I: In this interview I will ask you to talk about AIDS. I want you to know that you don't have 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 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 and then I will ask you some more specific questions. I may ask you 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 answer 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 this type but myself 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: I know that it's a virus, that kills your white blood cells and weakens your immune system. And I know that you can get it from a blood transfusion, sexual intercourse, or through using intravenous drug needles. And I know you can't get it from drinking off of the same cups, or anything like that. I know there's no cure for it. I know you can't always tell when people have it just by looking at them. I know it's growing very rapidly, in our world like more people are getting it. And that's all I can think of.

I: Can you tell me more about how AIDS is passed on from one person to another, how it is spread?

S: Well, either from having unprotected sex, that way or from using the same needles whether it be a drug needle or if it be a needle used in the hospital. If it was the same needle and somebody had it it could be transferred to the next person who used it. And also through a blood transfusion if somebody received blood that was already.

I: You told me that AIDS is passed on when you have unprotected sex, can you tell me more about that?

S: Well, if you don't use a condom when you are having sex, it could be, well a condom isn't a 100% but it helps the risk of getting AIDS. And that's it.

I: And you said it's not 100%, what did you mean by that?

S: Like it, something could go wrong with it. Like it could be used the wrong way or it could be old, like the expiration date could be passed due and you shouldn't of used it. Or it could break or something and that's why they are not 100%.

I: You also mentioned blood transfusions, could you tell me more about how AIDS is passed through blood transfusion?

S: Well, I know, I'm not sure I think it was like in the 80's like before the 80's that they didn't check the blood for the AIDS virus. But now it's watch more carefully like the blood is tested more, more than once now to make sure that it's not already having the blood. The AIDS in the blood already. So now it's checked before it's given to somebody else.

I: And ah, what about intravenous drugs use. Could you tell me how AIDS is passed on through intravenous drug use?

S: Like drug users if they would like a group of friends, drug using friends were just sitting around they would just be passing the needles around like maybe using the same needle or something and they could get it like if there was blood and they hadn't cleaned off their equipment to use for their
drugs, then it could still have some of the tainted blood on it. And when they use it then it's going into their blood stream too.

I: What do you mean with you talk about unprotected sex?

S: When you don't use a condom.

I: Does it matter how often a person has unprotected sex or get's a blood transfusion?

S: No, if could just be that first time, and you could get the AIDS.

I: Imagine that a person has unprotected sex only once, what happens to a persons risk of getting AIDS if they have unprotected sex many times?

S: It increases.

I: So the risk would increase?

S: (Yes)

I: Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting AIDS if they are having unprotected sex or getting a blood transfusion or you know, using intravenous drugs?

S: How they are to avoid getting it?

I: Yeah, how they could prevent it if they are doing those things?

S: You can't. If you are having unprotected and using intravenous drug needles, and a blood transfusion. I guess that would just be the safest, cause you would be hoping that the blood was checked very clearly, but the other two you're just at risk.

I: What do you think may lead a person to do those things, to have unprotected sex or share needles, or?

S: Not thinking about the consequences of what could happen to them. And not caring what could happen, they might be so far gone that they don't care what is going to happen to them or they are just so naevi that they don't know what could happen to them, they are not thinking about at the time they are doing it.

I: Imagine that a person goes out and they are planning not to share needles, or have unprotected sex. What do you think may mess up these plans?

S: Peer pressure, or I don't know, peer pressure. That's one thing I can think of.

I: What effect does alcohol have on people?

S: I think, I don't think alcohol has the effect on you that you don't know what you are doing. I think it has the effect on you that you don't care what you are doing. Because I don't like it when people say, well I was drunk and I didn't know what I was doing, because they knew what they were doing, they wanted to do it that's why they did it. I think alcohol it clears your mind and you do the first thing that comes to your mind it's like you don't think about anything else. Like you think well I want to take these drugs and you don't think about what's going to happen to you the next day. You are just thinking about the first thing that comes to your mind.
I: Does drinking make much of a difference in a person's risk of getting AIDS?

S: If they are a weak person. Because I said before they could say I was drunk and I didn't know what I was doing. In that aspect. But I never heard that if you were drunk and you have unprotected sex that's making you more at risk or if you drunk and using intravenous drug needles like just because you are drunk the virus is more prone to you or anything. I never heard it of anything like that. But I think if you are drunk or something like that from alcohol then you can be more, more likely to do something like that if you are not a strong person.

I: Is the risk of different for people who drink a little bit everyday compared to people who drink a lot every weekend?

S: It depends if they need that drink everyday or if they need that drink every weekend if they are addicted to it now. Really I don't think alcohol is going to make you do something that you don't want to do. If you want to do it, you are going to do no matter who's telling you to do it, no matter how many people are telling you to do it. If you did it, you did it because you wanted to do.

I: Does it matter how often a person is exposed to AIDS?

S: No. Cause I guess if the were exposed it like if they had unprotected sex with like five times. I guess it would. It's making your risk more increases your risk of getting it I think.

I: The more the person is exposed to it?

S: (Yes)

I: Can you tell me what happens when a person get's infected with the AIDS virus?

S: Well, first they have with the AIDS or HIV?

I: Well, with the HIV?

S: Well, I don't think like you can really tell that they have it when they are just in the stage of having HIV. And it's not really a lot of sickness that comes to them. Like the immune system isn't very effected at that point. But as they sometimes people don't even leave the HIV stage. Some people just stay there. But if you move into the next stage which is the AIDS stage, then you would start feeling less [inaudible], less energy, feeling weaker. Always tired and you would be getting colds and you know like your immune system would be weakening.

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

S: They come less, have less energy become more weak and become sicker easier.

I: How could someone learn whether he or she has AIDS?

S: You have to go to your doctors or a clinic or something and have to take the AIDS test.

I: What does this test test for, do you know how it works?

S: No, I don't.

I: Why would someone decide to be tested?

S: They might feel that they were at risk. Like if they led a certain life style they might feel that they were at risk and want to be tested. Or hum, before they were about to get married and they wanted to know before they made a big decision like that or something.
I: What would make you think that a person has AIDS?

S: Well you can't really tell by looking at them but something like that maybe if they really looked that sick and you knew they were not a drug user and anything like that, you might think that that's what was wrong with them. Or if somebody was getting sick a lot having the look, so called looked that they would think and AIDS patient would have. And also if they were become sick more frequently then they use to. That would be another thing to look for.

I: What is the look? Do you know what that is can you describe that?

S: Skinny and look mal-nutrition like pale kinda.

I: What kinds of people have a lot to worrying about AIDS?

S: Drug users, people who are very sexually active and know that they have had partners who also follow a certain lifestyle that they do. And also people who were test, not people who were tested, people who were given blood transfusion before they started testing blood.

I: When can people stop worrying about AIDS?

S: Never. Cause it could happen to anybody?

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

S: No. No, because people need to more aware about it. They need to protect their selves of it as much as the can. Possibly can. I think there should be more advertisement about it. Like more teaching people about it to let them know what it actually is, and how you can avoid it and how you can help people through stuff, help people through it.

I: Where have you learned about AIDS?

S: From school, from my health classes at school.

I: Ok, what things do they skip about AIDS in health classes at school?

S: I don't know.

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

S: Yes.

I: Is there anything more you would like to know about AIDS?

S: I would like to know the affects. You know what really happens to you step by step. And I would like to know they are coming, how far they've come on finding a cure. And like what how well, I don't know the name of the drug that they have out on the market no to help stabilize it. And I would like to know what if, how will that actually works. Like if it's actually helping. Or is it just like a mind thing. Like their taking it so they think they feel better, but does it really work, or is it just in their head.

I: Like a placebo or something.

S: [No audible response].
I: Ok. AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV, what does that tell you about it?
S: Nothing.
I: Nothing? Ok. What does safe sex mean?
S: To know who are having sex with. And not just have it with anybody with any time, any where. And if you are going to have it to protect yourself with a condom or something and any other kind of protection that they have out on the market now.
I: Can you tell me anymore about condoms. Like what are the safest condoms to use against AIDS?
S: No.
I: What else do condoms protect you against?
S: From pregnancy.
I: What does IV drug use mean?
S: Intravenous drug use.
I: Do you think needles can be cleaned?
S: No. Well, I don't know. I just though you were always suppose to through it away, after it was used. I didn't I never heard of any body cleaning it off and using it again. I wouldn't want a needle that was just wiped off with something.
I: Ok.