Number 64

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 my questions. If you don't want to answer a question, just let me know and I will 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 will 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. I do this to make sure you tell me everything you know and that I understand everything you say. 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 myself and the other researchers from CMU. And we will not be reporting to the people here what you said.

My first question is: Please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: AIDS is a disease and first it starts off with HIV then you can have that for about up to 10 years. And you can get AIDS by sexual intercourse contact with someone who has the disease and also by sharing needles. There is no cure for AIDS, they are working on a cure for AIDS right now. And the person who has AIDS is still normal, doesn't mean you are going a get it by hugging a person or being around them or something like that. You are not going to catch it like that or even maybe kissing a person, I don't think you could get AIDS like that. That way or something. And basically that's about it.

I: Ok. You told me that AIDS is passed on when you have sexual intercourse, can you tell me more about that?

S: Through the blood stream I think. Or something like that.

I: You said through the blood stream?

S: I think.

I: And what about needle sharing. You said that AIDS is passed on when you share needles. Can you tell me any more about that?

S: Hum, yeah like if doctors or something uses a needle and somebody gives a shot and he doesn't clean or throw it away and uses the same one. You have a chance of getting AIDS.

I: What do you mean when you talk about sharing needles?

S: Like if one person uses a needle and then you use it. You have a chance. Not supposed to do that.

I: Ok. And what do you mean when you talk about sexual intercourse?

S: You mean what it is?

I: (Yes)

S: Putting your penis in the vagina.

I: Ok. Does it matter how often a person has sexual intercourse or shares a needle?

S: No. Could happen on the first time.
I: Ok. Imagine that a person may have sexual intercourse or share a needle once. What would be the chances or the risk of a person catching the HIV or AIDS virus if they you know, had sex or shared needles many times.

S: Many times?

I: (Yes)

S: It would be a good chance.

I: It would be a good chance of what?

S: Getting the HIV virus or AIDS.

I: Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting HIV virus if they are sharing needles or having sexual intercourse?

S: Using a condom. I think that would help for the sexual intercourse, you might not get AIDS that way or the HIV virus. Ah, sharing needles, just that clean them or just throw them away and use something different. Use a different needle.

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

S: They have about a 50/50 chance, 50% chance, something like that. I'd say about that from not getting it.

I: What do you think may lead a person to share needles or have sexual intercourse?

S: Can you repeat that?

I: What would lead a person to those things?

S: Share needles?

I: Yeah

S: Or have sexual intercourse?

I: (Yes)

S: Ah......share needles probably I think what would lead a person would be like if a person was taking drugs through needles or something and the other person wanted to take drugs, he wanted to be just like the other person or his friend or something, just to use the same needle. Just give him some. Shoot him in some drugs too. And sexual intercourse would lead, I don't know, an attractive woman or something, girl, if she said she wanted to and he's like, yeah maybe he would.

I: Ok. Imagine that a person goes out planning not to share needles or have sexual intercourse. What do you think may mess up these plans? They are planning not to. But then what do you think would mess up their plans?

S: If for sexual intercourse and ah, if the girl kept begging him and begging him like she wanted to have sex with him and he didn't want to, he might eventually give in or something. And about the needles. Lead him I don't know, the person says, try or something, it won't hurt you or something.
Make you feel high.

I: (Yes) Anything else?

S: Ah, no. That's it for that.

I: What effect does alcohol have on people?

S: Makes them do things like they would really regret later. Like stuff they wouldn't mean to do maybe. And control their minds sometimes.

I: Does drinking make much of a difference in a person's risks of getting AIDS?

S: No.

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

S: Yes.

I: Pardon me?

S: Yes.

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

S: Ah...it will start to show symptoms after a period of time. I'm trying to think of what the symptoms... Can't think of what the symptoms are.

I: (Yes)

S: I used to know.

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

S: Hum...he'll feel fine for awhile and then maybe he'll just start feeling sick and stuff.

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

S: How long will it take?

I: No. Can you tell me about that time between those two, you know, when they get HIV and when they get AIDS?

S: That time the person would feel pretty much fine. Just feel like other people,

I: (Yes)

S: That's everything I can talk about it.

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

S: Could take up to about 10 years at the most.

I: Does it take longer for some people than for others?
S: I'd say yes.
I: How can someone learn whether he or she has HIV?
S: Go get a, go to the doctor and get tested. See if he has it.
I: What does the test test for? Do you know how it works?
S: Hum...take a, give you a shot or something and take some of your blood out and test your blood.
I: Why would someone decide to be tested?
S: To see if they have it.
I: Anything else?
S: And, I don't know....I can't think of anything.
I: What would make you think that a person has HIV?
S: ............I don't know.
I: Could you speak up a little?
S: I don't know.
I: You don't know. Ok. What kinds of people have a lot to worry about from AIDS?
S: .........People who has other problems too and stuff. Like problem with their blood or something, I don't know. And maybe problems with their organs. Something like that, person with problems like that and they have more to worry about if they get the HIV virus or AIDS.
I: Ok. When can people stop worry about AIDS?
S: (I don't know). Well once they get it, they just shouldn't stop worrying about it because they can't get rid of it. So.
I: Do you think people are making too big a deal of AIDS?
S: No.
I: No.
S: I don't think that.
I: Why is that?
S: Because it is a very important disease. You know, you hear a good bit of people maybe have it and stuff. That why I'd say.
I: Where have you learn about AIDS?
S: School, my parents, friends, TV.
I: What things do they skip about AIDS in health classes at school?
S: Hum.....I don't know.
I: Could you speak up?
S: I don't know.
I: You don't. Do you think you know enough about AIDS to protect yourself from it?
S: Yes.
I: Ok. Is there anything more you would like to know about AIDS?
S: No.
I: No? I'm going to ask a few more questions here. AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV, what does that tell you about it?
S: Hum...I don't know.
I: Ok. What does safe sex mean?
S: Being protected, have protection.
I: Can you tell me what are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?
S: I'll take a guess on this. By what kinds I heard. Ah, say maybe, I don't know, Trojan's maybe.
I: What else do condoms protect you against?
S: Getting a girl pregnant.
I: Pardon me?
S: Getting a girl pregnant.
I: Ok. Anything else?
S: Ah...no.
I: What does IV drug use mean? Do you know?
S: No
I: No. Ok. Do you think needles can be cleaned?
S: Yes.
I: Yes. Ok. How do you think you can clean needles? Do you know how needles can be cleaned?
S: By using, rinse them in water or something like that. Wash them in alcohol.
I: Ok