

Subject 89 Interview

Interviewer: 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, please 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're saying. My first question is, please tell me everything you know about AIDS.

S: Um, I know that you can get it sexually, through sex, um, a baby can get it through the mother, um, I know that you can't get it from kissing or hugging a person that has AIDS. And I know that AIDS and HIV are two different things.

I: Mmm Hmm.

S: And I know that it's a disease that can kill you.

I: O.K. Anything else comes to mind?

S: Oh, and um you can get it from sharing needles.

I: O.K. Um, can you tell me anything more about how AIDS is passed from one person to another? How it's spread?

S: Um, through a man's semen, and a females, um, through a female's um, fluids. And if one person has HIV or AIDS that if another person comes in contact with the blood, like, the other person can get it. If a mother already has AIDS, and she's bearing a child, than the child can get it.

I: O.K. You told me that AIDS is passed on um, through the mother. Could you tell me a little bit more about that?

S: I don't know, I just know that if the mother already has AIDS than the baby's not really that much protected cause they, um, the baby shares the same blood and stuff that the mother does.

I: O.K. And um, you said that uh, AIDS could be passed on sexually, um, is there anything more you can tell me about that?

S: Um, it can be passed through oral sex, anal sex, regular sex, um, it doesn't matter what race or age or color you are, um it could be two males, or a male and a female, or...

I: O.K. You also mentioned, uh uh, through drug use, IV drug use. Could you tell me anything more about how AIDS is spread with needles, you said needles, yeah?

S: Yeah. 'Cause whenever the person puts, if the person already has um, HIV, and they're sharing the same needles to shoot up with or whatever, the person that puts it into the arm is

coming in contact with their blood, and then I'm sure the person probably doesn't wipe it off or anything and it goes to the other person's arm which injecting the drug and the other person's blood.

I: You said something about AIDS and HIV being different. (Interruption from loudspeaker) Um, you said that AIDS and HIV is different, can you explain that for me?

S: Um, I've just, I guess as growing up that's what I heard is HIV is different from AIDS cause it's not full, it's not really HIV's not really AIDS, it's just the virus.

I: Mmm Hmm.

S: And then when you have AIDS then it's the full thing, and like takes over your all your body.

I: O.K. Um, does it matter how often a person uh, uses needles, or has sex?

S: No. I think it could just be that one time, and that one time could be your whole life, flash in front of you, you could die from one time, 'cause you could get um, HIV, it doesn't matter if you do it how many other times, you got to protect yourself.

I: O.K. Um, imagine that person, um, would maybe have sex only once. What happens to a person's risk of getting AIDS if they have sex many times?

S: It increases, unless they use protection.

I: O.K. Can you tell me how a person can prevent getting AIDS if they are using needles or...?

S: If they're using needles then they can have their own needles, just don't share nobody else's, or if you're having sex and you like have multiple partners or stuff like that.. you should always use a condom.

I: O.K. is there anything else, anything else that a person who is uh, doing these things can do to protect themselves?

S: Abstinence, well for sex they can use abstinence, they don't have to have sex.

I: Mmm Hmm

S: And um, they can get some help at a rehab or something if they're using drugs or stuff like that.

I: Um, how well do you think this would really protect a person from getting AIDS, doing those things?

S: I think it would protect them like, condoms aren't 100%. But, I think it's the best thing, besides abstinence. So I think, and then if you get um, use your own needle I think is a lot safer, 'cause then you're just using whatever you have in your arm..

I: Mmm Hmm.

S: ..if already have AIDS then you already have it, but if you don't then you shouldn't get it.

I: Mmm Hmm. Um, what do you think may lead a person to use needles, or have sex ?

S: Their um, family life. 'Cause if like you have a bad background or something you might just be like, 'well, nobody cares about me anyway' and just do stuff to destroy yourself.

I: Mmm Hmm. O.K. Imagine that a person goes out and they're planning not to have sex or they're planning not to use drugs, um, what do you think may mess up their plans not to do that?

S: Peer pressure. Like friends, um, your friend might be like, well, you're being silly, you can still have sex or something like that, or um, well, really, I think that's the only thing if you have a strong will power, then I think that's really the only thing that can...

I: Um, what effect does alcohol have on people?

S: Some people it makes them really crazy, like they don't know what they're doing, and that might cause them to have sex with somebody without protection and they could get AIDS and then once they realize that then they feel sorry for their selves but they really, their own fault. Um, but then some people they can make them nice, I've seen alcohol be nice to some, make people more mellow, um, but then again I've seen it make them violent too.

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

S: Yeah, it makes a big difference. Cause if you drink then you might get drunk and then you might do stuff that you don't normally do, like use drugs or have sex with somebody that you don't know. And that person that you don't know could have AIDS, or that needle that you use could have some HIV um, antibodies all over it and you're putting that into your system.

[someone opens the door]

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

S: I think it's the same. I mean, in my opinion it doesn't matter how much you drink if you drink if you're drinking to get drunk or even if you're just drinking it still can put you at risk with anything.

I: Mmm Hmm. Um, does it matter how often a person is exposed to AIDS?

S: What do you mean?

I: Um, does it matter how many times, or, um, how often a person may be um, come in contact with someone with AIDS?

S: No. I mean, you could still get it no matter what you do, you could still get it no matter how many times you come in contact with the person, if you're doing the right thing, protecting yourself, then you shouldn't have to worry about it.

I: Mmm Hmm. Um, O.K. Can you tell me what happens when a person gets infected with the AIDS virus?

S: Um, they can, um, get lesions on their bodies, um, break into a sweat, um, swollen glands, um, weight loss, they can lose their self esteem, the way they feel about themselves.

I: Mmm Hmm. O.K. Um, can you tell me about what happens when a person develops AIDS?

S: When they develop AIDS?

I: MmmHmm.

S: I guess basically the same thing I just said. You get lesions, night sweats, um, weight loss, all that.

I: All right, um, how can someone learn whether he or she has AIDS?

S: By taking a test every, get a test every six months. Um, you can get a book in.., or go to a doctor or someone. First of all if you don't know ask them how you get AIDS, you can ask them how to protect yourself.

I: O.K. What does this test test for? Do you know how it works?

S: Um, I think I heard that it checks all the I think red blood cells or something like that, or it checks for um, anti, antibodies of the HIV cause they're like a, they're shaped different than what should normally be in your body.

I: O.K. Why would someone decide to be tested?

S: If they know that they did something that they shouldn't have like had sex with somebody they didn't know, or if they had frequently used drugs, or at anytime needles, and um, or recently used any type of alcohol or something and didn't know what they did the next day.

I:MmmHmm.

S: Or if they were pregnant, to make sure that the baby doesn't have the fever.

I: O.K. Um, what would make you think that a person has AIDS?

S: I personally wouldn't know, I mean nothing would make me think that they have AIDS, because you can't tell by the way a person looks, you can only tell if someone tells you that they have AIDS.

I: O.K. Um, what kinds of people have a lot to worry about from AIDS?

S: What kinds of people?

I: Mmm Hmm.

S: Every, every kind of person.

I: Everybody?

S: Mmm Hmm.

I: Um, when can people stop worrying about AIDS?

S: They shouldn't. I mean, even if they find a cure for it they still shouldn't stop worrying about it because you might not know you have it one day, and..it's just a disease, a deadly disease that's out there that there's no cure for yet, so you should still worry about it. You should worry about any type of disease.

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

S: No.

I: Why is that?

S: Because they're, I mean deadly, and people I think in today's society people just don't care nowadays and they just do whatever, and it's killing people.

I: Mmm Hmm. Um, where have you learned about AIDS?

S: Um, I learned when I was 12 or 13, and I learned from a placement where I was at, they had AIDS awareness groups and all that, and I never knew nothing about it, I mean it scared me that's why, I'm glad it scared me. I learned, I think it was at Mayview, which is a hospital. And I'm glad it scared me because I take very good care of myself. I make sure I use protection, I haven't used drugs.

I: O.K. What things did they skip about AIDS in health classes at school?

S: They really didn't, when I was in school, they really didn't mention much about AIDS. They didn't say how you, they say how you could get it but they never said how you couldn't get it, like they never mentioned well, you can't get it from hugging somebody or anything like that, and that's why some kids today are so ignorant about the situation because they don't, they don't know.

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

S: Mmm Hmm. Yeah, because I got there when I was younger, scared me so much I mean because this is a disease that can kill you, it only takes one time, so it scared me so... I think I know enough to protect myself.

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

S: Yeah, I think um, I would like to know like when they do tests and stuff what do they really look for, I mean, I heard rumors of how you know I said they look for red blood cells of whatever. I don't even know if that's right, but I mean I'd like to know like what they really do when they look like at the blood or whatever.

I: O.K. AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV. What does that tell you about it?

S: (Silence)... I don't know. I guess that it has two parts, I mean there's two parts to it, to the, to AIDS, there's HIV and then there's AIDS there are...I guess they told me it's a, a long..I don't know how to put it. Um..

I: Process?

S: Yeah. Yeah, a long process.

I: O.K. Um, what does safe sex mean?

S: To protect yourself and know what you're doing- not as in know what you're doing on a test but knowing how to protect yourself and basically that's it.

I: Can you tell me anything more about condoms, like what are the safest condoms to use for protection against AIDS?

S: I think um, not the lambskin because they have like the pores and stuff in it but uh, latex.

I: O.K. Uh, what else do condoms protect you against?

S: Um, pregnancy. Um, pregnancy, any other type of diseases, and like I said it's not 100%, but it's the best thing.

I: Uh Huh. Um, what does IV drug use mean?

S: Um, when you use, when you like shoot up with a needle.

I: O.K. Do you think needles can be cleaned?

S: No. I mean, I think they can be clean, but not to the point where there's no germs or nothing on there and that's why you should never use the same needle.

I: Mmm Hmm. O.K. Thank you.