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 that 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 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: As far as how to get it and how it is transmitted?

I: Yes

S: Ok. Well, you get it through sexual contact hum, you get it through IV's and dirty needles, unsterilized needles. Hum if you have a wound and it is bleeding and someone with AIDS works on it and touches it. And they are bleeding also, then it gets transferred. That's about all I know.

I: Can you tell me any more about how AIDS is passed from one person to another, or how it's spread.

S: Well, through sexual contact and through, or when a pregnant woman who has AIDS has a baby and the baby may come out HIV positive.

I: Alright you told me that AIDS is passed on when you have a wound. Can you tell me any more about that?

S: Well, if someone who is bleeding touches your blood and it's transferred from their blood to your blood. And it goes throughout your system and you come up having it. Or you may wind up with it.

I: What do you mean when you talk about sexual contact?

S: Intercourse.

I: Can you tell me anything more about how AIDS is passed on through sexual contact? I mean could you explain anything more about that or say anything more about that?

S: Well, when you have sex two sexual organs come in contact and one with it can transmit it through semen and other lubricants that match when you come out of the body.

I: Ok. And what about needles. You said that AIDS is passed on with needles. Can you tell me anymore about that?

S: Yes. If someone who has HIV virus uses a needle and their blood stays on it, or stains the needle and someone that uses it after them, then it gets into their blood and it goes throughout their system and they usually wide up catching it.

I: Does it matter how often a person has sexual contact or they have a wound, or use needles.
Does that matter how often that happens?

S: I don't understand what you mean.

I: When a person has sexual contact, does it matter in terms of their risk of AIDS how often a person does that?

S: Yes. Because if you do it repeatedly there's more chance that you might catch it. If you have more than one mate.

I: Ok. Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting AIDS if they are having sexual contact or using needles, or have a wound?

S: Well, they can use gloves for if they have a wound and someone with HIV is helping them. Or a needle, you have to sterilize it with something or probably use a different needle. For sexual contact you probably use a condom.

I: How well do you think this would really protect a person from getting AIDS. Those things that you mentioned?

S: It cut the risk in half if not more.

I: Ok. What do you think may lead a person to have sexual contact or, um, use unclean needles?

S: If they are not thinking probably, if they are on drugs or they are just trying to prove themselves. That's being a male point of view. They are trying to prove their manhood. Something like that.

I: Imagine that a person goes out and they are planning not to have sex or use any or share any needles, you know they are planning not to, you know, have any kind of injuries or wounds. What do you think may mess up their plans not to do that?

S: They fall under peer pressure. And...that's it I think.

I: Anything else?

S: If they start using alcohol or drugs or start smoking or something.

I: What affect does alcohol have on people?

S: Causes you to not think straight. Sometimes hallucinate. And just mess you all up.

I: Does drinking make much of a difference in a person's risk of getting AIDS.

S: Yes, because I mean, you drink you can't think as clearly as if you had not drink. It manipulates your thoughts. I'm not an expert on drinking cause I don't drink. But.

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

S: Yes, because when you drink a little bit every day your system becomes tolerant to alcohol and when you drink a lot in a little amount of time or just on the weekends, then it affects you more drastically than drinking it consistently.

I: Does it matter how often a person is exposed to AIDS?
S: Yes because if you don't have it the more you're exposed to it, the more chance you have of getting it. And if you do have it, the more you're exposed to it, the more severe your case of AIDS may become or be.

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

S: Well, their system slowly becomes unable to fight off diseases such as a common cold. Your immune system starts to die and fail.

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

S: That's where I believe all the systems fail and you usually in a short time end up dead.

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

S: By getting a test at the doctors.

I: What does this test test for? Do you know how it work?

S: No.

I: Why would some one decide to be tested?

S: Because they may be highly sexually active or they may be into drugs or they may have come in contact with it through going to the hospital or during the 80's when there was a highly, out there everywhere. You can never be too sure.

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

S: I couldn't tell. If they were highly sexually active. And they knew this and you knew that. But other than that I couldn't tell.

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

S: People who don't exercise regularly, sleep good, don't eat right. People don't take care of theirselves.

I: When can people stop worrying about AIDS?

S: You can never really stop worrying about AIDS. Cause it's everywhere.

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

S: No, because it's a very big cause of death now. And there is no cure for it as of now.

I: Where have you learned about AIDS?

S: ............That it's a big cause of death and it's transmitted through several things as in sex, hum needles, open wounds.

I: No, I said where?

S: Where?
I: Where have you learned about AIDS?
S: Oh, where. At my school, yeah grade school and on up in through high school.
I: What things do they skip about AIDS in health classes at school?
S: What things do they skip?
I: (Yes)
S: ............Well, I don't know.
I: Do you think you know enough about AIDS to protect yourself from it?
S: ..........I could protect myself in the ways I do know, but I'm in no certainty on protecting yourself forever.
I: Is there anything more you would like to know about AIDS?
S: No.
I: AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV, what does that tell you about AIDS?
S: ......That it's a worsening condition of HIV. Or it's caused by HIV.
I: What does safe sex mean?
S: Where you use a condom and so you don't get transmitted disease.
I: Anything else?
S: [Inaudible response]
I: Can you tell me anything more about condoms, like what are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?
S: Probably if they make thicker ones, because with the thinner ones there is more chance of their being a hole or something in it.
I: What else do condoms protect you against?
S: Besides AIDS?
I: (Yes)
S: Different diseases.
I: What does IV drug use mean?
S: Where you share a needle, or when you use a needle to insert drugs into your system.
I: Do you think needles can be cleaned?
S: Yes.
I: Do you know how needles are cleaned, how to clean needles?
S: No. But I do know that they burn needles and kill all the bacteria and germs that are on the needles and then they make new needles.
I: What do you mean make new needles?
S: Well, they melt them down and make new ones.
I: (Yes)
S: And there is no more germs and stuff on it.
I: (Yes) Ok. Anything else you would like to add?
S: No.