly button or something and then give you the needle, then you can get AIDS like that.

I: Ah, does it matter how often a person shares a needles?

S: No, I don't think, I'm not sure I don't think.

I: Why do you think it doesn't matter?
S: Because, if the person has AIDS you won't have to use the needles like three or four times. They first time it gets it on it, it's like...

I: Yeah, and can you tell me how a person can prevent getting AIDS if they are sharing needles?

S: Sterilize the needle.

I: Yeah

S: And, that's about it, or get another one.

I: How can you sterilize them?

S: Alcohol, and burn it. That's about it, I don't know.

I: How well do you think sterilizing the needle would protect a person?

S: Well, sometimes I think it would but not all the time. Because maybe if you don't, if you don't clean it right or if you don't like watch out if it's cleaner or anything right, it might not work.

I: Yeah, Ah, what do you think may lead a person to share needles?

S: Like, like say a friend they have AIDS, and they go like having unprotected sex and they didn't know they partner didn't have it so they go to a friends and they wanted this cool idea to pierce their ears or you know, their stomach or something. That can just make them do it cause their friends, you know. Then they could just share it that way.

I: Yeah. Ah, so imagine a person goes out planning not to share a needles, what do you think may mess up their plans?

S: Maybe another friend saying if they don't enough [inaudible] to do something like you want to pierce your tongue. Or something like that.

I: Yeah, Hum, ok, ah, you talk about that it can be passed on through blood, can you think of any examples or can you explain it?

S: Like I don't know, I not sure that it's right, that's what I heard people, if some body has a cut and you have a cut and like say you cut, like your blood got through, their blood got through to like the cut or something somehow they could get AIDS. Like, like hum, you touching their blood and some how it gets it gets inside your body like if the have a [inaudible] blood cause they got cut and you like touched it or tried to clean it up and it gets inside of your body somehow. And that's about it that I know.

I: But your not sure about it.
S: (No)

I: Hum, ah, ok does it matter how often that happens if they touch someone's blood or,

S: (No) I don't think so. No I don't

I: Why?

S: Cause like whenever you get AIDS the virus is all through you blood and..

I: (Yes)

S: And no matter what part of the blood you touch it's usually like all through it so. Say if hum, somebody touches the blood it's probably going to be in that part. So.

I: (Yes) Is there a way that some one can prevent ah, getting AIDS if they are touching blood, or someone's blood?

S: I don't know, if the were gloves.

I: Yeah, that could be.

S: Or not touch it at all or...use a mop.

I: Yeah, ah, ah. Ok so how well do you think that would protect a person if they would ah, not touch at all would of course protect them. Oh, if they wear gloves for example, would that be safe?

S: Gloves would work. Like if they didn't have a cut on their hand if like, like say they were the glove was ripped and you had a cut on your hand, that wouldn't work but if like you didn't have no cuts and stuff and you might not get it like if you don't have no cuts on your hand or no way to put it inside. Except maybe a [inaudible] and hum you use gloves, then I don't think, there's nothing wrong with that. I mean I don't think you can get it that way.

I: Ok, ah, what do you think may lead a person to ah, to touch someone's cuts or blood or?

S: Somebody like maybe in a club or like like, blood brothers or something,

I: Yeah

S: Or like blood sisters, or like maybe if a person could accidently touch it like, say it's on their knee and they fall and they scrape their hands and then touch their knee or maybe it's like somebody be like uh, look at my cut, and somebody like uh that's gross and then they touch it.

I: Yeah, ah, any other things.

S: No
I: Ok, ah, ok. Hum, you also said that AIDS could be passed on from one person to other if people had unprotected sex. Can you tell me more about that?

S: Like they don't use condoms or like, like say if the condom breaks or .....that's all I know right now.

I: Yeah. Hum, ok, does it matter ah, how often a person has unprotected sex?

S: No, ah, I think the first time, yeah, that's what I always heard. The first time you do it, the time that you get, if the person has it. It would be weird if you didn't if the person has AIDS and you didn't get it.

I: It would be weird?

S: Yeah

I: Yeah

S: That's all I know.

I: Ok, hum, can you tell me how a person can prevent getting AIDS if they are having sex?

S: Only the way I know is using a condom or that's the only way I think.

I: Ok. Were you thinking about something else or?

S: I was trying to think if that, I can't think of anything else.

I: Ok, Hum, how well do you think condoms would protect a person from getting AIDS?

S: ....Hum, it probably helps a lot, but like, like I say if it breaks then you know, but

I: Yeah

S: But sometime, but most of the time it probably won't do that.
If you get the right kind.

I: What is the right kind?

S: Latex, yeah latex.

I: Ah, what do you think may lead a person to have unprotected sex?

S: Like if they, they really know their partner if they think they really know their partner, but like and then if they they known them all there lives in second grade..
I: (yes)

S: And or and then they just never thought that this person would ever have AIDS. Or the person has AIDS don't know that they have AIDS yet and they might say I don't have AIDS, I don't have AIDS, cause they have a partner and she'll probably be like oh, I can believe you go on. And then like if the person...I don't know. I had something in my head I forgot.

I: Well, you already mentioned a little... Hum, do you want me to repeat the question was that it or?

S: No

I: You just forgot what, ok. Ah, imagine a person goes out planning not to have unprotected sex, but ah, what do you think may mess up these plans?

S: They like get drunk or something. Or then they don't know what is going on or like they get so drunk that they like all, flirting a lot.

I: Yeah

S: And like I don't know if like you know a boyfriends going out and they get a little to far or something like making out and they start in it. Or, hum....or just like they didn't plan to do it but you know they would you know.

I: Yeah

S: If, if it came up and say your boyfriend is like, like planned it or something.

I: Hum, you mentioned, if they drink. Ah, can you tell me more what effect alcohol has on people? Can you tell me more about that?

S: Hum, like, like it ah, I don't know make them so whacked out they don't even know what's going on so they'll do anything. And then by the time they wake up they don't even know what's even going on and they don't even know they that wouldn't help them cause they probably wouldn't of even thought of asking if the person had AIDS cause they were so drunk off their mind. And then they probably, they probably really didn't care either cause they were so drunk.

I: Yeah. Hum do you think hum, it makes much of a difference if a person drinks a little bit everyday or a lot every weekend?

S: I think a lot. I think it's a difference a lot cause if they are not drunk then they would have a sense to like to ask or or go get a test and make sure your partner get's a test or something or make sure that you are protected. But if your drunk you might not even be thinking about that stuff.
I: Hum. Yeah that's true. Hum does it matter ah, how often a person is exposed to the AIDS virus?

S: Ah, I think just the first time, first time is like the last time, or it's the only time you get it really if like, if that person definitely has AIDS then if you have unprotected sex with them then you, you definitely have it.

I: Yeah

S: That's always what I have heard so. And that's what seems to be happening.

I: But they might have it?

S: That's weird, I never

I: I mean if the other person doesn't have it?

S: Oh, then if they other person doesn't have it then they won't get it.

I: Ok, I'm sorry. Ah, ok, can you tell me what happens when a person get's infected with the AIDS virus?

S: Hum, well they could live with it for a little bit and not even, not no symptoms come up and nothing. But like after awhile they start to lose their T cells and then they won't be able to fight their other, their other germs and they'll start getting like sicknesses that their cells can't fight off and then they get real sick and they'll have to go to the hospital be on like tubes and stuff. And like, like if they, if the cells does fight that one sickness they'll just keep getting another sickness after another. And then they'll just until like they can't take it no more and then the person dies.

I: Yeah. So hum, can you tell me what happens when a person develops AIDS?

S: Like what do you mean?

I: Well, you sort of. Ah, you talk but hum, when they get the disease AIDS ah,...well ok forget, you just explained. Hum, can you tell me more about the time between when a person get's the AIDS-virus and when they get AIDS?

S: Well, like HIV?

I: (Yes)

S: Well, HIV like Magic Johnson he's living with it and I don't, like he still is on TV and stuff and haven't seen a change in him so far, like no weight lose or hair lose or nothing like that. So they could live with it but, I'm not sure, I'm not sure if like that get like, I'm not sure if about HIV as much I know AIDS. But I'm not sure if they get like what do you call the hair loss and stuff so, until they, not until they get AIDS, I think, I'm not sure though.
I: (Yes) Can you tell me what HIV is? Can you tell, do you know what it is?

S: Human, no human, no, I can't say the word, effiec, deficiency virus or.

I: Yeah

S: Something like that

I: Yeah, Hum, actually it is that. Hum do you know how long it takes for a person with HIV to develop AIDS?

S: I'm not sure. They said in school, like they like I think it's something like it could take anything, anything like one to like over ten years to find out they have AIDS, or it to form into AIDS. It can take a long time.

I: Ah, does it take longer for some people then for others?

S: Yeah, like some people, some people can get HIV and like two years later go into AIDS. And other people can wait like five years until they get AIDS. It just depends like, I guess it depends on how your body is or something.

I: (Yes)

S: I'm not sure about that one.

I: What do you mean how your body is?

S: Like, I'm not sure. Like if your body was like, like if you're in good health or something, it might take awhile, but if you're like, say you have asthma or you're always getting sick, it might take less cause you, all your blood cells have to work hard on fighting the sickness and asthma and stuff and it won't have time like fighting the virus so. Then they get AIDS faster.

I: Ah, do you know how some one can learn whether they have the AIDS virus?

S: Hum, go in the hospital and getting tested.

I: Do you know what the test test for? How it works?

S: If it's positive you have HIV or AIDS. And if it's negative you don't.

I: (Yes)

S: But they told me that the test might be wrong in six months you have to keep on going to make sure it's right. So
I: (Yes)

S: Cause the first time you get it it might come up wrong because, I forget why they said. And but if you keep on going like another six months after that it probably would come up right. So, you just have to keep getting it check.

I: Yeah, but you're not sure why it come out wrong the first time?

S: Ah, that's what they told me. I'm not, I think like cause you have to wait while for the test to come out right or something, I'm not sure.

I: But your not sure?

S: (No)

I: Ok, Hum. Why do you think someone would decide to be tested?

S: If they had unprotected sex and like they didn't realize like their partner was like, they trusted the partner but, they found their partner maybe with another partner or and they didn't want to trust them no more that they though they might of been lying. And they would go back and get a test. Or say like if they were drunk they could hum, they didn't know what happened and they like they know who'd they been with but they don't trust them at all either and they could have went get a test. Or like, if their partner didn't want to tell them that they were having sex but it just comes out and tells them, then they go get tested.

I: Yeah. Ah, what would make you think a person has HIV or the AIDS virus?

S: Ah, I saw on Philadelphia, how he gets bumps on his head. Like they might get like, like a bruise or something you could tell. Like just all of the sudden or like some people when they have AIDS they might just like want to be along or something, and not really want to be involved with anybody like pray they like once they find out they'll like wouldn't be friend or any thing like that. Or just like, what was the question again?

I: What would make you think that a person has HIV or the AIDS virus?

S: ...Those are the only ways that I could think of.

I: Ok. Ah, what kinds of people do you think have a lot to worry from HIV?

S: Like, I think, like mostly things like that happen mostly through like, hum, homosexuals, or like people that have more than one partner. Or just people who are like maybe kids who get it through parents doing drugs or having sex or something. And hum, or or they get if from sharing needles?

I: What do you mean from their parents, how?
S: From like, like if the father didn't know they had HIV and he went and he got married like he had HIV and he was living with it for a couple years, he didn't know. And he went and got married and they had a kid and they can get it that way and the father went tested after they had the kid and found out he had AIDS and then tested the kid to see if it had AIDS and then that might be a way.

I: Yeah. Ah, when do you think people can stop worrying about AIDS at all?

S: Whenever they ah, really like most people like 30 don't get usually younger people do. When they are ever like pretty older much and they are settled down with a partner that they know won't be like cheating and won't and that they trust and they get hum, if they use protection or get tested every six months then those kinds of people.

I: Hum, do you think people are making too big a deal of AIDS?

S: Not really, I think they ought make a big deal about it cause lots of kids don't even think about it, they don't even think about it. They'll just if they see a guy that's cute they'll just do anything but they don't really think about it.

I: Yeah. Ah, where have you learned about AIDS?

S: Mostly in school, but I've learned like a lot, like watching MTV or.

I: MTV?
S: Yeah, or HBO specials and or like I first found out about it, I didn't even know what it was until Magic Johnson came on TV and saying he had AIDS and then I started hearing whole bunch of sports player that were dying cause of AIDS. And then they just like starting bringing it up. Like cause and then I would see all these People's magazines these doctors trying to find cures and that's mostly where I learned about it.

I: Do you think they skip things about AIDS in health class at school?

S: Yeah, I think, like they like most of the teachers they don't, they just like usually just skip a whole bunch of stuff to get through with the chapter.

I: Yeah

S: So

I: Are there specific things that they skip or?

S: Most of the time, they don't really talk about how like maybe like how the T cells ruin other cells and stuff. I had to learn that on a film strip hum, I think it was here, no it wasn't here, I, I forget really, but it wasn't in school. And then, or they just like skip the stuff that you need to learn, they just say like what it is. They be like say it was human deficiency, or then they just go along with and they just hum, they say just the stuff that you already know like AIDS you can get it
through sex and you get it through needles but they really don't talk about the like that stuff that it
does inside you body.

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

S: Pretty much but I think I'll learned more. But I think I know pretty much a lot.

I: Is there anything you would like more about it?

S: Just really what like I don't know, like what it does like I said that they don't teach like when
you get it like what the process is like how it goes. And I know, the only thing I know really is that
you lose T cells and it doesn't [inaudible] you get sick and stuff. And your cells can't fight off your
sickness and you can die from even pneumonia or like, or like ah the cold or something.

I: Ok, I have some questions about terms that people use, when they talk about AIDS. Do you
know what HIV is?

S: I know what it stands for but I like, well, I know it stands for humneinian deficiency virus, and I
know that humono means, I mean it like contagious and you can pass it among generation and the
virus part is cause it is a virus. And deficiency, I'm not sure what that word means. That's all I
know tough. About it really.

I: Ah, ok, HIV is a virus, hum knowing that it is a virus, does it give you any more information
about HIV?

S: Not really, cause I know, I know a cold is a virus of germs and I know that like pneumonia is a
virus too, but it don't give me that much information [inaudible]. I know it is a illness but you can
die from pneumonia but you can't die from HIV. You can die from the disease but. You get it
cause of T cells.

I: Yeah. Ah, can you tell me more about condoms?

S: Condoms. Latex or latex I'm not sure how - you use 'm for sex. That's all I know.

I: Do you know which ones are the safest to use for protection against AIDS?

S: They say latex is because the ones that are made out of the animal hide and stuff like that,
they're just like human skin and they have pours, so it can go through. And so they ain't that right
and then the is another kind I forget what it's made out of but they break really easy. I think it was
the animal skin, but I'm not sure which one breaks real easy. So they say the best one is like latex
ones.

I: Ah, what else do condoms protect you against?

S: Like they don't want to have babies, or say I don't know if they another disease besides AIDS
that's a sexually transmitted.
I: Ah, have you heard of IV drug use?

S: (No)

I: No

S: Well, I've heard of it like but I don't know what it is. Like I've heard it a couple times but I didn't pay no attention to it.

I: Ok. Ah, do you think needles can be cleaned?

S: I'm not sure but like it would probably take awhile to like really really really clean them, I don't think that you can really clean them to be perfect and that you can never get the disease if you clean them so good. But every once in awhile you could probably clean them so that.

I: Ok