Number 62

I: I'll explain what the interview is about. In this interview I will ask you to talk about AIDS. And 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'll go on with the next one. And you can ask me to stop the interview at any time. I will ask you to talk about everything you know about AIDS and I will first ask you to tell me just everything you know. And then after that I will ask you some more specific questions about what you told me. I may ask the same questions, more than once. And I do this to make sure the you tell me everything you know, and that I understand what you are trying to say. Please don't worry about whether your answer are right or not, just tell me everything that comes to mind. And I want you to know that you don't have to talk about yourself or your own behavior. I just want to know what you know about it. And no one else will hear this tape but the people at CMU. So nobody from Auberle will know, you know what you told me. Your name is not going to be put on the tape so nobody will be able to find out.

Do you agree to participate?

S: (Yes)

I: So my first question is: Please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: It's a sexually transmitted disease. You can get it from somebody having unprotected sex, sharing needles.

I: Anything else?

S: Blood transfusions.

I: Any other things?

S: (No)

I: Are there other things you know about AIDS?

S: (Yes)

I: Can you tell me some thing more?

S: Can't catch it from kissing somebody unless you got a sore on your mouth and they do too. Can't get it from touching them, using the same bathroom, stuff like that.

I: So, but you can get it from sharing needles, that's one thing you said, right?

S: (Yes)

I: Can you tell me how the AIDS virus is passed on from one person to the other when people share needles?

S: Blood transfusions.

I: How does that work? How does the virus can go from one person to the other?

S: The blood from that needle on that person goes into the other person.
I: Does it matter how often a person has a blood transfusion?
S: Not that I know.

I: So imagine a person has a blood transfusion once, would it effect their risk of getting the AIDS virus?
S: (Yes)

I: If they have it several more times?
S: (Yes)

I: Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting the AIDS virus if they are having a blood transfusion?
S: Clean the needle.
I: (Yes)

S: That's all I know.

I: Do you know how they can, how the needle has to be cleaned?
S: Alcohol, I think.

I: How well do you think cleaning a needle would protect a person from getting the AIDS virus from a blood transfusion?
S: Not a lot.
I: Not well?
S: (No)
I: Why not?
S: I don't know. Blood can still be in the needle.

I: Yeah. What do you think may lead a person to get a blood transfusion? Why do you think they need a blood transfusion?
S: If they are doing drugs or something.
I: (Yes) Can you explain it a little bit more. If they are doing drugs?
S: Once people are doing drugs, they are sharing the same needle.
I: (Yes)

S: One of them could have AIDS and they could all get it.
I: (Yes) So imagine a person goes out planning not to share needles, what do you think may mess up these plans?
S: If their have a friend or something they don't have a needle of their own.

I: (Yes) Then what happens?

S: Then they share the needle with them.

I: Yeah. What other ways that you mentioned that the AIDS virus can be passed on from one person to the other?

S: Unprotected sex.

I: And did you mention other things?

S: (No)

I: Ok. So can you explain a little bit more about how that works?

S: If you are having sex with a person who has AIDS and it's not protected you can get it.

I: And what do you mean when you say, not protected?

S: Not using a condom.

I: Ok. Does it matter how often a person has sex without a condom?

S: (No)

I: No. And well, if they have sex with a condom, without a condom once. And then they do it more often, will that increase their risk?

S: (Yes)

I: How well...besides using a condom are there any other ways people can prevent getting the AIDS virus if they are having sex.

S: No

I: No. And how well do you think using a condom can protect a person from getting the AIDS virus?

S: Better then not using it.

I: Yeah. What do you think may lead a person to have unprotected sex?

S: They don't have a condom and they want to have sex.

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

S: If they loose the condom or get a hole in it or something.

I: (Yes) Any other things that you can think of?
S:  (No)
I:  No.
S:  If the person they are having sex with don't want to use it.
I:  (Yes)  Yeah, that can happen.  Any other things?
S:  No.
I:  Ok.  Another question.  What effect does alcohol have on people?
S:  Gets you drunk and you don't know what you are doing.
I:  (Yes)
S:  That's all.  Ruins your liver.
I:  Yeah.
S:  That's basically it.
I:  Does drinking make much of a difference in person risk of getting AIDS?
S:  If you don't drink then you usually know what you are doing.  If you drink you don't know what you are doing.
I:  So how does it effect their risk of getting AIDS?
S:  Cause if you drink you don't think about using a condom.  You have sex.
I:  (Yes)
S:  If you are sober you think about it.
I:  Yeah.  Do you think the risk is different for people who drink a little bit every day compared to people who drink a lot every weekend?  Do you want me to repeat that question?
S:  (No)  Probably about the same.
I:  Why do you think it's the same.
S:  Cause everything that could happen in one week could happen in one day.
I:  That's true.  Do you think it matters how often a person is exposed to the AIDS virus?
S:  (Yes)
I:  Yeah.  Ok.  Can you tell me what happens when a person gets infected with the AIDS virus?
S:  They usually end up dying.
I:  (Yes)  But what happen before they?
S: They get real sick.
I: (Yes) Do you know why they get sick or do you know how that works?
S: It does something to your immune system.
I: (Yes) How long does it take for person to develop AIDS? Do you know that?
S: (No)
I: No. And how can someone learn whether he or she has the AIDS virus?
S: Get tested.
I: Do you know how the test works?
S: (No)
I: Do you know what it test for?
S: HIV
I: (Yes) Why do you think that someone would decide to be tested?
S: They know they had unprotected sex or shared a needle or something.
I: (Yes) What would make you think that a person has the AIDS virus?
S: I don't know. If they tell you.
I: If they tell you?
S: You can't tell [inaudible].
I: Why can't you tell?
S: You just can't. I know a lot of people that got it that you don't think they have it.
I: (Yes) What kinds of people have a lot to worry from the AIDS virus?
S: People who use drugs.
I: Why do they have a lot to worry about?
S: Cause they share needles all the time.
I: Are they any other people who should worry?
S: Prostitutes and stuff.
I: When do you think people can stop worrying about AIDS at all?
S: You can't.
I: Why not?
S: Cause you don't know if anybody around you got it or not. Unless they tell you.
I: Do you think people are making too big a deal of AIDS?
S: (No)
I: No. Why do you think so?
S: Cause if they don't make a big deal, it's never going, never going to find a cure for it.
I: Yeah. Where have you learned about AIDS?
S: School, places like....
I: Yeah. Do you think they skip certain things about AIDS in health class at school?
S: They shouldn't.
I: I'm sorry?
S: They shouldn't. I don't know if they did or not.
I: No, you haven't noticed that they skip things?
S: (No)
I: Do you think you know enough about AIDS to protect yourself from it?
S: (Yes)
I: But are there certain things you would like to know about?
S: Not really.
I: No. When people talk about AIDS, they also often mention HIV. Do you know what HIV is?
S: (No response audible)
I: No
S: Like something you get before you have AIDS.
I: (Yes) Can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets HIV and when they get AIDS?
S: I don't know about the time.
I: No. And you don't know what happens any of the time in between?
S: You get more sicker. Everything you do make you sick.
I: HIV is a virus, do you, knowing that HIV is a virus. Does it give you more information about it?
S: I know it's a virus but, I don't know what HIV stands for.

I: Do you know what a virus is?

S: Like a cold or something you catch.

I: Do you know how it works for AIDS?

S: (No response audible)

I: No. Ok. Can you tell me more about condoms?

S: What do you want to know?

I: Do you know which ones are the safest for protection against AIDS?

S: Latex

I: What else do condoms protect people against?

S: Get pregnant, other sexually transmitted diseases.

I: (Yes). Another term that people use, is IV drug use. Do you know what that means? Have you heard about it?

S: (No)

I: No. Do you think needles can be cleaned?

S: Not really.

I: Not really. What do you mean not really?

S: They can be clean as far as you can see, but you can't always see the germs.

I: Yeah