

Number 16

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 of 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 every thing you say. Please don't worry about whether you answer are right or not, just tell me everything that come to mind. And if you can just please speak up you don't have to talk directly at the mic. Just to make sure that you understand you are being recorded and we need to hear what you are saying.

S: Ok

I: My first question is, please tell me everything you know about AIDS?

S: Ok, I know that you can get it from sexually, from having sex. I know you get it through the blood transfusion. I know that my Dad's friend died from it.

I: (Yes)

S: He was real sick and it cost a lot of money to keep him, we tried to get him on medication and stuff for him.

I: (Yes)

S: He had a painful death. I know that it's spreading more. Young people mostly, hum, not to say teenager's it's just that, around there, around there it's spreading more cause there's not a real cure for it.

I: (Yes)mm hmm

S: That's about all.

I: (Yes) Is there any thing else? You know, you don't have to worry about whether it's right or wrong. Just what you know or have heard.

S: I don't know if this is true or not, but I don't, can you get it from a toilet seat or anything like that? I have heard, or from tongue kissing.

I: (Yes)mm hmm

S: For one thing, from like an open sore in your mouth.

I: (Yes)

S: I think you can get it from that. That's about all I know. I'm trying to think but I can't think a nothing else.

I: Ok. Can you tell me more about how AIDS is passed from one person to another?

S: Hum, let me see here. ....Only one thing I really know about its getting passed, is through sex and through needles most often. Well often it's sex but, I've heard like couple cases involving the

transfusion.

I: (Yes)

S: Transfusion with needles and stuff and if somebody, if somebody's going, if you have sex with somebody who is on drugs. Isn't that how it is? Yes.

I: (Yes)

S: Like that. Or if you're sharing needles with somebody who has it also and that's all.

I: Ok. Now you told me hum, AIDS is passed on when you use needles. Can you tell me more about that?

S: I guess if you are, it's not a transfusion like that, I guess if you're shootin' up or something with somebody or I guess a crack head or a fiend or whatever you want to call them, with like that. I guess that person shooting the same as the other person, and the other person may have AIDS or and you could like get it, that's the only thing I know. You could contract it that way from needles.

I: (Yes) Ok. Could you tell me more about how you can get AIDS from blood transfusion?

S: Ah, I really don't know but what I just think is that hum, it's in the blood transfusion when you get blood inserted into you. Isn't that what it is?

I: (Yes)

S: Well I thinking like I guess it has to be the person's blood who it was obviously must of had AIDS or someone that some kind of I guess, some kind of disease that it's the beginning of AIDS or a symptom that isn't with AIDS and and that it starts when the other person's blood is inserted in you. It's gets to your blood stream and causes you to have AIDS or the HIV.

I: (yes)

S: That's about all.

I: Ok. What do you, can you tell me a little bit more about what you mean when you talk about hum, you can get AIDS through sex?

S: Unprotected sex.

I: (Yes) What do you mean by like unprotected sex?

S: If you don't wear a condom I guess. If you don't wear a condom and I guess I guess if they, if it pops on you or something, If you have one of them and it pops on you. ....If you get, that's all I know. I've heard about it from oral sex but I'm not sure at all, so.

I: (yes)

S: That's what I've heard but all I know is about if you have unprotected sex.

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

S: It doesn't matter, it just shouldn't happen at all. And you shouldn't even get into the habit of that.

Of doing sex or sharing needles. I mean it shouldn't cause if you can do that one time and it could happen to you so just don't do it at all.

Then it won't, that way nobody you know it wouldn't affect you.

I: Ok. Can you tell me how a person can be able to prevent getting AIDS if they engage in unprotected sex and sharing needles?

S: How can they prevent. Hum, I guess they must make the other person they're having sex, I guess they have to see make the other person get a test to make sure that their partner doesn't have the virus or anything like that. And about the needles I'm just thinking like if they really have to do the needle thing I guess that would be the same as for that to. To get the other person tested cause I wouldn't want to share no needles with nobody I didn't know if they have the AIDS or not. But I really wouldn't, if it was nobody I wouldn't try be engaged with the needle stuff. I wouldn't and even not the sex neither that would be my answer.

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

S: Not 100%. I think this is more likely to protect them from getting AIDS. I think what will protect them the most is just not engaging in any of that activity at all, just don't, you know just forget about it period.

I: (Yes)

S: Cause that's taking too much of a risk, just like their life is on the line there, just cause you want to have a little bit of fun or what ever you want to call it I mean that's your life is on the line, that makes no sense for you to go and have fun or pleasure what ever it is when your life could be at stake.

I: What do you think may lead a person to ah, have unprotected sex with someone in risk that, or ah to share needles with someone?

S: Hum, with the sex part, I guess the unprotected sex they maybe, they were persuaded, and they didn't want to upset their partner if they tried to bring it up or you know confronted that person. And about the other thing, about that with the needles hum, I guess that would have to be persuasion, too, because I guess whoever that person is and I mean, anybody that like...what you think you know, you must think I got something or something. They might try to say something to you to make you think like you don't trust them maybe or you don't believe what they are saying and that's about all. I think it's all about persuasion and or unless you just want to, unless you want to do that yourself, you just feel that well nothing's going to happen to me you just real confident but that makes no sense so I just think it persuasion.

I: What are the kinds of things that may mess up a persons plan not to have unprotected sex or not to share a needle?

S: What kinds of things would mess up their plans?

I: (Yes)

S: ....I don't think protection would mess up their plans if you were talking, OK, about sex thing. They want unprotected sex I don't think that protecting themselves would mess up their plans I mean that's probably that's probably what they would think, you know, but like I said before it's all about your life you can't you can't just waste it away like that.

I: (Yes)

S: Cause you never know who that person has been with before and all that and they lie to you probably anyway, just to get you into bed or something. They would probably lie to you about it. And about the needles, ...I have.. I really don't know.

I: (Yes) Ok. I was talking about like maybe a person would plan to have protected, you know to protect themselves when they had sex.

S: And then didn't have it.

I: But then something would prevent them from doing that and do you do you know of any particular situations that could mess up, mess that up?

S: Situation that my cousin told me about that she was planning on to with her boyfriend but to be protected and he told her well, if it's all like that then you must not love me or something that, I mean, I wouldn't have fell for it cause it makes no sense I mean if that's how it is then just forget it maybe I wasn't meant for me to do that anyway at this age or anything like that it's just. That's the situation, you know, you just say , you know, like it or nothing, that you don't trust me that's what the situation is. Another situation is that you know if like say I was, this is nothing to do with me, but if I was with somebody and they you know was like why you want me to wear a condom or something like that you know. Why, I mean, if you suppose to be my girlfriend why.

I: (yes)

S: It's suppose to be all about me, you shouldn't want me to do something, shouldn't want me to do that, you should just trust me.

I: (Yes) What effect does alcohol have on people?

S: It makes them drunk. It's make them not realize what's going on, things seem differently like. I've really don't know, never been drunk so couldn't tell you but I know that I have a family member who used to come in the house all the time drunk. And they say that he would be so loud, not realizing what's going on, just loud and, just watch he, in something he say, not thinking, not knowing what's going on, not thinking before they speak.

I: (Yes)

S: And alcohol, that effect is, alcohol, I known cases where the people, girls have gotten, boys have gotten girls drunk just so they could have sex with them. Because they know that they are not going to be in the right state of mind to say no.

I: (Yes) Does drinking make much of a difference in a persons risk of getting AIDS?

S: Yes it does, cause like I said before if you did get you drunk and were not in the right state of mind you'd probably go do anything. And you won't know what's going on. Cause like if you wake up and you have a hangover you'd be like what happened to me where was I at. Like if you see a TV show and you see a show somebody wakes up with a hang over like where am I at like they don't remember how they got there. Or anything like that I think that's a very much possibility that it has something to do with getting AIDS.

I: (Yes) How is this different for people who drink regularly compared to people who like binge drink?

S: Because people who drink regularly there's more chance of them to go, to go off and do

something stupid. Because of how much alcohol they drink and consume. That's they have more chance because they drink more than other people who just drink a little bit and probably people who drink a little bit just, you know, watch cause they are not I guess addicted to it or not always having to have a drink. Or alcoholic.

I: Do you know what binge drinking is?

S: Is it people who drink little?

I: No. Binge drinking is someone who would sit down and just drink and drink and drink and drink.

S: Oh, I think they would have more chance. They would have I think I think they would have more chances of doing something stupid than the people who just drink regularly cause man, you just sayin' like just sit there and ask for more drinks and more drinks. That's just making you more intoxicated. They have more chance. I think the binge drinkers do.

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

S: Is exposed. .... I'm not sure.

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

S: When they get AIDS. Like the result? I'm thinking wait, it's when a person gets AIDS it's. How you feel? Is that what you are trying to say?

I: All of that, just what happens?

S: Well I know that people go through emotions and just scared like, well, why, you know what ever I did that caused them to have this drug, it's like their mind is flooded with so many thoughts like why did it have to be me. You know, or I trusted that person. Or I shouldn't have just did it, I should have walked away, I should have let them take it, take over me. Things like that and. I think it makes people really scared and actually I think it makes people more faithful like to their Lord and stuff.

I; (Yes)

S: Cause I know like my father's friend we use to call him our Uncle cause he was so like close to our family, he used to pray. Like the guy had done so much wrong and if he would leave the world he wanted to go to heaven. And he would always be so I mean religious and just before he died he was so sick. It was hard for him you know, but he would always pray and that I know it was wrong how he got it, he said he was mis-, you know when he stray and stuff and he was so scared cause he thought I was praying, you know what's wrong I understand he was sick whenever we would go visit him. It's just that I never knew that it would turn his persons life cause he used to be always happy. But he never was high cause he knew that his life would be gone soon.

I; (Yes)

S: It just changed their whole mood completely, the routine and their every day life is changed.

I: (Yes)

S: It's like you have no more happy moments and at least, when I saw him he didn't. He had no happy moments he was always sad and talking about, you know. Talking about the lord and how

he wanted to go to heaven when he dies and there's always always on talking about if he dies. Because he knew it was coming soon. There's no doubt.

I: Ok. Can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets AIDS and when ah, get's infected with AIDS and when the person gets AIDS?

S: Tell you about what happens when a person gets AIDS?

I: Yeah, like can you tell me more about the time between when a person gets infected with AIDS and when they get AIDS?

S: Time period? I'm thinking I guess when they are infected with the virus it seems like it takes a while for some people. I know for my father's friend took awhile. I mean he always knew he was with the virus but he always thought he could overcome it and it seem, like you know I never really thought he could, cause I'm saying well if you get the virus then you're going to, I think you going to get the AIDS you know. But he always thought he could overcome it and it was never a big deal dealing with it until it struck him. It was a while about a year, in that time period it took him, about a year till they had till he was, the virus on him. Till it was in his body. About a year and well I'm thinking Magic Johnson doesn't have AIDS yet does he? Well he has AIDS but his hum. Didn't it take like I'm trying to think where I read that at. Didn't it take a while for him to actually I mean get the virus I mean actually get the virus because he was I mean he had HIV but didn't he take him longer to actually get AIDS?

I: Well, I don't know that he is sick yet. Cause he has the HIV virus. But he doesn't seem to be sick.

S: Not at all.

I: Ok. Do you know how long does it take for a person with HIV to develop AIDS?

S: I have no idea.

I: Do you know if it takes longer for some people than for others?

S: Yes I think it depending on a case maybe. How sick they actually are. Like in [inaudible]'s case I don't think he's really sick at all. But in my uncle's when he had a virus he was not as sick as he was when he got AIDS, but he just, he was sick but it wasn't like he was very happy any more neither, but he was more happier than he was when he had finally developed AIDS. But he was sicker than, I could say, Magic Johnson cause Magic Johnson doesn't look sick but he looked sick.

I: Ok. You mention earlier about a test. What does the test test for? And how does it work, do you know?

S: I don't know how it works but I know it tests to see if you have the virus in your blood stream, is that what it is? I think. And I know it takes a while for you to get your results back. I know it does that. I'm not sure how it works though. Do they take blood from you? Is that what it is? That's all I know, they just take blood from you.

I: Why would someone decide to be tested?

S: If they knew or just realized that their partner has been with other or more partners then they would have imagine or something like that and they thought well you know maybe I should so check this out and because they probably had sex with that partner and before had a girlfriend that maybe that had you know. [Inaudible] decide to get tested so maybe they won't have sex with

anybody else until they know cause they could harm other people's lives. That's about it.

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

S: Hum, if they are really, if they're real, seeming sick cause I know I seen this person just always sick and just if they seem sick and unhappy and like I said real into religion I mean really just into it. Just seem sick and not happy but I have seen last night on a TV show about, about AIDS. You know didn't look sick at all just was wondering well I got to do something good because I don't want to die now. Didn't look skinny or he just looked like well I got it so I think my life is going to be over soon I just have to face the facts and deal with it cause there ain't nothing that they can do now. You know. It's not going to leave them. That's about, but my uncle was just one who would suffer from it I saw the people on TV and they didn't seem like they suffer I mean maybe they didn't at that moment but, they probably do, not at the moment.

I: You mentioned ah being skinny. Is that part of ah, what would make, you might think that the person has AIDS?

S: I've heard that it's true. I've heard that somebody with AIDS gets really skinny I have no idea why but I've heard. It's like usually when I think of somebody being skinny, they just skinny I mean I'm saying but like if somebody kind a thinking they just turned skinny all of a sudden. If they're not on drugs or something. Something has to be wrong with them. Usually when I see something like that, really doesn't come to my mind but I've heard that that's a result of it.

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

S: People who are constantly having sex. They have to worry about it people who have the virus I mean HIV have to worry about it a lot. People who go get transfusions have to worry about it. ...And people, just mostly that, and they people who have sex with different partners that's also, that's also too. As well as I mean that's what your partner has, I mean every partner adding on to it, that's just making it worse.

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

S: No, I think they should worry about it because there needs to be cure for this cause it's killing off the human race. I mean just it's I guess you can say it it's another form of drugs because it's not doing that so wipe out the race just like drugs are. And everything else. I mean, there's gotta be something that can be done so that's why there are all those fund raisers and foundation trying to raise money to help sick people. And this really tells you how important it is cause so many people are worrying about it. I think we need to put more into it. So you know, so it can really be a problem that can be solved soon.

I: Where have you learn about AIDS?

S: In health class, my mother and my father. I was constantly told about it cause of my uncle. And mostly in school though. Heard about it in health class cause that was for one report period last year. We had to you know research about it I mean not like a group but just like she would talk about it and we had to write notes about it and it would just just tell you how it's possible to contract it and everything. And what people are trying to do to cure the disease. And that's the only places I've heard it from. Oh, at other places like at meetings for investing now they had meetings when we had African-American history class that talked about you know things that are wiping out the race just not black, just wipe out human race period and it's, that came up. I heard about it from all kinds of classes not just high school but other meetings, awareness things like that.

I: What kinds of things do they skip about AIDS in classes at school?

S: They fail to tell us that, I mean, it's really spreading. It's really sad they don't have a cure for it and obviously we see that it's killing everybody. I mean especially the people who going to be sexually you know who is real active sexual, you know, who have sex and it's just like they know it's that but they will not, they can't talk to us about it because they think it's too hard for us to understand but we are all realizing that with our own eyes we can see what's happening, I mean don't treat us like we don't understand because I already know that it's killing people. I might not know how but, or how fast but I know that it's hurting many people and it's hurting people families. How, it's just they don't want to tell you that it's actually getting worse. You know and it's spreading faster because I guess more people are just, I guess cause teenagers are starting to have sex more so the more people who engage in sex the more chance that you have of contracting it.

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

S: Yes I do. I just, me, I just don't want to have sex till I get married because first that's they way I was raised, but it's just that especially the disease and especially AIDS. I mean they already got enough sexually transmitted disease out there I don't want to get any of them and I don't want to get AIDS cause that's the worse of them all. Because that could actually kill you. I mean and it is the most painful. I do not want to die young of, just for a little bit of pleasure. That's not me.

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

S: Why is it so expensive to get treatment for this I mean and there's not a cure, then how are they going to find one. I mean after all this time they been trying to find a cure for this disease but it seem not, like it's not working. It seems like years, I mean, why don't they try to, isn't there any other way that they can do this. It seems like after all the technology we got and you know hospitals, and things coming into hospitals, it seems like they have everything for everything else. But they just cannot get something that is just killing everybody. And it seems like they should be able to just find something that will stop this because I mean it just everything, anything else, anything you get, you have, you'll be cured. It seems like it, I mean. I mean, they're even like starting to get things out for breast cancer. And stuff like that and AIDS I mean can just, can get you really sick and it's really painful. So I think they should just be able to find something, cause it's been too long to be still killing people.

I: AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV, what does that tell you about it?

S: That it's, it must be a really the kind of disease that affects your whole body because if another virus has to come into you blood before this virus and start doing things, it's like well something is really wrong, I mean how it's like this is another virus and it gets into your body and you think like, well Dag! That's going to be it, but no, you can still get the AIDS and it's like Dag! If I got the HIV you mean I can still contract AIDS like you can really realize it's really something that's not to be taken lightly. But to be taken it seriously.

I: Suppose there is a new disease and all you know about it is that it is caused by a virus, what information can you come up with from this knowledge about how the disease is transmitted?

S: That I can come up with, Hum, I can know that it would help me not to have sex, it would, that I would just try to stay away from anything that I would think that it could be transmitted or how it could affect me at all. Because considering that you know it's not known I would stay away from anything cause I would not want to be infected.

I: What does safe sex mean to you?

S: I think it means, safe sex means abstinence to me. That's the only thing it means to me, abstinence. There's no, I think there's no other way to be actually safe, 100% safe. I think abstinence is the best way, just no kind of sex whatsoever. Abstinence.

I: Can you tell me more about condoms. What are the safest condoms to use for protect against AIDS?

S: I don't, I'm not sure about that. I wouldn't really know but I know that they are, you know there's a percentage rate where they are effective from like, from protecting you so I guess I guess if you have to have sex I mean you should wear a condom. There is a chance that you are protected. I don't know what kind that you should use to protect you though but I know that you should definitely wear one.

I: What else do condoms protected you against.

S: Protects you against other sexually transmitted disease. I guess just other, I think that's about all. Just the transmitted diseases. I can't think of anything else.

I: What does IV drug use mean to you?

S: IV...I've had that. It's just, IV what they stick in your arm at the hospital. Like when you are in the hospital over night. I think it means when they insert medicine they give you in your arm, I'm not sure what it is. But something that I think I guess it keeps you, tries to help you make you well while you are in the hospital or make sure you don't get sicker or tries to keep germs from spreading.

I: Do you think needles can be cleaned?

S: I think so I think that there's so many like maybe do, the doctors must get mixed up with the needles because the needles are similar that they stick into the people that has AIDS or the virus, I mean they probably use those on other people and that's probably how other people you know may have contracted it also if there has ever been a way. But it like I don't think they can actually be cleaned because it seems maybe some of the doctors or nurses or whatever, aren't sure or aren't doing their job and cleaning them, or whatever you're trying to say, or they're supposed to do and if and if they try to clean them, that's probably not always safe I mean you can say you can clean them but it's not, if you have a disease like this and you can't cure it I mean how are you going to wash it away.

I: Umm. Alright, is there anything else you'd like to add, anything else?

S: No, except that I wish there was a way that this could be stopped, because I've already seen somebody that was real close to our family die from it. I mean I don't want it to happen to anyone else in my family because that was very painful. It made everybody sad and wonder, if this happens once it can happen again. I sure don't want anything like that to happen to my family, cause I think that would really make my family be so upset and just wouldn't know what else to do, because it's real tragic to have somebody die, especially of a disease.

I: Ummm.

S: That's all.

I: O.K.