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 questions more than once, I do this to make sure that you tell me everything you know and that I understand everything that you say.

Please don't worry about whether you answer or right or not, just tell me everything that comes to mind. You don't have to talk about yourself or your behavior. Only the project team, the research project will hear the tape, and we will not be sharing or reporting to the people hear what you have said.

My question is:

I: Please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: Should I just tell you what I know?

I: um hmm (meaning yes)

S: I know you get AIDS through sex. It's a sexually transmitted disease. Or it can be through blood transfusions. It is very deadly. It's there is no cure for it. Um..anybody can get it you don't have to be homosexual, you can be, or bisexual, you can be heterosexual you can still get it. You don't get it through casual contact. I know that there are three stages. I'm not sure what the three stages are but I know there's three. And it breaks down your immune system, or yeah your immune system, and it makes you so you can't fight off disease's real well and it just makes you really sick.

I: Anything else?

S: Um... no not really.

I: O. K. Can you tell me more about how AIDS is passed on from one person to another? How does AIDS spread?

S: It is spread by, spread by through sex like if you don't wear a condom through sex, sex fluids, what do you call those sexual fluids or something. Like your bodily fluids. And it can be passed through any kind of sex it doesn't just have to be regular intercourse. It can be any other kind. Um... that's all I know.

I: You told me that AIDS is passed on when you have sex. Can you tell more about that?

S: All I know is that you get it cause you don't protect yourself like if you don't wear a condom, if you don't take precautions and talk about it, you know, if you just don't wear condoms you get it.
I: You also told that AIDS can be passed on by blood transfusions. Can you tell me a little bit more about that?

S: I don't know how, I just know you can get it through blood transfusions, I guess, I don't know. I just know you can get it.

I: What do you mean when you talk about the immune system?

S: Your immune system it's the system in your body that helps you fight diseases, and when you get AIDS it breaks down your immune system so you it doesn't you produce enough a certain type of blood type, I think they are called P blood cells or T blood cells, I'm not sure. And it helps make you where you are a lot weaker and you just can't fight them off. Really, it just breaks down your system to fight off disease.

I: Does it matter how often a person may have a blood transfusion or have sex?

S: Does it matter, what do you mean, when you have AIDS or?

I: Just in terms in the risk of getting AIDS? Does it matter how often a person?

S: To me I don't think it matters. I just think that you have to know everything that you're, what you're doing, you have to use your head, you don't use you know, you don't play stupid when you are having sex, you protect yourself. That's what I think about it. And you do, with the blood transfusion, I really don't know how they are caused or anything but, you just you know, you learn more about it so you can prepare yourself. You know, be precautious.

I: O. K. Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting AIDS. If they are having sex or getting a blood transfusions?

S: Through sex, I would just, I'd say wear a condom or you know, do it, protect yourself, have your partner have an AIDS test or something. I mean it's not that bad to do that. A blood transfusion, I really don't know what you can do, I don't know what they are caused from. Or how to do it.

I: How well do you think that this would really protect a person from getting AIDS. Like if they you know had a blood test or used a condom?

S: I think it would help them a lot, because it's you know what I mean, it's like, you have a 50/50 chance really, that's they way I look at it. If you take precautions and you're more careful then that's going to help you a lot more. That's going to make yours higher than a 50/50 chance.

I: So you think it's a 50/50 chance of getting AIDS?

S: That's what I think, if you don't protect yourself you have a 50/50 chance. But if you do take precautions, and you do do the stuff you need to do to you know make sure, to make sure it more
less possible that you can get AIDS, then you might have an higher percentage in not getting AIDS. You know what I mean? A better chance.

I: What do you think may lead a person to, to have sex or to get a blood transfusion?

S: A blood transfusion, I guess would be if you have something wrong and you needed blood. But with sex, there a bunch of different reasons. You could be drunk or you could be high or something, and not be yourself, you that could lead to have it you know, have sex. Or maybe you think you really do care about somebody and you have sex. That could lead you to it. It really all depends on the circumstances.

I: Imagine a person a goes out planning not to have sex, or to get a blood transfusion, ah what do you think may mess up their plans?

S: Them getting really sick and needing blood for a certain reason. Or them doing something and like maybe drinking too much or doing drugs could, what do you call that, like disillusion your um.. what you want like when you have, you know you don't want to have sex, but doing drugs and that could change that, cause it could like make it a little hazy for you, if you don't know what your doing.

I: What effect does alcohol have on people?

S: It doesn't let people know, I mean it changes the way people look at things. How people think. How people react. How you react and stuff. That's really what it does and make you slower, like you do things you wouldn't do normally. It just changes you.

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

S: I think it does. Because, say your at a party right, and your not drinking. Then you wouldn't rush and have sex with somebody you didn't know. Right and then if you were at a party and you were drinking, and you rushed to have sex with somebody because you were drunk. You know, that's how I feel.

I: Is the risk different for people how drink a little bit everyday, compared to people who drink a lot every weekend?

S: I don't think that it's a difference. I mean I seriously don't because if you drink no matter how much you drink, it still can make make your thing a little hazy so you don't know what you are doing no matter what, if you drink just a little bit everyday, or if you drink a lot on the weekend. You can still do things you don't mean to do.

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

S: Yes, I think it does.

I: Can you tell me what happens when a person gets infected with the AIDS virus?
S: Do I tell you what happens to them, or?

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

S: Their immune system break down. They get really sick. You just, I don't, you just get real sick.

I: Can you tell me what happens, ah, when a persons develops AIDS?

S: Isn't AIDS the last stage, it goes, it goes works itself up and AIDS is the last thing after awhile, after you have HIV?

I: Um hmm (meaning Yes)

S: Um... I think it's, I think you start to, you gradually start to get sicker and sicker to the point where you just gradually end up dying. That's the way I look at it because, it after awhile it will kill you, right.. so... that's what I feel. That after while you just end up dying.

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

S: Getting an AIDS test done every 6 months or so.

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

S: Um.. I think that the test, I'm not sure, I haven't really talked about AIDS in awhile. But I think it test for if you have bacteria or something, I don't know where they find it, but if it's like if you have bacteria or not. And that's like in your immune system, if you have bacteria or not. A certain kind.

I: Why would someone decide to be tested?

S: Maybe your scared that you put yourself at risk. Or maybe you just want to know, you never know, you could get it any kind of way. Maybe the doctors wasn't clean enough and you know, different needles. You just get it, just be precautious.

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

S: I don't know, you really can't tell. You can't tell, they look just like you and me. They don't look any different. They don't change colors. They look the same, you can't tell.

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

S: Um..I guess the people who are having sex. Because, you put yourself at risk having sex. So I guess it would really be them.

I: When can people stop worrying about AIDS?
S: You can't, unless you don't have blood transfusion and um.. you monogamy
I: Monogamy is when you have one partner.
S: Or that, or
I: Being celibate, meaning not having sex.
S: Yeah, and you really can't tell if your are you just have one partner. You never know, you
might pledge it but he might not.
I: Do you think people are making to big of deal of AIDS?
S: No, I don't think they are making a big enough deal of it.
I: Why is that?
S: Because, not enough, everybody thinks that it's joke. Well not everybody, some people think
it's a joke and think well it won't happen to me. But it can happen to you and nobody thinks about
it until to late. And I think they should, I don't know I think they should start teaching it younger. I
mean, I didn't learn about AIDS until I was in the 5th grade. I think that, I would of like to learn it
when I was younger. Because teaching a kid when ever since it starts to grow up, you know, they'll
get more use to use and it will know about it. And they will think more about it.
I: Where have you learn about AIDS?
S: Um.. I learned through, I learned through because my DAD has AIDS. And that's how I
learned, because my DAD got AIDS through sex.
I: Sorry to hear that.
S: Well he has had it since I was seven. That's how I know a lot about the sex part but the
transfusion part, I don't know.
I: What things do they skip about AIDS in health classes at school.
S: They really, you know they stress a lot about the sex, but they don't talk about, that's how I don't
know about the blood transfusions. They don't talk about that. I don't know. They just, they really
don't talk about it much at all. If they do, they just say, "If you are going to have sex wear a
condom" Or "It's best just to not even have sex" I think that they should stress it more in both.
Either any way you can get it. That is what I think.
I: Do you think you know enough about AIDS to protect yourself from it?
S: I think I do, but you never know enough. You know, I mean, there is always stuff that I need to
learn. And everything, but I think I know enough to keep myself safe.
I: Is there anything more you would like to know about AIDS?

S: Yeah, just name it. I mean I just want to know about it in general. I just, I mean I know a lot about it but I want to know more I want to know how can you get it through blood transfusions. How is it possible. Where did it come from. I want to know that kind of stuff.

I: AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV. What does that tell you about it?

S: I don't know, I don't understand that one. I'm confused.

I: Does knowing that AIDS is cause by a virus give you any information about it, does it tell you anything about AIDS as a disease.

S: Not really, I don't think it does.

I: What does safe sex mean?

S: Taking precautions, protecting yourself. Using condoms, anything, something that can help you, where it be a girl or guy. You know, or have your partner have an AIDS test. I mean that's really right there, that's the biggest thing that's going to keep you safe. Or not even having sex.

I: Can you tell me more about condoms, like what are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?

S: Latex condom with Milnoximil 9.

I: What else do condoms protected you against?

S: STD's and kind of sexual transmitted disease. They really yeah.

I: What does IV drug use mean?

S: It's when you use drugs to, and you just like inject something into your arm, right, yeah, when you inject something into your arm. Whether it's legal or illegal.

I: Do you think needles can be cleaned?

S: Yeah, but I think the best way to clean them is if you use like clorox or water. And you do that a bunch of times, but I still think that it's not safe. Cause you never know.

I: Do you think your responses to the questions that I asked you would be different if a female were asking you these questions.

S: No