Number 76

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. And 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 at any time to stop the interview if you don't feel like doing it. So in this interview you will be ask to talk about everything you know about AIDS and I will first ask you to tell me everything, just tell me everything you know and after that I will ask you questions about what you told me. I may ask the same question more than once, and I do this to make sure that I understand what you told me. Please don't worry about whether your questions are right or not because I just want you to talk about what comes to mind and what you know about it. And also you don't have to talk about yourself or your own behavior. I just want to know what you know about it. And know one else will hear the tape but me and the people at CMU who are working with me on this project. And we will not put your name on the tape, it will all be anonymous. We will put a number on it and that's going to be it. Let me see. Ok. So, yeah, my first question is, please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: Ok. I know how you get, I know how you can't get it and...I know that the sex is and..... I just can't say what I know about it, I don't know. Can't come to my head right now.

I: Do you want me to ask more specific questions about it that you can answer?

S: Yeah.

I: Ok. First, have you ever heard about the word AIDS? Have you heard it before?

S: Yeah.

I: Can you remember anything you heard about it when you heard about other people using it?

S: People, what did you say?

I: What, ok, let me ask you another question. Can you tell me more about how AIDS is passed on from one person to another?

S: Hum, sharing needles, sexual intercourse, blood transfusions, and infected mother passing it on to her baby.

I: Are there any other ways that you heard about to infect people?

S: Hum,.....

I: No. Ok. So you told me that it can passed, AIDS can be passed on when you share needles? Can you tell me more about how that works?

S: I don't know, I guess if there is blood inside the needle and then someone else uses it and then their blood get into the other blood.

I: And do you think it matters how often a person shares needles?

S: No.

I: Can you explain to me why or you think so?

S: Cause it only takes but a little bit of blood really. I guess, I don't know.
I: Ok. And imagine that a person shares needles only once and what do you think happens hum, to the person risk of getting AIDS if they share needles more often after that?

S: There's a greater chance.

I: Yeah. Can you explain why?

S: Because of the blood. If it's infected and it gets into the other person's body, then they are going to get infected.

I: And now if a person is sharing needles do you think, is there a way that they can prevent getting AIDS if they are doing that?

S: If they are sharing needles?

I: (Yes)

S: There isn't a way.

I: There's nothing they can do about it?

S: They shouldn't share needles.

I: (Yes) Ok. How well do you think it would protect them if they don't share needles at all?

S: They have a better chance of not getting it.

I: (Yes) And what do you think might lead a person to share needles?

S: People on drugs.

I: (Yes) And hum, imagine that a person goes out planning not to share needles and then what do you think may mess up these plans? What do you think may change their plans?

S: If they become intoxicated or if they are high from drugs or something then they don't know what's going on.

I: Yeah. Are there any others things that may happen?

S: Somebody could stick the needle in you.

I: Yeah. You also told me that AIDS can be passed on through a blood transfusion? Can you explain how that works?

S: I don't know.

I: You don't know.

S: Oh, I think I know, if they, you mean like how they are using other people's blood?

I: Yeah.

S: If their blood is infected. Like how they have to put blood back in someone's body.
I: (Yes) And is that how it works?
S: [No audible response].
I: And do you think it matters how often a person, does it matter how often a person has a blood transfusion?
S: No
I: No. Why not?
S: You mean does it matter how often a person, because if the blood isn't infected, you can have as many as you want.
I: Yeah. And if it is infected?
S: Then you are going to get AIDS.
I: Yeah. Imagine that a person as a blood transfusion only once, what happens to a person's risk if they have a blood transfusion many more times after that?
S: The risk gets high.
I: Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting AIDS if they are having a blood transfusion?
S: If they are?
I: Or if they need one? Is there something they can do?
S: Get the blood tested for AIDS first.
I: Do you know how that works?
S: (No)
I: Is there anything else they can do?
S: Hum, they can get blood from, they can give blood before they have the operation, can't they? Or they can get blood from somebody in their family who doesn't have it.
I: How well do you think it would protect them if they give their own blood before the operation?
S: And then they won't get AIDS.
I: And even if the family member gives the blood, how well do you think it would protect them?
S: Well you won't really, well there's a chance that their family member would have it and don't know, so. If you are 100% sure that that person can't possibly have it. If they get tested, then it's a long time.
I: Sorry?
S: Doesn't it take a long time to find out the results?
I: Yeah. How what you said, have you heard about that before?

S: [No audible response].

I: Ah.

S: Think it's six months.

I: (Yes) And so, if they check the blood, how well do you think it would protect them from getting AIDS if they are having a blood transfusion?

S: It should be 100%.

I: I'm sorry.

S: It should be 100%.

I: Ok. What do you think may lead a person to get a blood transfusion? Why do you think they might need one?

S: If they have an operation, they are taking out blood, so you got to put blood back in.

I: Is there any other reason why they would need a blood transfusion?

S: I don't know.

I: Ok. You also told me that AIDS is passed on when people are having sex. Can you tell me more about that?

S: Yeah. I think it's hum,... I forget, I don't know, I just know that if somebody ejaculates in you and they're infected with AIDS then you'll get it. I forget how.

I: You don't know why that is?

S: It's because, I mean I know what it's because of, but it's their body fluids being mixed with yours.

I: Yeah. Is there anything else you know about it?

S: About what?

I: About how it gets passed on through sex?

S: [No audible response].

I: No. Ok. Does it matter how often a person has sex?

S: You mean with the person who has AIDS or just period?

I: First, with the person who has AIDS. Does it matter how often they have sex with them?

S: Yeah, they shouldn't.
I: And does it matter how often they have sex period?
S: Yeah.
I: Why.
S: Because you going to meet somebody and they might, you might not know their history. They might have it.
I: That's true. So are there any ways that a person can prevent getting AIDS if they having sex?
S: There's not 100%. There's nothing that is 100%. So.
I: Is there a way that they can reduce their risk a little bit?
S: Well, using a condom.
I: (Yes) Are there any other things that they can do?
S: Other birth control devices, I don't know them all.
I: Yeah. And you also talked about a person history?
S: Well if the person you are having sex with has never had sex before, but you still don't know whether or not they have it. Cause you can get it other ways.
I: That's true. What do you think may lead person to have sex?
S: Might lead them to have sex?
I: (Yes)
S: If they are sexually aroused.
I: Ok. Let me ask it this way. Imagine a person goes out planning not to have sex, what do you think may mess up these plans?
S: They get drunk. If they are pressured into it.
I: What happens if they get drunk?
S: If they are to the point where they don't know what's going then anybody can do anything to them.
I: I have some more questions about alcohol. What effect does alcohol have on people?
S: It takes over their whole body. They're a different person.
I: Do you think drinking that, does drinking make much of a difference in a person risk of getting AIDS?
S: Yeah.
I: Yeah. Can you explain why?
S: Cause if you don't know what's going on, if you are not aware of what's going on, anything can happen to you.

I: (Yes). Do you think it matters how often a person is exposed to the AIDS virus?

S: Yeah. If they are exposed to it, what do you mean exposed to it?

I: Ah, if they uh contact it in some way?

S: Then they should get AIDS, they might get the virus.

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

S: You mean AIDS or the virus?

I: First the virus, can you tell me more about that?

S: I don't think really, anything happens when, once you get the virus. I know when you get AIDS you get sick. I don't really know what happens, the stuff you see on TV, but they exaggerate it on TV, so I don't know.

I: Can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets the virus and when they get AIDS, have you heard more about that?

S: I don't know.

I: Do you know who long it takes for a person with the virus to develop AIDS?

S: There really isn't a time, I don't think there is, I don't know. It could take years.

I: Yeah. Does it take longer for some people then for others?

S: I guess so. I don't know.

I: You don't know. How can some one learn whether he or she has the AIDS virus?

S: By getting a check-up.

I: Do you know how the check-up works or what they do?

S: Guess they take blood out.

I: Do you know how they check the blood or what they check for?

S: I don't know. I guess they just test it.

I: And why do you think that someone would decide to be tested?

S: Cause they, either they want to make sure they think they have it.

I: And hum, what would make you think that a person has AIDS or the AIDS virus?

S: What would make you think they did?
I: (Yes)
S: I don't know how you would know unless they tell you.
I: What kinds of people do you think have a lot to worry from AIDS?
S: People who have sex with anonymous partners. People who don't use condoms. People who share needles.
I: Yeah
S: People who had blood transfusions before 1985.
I: Right. You also mentioned another one, another way of transmission, is was if the mother is infected. Can you explain how that works? Do you know more about that?
S: I don't know, I guess if the baby is in her body it's going to interact with her blood fluids. I mean her body fluids. I guess that's how the baby gets it.
I: And is there a way that the mother can prevent passing it on to the baby?
S: I don't know.
I: When do you think people can stop worrying about AIDS at all?
S: You can't.
I: Why not?
S: Just something you can't stop worrying about. It's a disease.
I: Do you think people are making too big a deal of AIDS?
S: No.
I: Why do you think so?
S: Cause a lot of people don't know anything about it.
I: Where have you learned about AIDS?
S: School.
I: School. Do you think they skip certain things about AIDS in health class as school?
S: Not really. Somethings I just don't remember.
I: But that's something else. Is there anything about AIDS you would like to know more about?
S: Not really.
I: No.
S: They'll teach it this year in school.

I: This year? I have some questions about terms that people use when they talk about AIDS. Ah, for example: AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV, does that give you any information about it?

S: Give me information about what?

I: That HIV is a virus? Does it tell you anything?

S: That statement?

I: (Yes)

S: That didn't make sense to me.

I: Do you know what a virus is?

S: Yeah.

I: And hum, HIV, do you know what HIV is?

S: Yeah.

I: So, HIV is a virus and it causes AIDS. And that HIV is a virus, does that give you any information about it. About the disease or how?

S: I don't know.

I: You don't know. Ok, that's okay we will go on with the next. Have you ever heard of the term "Safe sex".

S: Yeah.

I: What do you think it means?

S: Protected sex.

I: What do you mean by that? Or what do people mean by that when they use that?

S: Hum, using things that can keep you from getting disease and getting pregnant.

I: Do you know what things they mean?

S: Condoms, birth control, diaphragm.

I: Can you tell me more about what condoms are the best ones to use?

S: I don't know.

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

S: I don't know.

I: Another term. Have you ever heard about IV drug use?
S: ....No

I: Do you think that drug needles can be cleaned?

S: Yeah. I think they might be able to.

I: How do you think they would do that.

S: I don't know. All this high tech stuff they got these days, there could be anything. I don't know.

I: Ok.