TAPE 53

I: Um. Okay. In this interview I will ask you to talk about AIDS and I want you to know that you don't have to, like I said before, you don't have to answer all my questions. And if you don't want to answer a question, just let me know and I will go on to the next one. And you can also ask me to stop the interview at any time. And um, okay.

I will first ask you to uh just uh talk about AIDS, just tell me what you know about it. And then I will ask you some more questions about what you tell me. And then um...oh...I may ask the same question several times. And I do that to make sure that I understand what you are saying. Um, and also, don't worry about whether your answers are right or wrong, because I want to know what you know about it and there's no right or wrong uh you know what you think is true. Um, what else? Oh, you don't have to talk about yourself or your own behavior. I just want to know what you know about AIDS. So don't worry about that either. And no one else will hear the tape but uh people who are working on this project at Carnegie Mellon and oh and we're also not going to put your name on this so don't worry about that either. It's all confidential. Okay.

(Note: Above two paragraphs are laced with 'okay' 'alright' 'Mm-hum' as acknowledgments from the subject to points raised by the interviewer.)

First question: Um, can you tell me what you know about AIDS?

S: AIDS is uh S.T.D., sexually transmitted disease and they've not found a cure of it. It was discovered around 1982. It can be transmitted through sex, drugs, um, used to be through blood transparent, plants but not no more. Mmm. You can't get it from drinking outta the same glass. But I heard you can get it through using using each other's toothbr toothbrush. If you get blood on it. You can't get it by shaking hands or anything like that.

I: Anything else?

S: I'll probably remember it, if you ask me questions.

I: Okay. Um, so you told me that uh um AIDS uh AIDS virus can be passed on um when people um use drugs. Can you tell me more about that?

S: When they use needles...

I: Yeah.

S: ...And when one blood is inject if blood is on the same needle and you don't switch the needles, you can get it. Using the same needle.

I: Okay. Uh uh can you tell me more about how that exactly works? Do you know that?

S: I don't know.

I: Okay. Uh, but it's with blood, right?

S: Yes.

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

S: No.
I: Em, um okay. Imagine...oh., oh...can you explain me why first?

S: 'cause it's a one-time deal. If you use it, you got it.

I: Okay. Um, but imagine that a person um shares needles one time. And then how would this person's risk of getting the AIDS virus be affected if they share needles more often?

S: Some [inaudible] they should get it, they will. They donít get it itís a miracle cause itís real dangerous disease you can get real easy.

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

S: Mmm. There's . . . um switch the needles...

I: Hu-huh.

S: Donít use the same needles but...thatís the only way I know of.

I: Um, how well do you think um switching the needle will protect them...from getting the AIDS virus?

S: Pretty good cause this this just it would be their own blood, no one else's.

I: Mm-hum. Um, what do you think may lead a person to share needles?

S: Wanting a high. Can't go a day without a high, if they donít have another needle theyíll find a way to use the drug.

I: Yeah. Um, imagine a person goes out planning not to share needles.

S: Mm-hum.

I: What do you think may mess up their plans?

S: Not haviní a needle...

I: Mm-hum.

S: And they really want it. Thatís it. The main point is they'll get it any way they can--if they're addicted.

I: Yeah. Okay. Uh, now you also told me that um the AIDS virus can be passed on if people have sex. Can you tell me more about that?

S: If um their intercourse you can give it, not using protection like a condom. Íím not sure oral sex you can get it. So Iím not sure about kissing. I donít think I donít think you can by the saliva. And thatís all I know about that.

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

S: No.
I: Um, so imagine this person person has unprotected sex one time and how would this personís risk of getting the AIDS virus be affected if they have unprotected sex more often?

S: Pretty high, basic. They will get it.

I: Yeah.

S: Thatís uh probably one of the main causes people get AIDS.

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

S: Use a condom.

I: Is there anything else they can do?

S: No. That's about all.

I: Um, how well do you think using a condom would protect a person from...

S: Thereís always a chance you can get it, but itís brings your chances down so you canít get it.

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

S: Being drunk, being high.

I: Mm-hum. How how does that work?

S: They uh you donít know what youíre doiní. You get forced. Or gettiní raped.

I: Um. Okay. So imagine a person goes out uh planning not to have unprotected sex. What do you think may mess up these plans?

S: Not haviní a condom. And they just want to do it.

I: Yeah. Okay. Um. Let me see. You also mentioned blood transplants, right?

S: Mm-hum. (Yes)

I: How can you tell me more about that, how that works?

S: Well, Iím not sure how many years ago but they developed a test where you before you use some someone elseís blood in surgery, theyíd test it for HIV. So you shouldnít, you're supposed to not be able to get it through blood transfusion, but I heard that some cases you can--if they donít test it right.

I: Okay. So...you can tell me how a person can prevent getting the AIDS virus if they need a blood transfusion?

S: Make sure they check it, the blood before you get it.
I: Mm-hum. Um, okay. How, well you already mentioned it but I'll ask again. How well do you think this would really protect a person from getting the AIDS virus, if they test the blood?

S: I don't think you should get near, . . . the chances are that you won't get it. And therefore you won't.

I: Okay. Um, what why do you think a person may need a blood transfusion?

S: Loss of blood in a car accident, surgery always need blood, mmm, that's about it.

I: Okay. Um, what uh effect does alcohol have on people?

S: Um, you don't know what you're doing. You do things that you don't think you'd do if you were sober.

I: Do you think uh drinking makes much of a difference in a person's risk of getting AIDS?

S: Yes. Yes.

I: How?

S: Like they'll have used drugs and not changing needles or have sex with a person they don't know, unprotected.

I: And then the risk . . .

S: And the risk is high that you could get AIDS.

I: Um, do you think this risk is different for people who drink a little bit every day compared to people who drink a lot, for example, every weekend?

S: It depends, I think. If um you just drink every little thing and you don't get drunk, I think you shouldn't. You know what you're doin'. But if you drink heavily your risk is high of getting, of doing something you don't think you'll do and get AIDS.

I: Okay. Yeah. Um, does it matter how often a person is exposed to the AIDS virus?

S: No. You can be around it once and ... you can get it but if you don't you should be happy.

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

S: They get real sick. They lose platelets or white blood cells...

I: Okay. Yeah.

S: is that what you're looking for...white blood cells?

I: Uh, no no I was...
S: Ah, just agreeing um they start get like worse or something. I forget what they call it. And they're if they get like ammonia they're risk of high dying cause they don't have the white blood cells da kill the germs.

I: Okay. So um can you tell me what happens or can you tell me what happens when a person finally develops AIDS?

S: Um...nah. I thought I just told ya.

I: Okay. Well, okay yeah. Ummmmm. How long does it take for a person uh with the AIDS virus to develop AIDS? Do you know?

S: From HIV to actually having AIDS? It could take various it could take a month or five years.

I: Um. Okay. Go on.

S: Depends when you get the virus and if you take care of yourself.

I: Okay. What was the first one you said?

S: Uh forget about that I said...

I: Oh okay. So depends on...

S: ...how well you take care of yourself.

I: Okay. What do you mean by that?

S: Take all the medicine you're suppose to 'cause there's no cure that you won't get AIDS at one point but just don't know when. Just try to stay health healthy as you can.

I: Right. Um...can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets the AIDS virus and when they get AIDS?

S: It's a long period cause they know if they get AIDS their risks are high of dying.

I: Mm-hum.

S: And they're more I'm looking for the word they can get like sick easier 'cause they don't have the white blood cells left to help them keep the germs away.

I: Right. Um. How can someone learn whether he or she has the AIDS virus?

S: Get a test.

I: Um, do you know how the test works?

S: No I don't.

I: Okay.

S: I just know you go to the hospital or doctor and ask, 'Can I please get tested for AIDS?'
I: Do you know what he tests for?
S: No.
I: Okay. Um. Why do you think would someone decide to be tested?
S: They think they done something they shouldnít have, like share needles or had unprotected sex with someone they know didnít know.
I: Okay. Um. What would make you think that a person has the AIDS virus?
S: Like they have little marks I forget what theyíre called...
I: Um...
S: Like little brown marks...
I: Okay.
S: Um...they just get real sick. If Iím not sure, maybe loss of hair, but I donít think.
I: Mm-hum. Anything else?
S: No, not that I can think of.
I: Uh, what kinds of people do you think have a lot to worry from the AIDS virus?
S: I think every person has to worry about it, thereís not just one person that can get it worse than someone else. They all can get it the same.
I: Why do you think everybody has to worry?
S: ñCause they know thereís no cure, you have to try and live your life out.
I: Right. Uh, so do you think people are making too big a deal of AIDS?
S: No, I think more people should be educated about it. Thereís young kid taught that well about in school about AIDS. You just hear it on the TV and then like by your friends but I think you should be more educated in school.
I: Do you think that they skip certain things at school?
S: Nah, they just go over it for like a week. I think it should be three weeks or something. Get down in the details about it.
I: Yeah.
S: You start scaring more people.
I: Okay. But you you you think that um if itís too fast like one week is not long enough but they donít skip anything...
S: No they donít ski...they go through everything. Just rush it
I: Okay. Um. Do you think you know enough about AIDS to protect yourself from it?
S: Yes.

I: But is there anything that you would like to know more about?
S: (silence) Just the symptoms. Like if I know a friend who thinks they have AIDS, well I can see if they have it.

I: Mm-hum.
S: Tell them to get if they donít refuse the test I can see some symptoms they have, see if itís AIDS or not.

I: Um. What oh okay Iíve also some questions about um um terms that I used when people talk about AIDS. For example, AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV. Um do you know what HIV is?
S: Itís just a point for when they can get um AIDS. I donít know what it stands for.

I: Okay. Do you know what a virus is?
S: (silence) I I did but I donít. Itís...

I: Well what do you know about it?
S: Itís a sickness you can get, a virus, it can from HIV itís a virus but you can get another virus that give you AIDS. Thatís probably all I know.

I: Okay. Uh, another question. What do you know what uh safe sex means?
S: Using a condom.

I: Okay. Um, what can you tell me more about condoms? Which which ones are the best or the safest?
S: They all have their bad points, but I donít know what the safest one out

I: Okay. But [inaudible]?
S: No. They donít go over sex though very much.

I: Okay. Um. Okay. What what else do condoms protect people against?
S: Pregnancy.

I: Okay. Um, now okay when when people talk about um drugs they sometimes mention IV drug use. Do you know what that means?
S: Um when you use a drug through a needle injecting into your veins.

I: Yeah. Do you think that uh needles can be cleaned?
S: Sterilized, yes. But not a lot of people do it, donít have the equipment to. They just get the needles and use 'em.

I: Um. When you say sterilize them, how?

S: Um, put alcohol on them and it gets rid of the germs on the needle.

I: Okay. [Inaudible] . I have more questions.