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. And 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. First I will ask you to tell me things you know, things that come to mind about AIDS. And then I will ask you some more specific 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 try to explain. Please don't worry about whether your answers are right or not. Just tell me what come to mind. You don't have to talk about yourself or your behavior. Just your knowledge that I want to know about. No one else will hear the tape but me. And I'm not going to put your name on the tape. It's going to be a number on there and that’s it.

So my first question is, please tell me what you know about AIDS?

S: I know it's a human, I mean acquired immune deficiency syndrom. I know that it breaks down your immune system, most people just don't die of AIDS, they just die of HIV. Most people die of common colds and commons things because it just breaks your immune system down. And common things that you get they can't force them off like they can naturally do, because their immune system is down. I know that it is not just a gay disease, it's heterosexual too. And it can effect anyone. Nothing is safe against it but condoms help it a lot. Hum,...it can happen to any race, any females, it could happen to anyone. It's starting to get more common among teenagers. There's no cure for it. It's an STD. But it also can be passed through needle use and if you know if you are using a needle with someone else. It can also be passed through blood. And hum, juices during sex. I guess that's what I know about that.

I: So, could you, can you tell me, can you list the things that can transmit AIDS from one person to another, things that you can do?

S: Sex, drug use, you can't get it from just hugging someone of something like that. Hum, you can pass it to a child when you are giving birth.

I: You said blood before?

S: Blood yeah, like if they get cut and you have a cut and somehow it gets together, that's pretty much the only ways you can get it, through body juices and stuff like that.

I: So, about.. when one person has a cut. Can you tell me can you explain how it is passed on from one person to the other, if one person has a cut or.

S: They have sex, is that what you are talking about?

I: No, a cut or something.

S: What?

I: You said that it could be passed on if someone has a cut?

S: Yeah. Say their blood gets mixed up with another person blood that has AIDS. And it get's into their system and that. If it get's into their system they can acquire HIV also.

I: Can you tell me how a person can prevent passing on the AIDS virus if they have a cut?
S: First of all there is abstinence, no drug use, condom. Condoms effect, I mean it's not 100% proof, I mean you know. But it's one of the best ways you can prevent it right now. Cause there is no cure. That's about it.

I: And if someone has a cut?

S: Try to avoid. Even if it is someone you know, try to avoid to stay away from their blood contact.

I: Does it matter, do you think it matters how often a person comes in contact with another person blood from a cut or something?

S: I think I think you should try to avoid it, but the more you come in contact. Like the more you have sex with a person. Like for instance you might not know if they went and had it with another person and the more partners you have also, you would be more susceptible to getting that. You don't use any protection, you have more partners, then if you don't, you know if you, I mean some times they might lie to you, but it's also good to see someone tell you the truth you can ask someone off the bat, hey do you know if you know you have HIV or anything like that. They might not tell you the truth. But that's some times good.

I: How well do you think that would protect a person from getting the AIDS virus?

S: What a condom?

I: No if they, I ask about that latter, but first I ask about if they try not to touch someone else's cut?

S: I mean a lot of people get cuts every day, you just have to be precautious about it. I mean you can't just say I don't want to be near that person because they are cut. Maybe you could wear gloves or something or, you know. But I don't think you should try to stay away from a person, cause they might like bleed or something. You have to do something, try not to touch it but, try to do something for them. Or call the police, I mean the ambulance or something.

I: And hum, what do you think may lead person to touch someone's cut or get into contact with them?

S: That could be one reason. They get, like, they went unconscious and their head is bleeding or something, I mean even if you touch the blood you don't have cut you're not going to, it's not going to get into you just make sure you have no cuts or something like that.

I: Yeah

S: Yeah

I: Ok. And you also mentioned that it could be passed on if you share needles?

S: Yeah

I: Can you tell me more?
S: A junky, yeah, a junky has HIV. You use their same needles that they just used and that could be passed on because of the stuff that’s on the needles, the fluids that are still left on the needle [inaudible].

I: Ok, and do you think it matters?

S: Oh, and also I'm sorry another way that AIDS is going to pass is from blood transfusion in the 1980's before they used to check blood. Before, that's what they said if you had a transfusion before recently, you should go get checked for it because you could possibly have it because you could possibly have cause they didn't check blood for the virus.

I: Do you know about, is there a way that a person can prevent getting the AIDS virus, if they need a blood transfusion?

S: I mean now, that check the blood, so it's just automatic that you don't have to worry about it. If you are really really scared, or you’re [inaudible] about it or whatever how you say it, you could ask them to double check, I mean, there are some people like that I guess.

I: And how well do you think checking the blood works as a prevention? And how well do you think it protects them?

S: I mean there's not definite way to make sure you won't get it. You just try. I don't know, hum, I guess they check the blood as a good as they can so you just have rely on them. I mean if you're going to die from without getting a blood transfusion till you... I mean you are just going to have take your risk. That's the risk you have to take nowadays.

I: And why do you think may need a blood transfusion?

S: I don't know, maybe they have liver problems I don't know why you would get a blood transfusion. Maybe their blood is, maybe they lost to much blood and they needle some in their body or. They are in a bad car accident. Maybe the blood in their body, I don't know.

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

S: I mean, just like I said the last time, the more the more you put yourself in a position to get it the more likely you will get it. I mean if you did it once you won't have the same percentage of getting it if you did it twice. It will double. The more you do it the more you are susceptible to get it.

I: About sharing needles. Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting the AIDS virus if they are sharing needles?

S: First of all, they shouldn't be sharing, they shouldn't be doing drugs anyway. But I don't think there's no sure. You just use your own needle if you are going to do drugs. That's the best thing you can tell them. they shouldn't be doing it in the first place, but if they choose to do drugs they shouldn't use another person’s needle. That's the only thing, I mean what are you going do take it out of some body's arm and clean it with a alcohol pad. That still might not do nothing. So if you are going to do that just get your own pad, I mean get your own needle.

I: And how well do you think it would protect them if they use their own needle?

S: 100%. I mean if they use, I mean not the same needle over and over again. I'm saying cause if they get, if they go buy their own needle or something. I don't know. But you
won't have the risk of getting it from that person. There's no way you can get it from that needle if you are both using your own needle.

I: And you also said maybe they should try to clean it with alcohol? How well do you think that would protect them?

S: No. I said that wouldn't protect them, I don't think cleaning it off with alcohol, I mean if AIDS is on there, there's no, I mean, once AIDS hits the air, they say that it dies. But it must, I don't know there must be some reason that it's not dying on the needle. There must be something in it, so I don't think nothing like alcohol they would have been [inaudible]. Alcohol can clean AIDS off of a needle.

I: And so the air doesn't do anything?

S: They say when AIDS hits the air that it dies I guess it has to be there for a while. And I guess if you are just taking it out and putting it back in that's not long enough time. It has to be hours or something like that.

I: So, how well do you think it would protect them if they expose it to air?

S: I know when they say, they say the HIV virus hits the air that it dies, but I don't know exactly how long that, I think it's a few hours of something like that. If I mean if you and your friend is doing drugs you are not going to keep the needle out for an hour cause you all both want to be I guess, you both want to be there at the same time. You are not going, lalala and then stick in it and they'll be done and you will be just sitting there. That's not going to happen.

I: What do you think would lead a person to share needles?

S: They might not be able to get any of it their selves. Or maybe they are at the time hey you don't care, you know I just want to get, you know get whatever in my arm. It doesn't matter how it gets there.

I: Imagine that a person goes out planning not to share needles. What do you think may mess up these plans?

S: They might get drunk and messes up their thoughts and stuff. They can also their friends talks them, come on you know I don't have any. Something like that. Also they could hum, you know what else could happen. They just might figure hey I don't know why I thought that at time, it doesn't matter. I mean a lot of things could happen to just make them change their mind. Or they might be on some drugs before they do other drugs in their arms. That also could mess up their thinking.

I: And then they do it anyway.

S: Yeah.

I: You also said that it could be passed on from the mother to a child. Can you explain how that works?

S: The fluids that go into the placenta, like for instance, if the mother drinks the baby gets all the things that the mother takes in. Smoking, drugs, everything goes to that baby, that's their nourishment. If the mother has AIDS, I mean I heard of cases where the mother has had the baby and not passed on the virus. I mean I guess that's able to happen or maybe it
didn't show up yet. But most more than like if you have it your child will, because all your fluids are going to that child and the child fluids are going, you know it's all you are all together you are one. So if you have it then your fluids are going to be passed on to the baby through birth and everything else. The placenta too, the little water that is in side of it.

I: Do you think there is a way that the mother can protect passed it on?

S: Not getting AIDS. I don't know if there is another way, if she doesn't have AIDS, then her child won't have AIDS.

I: I mean if she has it, is there a way she can?

S: She just has to pray and hope that her child doesn't get it. That's I don't think there is a way that she can prevent her child from not getting it, if she has it already and it's there. Unless she has an abortion, but then she won't have the child either.

I: That's true.

S: Some people might like to have, not have their child grow up with AIDS. With AIDS, they would rather have an abortion.

I: Ok. And hum, you also told me that the AIDS virus is passed on when people have sex. Can you tell me more about that, how it works?

S: There's juices in the female that are passed to the male, and there is things that happen when they are going on it just gets passed through. There's nothing else I can really say about it. I know that’s the way it gets passed through.

I: Ok. And do you think it matter how often a person has sex?

S: Yes. Because for instance the boy can go out and have unprotected sex, and acquire AIDS. And not tell the girl he is with already and go back to her. She can also do the same thing so, it does matter on how many times she has it and does matter how many partners you have.

I: Do you think there is a way a person can prevent getting the AIDS virus if the are having sex?

S: The only, abstinence is the only way definitely sure that you will not get it from sex. And the most other common way is a condom. I mean that’s the most precaustious you can be about it right now cause there's no prevention or nothing.

I: And how well do you think abstinence would protect them?

S: 100%. You can't get something from sex if you are not having it.

I: And how well do you think a condom would protect them?

S: I mean I guess it hasn't worked all the time. So it's not 100% but if you are going to do it, then that's at least have something on, at least use that. I guess. If you are going got do it at least have you know some sort of protection. Whether it is 100% or not. Just try your best if that's what you want to do.

I: And what do you think would may lead a person to have unprotected sex?
S: Drugs, they could be drunk, it’s the same thing as with the needle. Get talking into in the heat of the moment they might not have one at the time and they feel like going to the store. A lot of things can happen. I mean you just might want to please the other person also. And well he, you know wants to do this well she, just like well I know she doesn't have anything some one you don't think have it could have it. You also have to take that precaution and use one even if you might not like it or whatever.

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

S: Exactly what I just say, the drugs and all that. Drugs, they might get talked into it to do it.

I: You also talked about alcohol right. I have some questions about that. What effect does alcohol have on people?

S: It makes them not think as well as they would if they were sober. They wouldn't, I mean it makes them think that they are in control. It makes them think like driving they think they know what they are doing is right and that, it just messes up your whole concept of things and makes you think that something you are doing right or you know, it makes you not remember or something like that. It can mess up your like you might have your mind set no I'm not going to do this I'm not going to do that. And you have alcohol you can easily be talked into or you know forces to do it and there's nothing you can do about it.

I: So do you think drinking, or does drinking make much of a difference in a person risk to get the AIDS virus?

S: Yes. It makes a lot, of I mean your will and everything can go down you won't really be able.. I mean if you were, if you were not drunk, or not drinking then you would be able to say it harder, no I'm no going to do that, no. I'm going to have a condom. You will be forceful you could be pushed over if you are drinking more. You are more passive. You’re more passive.

I: So 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?

S: Hum...I think if you are at home and your are drinking then that's another thing if you are by yourself or with you are with, will even your wife could have it you know. She might have an affair. But if you are at home drinking a little bit there's no, I mean you’re at home there's not going to happen to you. Unless you go some where. But if you are going out every weekend partying and getting to a point when you are just blown or drunk, then yeah the risk is a lot more. I mean it depends on if you drink a little bit everyday and go out. Depends on if you drink a whole bunch that weekend and go out. You could drink a whole bunch that weekend and stay in and you won't be able to get AIDS, cause there is nothing, there is no one there or nothing.

I: So it depends on the situation?

S: Yeah, it depends on where you are going. Or what you are doing that night.

I: Ok. So, going back to HIV. Does it matter how often a person is exposed to the AIDS virus?
S: Yes, I guess like there are some instances that has happened, they have exposed to the AIDS virus. And for some reason some chemical is in the body blocked it off. If you are exposed to it again your body might not be able to block it off the second time it might come in effect that time. So the more you’re exposed to it the more you will get it. That's just common sense.

I: Can you tell me what happens when a person gets infected with HIV?

S: Exactly nothing has to happen exactly you know at that time, you can go years without having and symptoms. You just have a regular life. Some people you know don't have it hard some people just have common some people go through life bad days, lesions and their body breaking down. I mean it's just depends on I guess the person. Everyone not going to be the same. And now there's different kinds of AIDS. Its migrating into the different forms so.. well forms are different a people are different so the way they have them it's going to different. You could just die like that when you find out you have it, or you could ten years hell, you might not have not symptoms. You might be ok.
I don't know I guess it's all in how you treat your body and how your body blocks up against it.

I: Can you tell me what happens when a person then develops AIDS?

S: Ah, most people don't develop full-blown AIDS, but I guess when you develop it you become real sick and you have to go to the hospital, I mean there's special treatments for you because most times I guess when you develop AIDS, I'm not exactly sure but most time when you develop it you are really weak cause you developed it all the way there's. You have to be taken care of. There's lesions all over you and stuff like that I mean you are just real weak and I mean it's probably about your time if you have full blown aids.

I: How long do you guess it takes for a person to develop AIDS?

S: There's no set time, I know some people can get it, I mean full blown AIDS, you can go with symptoms for how ever long. I don't really think there is a set time so when you get full blown AIDS. Some people get it at different times I guess, I mean some people can go without symptoms and some people [inaudible] can get the full blown AIDS. I guess that depends of the person too, how long it takes. And also they might of had it and not know too. So you saying they found out they have AIDS, but they could have been had the symptoms a long. You could of been had it but just they are finding out so you'll never know how long it takes till they get it. You'll never know. No one will ever know how long it took them to get it. Unless they have sex with one person had no drug use, no, that's the only way you'll know and if you keep getting check-ups. And also you won't be able to be sure that cause the six, every six months and some times I guess AIDS don't show up in your blood so, I mean I guess there's some how you can break it down to find out but it's very very hard. It's very hard to do that.

I: Do you think you can give and estimate or you don't think that’s possible?

S: I mean I know they say it can happen, I mean when I hear it a lot of times, its ten years. They say ten years.. well, you can go without symptoms but I think probably like six or seven years you can go. I don't know, I mean I don't know anyone with it or nothing like that but, I person I think that's probably it's I mean that’s medium I guess.

I: Well, that's.. what I want to know what you think. So you said it takes longer for some people than for others. Do you know why that is?
S: Probably their chemical make up in there body probably. Some people might be able to
block stuff off way more. Like some one had something already, like high blood pressure
or diabetes. That's already taken away from them and if they get that too, that's you know
they'll probably get more sooner then most people who don't have anything at all and their
immune systems is built up you know. So I think that's the reason.

I: How can some one learn whether he or she has AIDS?

S: You go get a check up every six months, or after every partner. You think something is
up or you think that you might have it also you can go check up even if you just had one.
[Inaudible] six months or [inaudible] other partner.

I: And do you know why you have to go back every six months?

S: Because they might not, it might not have came up in your blood. Also you might have a
new partner and just good to go every few months.

I: Do you know what the test test for?

S: Test for HIV.

I: Ok. And do you know what they do, how the test works?

S: No. I guess they take your blood or something. They take your blood. They probably
test for other disease too while they are testing for that, but ah, I guess they test the blood
for, I don't know what ever disease you can get in your blood also. They probably, just
don't, they test for a whole bunch of things and hey AIDS might be one of them and they
find out too.

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

S: They might think find out their boy-friend was cheating, they might have a new partner,
it might be six months. They might you know just be they might be that type of person
that's real safe and be checked all the time.

I: What would make you think that a person has the AIDS virus?

S: I know like at school a lot of people like there's some people in our school there's
supposedly 22 people that have AIDS. But you're not allowed to, it's very confidential. No
one is supposed to know who it is. People say, I mean, it's a rumor that you have lesions, I
think that you get lesions, after a long period of time but, there's some people that have it I
mean it's just. I don't think there's no, there's no what that you could tell that the person has
AIDS. They'll just look normal unless they are really getting weak or bad, you'll have to be
told that they. I don't think personally that there is no way that you can tell, they are just
normal too.

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

S: People who are drug users, you have sex with a lot of people and a lot of few different
times. Also people who have blood transfusions, like I said. Babies that are just born.
Pretty much the ways you get it, and people that came in contact with someone else’s blood.

I: When do you think that people can stop worrying about AIDS at all?
S: Hum...after they get, I mean there's no cure for it right now so I don't think you should ever stop worrying about it. Your worry should lesson if you get checked a whole bunch of times and you haven't had sex for a long period of time or you are not on drugs, you haven't been doing anything that you can contract AIDS from. You haven't, you got so many check ups after a while it's pretty obvious that you don't have it. Unless they kept making the same mistake over and over. After a period of time you shouldn't really worry about it.

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

S: No. I don't think they are because there's no cure for it and more and more people are getting it every year. And the more, the funny thinkgabout AIDS is that when they find something that cures it a little bit, it's transforms into a new state so that they can't find a cure and I don't think that that's nothing that you can exaggerate over, I mean I know a lot of people say there not enough AIDS education, but I think I'm pretty educated about it. And I think there is enough AIDS education, they need to spend more money on cures, trying to find a cure for it. I mean they keep saying they are close, but what they are rally saying when they are close they are saying that to get more money. They're not close. I don't think they are close at all to finding a cure for it. I think it's going to kill a lot more people before and a lot more people will contract it before there is anything at all that'll get rid of it.

I: You said that you think you are pretty well educated. Where did you learn about AIDS?

S: I learned it from school, [inaudible], youth group, the church a lot, leadership, [inaudible] lot of stuff. Wherever I go, I hear about it. And sometimes I think, oh here we go again but some times I learn something new that I didn't know the last time so. I thought [inaudible] will I didn't know that. You should never, I don't think you can ever learn too much.

I: Do you think they skip certain things about AIDS in health class at school? Did you learn things in other places that they didn't teach you at school?

S: I might of learn one or two things, I don't know that purposely skipped it. Like the health teachers I have, they'll tell you straight up I mean they won't teach you from a test book. If they hear anything in the news of something they'll bring it to you. That's the type of teaches I don't know about other schools, but my teachers are real cool. My health teacher any way. They are real cool about stuff like that and they are to the point if they hear something that, they are not being told to be taught in a curriculum they'll tell you anyway. That's just the way they are.

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

S: I think I do. I mean no one knows too much about it. But I think I know enough to the point where I keep myself safe from it.

I: Are there other things that you are not sure about or you would like to know about?

S: No.

I: I also have some question about terms that people use when the talk about AIDS? One is HIV is a virus, what does that tell you about it?

S: Hum.

I: That HIV is a virus, do you know what a virus does?
S: It hum, virus comes into your body. I guess it breaks it down and does certain things to your body. I know I mean I guess a lot of viruses go to your immune system. Most of them get pushed away by antibodies. But this one, it doesn't. [Inaudible] or something. It just keeps pushing [inaudible].

I: Another term that people use when they talk about is safe sex. Do you know what it means?

S: Ah, abstinence is safe sex, and also condoms is safe sex, then birth control. That's not really safe sex, that's pregnancy, that's pregnancy prevention. Condoms I guess ah, I don't know. There's lots of things people use for birth control, diaphragm, birth control, that birth uh. That's about it.

I: Do you know what the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?


I: Yeah.

S: I know that it's Lifestyle, Trojan, and hum, there's another one, I forget what it is called.

I: What else do condoms protect you against?

S: Pregnancy and other STD's, I mean some STD's you still can get it with a condom but it help it helps it a lot.

I: Do you know what IV drug use means?

S: Isn't that where you share a needle?

I: (Yes)

S: When you share a needle with another person.

I: And do you think needles can be cleaned?

S: No.

I: Ok.