In this interview I'm going to ask you to talk about AIDS. I want you to know that you don't have to answer all of my questions. If you don't want to answer a question just let me know and I will go on to the next one. You can also ask me to stop the interview at anytime. In this interview you will be asked to talk about everything you know about AIDS. I'll 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 and I do that to make sure you tell me everything you know and that I understand what you are trying to tell me. Please don't worry about whether you answers are right or not. just tell me everything that comes to mind. And you don't have to talk about yourself or your behavior and no one else will here the tape but the people working on the project. And I am not going to report back here about what you tell me. And your name isn't going to be one the tape or on anything that you know, we have. It won't be connected with the information that you give us.

My first question is:

I: Please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: Well, hum, it's a sexually transmitted disease that can be gotten through sex or intravenous drugs or hum, blood transfusions, or anything like that. You can't get it from kissing or anything like that. Hum, basically anybody is at risk. Hum, mostly homosexual men but now it is spreading more to the teenagers and that's.

I: Ok. You mentioned several ways about how the AIDS virus can be passed from one person to another. Do you know of any other ways?

S: ....I guess maybe if one person had a, I don't know really if you could get it from if one person had a cut and you did too, but. Cause the exposure to the air I thought kills it so I don't know about that, I guess.

I: Well, how about if we talk about an open cut first. Can you tell me a little bit more in detail like how that may happen. If one person has a cut.

S: If, like one person's cut comes in direct contact with the other person's and the blood is, hum, what's the right word. Is.

I: You can just describe it.

S: Hum, like get passed on to the other person and like the antibodies or what ever.

I: Ok

S: Goes into the other body. I guess.

I: Ok. Hum, would it matter how often a person, this is kind of weird, but hum, would it matter how often a person had their open cut in contact with another person's open cut?

S: No. Just I guess, just the immediate trans, what is the word I'm looking for. The transfer of the blood.

I: Ok. Well, hum, imagine that a person had an open cut and they ah, had touched some else's open cut once. Hum, how would their risk of getting the AIDS virus be affected if they had an
open cut and touched someone else's open cut many times?

S: ..... 

I: So in other words.

S: Hum. I guess it would just be like, well of course it would be a greater risk cause not every every hum, every time you come in contact with it that you'll get it. So I guess there is a greater chance then.

I: Ok

S: Come in contact with it more.

I: Hum. Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting the AIDS virus if they have a open cut and have the chance to come in contact with someone else's open cut.

S: (Laughter) Ah

I: What could they do to prevent that?

S: If it is on their hand they could wear a rubber glove. If they are going to aid somebody, or say anything like that.

I: How well do you think like a rubber glove would really protect a person from getting the AIDS virus?

S: I guess not real well, because there would be like little openings in the glove that the hum, virus can go through.

I: Ok.

S: I don't know. I never really thought about that.

I: Ok. Hum, what do you think may lead a person to, that has an open cut to come in contact with some else's open cut? Like what would make it more likely that a person with a cut would come in contact with someone else with an open cut?

S: Like what situation?

I: Yeah

S: Just like if a coach, or like say a basketball team goes to aid one of his player's who got cut in a game. And then now I guess it's a law that they have to go get the gloves before they can provide the service to that individual. I guess

I: Ok. Hum, let's talk about blood transfusions then.

S: Ok

I: Can you tell me more about how the AIDS virus is passed on when a person gets a blood transfusion?

S: Well, I guess the blood is tested when it's donated. But they said there is a chance that like one in I don't know how many, there's a chance that it can still be passed on through like the, it can go
through undetected and then the blood can be transfused into the individual who needs it.

I: Ok

S: Then they would get the AIDS that way.

I: Ok Can you tell me why it, why the hum, it may not be detected in the blood?

S: Hum. The incubation period like some people have it but don't know it. And then it shows up later. Like you are suppose to get checked every six months or so.

I: Ok

S: And, cause it takes so long for it to start to show up.

I: Ok, would it matter how often a person got a blood transfusion?

S: To get AIDS?

I: Yes

S: Well, the risk is there that the greater, there's a greater risk that the blood that they get will be infected. There's more of a chance that it could be, like if you get one time it might not be, but like may the fifth time you might get that one vial that has the AIDS virus in it.

I: Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting the AIDS virus if they are getting a blood transfusion?

S: They can donate their own blood before they go in for surgery.

I: Ok. And how well do you think that would really protect a person from getting the AIDS virus?

S: If they don't have it then they're obviously not going to give it to themselves. So.

I: And what do you think may lead a person to having to get a blood transfusion?

S: If they are a hemophiliac.

I: We're not worried about pronunciation.

S: Hum, or if they are just going in for like elective surgery and they know they are going in for it and they can supply the blood themselves before hand.

I: Ok Hum, imagine that a person goes out planning not to get a blood transfusion, what do you think may mess up their plans?

S: Say that again?

I: This may not make perfect sense, but imagine that a person goes out planning not to get a blood transfusion, in other words, ah they weren't given the chance to give their own blood, hum what do you think may mess up their plans? Like what

S: Like if they have a car accident, you mean if they have a car accident and guess they go through the windshield or something and they need blood, but I guess [inaudible].
I: Yeah. Ok, and you also said that the AIDS virus can be passed from one person to another through intravenous hum,

S: Drugs, needles.

I: And can you tell me how that happens?

S: Hum, well a person hum with AIDS, uses the needle and then say like then their friend who doesn't have AIDS uses the same needle. And then the AIDS gets passed on into their body cause it's on, like there the needle sucks up the blood and then.

I: Ok. Does it matter how often a person would share needles?

S: Well I guess like before that if maybe their first friend won't have AIDS and then maybe like the tenth time they do it with somebody else that person they don't know but they use it and that person has AIDS and then they could get it that way.

I: Hum, what would happen if they, if they shared needles with one friend?
S: Well, if that one friend doesn't have AIDS, and then you're ok, you won't get it. Cause there's neither you guys have AIDS so.

I: Ok. Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting the AIDS virus. If they are sharing needles?

S: Hum. Make sure that the person you are sharing them with doesn't have AIDS.

I: Ok. How could they do that?

S: I guess asking them or if they don't trust them have them go get an AIDS test. But I'm sure if they're doing it that they don't really care.

I: Ok. Is there anything else that a person could do to protect themselves?

S: If they are using the same needle?

I: (Yes)

S: Nothing that I can think of.

I: Ok. What do you think may lead a person to share needles?

S: Well, I guess if you are a drug addict you really don't care and you just want it so that you are just going to use what ever is available.

I: Ok

S: Or they could be lower income and won't be able to afford needles but I don't know.

I: Ok

S: I don't know how much they cost so.

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

S: I guess if maybe if they are at a party and somebody decides that, they say that they are not going to do something and their friends is like you going to do it. I guess it's not really there friend then but, they say that they are going to do it and they just stick it in their arm like, I really don't know another way.

I: Ok. And you also said that the AIDS virus is sexually transmitted. Can you tell me how that happens?

S: Well, I guess if they are having unprotected sex but even they say condoms aren't 100% any more. Hum, that through the hum, contact with the hum, body fluid of your partner it could be passed on.

I: Ok and what do you mean by unprotected sex?

S: Without using a condom or anything else but they say using the condom is the best way not to get AIDS. Cause then there is the contact the other ways.

I: Does it matter how often a person would have unprotected sex?

S: Well if it's with the same person and that person doesn't have AIDS no, but if they're having multiple partners and they really don't know their sex history, then there's that chance.

I: Ok. Hum, and imagine that a person has unprotected sex once and ah, how would their risk of getting the AIDS virus be affected if they have unprotected sex more than once with several partners?

S: Well, the first person would, before the first person might not but then they might and they could get it that way. Or the first person might not and then on number ten that person does, and then they could get it that way.

I: Ok, hum I'm trying to think you mentioned something else in there. Oh, what do you mean by sex history?

S: Their past partners and stuff like that I guess.

I: Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting the AIDS virus if they are having unprotected sex?

S: How someone can prevent getting it having unprotected?

I: (Yes)

S: .....you mean like if they're just not.

I: Is there anything a person can do?

S: Not have sex.

I: Ok. Anything else?

S: If they are not going to be protected to prevent it? Hum.....not that I can think of.
I: Hum, what do you think may lead a person to having unprotected sex?

S: I guess if it's done like, in the heat of passion, as they say. But I don't, I guess it would be. Is there anything else that may lead a person to have unprotected sex?

I: If they are raped.

S: Or something to that effect.

I: Ok. Hum, imagine that a person goes out planning not to have unprotected sex. What do you think may mess up their plans?

S: If they are raped or anything else like that, I guess.

I: What affect does alcohol have on people?

S: It like blurs your depth perception and you ability to think and how you act in your emotional state.

I: Well how does it effect how a person acts?

S: Some people they get violent, other people, they just start acting real crazy and funny, and then people react differently. It depends on what type of personality you have to begin with and how you are feeling that day.

I: And when you say it effects a person emotional state, what do you mean by that?

S: Make them, like if you are depressed you might get happy for a minute, but then you become more depressed. Or if you are happy it can make you happier or it can bring you down. It just depends on how.

I: It depends on what?

S: It just depends on how, like how you are before hand and hum, also I guess what type of alcohol you take can also affect people differently.

I: Like what do you mean?

S: Like if it's the hard liquor or if it's just the beer, or cause some people react like react differently to the two.

I: (Yes) Hum, does drinking make much of a difference in a person's risk of getting the AIDS virus?

S: Well if you are drinking you really don't know what you are doing and you could have sex even if you don't want to have it. Cause you can be so far gone that you just don't know what you are doing. So there's that chance that you could have sex with a person who has AIDS.

I: Ok. Is the risk different for people who drink a little bit every day compared to people who drink a lot every weekend?

S: Well, I would think that the risk would greater for the people who drink a lot like on certain days
during the weekend because then they're emotional, well, yeah, cause their emotional state is that much more affected. And but for the people who just have a little bit everyday, well it depends on your tolerance level basically, cause that little bit everyday can be enough to totally.

I: Ok

S: Destroy your mental [inaudible].

I: What is the person tolerance level?

S: How much that they, how much alcohol they can consume before it really starts to effect them.

I: Ok, I just want to make sure that I know you are referring to, that's all.

S: Ok

I: I mean, these questions don't have right or wrong answers. We are just trying to get you to tell us what you think. Does it matter how often a person is exposed to the AIDS virus?

S: You mean to get, to get it?

I: Yes.

S: Well, I guess the first time you are exposed to it, well, no, wait, let me think about this first. Hum, they say that there is a chance that you could be exposed to it, like your partner might have it. But you might not get it.

I: Ok

S: It just depends.

I: What does it depend on?

S: I'm not sure. But they just say, that's just one thing I've heard so.

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

S: Well at first it takes awhile, but then they start like having fevers and cold sweats and loss of appetite and they start to lose weight, and then it might, it's not always necessarily a virus that kills you, but you could get pneumonia.

I: (Yes)

S: And a simple common cold could kill you.

I: Ok.

S: Cause your immunity level is down and.

I: Ok. So can you tell me about what happens when a person develops AIDS?

S: Hum, like what happens to them?

I: (Yes)
S: Like the lose of weight, and everything.

I: Ok.

S: What I said before I guess.

I: Ok. Hum, so you mentioned something about when a person first gets it and then later on different other things happen. Can you tell me more about that time before, between when a person first gets it and then when these other things develop?

S: Hum, there's, I heard through health class that there is like a, just like a time where nothing shows up and then things symptoms start to occur. Like it could be months, it could be years. It depend on the person.

I: Hum, how can someone learn whether he or she has the AIDS virus?

S: You go get tested. At the free clinic or where ever.

I: What is this test?

S: I guess it's the blood test, they draw blood from you and test it.

I: Ok, do you know how it works?

S: Hum,

I: Or what they are testing for?

S: Well, they are testing for the AIDS virus. For HIV. I really don't know how they do it.

I: Ok. Why would someone decide to be tested?

S: If they find out one of their past sex partners have had it, have gotten it, or I guess that would be the main reason.

I: Ok. What would make you think that a person has the AIDS virus?

S: You can't tell by looking at someone. But, I guess if they are starting to have the symptoms and I guess you can think that they do.

I: Ok. What kinds of people have a lot to worry from the AIDS virus?

S: What do they have a lot to worry about?

I: (Yes)

S: Well dying I guess would be the main thing.

I: But what kinds of people have a lot to worry about?

S: What kinds of people?

I: Sure. Like are there certain people that have a lot to worry about from the AIDS virus?
S: I don't understand what you mean?

I: Are there certain types of people that would have more to worry about than others?

S: You mean are there groups of people who have a greater chance of getting it or being effected by it?

I: Both, well, you can tell me both.

S: Well, anybody is at risk. But hum, I guess no one more so, no one has this like more AIDS prone then anybody else. It's we are all equal in that. But, people being affected by it?

I: (Yes)

S: I guess if, I would get it my mom would be affected by it. Her life style would change. But hum, I don't really, but I guess anybody's family and everybody related to that person, would be affected.

I: When can people stop worry about the AIDS virus at all?

S: You can't, cause you can get it at any time during your life.

I: Ok. Do you think people are making too big of a deal out of the AIDS virus?

S: No

I: Why

S: Cause it's like, it kills you, it's killing so many people every year and more people are getting it. And I guess with the experimental drugs they are all living longer and they could pass it more easily, there is more people to pass it on now. They are not, the threat is out there that you are going to get it. It grows all the time.

I: Hum, where have you learned about the AIDS virus?

S: Through health class and gym class, and hum, on television.

I: Ok. What have you seen on TV?

S: All the commercials and then there's been different TV shows and after school specials. Stuff like that.

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

S: Do they skip, they don't talk about?

I: Yeah, that maybe you have learned else where?

S: I think they pretty much cover everything. I can't really remember cause that was years ago. But all the new stuff that comes out of course, since I've had it so long ago they didn't really say.

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

S: I think so. Just well, I don't share needles, I don't do drugs either, I'm not a well, I don't see the threat of needing a blood transfusion right now. Hopefully not so.
I: Is there anything more you would like to know about the AIDS virus?

S: Not really, no.

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

S: That you don't actually get AIDS, when you get the, you get the virus that forms into AIDS. Sometimes it does and sometimes it doesn't.

I: Ok. Hum, do you know when it does and when it doesn't. I mean, why does it some times and why does it not.

S: Ah, that's a good question. I don't really know.

I: Ok. What does safe sex mean?

S: It's protected, or you are not having it at all.

I: And when you say protected, what do you mean?

S: Using a condom, or any other form of protection, like if you are on the pill or, guess diaphragm or anything like that.

I: Ok. Can you tell me more about condoms? Like do you know what are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?

S: Like, I guess the latex condom. I really don't know what the different...

I: What else do condoms protect you against?

S: Getting pregnant.

I: Anything else?

S: I guess any other sexually transmitted disease.

I: Ok, and what do you mean by that?

S: Or, what other type?

I: Yeah

S: Hum, like chlamydia, and hum, gonorrhea, and guess syphilis, I really don't know.

I: Ok. What does IV drug use mean?

S: Intravenous drug use. When they use the needle.

I: Do you think needles can be cleaned?

S: I don't know, they say like, I don't know I guess they could be sterilized again, but.

I: Do you know how they do that?
S: Boiling them in hot water. I really don’t know.

I: Ok