Number 59

I: In this interview I will 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'll 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'll first ask you to tell me everything you know about AIDS then I'll 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 that you know and I understand everything you say. Please don't worry about whether you answers are right or not. Just tell me everything that come to mind. You don't have to talk about yourself or your behavior and no one else will hear the tape except for five people working on the project. And I'm not going to report to the people here what you tell me.

My first question is, please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: I just know it's a disease that you catch through sex.

I: Ok

S: And it's deadly and they don't have a cure for it yet.

I: Ok. So can you tell me a little bit more about how AIDS is passed on from one person to another?

S: Through blood transfusions, sexual contact like oral sex and then intercourse.

I: Ok. How about if we talk a little bit about blood transfusions first. When you told me that the AIDS is passed on when through blood transfusions, can you tell me more about it. Like how exactly that happens? When someone gets a blood transfusion?

S: Well some times like a person will give blood and they don't know they have AIDS and then it slips through through the Red Cross or whatever and then it gets transfused into someone else and then they catch the virus.

I: Ok. When you say it gets transfused into someone else and they catch the virus. Can you tell me kind of what happens, I mean how does that happen?

S: What do you mean?

I: Can you give me any more details about how that happens?

S: No.

I: Does it matter how often a person would have a blood transfusion?

S: Yeah.

I: Ok

S: If they get from a number of people they don't really know where they are getting it from.

I: Ok. And imagine that a person gets a blood transfusion once, and then they get many more blood transfusions, how does that affect their risk of getting AIDS?
S: It's higher chance that they'll get it.

I: Can you tell me why it's higher?

S: Because like some times it's too early to detect AIDS in someone's else's blood and then if they get it from a number of other people half these people, they get checked but not thoroughly enough and guess it gets passed on.

I: Ok. How would the risk of getting the AIDS virus change if they got many blood transfusions from the same person?

S: That's not a high risk then because they know the person. Like they don't know them personally, but they know it's coming from the same person.

I: Ok. And why would that reduce their risk of getting the AIDS virus?

S: Because it's not from so many people.

I: Ok. Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting the AIDS virus if they do have to get a blood transfusion?

S: I don't know.

I: Can you guess?

S: No, I don't know.

I: Ok. Well is there anything that a person could do if they are getting a blood transfusion to protect themselves from getting the AIDS virus?

S: Get it through their family.

I: Ok. And how would that protect them from getting the AIDS virus?

S: Cause they know the people. They are not keeping secrets they know they don't have anything.

I: What do you think would lead a person to having to get a blood transfusion?

S: Being hemophiliac, getting to a bad car accident, loose a lot of blood from some odd reason.

I: Ok. Now how about if we talk(2,4),(996,993) about you said the AIDS virus can also be passed from one person to another through sexual contact. And can you tell me a little bit more about that? Like how it can be passed from one person to another through sexual contact?

S: Well, if they have intercourse without protection then their body fluids mix. So they can get it from that.

I: Ok. And when you say unprotected, if they have intercourse without protection, what do you mean by that? What are you referring to by protection?

S: Like if they don't use a condom or any kind of protection like that.

I: Ok. Other than a condom is there anything else that you are referring about?
S: That's about the only one I know that you can protect yourself from AIDS. I'm not sure if the sponge works or not I don't know.

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

S: Yes. Well it depends, if it's like with a number of other people then their chances are higher at getting AIDS. But if it's only with one person and they know that person then their chances are really low.

I: Ok. And when you say with a number of people, I guess would there be a certain cut off point that the person would have a you know a lower chance of getting the AIDS virus and then well if they have this many they would have a higher a chance?

S: Yeah

I: How many would that be?

S: Like, about 10 like if they're over 10 then their chances are a little higher but if they try to keep it down minimum.

I: Ok. And so you said if they're only having unprotected intercourse with ah, one person their chances aren't has high. If because they know that person. And what do you mean by they know that person?

S: Like if they are like dating for awhile and they get to know each other first then they should know each other and that if they are not keeping secrets I mean like some people they will keep secrets, but if you are sitting and getting to know this person then they should know how many they slept with and if they have had anything or anything like that.

I: Ok. And when you say they've been dating for awhile. I guess what's awhile?

S: Over a year.

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

S: Having unprotected sex there is no way to protect yourself from it then.

I: Ok. Well is there anything they could do?

S: Use protection, that's about the only thing.

I: Ok and how well do you think protection would prevent them from getting the AIDS virus?

S: Protection has a lot to do with it cause like I know condoms are like 99.9% effective or 99. something effective so. I mean like that's the most sure way to go that I mean, if they are not going to use nothing then they are just like asking for it.

I: What do you think may lead a person to having unprotected sex?

S: Well, guy telling them that it's ok they don't need it or them just not having it at the time and don't want to ruin the moment or that's about it.

I: Ok
S: Or unless you're trying to get pregnant.

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

S: A number of things, like if she meets a guy who is overly aggressive or she just gives in easily or if she is even drinking and she can get a little messed up from that and just not know what she's doing. She can get pressured into it.

I: What do you mean by pressured in to it?

S: If her friends are saying ah, it's ok, he's doesn't have nothing, he's clean, he's a nice guy stuff like that.

I: Are you saying that you know she could be drinking and stuff and I guess what do you think she could be drinking?

S: Anything, alcoholic beverage.

I: Ok. I think you also mentioned that the AIDS virus could be passed on through oral sex?

S: (Yes)

I: And can you tell me how that would happen?

S: Well, ok if someone is preforming oral sex, and they have a cut on their mouth or they can contract it through that.

I: Does it matter how often a person would be preforming oral sex?

S: Yeah. Because if like if they, see it depends on the persons. If they are doing it with one person I don't think it's that high. But I mean if they go out and their like doing it with one guy every night, different guy each night, then they are probably going to contract it. But like then you never know.

I: Can you tell how a person can prevent getting the AIDS virus if they are performing oral sex?

S: Not do it.

I: And how well do you think that would really protect a person from?

S: Not having oral?

I: (Yes)

S: Just it depends on their sexual behavior if they want sex a lot then they'll probably going to get it, but if they don't need it and they don't want it then they are not going to get it. If they are not having sex they're probably not going to perform oral sex either.

I: What do you think may lead a person to performing oral sex?

S: Guy asking for it. Maybe anybody asking for it and them just wanted to go along and not feel pressured and that and just do it.
I: Ok. Now we are going to shift gears a little bit. What effect does alcohol have on people?

S: What effect?

I: (Yes)

S: Well it slows them down like it gets them not thinking as fast and everything seems to go in slower motion.

I: Ok. Are there any other effects that alcohol has on people?

S: They, it could bring out the violent side, it could bring out their nice attitude. There's a lot of effects.

I: When you say it could bring out their violent side, or bring out their nice side, I guess how why would it, I mean those two things seem so different. How would it?

S: Like if it affects people in different ways, it affects everyone differently. Like some people think drink to much alcohol they get really violent. And then there's those guys who drink it and make they just get real sweet and try to be real nice and stuff.

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

S: Well if they are partying with guys it does. But if they are just like drinking and they are not going to go home with a guy, no.

I: And would the risk be different for people who drink a little bit everyday compared to people who drink a lot every weekend?

S: People who drink a little bit every day probably they won't get affected all that much. They don't take it to their limits. But if on the weekends if they take it to the limits and go over. Then probably, yeah.

I: Does it matter how often a person would be exposed to the AIDS virus?

S: What do you mean?

I: Well, like would it matter how often they came in contact with the AIDS virus?

S: If they have it or they don't have it?

I: If they don't have it?

S: They don't have it and they come in contact with it?

I: Yes

S: No, I guess not. Unless they are doing something they doing something that they contract it then yeah. But they can't contract it on their own.

I: Ok well, if they are doing something that they could contract AIDS from doing and does it matter how often they would come contact?

S: Yes.
I: I guess why would that make a difference?

S: Because if they are doing stuff that they can contract it and they are getting people are coming around that do have it, then they could probably do it with them or whatever and they are going to get it.

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

S: It doesn't show up for a while. Like it can take anywhere from six months to ten years.

I: (yes)

S: And you can get real sick. It breaks down your immune system.

I: Ok

S: And like the amonia or however you say it, the flu it can kill you. Because you don't have no immune system.

I: Ok

S: You can get those, I don't even know what their called. They are just spots.

I: I'm sorry.

S: They're like spots.

I: Spots?

S: Yeah. There's a number of things that can happen.

I: Ok. So spots that's one of them. Is there anything else that could?

S: It make you look like you are aging faster. You can lose your hair.

I: Ok.

S: That's about it. You just get sick all the time.

I: Ok when you say it it make you look like you are aging faster, what do you mean?

S: Like some people lose their hair from it. And it just like makes you like you are aging older when ever you don't have your hair and like, I don't know it makes you look real tired.

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

S: What happens?

I: Yeah

S: They just have it.

I: When you said that it could take anywhere from six months to ten years, I guess why is that
different for some people than for others?

S: It just the way their system handles it. Like some people may have a strong immune system and it could hit them faster or they could have slow immune systems and it will hit them slower in time.

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

S: Get tested.

I: And what does the test test for. Like how does it work?

S: I guess it counts the platelets or, counts something in your blood cells. Or it counts your "T" cells. I think.

I: Ok

S: And then I guess that's they way you can tell or I don't know it counts some thing in your blood they can detect.

I: Why would someone decide to be tested?

S: In case they have unprotected sex with someone they didn't trust or they, I don't know they feel that they have it, like they are getting sick a lot and they just want to be sure.

I: Ok

S: Or they found that one of their sex partners or someone they have been with has AIDS, they want to get it checked.

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

S: You mean to see them?

I: Sure or talk to them?

S: There is no way to tell I mean, the only way you can tell is like if that they tell you. I mean you can't really tell.

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

S: What kind of people?

I: Yeah

S: Like prostitutes, drug users, and.

I: Why would prostitutes?

S: Cause they sleep with everybody. They get paid to sleep with people.

I: And I guess how would that relate to their risk to getting the AIDS virus?

S: It give them a higher chance cause they don't know who they are sleeping with. I mean someone comes up to them and hands them money they are going to go to a room with them and have sex.
And they just get up and leave. They don't half the time that don't even know their names.

I: Who else did you say had a lot to worry about?

S: Like drug users who use needles.

I: And why would they have to worry?

S: Because if they are like feedin' it, or like they are having attack where they have to have their drugs, they are just going to use any kind of needle that AIDS person could of used and they are going to inject it into themselves. And they could of left blood or anything on there.

I: So I guess what does using drugs have to do with their risk of getting the AIDS virus?

S: It's high because anybody could use their needles. I mean unless they are the clean type who go out a buy the needles everyday which I doubt because some times they do because they are rich. But I mean like the poorer people who are addicted to drugs they can't help it and they need their drugs and if the inject it then they are going to get it because they don't know who's been using the needle. Or they pass it around the room.

I: So is that another way that the AIDS virus could be passed on to people?

S: (Yes)

I: Would it matter how often a person would share needles?

S: Yeah

I: And why would it matter?

S: Because, if like, if like saying if they are doing with different people every night, and they are sharing a needle they don't know there people. They don't know who else they've been sharing needles with. So they are going to contract it faster. And then like they'll never know who they got it from because they don't know who they are sharing with.

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

S: Just like clean your needles and stuff like using alcohol, rubbing alcohol or even boiling hot water or something.

I: Is there any other way to clean needles?

S: I don't know. I've never cleaned them before.

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

S: From a drug user?

I: If they are using alcohol to clean the needles or boiling them in water.

S: I don't know if it wipes all of the infection of or not, so I don't know. I mean it probably could, the alcohol anyway.

I: Ok
S: And it would probably reduce their chances of getting it, if they clean their needle every time with alcohol.

I: What do you think may lead a person to sharing needles?

S: Huh?

I: What do you think may lead a person to sharing needles? Like what would make it more likely with someone who uses drugs would share needles?

S: Why would they use them? Share them?

I: Yeah

S: It probably just like, it would probably be cheaper first of all cause they don't have to go out and buy a needle for each person and then they can just use the drugs that are left in the needle to inject it into themselves.

I: Ok

S: And it would be quicker instead of having to make up a needle after another one.

I: Ok. Imagine that a person goes out planning not to share needles, and what do you think may mess up those plans?

S: They go to a party and a few more people want to do it to and they don't have their own and so they may share it with them just to be nice.

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

S: I don't think they can. No body has found a cure for it yet, so until they find cure I guess.

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

S: Not really cause I mean some people don't want it at all and they're just scared to be around it if you do have it.

I: Ok.

S: Cause they don't know how that got it maybe it was an innocent thing but maybe they were having sex and they probably know what was going on and they got it so they don't want to be around it.

I: Where have you learned about the AIDS virus?

S: School, streets, parents, TV.

I: I guess when you say TV. What have you seen on TV?

S: What have I seen?

I: I think those like NBC movies about it and just movies like that. That's about it.
I: Ok. What things do they skip about AIDS in health classes at school that you know you may have learned else where? Is there anything they don't talk about?

S: No, they talk about it all. They like go over almost everything with you.

I: Ok.

S: They help you protect yourself and tell you what you should do. And what you shouldn't do to protect yourself.

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

S: Yeah

I: Is there anything more you would like to know about the AIDS virus?

S: I guess. There's probably more stuff that I don't know about. But.

I: If I tell you AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV, what does that tell you about it? Does that give you any information?

S: Yeah.

I: Does that mean anything?

S: Yeah it's just like the person doesn't have AIDS when they first get it they have HIV virus and then they get the AIDS.

I: I guess what happens between the time they get the HIV virus and the time that they get AIDS?

S: The HIV is breaking down their immune system and when it's fully broken down they call that AIDS finally.

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

S: I don't know. Just a condom is a condom to me.

I: And what else do condoms protect people against?

S: All STD's.

I: Like what?

S: Syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, trench, or how ever you say that one. There's a bunch of different ones.

I: Anything else. Other than STD's?

S: It can prevent you from getting pregnant.

I: And do you know what IV drug use means?

S: IV drug use?
I: IV drug use?

S: I just know you get an IV in the hospital, that's about the only thing I know about IV's.

I: Ok. Do you think needles can be cleaned?

S: To a point, not they're are not like going to be extremely clean when you're done cleaning with alcohol or nothing. They are not going to be fully cleaned so it's like not really cleanliness to use a needle over and over again.