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 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 this tape but myself and I will not be reporting to anyone hear what you said.

Um, My first question is: Please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: Well, it's only transmitted through like only, it's kind a hard to get and ah, you only get it like sexually and through like, it, I don’t know, it's has to get in your blood stream and. It's a disease you can't get rid of. There's no cure for it yet.

I: Mm hmm.

S: That's pretty much it.

I: Ok. Um, can you tell me anything more about how AIDS is um, spread, or how it is passed from one person to another?

S: Sexually.

I: Ok. Any other way?

S: Drugs, like ah, needles.

I: Mm Hmm Ok. Umm, you told me that ah, AIDS is passed on ah, sexually. Can you tell me anything more about that?

S: Like, what do you mean like?

I: Umm, just you know, how does that happen, what you know?

S: It happens, I don't really know how it happens but it gets in your blood stream some how, I don't know.

I: Mm hmm.

S: I'm not too sure.

I: Ok. What about with the ah, needles, can you tell me how AIDS is passed on with needles.

S: Well like drug users share needles with a person who have HIV or AIDS and they use it and they pass it on to another person and that person uses it and then they get it too.

I: What do you mean when you talk about, um, getting into the blood stream?

S: Well, like if you are using a needle that you stick it in your arm or what ever it's going into your
blood stream. That's how it gets in there.

I: Ok. Does it matter how often a person has sex or uses needles?

S: (No)

I: Ok. Imagine that a person would have sex or use a needle only once, what happens to a persons risk of getting AIDS if they do that many times. If they have sex or use a needle many times?

S: Well it just increases your chances a lot more. It only takes one time. And the more you do it, then it increases your chance.

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

S: Well, don't use the same needle and protect yourself with a condom.

I: Ok. How well do you think this would really protect a person from getting AIDS?

S: It would reduce the, well it would probably reduce it but nothing's safe so.

I: What do you think may lead a person to um, use needles or have unprotected sex?

S: Well drug users because they need the drug and hum, so they will do it cause they need the drug. And I don't know about the other one. I'm not sure.

I: o.k., um, imagine that a person goes out and they are planning um, you know, not to um, use any needles to use the drugs, or they are planning not to have unprotected sex. What do you think may mess up their plans not to do that?

S: Alcohol, drinking, something like that. Or any type of other like chemical.

I: Mm hm. Ok. What effect does alcohol have on people?

S: You can't, you don't think straight. It like, you don't care and you woun't think you know, you just won't think right.

I: Does drinking make much of a difference in a person’s risk of getting AIDS?

S: Yeah.

I: Um, is the risk different for people who drink a little bit everyday compared to people who drink a lot every weekend?

S: Yeah, it's like, it's different. Cause if you drink a lot then that will increase your chance because you are not thinking like how you should be and probably do something you don't want to do and you might not remember doing it. And so.

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

S: (No)

I: And that's a no?
S: No.

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

S: It breaks down your immune system. And probably lead to getting the AIDS and I don't know exactly what happens but it breaks down your immune system.

I: Umm, can you tell me about what happens when a person when a person develops AIDS?

S: When a person develops AIDS that means their, their whole immune system is gone and they don't have it so they can't fight infection anymore.

I: Ok. Umm, how could someone learn whether he or she has AIDS?

S: By getting tested. Or, I guess the only way you can find out is if you get tested.

I: O.K., umm, what does the test test for? Do you know how it works?

S: No. I'm not sure how it works.

I: Um, why would someone decide to be tested?

S: Well if they had sex then with someone had unprotected sex they might want to get tested, because they might think they have it. Or you know, something like that.

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

S: Well, if they had sex with a lot of people and you might think something like that. Or if they do a lot of drugs or something, you might think that too.

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

S: Can you repeat that?

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

S: The people that use drugs and have a lot of unprotected sex.

I: When can people stop worrying about AIDS?

S: No one will ever stop worrying about AIDS unless there is a cure.

I: Um, do you think people are making too big a deal of AIDS?

S: No.

I: O.K. Where have you learned about AIDS?

S: School.
I: Any place else?
S: Just school. They always had speakers come into the school, talk about it.
I: O.K. um, what things do they skip about AIDS in health classes at school?
S: As far as I know they don't skip anything. I'm not sure if they skip anything or not. But every time I like hear something about it it's always the same thing..
I: Mm hmm.
S: ...about it.
I: O.K. Um, do you think you know enough about AIDS to protect yourself from it?
S: Yeah.
I: O.K. Is there anything more you would like to know about AIDS?
S: Yeah. I'd like to know more about it, just to see like what it is and how it works and all that.
I: AIDS is caused, they say AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV. What does that tell you about it?
S: Hum........I don't know.
I: What does safe sex mean?
S: Well, it can either mean, abstinence or like wearing a condom.
I: Um, can you tell me anything more about condoms? Like what are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?
S: Ah, I don't know. I don't know which ones, none of them are safe but. I'm not to sure about it.
I: Ok. What else do condoms protect you against?
S: Pregnancy and std's.
I: O.K. Umm, what does IV drug use mean?
S: Like using a needle.
I: Do you think needles can be cleaned?
S: No.
I: Ok.