Number 68

I: 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 will go on to the next one.

S: Ok.

I: You can also ask me to stop the interview at any time if you want to. In this interview you will be asked to talk about everything you know about AIDS. And I will first ask you to tell me everything you know and then I will ask you some more specific questions. I may ask you the same questions more than once but I do this to make sure you tell me everything you know and that I understand everything that you are saying.

S: Ok.

I: Please don't worry about whether your answers are right or not. Just tell me everything that comes to mind. So my first question is very general. Please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: Well, I know that it's a virus and it's you can get it from when your blood comes into contact with someone else's blood who has the AIDS virus. And I know that you don't actually you don't die from AIDS, you die from cause your immune system breaks down and you die from other diseases. You can die from a common cold I know that's about it. I know well, things that you can do to prevent it and I know you can't get it from kissing or hugging and stuff like that.

I: Can you tell me more about how AIDS is passed on from one person to the other?

S: Hum, could be sexually, could be from blood transfusions, and that's about it really, it could be from if someone has a cut and you have an open, you have a cut and that could it could get it from rubbing a cut something like that. That's all.

I: So, you told me that it's can be passed on when you have a blood transfusion. Can you tell me more about that?

S: You could get it when like if you're in a hospital for a car crash or something and they have to put blood into you, if they give you blood from a patient that they didn't test test their blood, hum, you could get it. Get AIDS.

I: Ok. Does it matter a how often a person gets a blood transfusion?

S: No. Doesn't.

I: Why doesn't it?

S: Because it only takes one time if you get AIDS infected blood then that's it.

I: Yeah. Can you tell me how a person can be able to prevent getting AIDS from having a blood transfusion?

S: Prevent it?

I: Yeah.
S: Hum, well you could well if the doctors can make sure if the blood is checked and...that's all. Make sure it's clean.

I: Ok. How well do you think checking the blood would uh how well do you think checking the blood would protect a person from getting AIDS?

S: I think it would protect, I think it would work very well.

I: Yeah.

S: Yes. I think that would help a lot.

I: Ok. You also told me that AIDS is passed on when you have a cut. Can you tell me more about that?

S: Hum, it's just when you come into contact with someone with the AIDS virus and they have a cut and if their blood gets into your blood system, then you get AIDS.

I: Ok. Can you tell me more about how that works then? Or you don't know?

S: Just I can't explain that. Well I guess the virus is gets into your blood cells and just guess that's how it happens.

I: Ok. Does it matter how often a person a gets in touch with, or comes into contact with a person's an HIV infected person's blood?

S: Yes. It only takes one time.

I: Yeah

S: Just like blood transfusions.

I: Can you tell me how someone can prevent getting AIDS from getting in touch with, ah getting into contact with a cut?

S: Hum.....I don't know, well just if you went and if you don't, if you don't touch their sores and stuff and then you shouldn't get it.

I: Yeah.

S: You just stay away from their cuts and if you make sure you don't have any cuts and if you do touch them.

I: Is there anything else?

S: No.

I: No. How well do you think, um, not um, no, making sure you don't touch any cuts would protect a person from getting AIDS?

S: I would think it would help a lot.

I: Ok. You also told me that AIDS is passed on sexually. Can you tell me more about that?
S: It's when you share bodily fluids. And just it goes into your system and then you get AIDS.
I: Does it matter how often a person has sex?
S: No if they use protection, but without it I guess it matters.
I: Can you tell me more about protection?
S: Well, just I don't, just, condoms and stuff like that help.
I: Is there anything else you can do?
S: Don't do it at all.
I: Yeah
S: That's the other thing.
I: Ok.
S: That's still not 100% safe though.
I: What is not 100% safe?
S: Protection, condoms.
I: So if I ask you how well do you think using condoms would protect, how well do you think using condoms would protect a person from getting AIDS you would say?
S: It would protect them to a certain point but there's still a chance.
I: Ok. What do you think may lead a person to ah, have unprotected sex?
S: Ah, ...if they are drunk or high, their mind's not focused if they don't if they don't understand how you can get AIDS.
I: (Yes) What other things may mess up a person's plan to have a protected sex?
S: What other things? Hum........I don't, will maybe they're just in the mood and just don't care about protection at that time that would mess up their plans.
I: Yeah, can you tell me what effect does alcohol have on people?
S: Explain it? You mean like explain it? The effects on the mind or towards sex?
I: Both
S: Effects the mind is slow your thinking down or thinking process. You act slower, do it changes you personality. So you do things that you wouldn't regularly do some times. And then as a result that would lead you to have unprotected sex. You're not thinking.
I: So do you think drinking make much of a difference in a person's risk of getting AIDS?
S: Yes.
I: [coughs] Excuse me. How do you think, this is going to be a difficult questions so just tell me if you don't understand what I am asking. How do you think it's different for people, do you think it's different for people who drink regularly compared with people who binge drink?

S: Ok, hum, how do I think it's different?

I: Yeah

S: I don't, I mean if you well drinking regularly or just drinking for that day?

I: Yeah. It's drink a little bit every day or drink whole lot one day or the weekend or?

S: Well, hum, I think it would it would it wouldn't do I mean it would be a bad thing to do for both situations. Drinking a little bit hum, that still slows down the thinking process. Drinking a lot does it even more so I think that both are bad idea.

I: Ok. Coughs [excuse me]. Does it matter how often a person is exposed to AIDS?

S: Hum, what do you mean?

I: Does it matter how often you get in to contact with the AIDS virus?

S: Yes. Cause I mean it is just a first time think so yes.

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

S: They might not know it for a while, mean like that?

I: Yeah.

S: They might not know it for a while, but it hum, in a few years start getting sick and won't know why but then you go to the doctors and find out that they have HIV or AIDS.

[Airconditioner turns on - I tries to turn it off]

I: I'll ask the same question again. Can you tell me what happens when a person gets the AIDS virus?

S: Say they won't know for a few years but after awhile they'll first start getting sick and go to the doctors and find out that they have the AIDS virus and HIV whatever. And hum, they just start keep getting sicker and sicker till they die.

I: So you told me that they don't know that they have it, and then they get sick.

S: Usually they don't know till, I mean well yeah, the usually don't know.

I: So can you tell me what happens when they get AIDS?

S: When they get it then they ah, they just get sick and die.

I: Yeah. Ok. Can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets HIV and when they get sick?
S: They get HIV that's you don't actually have AIDS, it's the first step and then after a while you get AIDS and then and you want me to say what happen between that time you have AIDS and get sick? Ok. Well, physically, I mean?

I: In any way that you can think of.

S: Well mentally ah, I think it would make people, i think it would make that person highly upset, cause if anybody find out then a lot of people would have a fear of that person coming in contact with them.

I: Yeah.

S: So they would be depressed and physically they just start dying.

I: Yeah. Do you know how long does it take for a person with HIV to develop AIDS?

S: I don't know. I don't think there is an average time, I think they just could happen at any time, but usually take a little while.

I: Do you think it takes longer for some people then for others?

S: Yes.

I: Why or how is that?

S: I don't know cause different people are made different ways. It affects people in different ways.

I: Is there a way that you can predict it if it will be a shorter time or a longer time for someone?

S: They probably do have technology to figure that out but I don't know anything about it.

I: No. How can someone learn whether they have HIV?

S: Through the doctor. Doctor, test ah, blood test.

I: Yeah. Do you know what the test tests for?

S: Hum, Diseases, STD's and stuff like that.

I: Yeah. Ok. Why do you think that someone would decide to be tested?

S: Hum maybe well, like I said they might start feeling sick and they won't know why, or they might have found out that their partner or someone that they came in contact had AIDS. Then maybe they have it and maybe they need to get it checked out.

I: Yeah. What kinds of people do you think have a lot to worry from AIDS and HIV?

S: What type of people?

I: Yeah.

S: Hum, I don't understand?
I: Do you think there are some people that have to worry. Wait, can you think of a group of people that may be should worry a little bit more about AIDS than other people?

S: A group that has unprotected sex and group has blood transfusions things that can cause AIDS should worry more then people who don’t.

I: Yeah. Are there people that don't have to worry about AIDS at all?

S: Hum.....that's a hard question cause yes in a way cause some people don't come in contact with anything that has to do with AIDS. And some people, most people do. And I think that’s yes and it's no, so I don't know.

I: I just want to know what you think, there's no right or wrong answer. [coughs]. I'm sorry. Do you think people are making to big a deal of AIDS?

S: No.

I: Why do you think so?

S: I think it needs to. I think people need to learn about it like I said before, some people who have AIDS are depressed because some people think they could get AIDS just by coming around them and if you would teach people about it then that would probably change. So yes, I think it is necessary.

I: Ok. Where have you learned about AIDS?

S: In school, at home, TV. A lot of places.

I: Are there things that they skips in AIDS classes at school?

S: That they skip?

I: Yeah.

S: Yes, they didn't tell us where, they didn't tell us, well they told us how you could get it but they didn't tell you exactly what happens. Stuff like that.

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

S: Yes.

I: Ok. Are there any things that you would like to know more about?

S: No, what AIDS are or just like?

I: Yeah.

S: Hum, yes I'd like to learn a little bit more about it. About any possible cures they are coming up with. Stuff like that.

I: Any other thing?

S: No.
I: AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV, and what does it tell you that AIDS is caused. Wait. This is a weird question. This is what it says: AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV, what does that tell you about it?

S: Hum, well if it's cause by it then tell's me that you can probably stop it at that point if you had the proper medications. And tell's me that the first step and AIDS is the second step.

I: Yeah. Ok. Suppose that there is a new disease and [coughs] all you know is that it is cause by a virus, and then what information can you infer from knowing that it is caused by a virus about how the disease is transmitted?

S: I don't understand it?

I: OK, hum. So there is a new disease and you don't know you don't know anything about it. All you know is the cause of the disease is a virus and suppose that you know that's all you know. Would you know anything about how the diseases is spread among people?

S: Would I know it?

I: Yeah, what would you think?

S: I don't know.

I: Would you know anything about how it would spread? If you know it was caused by a virus?

S: I might have ideas but I don't think I would I mean if I don't know what the virus is I don't think I would know how it would spread.

I: Ok, and would you know anything about how the disease develops?

S: Like I said, I have ideas but I don't think I would know exactly.

I: Can you tell me a little bit about you ideas then?

S: I would think about like who ever had the disease I think about what they did right before they got the disease and that's all I could do.

I: Yeah. Would you know anything about how the disease could be treated?

S: If I could figure out possibilities of how they got it, there is a possibility that I could figure out a way to stop it. Sure.

I: Ok. What do you think the phrase safe sex means?

S: It means protected sex.

I: Yeah

S: But then again it means no sex.

I: Yeah. Can it mean anything else too?

S: No.
I: Can you tell me more about condoms?
S: I don't know just...I have nothing to tell.
I: Let me ask it this way?
S: Form of protection.
I: Yeah. What are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?
S: What other kinds?
I: Yeah
S: Have one for females and then they have them for men.
I: Yeah. And which ones are safer to use against AIDS?
S: I don't really know. I don't think either one really. I mean I don't know.
I: Ok. Are there any other things that condoms protect you against?
S: Besides sex?
I: Yeah. No beside AIDS?
S: Hum, yes, pregnancy, other diseases.
I: Ok. Do you know what IV drug use means? Intravenous drug use?
S: No but I think I heard about it. No
I: Can you guess?
S: IVs I guess are these little things from a hospital those needles and drug are medication, so I guess it's a those little needles stuff I guess, I don't know.
I: Ok. Do you know that AIDS can also be spread if you shared these needles? Have you heard about that?
S: Yes.
I: Ok. So do you think there is a way that these needles can be cleaned so that it will not be spread?
S: No. No I don't think you should clean them, I think you should throw them away and use new ones.
I: Ok.