Number 49

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 everything you know and that I understand everything you say. Please don't worry about whether your 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 any other researcher on this project. We will not be reporting to the people here what you said.

My first question is:

I: Please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: I know that it is easier, it's easier a man to give it to another man then a women give it to a man. And I know that hum, you can only get it through sexual contact like intercourse, it's not very like to get it through like hum, or blood transfusion not like they get it through kissing or like ah like ah someone bleeding and getting it on you. It's like mostly sexual contact. What else is there about it...

I: Take your time.

S: I'm trying to think I know the subject on AIDS.

I: Hum, can you tell me more about how AIDS is passed from one person to another, how it is spread?

S: I know, I know, just mostly sexual contact. Mostly intercourse. It's like, I heard you can't you can't get it from kissing someone using some one else's like silverware or something like that, drinking out of their cup. I know it's like mostly intercourse. Or like a doctor, I was watching Oprah one time, and he poked himself with a needle accidently then when an AIDS patient or he accidently poked himself so they can get it like that accidently.

I: (Yes)

S: Just most like that.

I: Ok. Anything else?

S: Can't you, can't you get it like hum if someone has an open sore and you have the same open sore and you just touch, touch together, can you get it like that, and I know you can't get it like from mosquitos passing blood. Cause like once it gets out of your body it like dies. That's about it.

I: Ok, that's good. Ok, hum, you told me that AIDS is passed on when you have sex or through needles. Can you tell me any more about that?

S: Through needles?
I: (Yes)

S: Like hum, like drug dealers, how that how you get AIDS. If they use the same needle, you shouldn't share a needle with someone because hum, because if, if it's in you and you have AIDS, then there is still needle and that blood and they get and you, and someone else uses it and your blood, that blood get's in their blood, you might get AIDS. That's all there is to know about getting needle with, get AIDS with a needle?

I: Ok, Hum what about through sexual activity. Can you tell me and more about how AIDS is passed on with sexual activity?

S: Hum, I hear its just intercourse, not kissing or like salvia to saliva, I heard it's just intercourse.

I: (Yes)

S: And no it's not oral sex, it's just straight up intercourse.

I: Ok

S: And it's usually a man giving it to another man. Then ah, it's harder for a woman to give it to a man, than it is for a man to give it to a woman.

I: Ok, do you know why that is or what the reason is there?

S: I never new that.

I: Ok

S: Probably cause hum,...probably if the man has it the man is the one who ejaculates in a woman, so that's what it probably is.

I: (Yes)

S: It's probably that. Cause a women doesn't ejaculate into a man, a man does it to her, so that's why it's probably easier for a man to give it to a women.

I: Ok, hum, does it matter how often a person uses a needle or has sex?

S: Yes it does, it doesn't matter how much, it just depends on how many people. How many people he shares a needle with, how many people he has sex with cause it's a better chance of ah, knowing somebody who does have it. The more people, if you have one partner, then they stay faithful to you and you stay faithful to them, then neither one of you has AIDS. Then I can't see how you are going to get AIDS.

I: (Yes)

S: Unless you are with a lot of people. And you are eventually going to catch someone with AIDS.

I: (Yes) Imagine that a person has say sex one time, or uses someone else's needles one time, how would a person risk of getting AIDS ah, be affected if they you know, had sex more often or use someone else's needle more often?
S: More often?
I: (Yes)

S: Because the more you do it the better chances, just chances.
I: (Yes)

S: A higher percentage, more it happens the more likely you are going to get it. The less you do it the less likely it's going to happen. That's all it is.

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

S: There is no way you can prevent sharing needles. I mean, prevent getting AIDS through a needle. There is no safe way to do it. But hum, through sex you can use a condom to protect yourself.

I: Ok, How well do you think that ah, using a condom would really protect a person from getting AIDS?

S: I heard it's not very well, it's not fool proof. I heard I can't remember the percentage I heard, but I heard hum the condom has like has little holes in it that hum, anything can get through.

I: (Yes)

S: So that why a woman can get pregnant even though you use a condom sometimes. You can get AIDS, it can go through the condom, so it's not fool proof. But it's, I rather do that then nothing else. Then go bare.

I: (Yes) What do you think may lead a person to, have sex or share needle?

S: Well a needle cause, he's a fiend and drug fiend they don't care what happens with needles, all they care about is getting their drugs, or they won't take their time to get get another needle load that up, they just start shooting it back and forth. They are not worried about what's going to happen. They are just worry about getting their drug. And what's the other one?

I: Ah, say like having unprotected sex?

S: Oh, probably cause like hum, people tell me they like the feeling better, but hum, without the condom so that probably the reason behind that. Or they just might not have one on them.

I: Ok. Imagine that a person goes out planning not to share needles or not to have unprotected sex. What do you think may mess up their plans not to do these things?

S: If hum, if the condom broke or, or if they just, if they just didn't want to use it. And hum, with the needle, I they each have their own needle, they don't needle to share? If they each have their own needle?
I: Well, if let's say maybe you know they just, they planned that they weren't going to share their own needle for whatever reason it might be that they had their own needles or whatever. What do you think may mess up their plans.

S: Someone lost theirs or, maybe somebody had some drugs in their needle and they use it all.

I: (Yes)

S: And someone else's used it, cause I wouldn't understand that why if they brought their own why they wouldn't use it.

I: (Yes) Ok, ah, what effect does alcohol have on people?

S: Well, people drink around they, see they when they, after they drink they have, they could care less about what they do, or what's going to happen to them. So, you figure if you drink they don't care, they can just easily catch AIDS cause they'll have sex with everyone. Cause they really don't, they don't have any what's that. What do you call that, they don't have any hum, ah I forget, what's the word that I am looking for. They just don't care when they are drinking they don't care what happens.

I: Self control maybe?

S: Yeah, they, they don't have any morals. They don't.

I: (Yes) Ok, does drinking make much of a difference in a person risk of getting AIDS?

S: I think it does cause it like I say, if you drink your morals just go down and everything. You don't care about anything else, cause you can't think right, you can't think straight so you'll do, you'll do a lot of things that you wouldn't do if you weren't drunk. So it's a better chances to get AIDS. Messin' with someone you shouldn't.

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

S: I think people who drink a little bit everyday aren't likely to be drunk so, they are a lot in control. But a person who drinks on the weekends a lot will probably be drunk and out of control and do those things.

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

S: Like if they have a friend with AIDS that they are with a lot?

I: (Yes)

S: As long they are not having sexual intercourse with them I don't see, I don't think there is much of a difference.

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

S: I know, I hear that it's like hum, it kills like your immune system slowly and you can feel it like you can get sick, you can be sick and then a couple years you won't feel anything, you'd be like a normal person. Heard it's like an off and on thing you can feel like you're
not even sick sometimes. But in the end it's going to break down your immune system and kill you.

I: Ok, can you tell me when a person develops AIDS? When a person develops AIDS?

S: From HIV? I don't have the slightest idea what's the difference. I just know it's more serious when you, someone say they have AIDS, I know that they are passed HIV, so it must be, it must be more deadlier.

I: (Yes) Ok, hum, can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets AIDS and when he or she or well, when a person gets HIV and he or she gets AIDS?

S: Can I what, tell the difference?

I: Yeah, can you tell me more about that time between when a person gets HIV and when they actually get AIDS?

S: I just know they get sick. We hum, in school we don't really hear about that kind of stuff. Like with, like a big difference when having HIV and having AIDS. They just, I just know AIDS is like the last stage.

I: (Yes)

S: But they don't really say like, what happens between that. They just say you get sick off and on and you can feel it. You'd be sick, you can not be sick for like a couple years and all of a sudden just feel sick. And get weaker and weaker. They don't really talk about like in between. I don't know, we never went that deep.

I: Ok. Hum, how can someone learn whether he or she has AIDS?

S: Take a test, go to the hospital, take test. Cause ah, I heard you, you can be sick for a couple years and not know it so, best way hum, take a test.

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

S: I think it counts what the white cells, is that what it does? I don't know. Does it count cells, some kind of cells or something.

I: You don't know?

S: No I don't. Cause isn't it like the white cells, or something, or T cells, something that dies slowly.

I: (Yes)

S: I don't know. I just don't know.

I: Ah, why do you think someone would decide to be tested?

S: Cause hum, you usually, when you mess around with someone, you usually know what kind of reputation they have. And you know how many, you usually know how many people they have been with. And that they have a better chance of having it which means you have a better chance of getting off of them. So it depends on how many people, what kind a of people you mess around with, why you would take this test.
I: Ah, what would make you think that a person has AIDS?

S: Loss of weight....that's all I know. I know just lost of weight. And they can just look real, they can look sick. And I heard that they can have sores all over their bodies and stuff like that. They just get weaker and weaker.

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

S: People who hum, people who sleep around a lot. Or hum, gay's hum, ....drug fiends. Those kinds of people.

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

S: When they find a cure for it. People stop spreading it cause this is getting worse.

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

S: No, cause hum, no cause you can be a virgin one day, and be the perfect little child, and then mess around one night and get it. So you can't play around with it.

I: Where have you learn about AIDS?

S: Through school.

I: Any where else?

S: That all, well you see commercials about it and you know, watch out, but start from like school.

I: (Yes) What things do they skip about AIDS in health classes at school?

S: The stages, like you brought up about, between HIV and AIDS. Like what's the real big difference between them. They just say there is a difference but they don't really tell you what it is.

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

S: Yes, to protect yourself from it, all you need to know is how you get it and how not to get it and I know that.

I: Ok, is there anything more you would like to know about AIDS?

S: ....I just would like to know if there is another way you can get it. That's the only thing that I want to know about it. I don't want to hear about how sick you get and how, I don't want to hear that kinds of stuff, I just want to hear how you can prevent it. From getting it.

I: Ok, AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV, what does that tell you about AIDS?

S: I don't know any idea about that question.

I: Ok, what does safe sex mean?

S: Um, protected sex, use a condom?
I: What are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?

S: I couldn't tell you the difference in condoms. I just know, some of my friends say the they use two condoms. They just put on two or something like that. But they don't really pick a brand that is better. Or something, they'll just say use two condoms. Like she's dirty I'll use two condoms, that's what you hear. You never hear a brand, I'll use this brand, you just hear how many you going to use.

I: What else do condoms protect you against?

S: Pregnancies, std's.

I: Ok, What does IV drug use mean?

S: Using a drug with a needle. Is that what it is?

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

S: If if only you are using it. It's brand new and just you are using it, then that's the only way it can be cleaned. It's never been used before and it's just you. But it's been through anyone else, it's not clean.

I: Ok