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 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 asked to talk to about everything you know about AIDS. I will first ask you to tell me everything you about AIDS and 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 I understand everything you are saying. 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 the 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: Ok, I know it's a sexually transmitted, or it's a disease. It can, it's able to cause death but it's you have to have another disease with it.

I: Ok

S: It can be transmitted through sex, blood transfusion, and needles. Hum, there's no cure for it yet. I don't know very much. Hum, that's really all I can think of for now.

I: Ok. I have a lot more questions, so I think you will be surprised at how much you know.

S: All right.

I: Can you tell me more about how the AIDS virus is passed on from one person to another? You gave me a couple of different ways. I'd like you to tell me about how AIDS is passed on from one person to another?

S: Like through sex and stuff and through needles, and through blood transfusion.

I: Ok. How about if we talk about blood transfusions first. You told me that they AIDS virus is passed on when through a blood transfusions. Can you tell me exactly how that happens?

S: Like if you lose blood and somebody else gives it?

I: Yeah, I just want you to fill in the details.

S: That's really all, I don't know much. Like when you lose blood and somebody elses give it to you. And they have the disease, it gets into your blood stream and.

I: Ok. That's good. Does it matter how often a person would have a blood transfusion?

S: It only takes one time.

I: And imagine that a person has one blood transfusion and then they have many more? How does that effect their risk of getting the AIDS virus?

S: It higher's it, raises it.

I: Ok. Why would it be higher?
S: Well because you keep on getting other people's blood and if it's not tested probably then it could have disease in it. And then you are getting that blood in to your body, you can get it.

I: And when you say it's not being tested properly. What do you mean by that?

S: Well, they test blood in certain, they test it in so many ways, right. And they like see what kind of diseases it has. What kind of type of blood it is. And if they don't test it probably which, I don't know how they test it, but then they don't see the virus in it, then you're liable to get it.

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

S: Maybe, through family blood possibly.

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

S: It really wouldn't. Unless maybe it was like maybe a husband or a child. Like your son or daughter or something

I: Ok

S: Cause then you're most likely to know if they have it or not because it would infect your children if your husband had it.

I: Ok. What do you think may lead a person to having to get a blood transfusion?

S: Like a car wreck, or any kind of accident that you loose a lot of blood in.

I: Ok

S: Like you're hemorrhaging or something.

I: How about if we talk about, you said that the AIDS virus can be passed on through needles. Can you tell me exactly how that happens or what?

S: Like through drugs, drugs wise.

I: How, can you explain how that is?

S: Like if you are injecting a certain kind of substance in your body. Like the blood can get on the needle and you share the needle with somebody else and if they have it then their blood can get into your stream too.

I: And does it matter how often a person would use needles like that?

S: Yeah, it matters, I mean, 'cause it can just be one time.

I: And assume that they use needles once and then they use needles many more times, how does that...

S: That would raise their risk.

I: Ok
S: It would raise it.
I: Ok. And why would it raise it?
S: Because there could be other people using it too without maybe knowing or you could have many different people you're using the drug with.
I: Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting the AIDS virus if they are sharing needles?
S: Sterilize them.
I: Ok. How do you sterilize needles?
S: With rubbing alcohol, or.....
I: Ok. And what do you do with the alcohol then?
S: What do you do afterwards?
I: I mean how does alcohol clean the needles?
S: I don't know, it just does.
I: Well, ok, if you have a bottle of rubbing alcohol, and you have a needle that you want to clean?
S: Like pour the alcohol in some kind of dish and if you have a syringe with the needle, like pump it or something like so it goes out the needle and like wash the needle with a cloth or something wiping it off.
I: Ok. That's all I wanted to know.
S: Sorry
I: And how well do you think that that would protect a person from getting the AIDS virus if they use alcohol to clean the needles?
S: Well, it wouldn't be as high of a risk, but you can still, there is still always the risk of it.
I: Ok. And what do you think may lead a person to sharing needles? Like what would make it more likely that a person would share needles?
S: If maybe the drugs they are using, pertains to a needle and they only have one or they don't have their own. And maybe they think they know this person really well and they could know them very well, but the person could be sharing with somebody else, and not tell them.
I: Ok. Imagine that a person goes out planning not to share needles. What do you think may mess up those plans?
S: What could mess them up?
I: Yeah what could mess up their plans not to share needles?
S: They could... I have no idea.
I: Ok. Well imagine that a person leaves their house and they say to themselves, ok, I'm not going to share needles tonight. Is there anything that could happen that would mess up their plans?

S: Oh, they could be on a different drug and like forget about their plans. Or what they thought they didn't want to do and then end up doing it because they like that type of drug too.

I: Ok. Anything else that could mess up their plans?

S: I don't know.

I: Ok. And you also said that the AIDS virus can be passed on through sex. And can you tell me how that happens?

S: Well through like different types of sex, like oral, vaginal, and anal. Like when like semen gets in to your...You know.

I: You can go in as much detail or as little as you wish.

S: Alright.

I: I don't want to push you into something you don't want to. But I would like to ask you about those three things separately. Does it matter how often a person would have vaginal sex?

S: (No response audible)

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

S: Protection.

I: Ok and what do you mean by protection?

S: Like a condom or not having it at all.

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

S: Well there is always a chance it could break. So not really good if you know a person has it. Like, really really be careful if you are going to have sex with someone.

I: You said that they is a chance that the condom may break, what do you think that chance is that a condom would break?

S: I don't know.

I: Can you guess?

S: (Laughter)

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

S: If they get pressured into.
I: What do you mean by pressured?

S: Could be like, you know I never been with anybody else. And I love you, and you know, I'll make sure or whatever don't happen or whatever. I won't get you pregnant or whatever. But there's always that chance.

I: And imagine that a person goes out planning not to have unprotected sex, what do you think may mess up those plans?

S: If the other person.

I: Ok. And who would the other person mess up those plans?

S: By pressuring them into not to. Or it could be if you are involved with drugs too. Drugs always comes in somewhere. If you are really into drugs, then you wouldn't know, really.

I: You wouldn't know what?

S: I mean, you'd know but it would be easier to persuade you not to.

I: Not to what?

S: Have protected sex.

I: Ok. Would it matter how often a person would have oral sex?

S: (No)

I: And is there anything a person who is having oral sex could do to protect themselves from getting the AIDS virus?

S: They could also wear a condom.

I: And how well do you think that would really protect a person from getting the AIDS virus if they are having oral sex and using a condom?

S: I think it still is slight because there is always that chance that it would break. I still think the chances are slim.

I: Ok. What do you think may lead a person to having oral sex?

S: Oh, I don't know. Because it was going through their head. No, I don't know.

I: I guess unprotected?

S: Well, it's the persuasion or thinking that they can't get the disease from that type of sex.

I: Ok. Would it matter how often a person would have anal sex with the risk of getting the AIDS virus?

S: I don't think so.

I: I have to go back to vaginal sex. Does it matter how often a person would have vaginal sex?
S: It matters, I mean.

I: I mean in the risk of getting the AIDS virus?

S: Yeah, it matters.

I: Ok. Why does it matter?

S: Because it only takes one time. I mean like the other person if they maybe had an AIDS test and it came up negative. And in that time but before they got the results maybe they had sex with somebody else besides the person they were with.

I: Ok

S: And then the test would just be say negative, but your actually positive because you got it in between the testing time.

I: Imagine that a person has vaginal sex once, and then they have sex many, vaginal, unprotected vaginal sex many more times, and how does that effect their risk of getting the AIDS virus.

S: It raises it.

I: Ok

S: I think the more times you do something it raises your risk.

I: Ok. Does that hold true for both unprotected oral sex and unprotected anal sex?

S: Yeah

I: It holds true for each of those?

S: I think so. I think it even holds true for protected sex. Because you don't know if it's gonna break or anything is going to happen.

I: Ok. Now we are going to switch gears a little bit. What effect does alcohol have on people?

S: It doesn't make you think clearly to where they didn't know what they are doing. Or they know what they are doing but they don't remember, in ways. It's easy to persuade.

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

S: Can you repeat that?

I: Sure. Does drinking make much of a difference in a person's risk of getting the AIDS virus?

S: I don't think it does.

I: Ok. Why not?

S: Well, because, if you're I mean in a way it could but in a way it couldn't. Because you could be thinking clearly when you are drinking, not clearly clearly, but knowing be very strong minded about how you want to do it. And.....say you want to have protected sex and the other person says
no but stand your ground actually and say, well you know, 'cause this happens.

I:  Ok.

S:  But it could also, you could be persuaded not to, but if you're not under the influence than it can be the same way.

I:  Ok.  Does it matter how often a person is exposed to the AIDS virus?

S:  What do you mean?

I:  Does it make any difference how often a person come in contact with the AIDS virus?

S:  Does it matter?  It matters yeah, because I mean.  Do you mean through sex, needles and blood. Or just coming in contact with the people?

I:  Through sex, and needles, and blood?

S:  It only takes one time. Where you could get it.

I:  Ok

S:  And if you keep on doing it then it makes the virus worse.

I:  Ok.  And what do you mean it makes the virus worse?

S:  Because you keep getting more and more into your system.

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

S:  Well, they can get sick, they could die, they could infect other people.  Hum,.....that's all I know.

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

S:  Well, they can develop other diseases because their immune system breaks down.

I:  Ok.  Anything else?

S:  They can pass it.

I:  Ok.  Can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets the AIDS virus and when he or she gets AIDS?

S:  I don't know.

I:  OK.  How long does it take a person with the AIDS virus to develop AIDS?

S:  It depends on maybe how many times you come in contact, it could be like maybe five years, 10 years, I mean it can be awhile.

I:  Ok

S:  It could be as little bit of time maybe six months, to as long as maybe ten years.

I:  Ok.  Does it take longer for some people than for others?
S: Yeah. I think it does. I think it would.

I: Ok. Why?

S: Maybe they have a strong immune system, or maybe...hum, maybe the virus that they did come in contact with wasn't really strong.

I: Ok. I guess are there, when you say that, the virus that they came in contact wasn't very strong, are there different strengths?

S: I think there would be, cause maybe if they just had the virus. Maybe they had actual AIDS. Instead of just a virus.

I: Ok.

S: I think like that's like type of strong. Type thing

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

S: From a test.

I: What kind of test?

S: A blood test.

I: Do you know what they test for? What the blood test does?

S: They see if you have the disease.

I: Ok. And why would someone decide to be tested.

S: Cause maybe they had unprotected sex or may be they shared needles, or maybe they came in contact with some type of, some type of virus. And they wanted to make sure they didn't if they had it or not. They wanted to maybe not only protect other people but. I don't know.

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

S: If they told you.

I: Anything else?

S: I don't think so.

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

S: Sexually active people. People who share needles.

I: Ok. Anything else?

S: People that maybe had blood test from before the time where they actually knew how test them. When was it, '85 or something, I don't know around then. I don't know when it was.

I: I'm not sure when they.
S: It was a while ago, any how.

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

S: When there is a cure, or when they are not having sex or sharing needles.

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

S: I don't think they are making big enough deal. I think that they should really express how what how it effects things and what happens how it can really hurt people and how it can spread so easily.

I: Where have you learned about the AIDS virus?

S: Just like hearing it, like on the news, school, like, I don't know.

I: Anywhere else?

S: Probably but I can't remember.

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

S: I don't know.

I: That maybe you've learn elsewhere that they didn't teach you at school?

S: ........I don't know. I really, in eight grade we talked a little bit about it but it wasn't really a lot and I don't remember it cause I didn't pay attention.

I: Ok. That's ok.

S: Cause I didn't like the class.

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

S: I don't know enough, but I know in ways I can protect myself from it.

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

S: Do you have anything to tell me, that I answered wrong?

I: I don't have anything to tell you. 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 about AIDS?

S: Tells me what I really already heard about and stuff. Cause I know the HIV comes before the AIDS.

I: Ok

S: It's like the, I don't know the word for it. I want to say growing but I don't think it's the right word for it.

I: Ok. Can you describe it?
S: The..., I can't think of the words for it. It's like the process of which it forms a virus. I can't think of the word for it. Hum.....I want to say growing process but. But it's a different word.

I: Ok

S: I can't think of the word.

I: Ok. What does safe sex mean?

S: Meaning having the protected sex or not having sex at all.

I: Ok

S: Well, actually it wouldn't be safe sex, cause it wouldn't be sex at all. So.

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

S: Latex with, I don't know that stuff. Lubricated stuff.

I: Ok

S: I don't know.

I: Can you describe what it does or whatever?

S: No

I: Ok

S: I never had sex before so I don't know.

I: No, no. What else do condoms protect people against?

S: Other STD's.

I: Ok. Like what?

S: Like, gonorrhea, genital warts, herpes, stuff like that.

I: Ok. Anything else it protects people against?

S: Pregnancies

I: I'm sorry?

S: Pregnancies.

I: Pregnancies. Ok. What does IV drug use mean?

S: IV drug?

I: (Yes)
S: Like with the doctors and stuff the IV bags, is that what you are talking about?
I: Ok
S: I don't know.
I: And do you think needles can be cleaned?
S: Can they be cleaned?
I: (Yes)
S: To a certain extent. They might not be spotless, but they can still, if they clean it in a proper way, I would say.
I: Ok. So what do you think the proper way to clean needles is.
S: Either throwing them away. That's not really cleaning them but, not using them anymore. Or using sterilizing material type stuff.
I: Ok