

AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes for September 1987

Provisional Data From the National Health Interview Survey

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Introduction

The National Center for Health Statistics has introduced a special set of supplemental questions on the adult population's knowledge and attitudes about acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). This report presents provisional findings for September, the second month of data collection with the AIDS questionnaire. Data for August 1987 have been published in *NCHS Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics*, No. 146.

The AIDS questionnaire was designed to provide baseline estimates of public knowledge and attitudes about AIDS transmission and prevention of AIDS virus infection and to measure changes in knowledge and attitudes over time. The data also were needed as input for the planning and development of AIDS educational campaigns and for evaluation of major educational efforts.

The AIDS questionnaire was developed by the National Center for Health Statistics and interagency working groups established by the Information, Education and Risk Factor Reduction Subcommittee of the Public Health Service Executive Task Force on AIDS. The working groups included representatives from the Centers for Disease Control; the National Institutes of Health; the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration; and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The questionnaire includes items on self-assessment of knowledge about AIDS; sources of information about AIDS; knowledge about AIDS and AIDS-related risk factors, modes of transmission, and blood tests for the AIDS virus; plans to take such a test; recent experience with blood donation; self-assessment of chances of getting AIDS; personal knowledge of people with AIDS or the

AIDS virus; and finally, willingness of respondents to take part in a proposed national seroprevalence study.

This report presents provisional data for all AIDS questionnaire items. Table 1 displays percent distributions of persons 18 years of age and over by response categories according to age, sex, race, and marital status. In most cases, the actual question asked of the respondent is reproduced verbatim in table 1, along with the response categories. In a few cases, questions or response categories have been rephrased or combined. Refusals and other nonresponses are excluded from the denominator in the calculation of estimates, but responses of "don't know" are included.

Selected findings

There are signs that the U.S. public's knowledge about AIDS increased slightly between August and September 1987, especially in the areas of general information concerning the characteristics of the disease and its modes of transmission. The following highlights describe the September data, noting any topic areas where the results are significantly different from those obtained in August.

Awareness of AIDS—Virtually everyone (more than 99 percent) has heard of AIDS. More than three-fourths (77 percent) of adults last saw, heard, or read something about AIDS within 3 days of the NHIS interview, an increase from 74 percent in August.

Self-perceived knowledge—Twenty percent of adults 18 years of age and over feel that they know a lot about AIDS compared to most people; 43 percent feel they know some; 28 percent feel they know a little; and 9 percent feel they know nothing about AIDS. As was the case in August, adults 50 years and over are more likely than younger

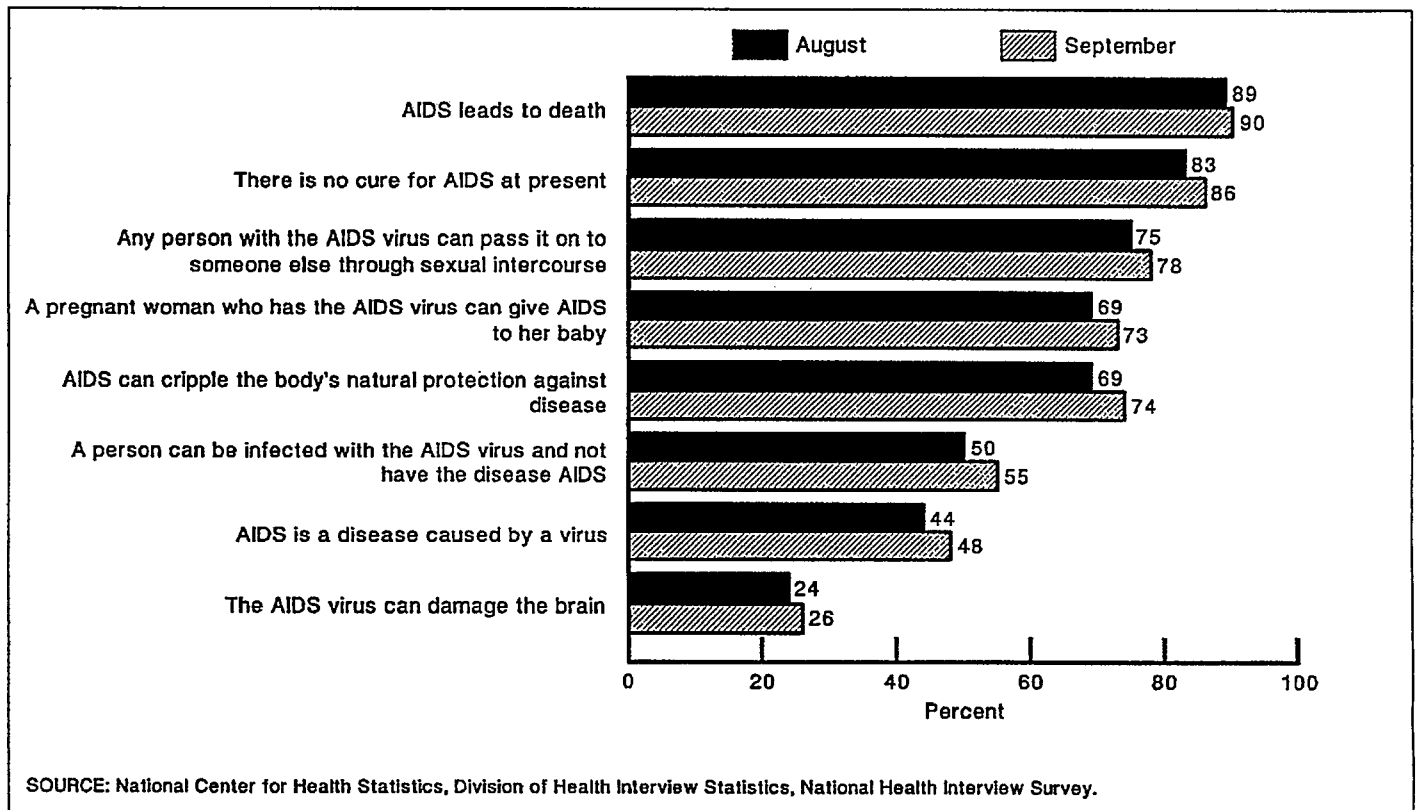


Figure 1. Provisional estimates of percent of adults 18 years of age and over who think selected statements about AIDS are definitely true: United States, August and September, 1987

adults to state that they know nothing about AIDS and less likely to think that they know a lot. Black individuals are more than twice as likely as white individuals to state that they know nothing about AIDS (20 percent compared to 8 percent).

General knowledge—Figure 1 shows the percents of adults answering “definitely true” to selected knowledge questions. For a number of these questions, there were small but statistically significant increases between August and September in the proportions of adults answering correctly. The majority of respondents (90 percent) continue to be certain that AIDS leads to death. Increased proportions think it is definitely true that there is no cure for AIDS at present (86 percent compared to 83 percent in August), that anyone with the AIDS virus can transmit it to other individuals through sexual intercourse (78 percent, up from 75 percent in August), and that a pregnant woman can transmit AIDS to her baby (73 percent, up from 69 percent). There also were increases between August and September in the percent of adults who think it is definitely true that AIDS can cripple the body’s natural protection against disease (74 percent compared to 69 percent), that a person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS (55 versus 50 percent), and that AIDS is caused by a virus (48 versus 44 percent). Another indication of improved public knowledge lies in the increased proportions of adults who think it is definitely false that AIDS is especially common in older people (69 percent in September compared to 65 percent in August), that you can tell if a person has AIDS just by looking at them (71

compared to 65 percent), and that there is a vaccine to prevent the AIDS virus (69 percent compared to 65 percent).

Despite these areas of improvement, there continues to be a great deal of uncertainty about the causes of AIDS and about the relationship between the AIDS virus and the disease AIDS. For the most part, the lowest levels of general knowledge are found among adults 50 years of age and over, confirming their own self-assessment that they know relatively little about the disease.

Transmission of the AIDS virus—Most Americans are aware of the ways in which the AIDS virus is most likely to be transmitted. More than 9 out of 10 adults say it is very likely that a person will get AIDS from having sex with a person who has AIDS (94 percent) or from sharing needles for drug use with someone who has AIDS (93 percent). The level of misinformation about modes of transmission, particularly from casual contact, continues to be high; however, there is some evidence of improvement in this area. Donating blood is still considered a likely way of getting the AIDS virus by one-fourth (26 percent) of adults, but the percent who think it is definitely not possible to transmit the virus by blood donation has increased from 18 to 21 percent. There also have been increases in the proportions of adults who think it is impossible to transmit the virus by working near someone with AIDS (21 percent in September compared to 18 percent in August), by shaking hands with or touching someone with AIDS (26 compared to 22 percent), by kissing on the cheek someone with AIDS (23 compared to 19 percent), and by attending

school with a child who has AIDS (24 compared to 20 percent).

Black adults continue to be more likely than white adults to perceive a threat of AIDS virus infection from many sources of casual contact. There are few differences by age, sex, and marital status in knowledge or misinformation about the transmission of AIDS.

Blood test for the AIDS virus—A number of questions were asked about blood tests for the AIDS virus. Overall, 72 percent of adults have heard of the blood test, about the same as in August (70 percent). Persons 30-49 years of age are most likely (82 percent) and persons 50 years of age and over least likely (57 percent) to have heard of the test. Although there is widespread awareness that a blood test for the AIDS virus is available, there appears to be some misunderstanding about the purpose of the test. Forty percent of adults (56 percent of those who have heard of the test) erroneously believe that the blood test results tell whether a person has the disease AIDS.

As was the case in August, 7 percent of respondents report having had their blood tested for the AIDS virus, including 2 percent who voluntarily said that they were tested because of a blood donation or transfusion. (On the other hand, about 12 percent report having given blood since January 1985, the approximate date when routine testing of donated blood began.) These provisional data indicate that adults under age 30 are almost four times as likely to have had the AIDS blood test as persons 50 years of age and over. In addition, 11 percent of all adults have thought about having the AIDS test, and 5 percent say they plan to be tested in the next 12 months. Thirteen percent of Americans age 18 years and over know someone who has had the AIDS blood test.

Risk of getting AIDS—Most adults believe that they (and the people that they know) are at little or no risk of AIDS infection. Nine in 10 feel that there is no chance (60 percent) or a low chance (31 percent) of getting AIDS themselves. More than 6 in 10 say that the chance of someone they know getting AIDS is low (38 percent, up from 34 percent in August) or nonexistent (26 percent). Seven percent of adults report personally knowing someone with the AIDS virus.

AIDS prevention—Almost 9 out of 10 Americans realize that both celibacy and restricting sexual activity to a monogamous relationship with a person who does not have the AIDS virus are very effective ways to avoid infection with the virus. One-third (33 percent) think that using condoms is a very effective way to avoid the virus, and an additional 49 percent consider this method somewhat effective. Fifty-nine percent of the adults in the United States think that using a diaphragm is not an effective way to avoid getting the AIDS virus, an increase over the August estimate of 56 percent. An equal proportion (59 percent compared to 54 percent in August) feel that using spermicides is ineffective in AIDS prevention.

AIDS discussion and education—Two-thirds of adults (68 percent) have discussed AIDS with friends or relatives. Persons age 50 and over are the least likely to have done so. Of adults with children between the ages of 10 and 17, 61 percent have talked with their children about AIDS (14 percent of all adults). Forty-two percent of those with children in this age range report that their children have received instruction about AIDS at school, an increase over the August estimate of 35 percent.

Symbols

- Quantity zero
 - 0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.5
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Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, September 1987

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Marital status		
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Married	Unmarried	
		Percent distribution ¹									
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
1. Have you ever heard of AIDS? When was the last time you saw, heard, or read something about AIDS?											
0-3 days ago	77	69	79	81	78	76	79	71	79	73	
4-7 days ago	13	16	13	10	12	13	13	15	13	13	
8-14 days ago	3	4	3	2	2	3	2	4	3	3	
15-31 days ago	3	5	3	2	3	3	3	4	2	4	
More than 31 days ago	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	3	
Never heard of AIDS	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	
Don't know	3	2	2	4	2	3	2	3	2	4	
2. Compared to most people, how much would you say you know about AIDS?											
A lot	20	22	26	13	23	18	21	13	20	21	
Some	43	49	47	33	40	45	43	37	44	40	
Little	28	25	23	35	27	28	27	30	28	28	
Nothing	9	4	4	19	10	9	8	20	8	11	
Don't know	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3a. AIDS is a disease caused by a virus.											
Definitely true	48	58	53	34	53	44	48	49	46	52	
Probably true	28	27	29	27	26	29	28	22	29	25	
Probably false	4	3	2	5	3	4	4	2	4	3	
Definitely false	4	3	4	6	4	5	4	6	5	3	
Don't know	17	9	12	28	15	18	16	21	17	17	
3b. AIDS can cripple the body's natural protection against disease.											
Definitely true	74	78	81	63	77	72	76	60	76	71	
Probably true	15	14	12	20	14	16	15	17	14	17	
Probably false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	
Definitely false	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	
Don't know	9	5	5	15	8	9	7	19	8	9	
3c. AIDS is especially common in older people.											
Definitely true	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	1	
Probably true	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	
Probably false	21	25	18	21	20	22	21	19	20	24	
Definitely false	69	65	75	64	69	69	70	59	72	63	
Don't know	9	7	6	13	9	8	7	16	8	11	
3d. The AIDS virus can damage the brain.											
Definitely true	26	23	25	30	27	26	26	30	27	26	
Probably true	32	33	31	34	32	33	32	31	32	34	
Probably false	8	9	10	5	9	7	8	6	8	8	
Definitely false	6	7	9	2	7	5	6	4	6	5	
Don't know	27	27	25	30	26	28	27	29	28	26	
3e. AIDS usually leads to heart disease.											
Definitely true	7	6	6	9	7	7	7	10	7	7	
Probably true	22	20	21	24	20	23	21	27	21	22	
Probably false	18	21	22	12	21	16	19	13	18	18	
Definitely false	14	16	18	8	15	13	14	11	14	13	
Don't know	39	37	34	48	36	42	40	39	39	40	
3f. AIDS leads to death.											
Definitely true	90	92	91	89	88	92	91	89	90	91	
Probably true	8	7	7	8	9	6	8	7	8	7	
Probably false	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	
Definitely false	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Don't know	2	0	1	3	2	1	1	3	1	2	
4a. Where do you get most of your information about AIDS? ²											
Television	82	81	80	86	82	83	82	86	83	81	
Newspapers	60	46	63	68	65	56	63	41	65	52	
Magazines	28	28	31	25	22	33	29	19	28	27	
Radio	8	6	9	9	10	6	8	8	9	6	
Relatives and friends	7	8	8	4	7	6	7	4	6	8	
Brochures/fliers/pamphlets	7	8	8	5	7	7	6	12	7	8	
Doctor/HMO/clinic	5	5	7	4	5	6	5	9	5	7	
Other	15	20	18	8	17	14	15	15	15	17	
Don't know	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
4b. Of the sources you just told me, from which one do you get the most information?											
Television	56	60	51	58	55	57	55	66	56	55	
Newspapers	21	14	21	26	23	18	22	10	22	18	
Magazines	9	9	11	7	7	11	9	6	9	9	
Brochures/fliers/pamphlets	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Doctor/HMO/clinic	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	5	2	3	
Other	10	13	12	5	11	9	9	10	9	11	
Don't know	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	

See footnotes at end of table.

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[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Marital status	
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Married	Unmarried
5a. If you wanted more specific information about AIDS, where would you get it? ²	Percent distribution ¹									
Doctor/HMO/clinic	57	57	60	55	55	60	58	50	60	53
Public health department	17	14	19	17	18	16	17	15	17	16
Library	12	17	14	6	11	13	12	13	13	12
AIDS hot line	8	10	8	5	7	8	8	8	6	10
Other	26	28	29	21	28	24	25	30	25	28
Don't know	12	10	8	19	13	12	12	12	12	13
5b. Which one source would you most likely use?										
Doctor/HMO/clinic	46	46	46	48	44	48	47	42	48	43
Public health department	12	10	13	13	14	11	13	10	12	12
Library	8	12	10	4	7	9	8	10	8	8
AIDS hot line	6	7	6	4	5	6	6	7	5	8
Other	15	15	16	13	17	13	14	18	14	15
Don't know	13	10	9	19	13	12	12	13	12	14
6a. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.										
Definitely true	55	54	63	45	53	56	57	40	57	50
Probably true	25	23	23	27	27	23	25	24	24	25
Probably false	3	5	3	3	4	3	3	7	3	4
Definitely false	4	7	3	2	4	4	3	8	3	5
Don't know	14	11	8	22	13	14	12	21	13	15
6b. You can tell if people have the AIDS virus just by looking at them.										
Definitely true	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Probably true	4	5	2	5	3	5	4	5	3	5
Probably false	15	13	15	17	16	15	15	16	15	15
Definitely false	71	75	75	61	71	70	72	65	72	67
Don't know	10	6	6	16	9	10	9	14	8	12
6c. Any person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else during sexual intercourse.										
Definitely true	78	81	79	75	76	80	78	75	79	77
Probably true	17	15	17	18	19	15	17	15	17	17
Probably false	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Definitely false	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	1
Don't know	4	3	3	7	4	4	3	8	4	5
6d. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give AIDS to her baby.										
Definitely true	73	76	77	67	69	77	73	73	74	71
Probably true	19	18	16	24	23	16	20	16	18	21
Probably false	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Definitely false	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Don't know	7	6	6	9	8	6	7	9	7	7
6e. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.										
Definitely true	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
Probably true	3	4	3	3	3	3	2	9	3	4
Probably false	11	14	9	10	11	11	10	13	10	12
Definitely false	69	70	77	60	72	67	72	51	71	66
Don't know	15	12	10	25	13	18	14	25	15	16
6f. There is no cure for AIDS at present.										
Definitely true	86	86	88	83	85	86	87	76	87	84
Probably true	8	7	7	10	9	8	8	11	7	9
Probably false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Definitely false	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	1	2
Don't know	4	3	3	5	4	4	3	8	4	4
7. How likely do you think it is that a person will get the AIDS virus from—										
7a. Receiving a blood transfusion?										
Very likely	36	36	31	40	33	38	32	54	34	38
Somewhat likely	32	31	32	33	30	33	33	29	32	31
Somewhat unlikely	13	15	15	8	13	12	14	5	13	12
Very unlikely	15	15	18	11	19	11	17	4	16	13
Definitely not possible	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
Don't know	4	3	3	7	4	4	4	7	4	4
7b. Donating or giving blood?										
Very likely	10	10	9	11	10	10	8	24	9	11
Somewhat likely	16	19	13	17	16	16	15	23	15	17
Somewhat unlikely	13	14	11	13	13	13	13	13	12	14
Very unlikely	34	35	38	30	35	33	36	21	36	31
Definitely not possible	21	19	26	19	21	21	23	10	22	20
Don't know	6	3	3	11	5	7	5	9	5	7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, September 1987—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

<i>AIDS knowledge or attitude</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Age</i>			<i>Sex</i>		<i>Race</i>		<i>Marital status</i>	
		<i>18-29 years</i>	<i>30-49 years</i>	<i>50 years and over</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Unmarried</i>
Percent distribution ¹										
7c. Living near a hospital or home for AIDS patients?										
Very likely	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	2
Somewhat likely	5	5	5	4	5	5	4	7	5	5
Somewhat unlikely	10	11	10	10	11	9	10	15	10	11
Very unlikely	40	44	41	37	43	38	41	40	41	40
Definitely not possible	36	34	38	36	33	39	38	25	37	35
Don't know	7	4	5	11	6	7	6	10	7	7
7d. Working near someone with AIDS?										
Very likely	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	7	3	3
Somewhat likely	15	15	15	16	15	15	15	18	15	16
Somewhat unlikely	16	17	16	13	17	15	15	15	16	14
Very unlikely	36	38	38	33	39	34	37	31	37	36
Definitely not possible	21	22	21	20	18	23	22	16	20	22
Don't know	9	5	6	14	7	10	8	13	9	9
7e. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has AIDS?										
Very likely	10	11	10	10	10	11	9	19	10	12
Somewhat likely	26	26	24	28	27	25	27	20	27	24
Somewhat unlikely	16	18	16	13	16	15	16	9	15	16
Very unlikely	26	25	29	22	26	25	26	23	26	24
Definitely not possible	11	12	12	10	10	12	11	10	11	11
Don't know	11	8	9	16	11	12	10	20	11	12
7f. Kissing—with exchange of saliva—a person who has AIDS?										
Very likely	35	36	33	36	36	34	34	45	35	35
Somewhat likely	34	34	34	35	34	35	35	28	35	34
Somewhat unlikely	10	11	12	7	12	9	10	8	9	11
Very unlikely	9	10	11	7	9	9	9	6	9	8
Definitely not possible	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Don't know	9	7	8	13	8	11	9	10	9	9
7g. Shaking hands with or touching someone who has AIDS?										
Very likely	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	4	2	2
Somewhat likely	11	11	11	11	12	10	11	14	11	11
Somewhat unlikely	17	18	16	18	18	16	17	18	17	17
Very unlikely	38	39	41	33	39	37	38	32	39	34
Definitely not possible	26	27	27	23	24	27	26	20	25	28
Don't know	6	4	4	11	5	7	6	11	6	8
7h. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has AIDS?										
Very likely	15	15	14	15	14	15	14	23	15	15
Somewhat likely	32	33	31	33	33	31	32	30	33	31
Somewhat unlikely	14	16	15	12	15	14	15	11	14	15
Very unlikely	19	17	23	17	20	19	20	13	20	19
Definitely not possible	10	10	11	9	8	11	10	8	10	10
Don't know	10	8	7	14	9	10	9	14	9	10
7i. Using public toilets?										
Very likely	9	11	7	11	7	11	8	17	9	10
Somewhat likely	22	22	20	25	22	22	22	26	22	22
Somewhat unlikely	16	18	17	12	17	15	16	12	15	16
Very unlikely	27	24	32	23	30	24	28	20	28	24
Definitely not possible	16	18	17	13	15	17	16	12	16	16
Don't know	10	7	8	15	8	12	9	14	10	11
7j. Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has AIDS?										
Very likely	93	95	94	89	92	93	93	87	93	93
Somewhat likely	5	4	4	6	5	4	4	6	5	5
Somewhat unlikely	0	0	—	0	—	0	0	—	0	0
Very unlikely	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Definitely not possible	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Don't know	2	1	1	4	2	2	2	5	2	2
7k. Kissing on the cheek a person who has AIDS?										
Very likely	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	9	4	3
Somewhat likely	14	16	12	15	16	13	14	20	14	15
Somewhat unlikely	19	21	20	17	21	18	19	19	19	21
Very unlikely	33	32	35	31	34	32	34	24	34	29
Definitely not possible	23	25	25	19	21	25	23	16	22	24
Don't know	7	4	5	13	6	9	6	12	7	7
7l. Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has AIDS?										
Very likely	11	11	11	12	11	12	11	18	11	12
Somewhat likely	29	29	24	34	30	28	29	27	29	29
Somewhat unlikely	17	17	19	14	19	15	17	15	17	16
Very unlikely	22	23	25	17	23	21	23	17	23	21
Definitely not possible	10	11	11	8	9	11	10	9	9	11
Don't know	12	9	9	16	10	13	11	15	12	11

See footnotes at end of table.

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AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Marital status	
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Married	Unmarried
Percent distribution ¹										
7m. Attending school with a child who has AIDS?										
Very likely	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	5	2	3
Somewhat likely	12	12	12	12	13	11	11	15	12	12
Somewhat unlikely	17	17	18	15	17	17	16	17	17	16
Very unlikely	36	37	38	33	39	34	38	30	37	35
Definitely not possible	24	26	24	22	22	26	25	18	23	26
Don't know	9	6	6	14	8	10	8	15	9	9
7n. Mosquitoes or other insects?										
Very likely	10	13	9	9	11	9	9	18	9	12
Somewhat likely	25	27	25	24	26	24	24	30	26	24
Somewhat unlikely	12	15	13	9	13	12	12	11	12	12
Very unlikely	21	20	22	18	22	19	22	11	21	19
Definitely not possible	12	10	12	12	8	14	12	8	12	11
Don't know	21	15	18	28	19	22	21	22	20	22
7o. Pets or animals?										
Very likely	3	4	3	3	3	3	2	8	2	4
Somewhat likely	10	13	8	11	11	9	10	14	11	10
Somewhat unlikely	11	14	13	7	13	9	11	12	11	12
Very unlikely	30	31	33	25	31	29	31	21	32	26
Definitely not possible	23	21	26	23	21	26	24	17	24	22
Don't know	22	18	18	31	21	24	21	27	20	26
7p. Having sex with a person who has AIDS?										
Very likely	94	96	93	92	92	95	94	92	94	94
Somewhat likely	4	3	5	3	5	3	4	3	4	4
Somewhat unlikely	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	—	0	0
Very unlikely	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Definitely not possible	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	2	1	1	4	2	2	1	5	2	2
8. Have you ever heard of a blood test for infection with the AIDS virus?										
Yes	72	77	82	57	73	72	73	61	73	70
No	25	21	16	38	24	25	24	35	24	27
Don't know	3	2	2	5	3	3	3	5	3	3
9. Does this test tell whether a person has the disease AIDS?										
Yes	40	44	43	33	40	40	40	39	40	40
No	22	23	29	14	23	21	23	12	24	19
Don't know	10	10	9	10	9	10	10	10	9	10
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	28	23	18	43	27	28	27	39	27	30
10. If a person has a positive blood test for infection with the AIDS virus, does this mean that they can give someone else the AIDS virus through sexual intercourse?										
Yes	63	69	74	47	64	63	65	52	64	62
No	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	4	3	3
Don't know	6	6	5	7	5	6	6	4	6	5
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	28	23	18	43	28	29	27	39	27	30
11. Have you ever had your blood tested for infection with the AIDS virus?										
Yes	5	7	5	2	6	4	4	8	4	6
Yes, in blood donation/transfusion	2	3	3	1	3	2	2	2	2	3
No	63	65	72	52	62	64	65	49	65	60
Don't know	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	28	23	18	43	28	29	27	39	27	30
12a. Have you ever thought about having this blood test?										
Already had test	7	10	9	3	9	6	7	10	6	9
Yes	11	15	15	5	12	11	11	19	9	15
No	53	52	57	48	52	54	55	31	57	46
Don't know	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	29	23	19	44	28	29	27	40	28	30
12b. Do you plan to be tested in the next 12 months?										
Already had test	7	10	9	3	9	6	7	10	6	9
Yes	5	7	5	1	5	4	4	11	3	7
No	5	5	6	2	5	5	5	3	4	5
Don't know	2	3	3	1	2	3	2	4	2	3
Never heard of test or thought about having test (no/don't know to q. 8 or q. 12a)	81	75	76	92	80	83	83	71	84	76

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, September 1987—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Marital status	
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Married	Unmarried
13. Where would you go to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection? ³										
		Percent distribution ¹								
Nowhere/wouldn't take test	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
AIDS clinic	3	4	3	2	5	1	2	5	1	5
Other clinic	25	27	23	24	25	24	24	25	24	26
Doctor/HMO	49	45	50	56	44	54	51	48	52	46
Red Cross/blood bank	2	3	1	3	1	2	2	2	1	2
Other	16	16	19	7	20	13	16	17	16	16
Don't know	5	5	4	8	4	6	5	3	5	5
14. Where would you go to find out where to have this blood test? ^{2,4}										
AIDS hot line	3	—	7	—	—	5	4	—	—	6
AIDS clinic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other clinic	14	24	15	—	29	4	13	24	15	13
Doctor/HMO	40	12	39	76	44	37	45	—	26	54
Friends	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public health department	17	10	33	—	9	23	11	76	14	20
Other	6	10	7	—	—	10	4	—	—	13
Nowhere/wouldn't take test	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Don't know	29	44	21	24	19	36	34	—	45	13
15. Have you donated blood since 1985?										
Yes	12	16	14	5	15	9	12	8	11	13
No	88	84	85	95	85	91	88	91	89	87
Don't know	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Have you ever personally known anyone who had the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?										
Yes	13	18	17	5	13	13	14	10	12	15
No	85	81	82	93	85	85	85	87	86	83
Don't know	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
17. What are the chances of someone you know getting the AIDS virus?										
High	9	10	12	5	9	9	9	11	9	10
Medium	17	23	17	11	17	16	16	20	15	19
Low	38	38	43	32	42	35	40	24	41	33
None	26	23	21	33	23	28	25	27	26	25
Refused	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—
Don't know	11	6	7	19	9	12	10	18	10	13
18. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?										
High	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Medium	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
Low	31	36	36	21	35	27	31	27	29	34
None	60	56	56	68	57	63	60	60	62	56
Refused	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	—	0	0
Don't know	4	2	3	7	4	5	4	8	4	5
19. Here are methods some people use to prevent getting the AIDS virus through sexual activity. How effective is—										
19a. Using a diaphragm?										
Very effective	2	3	1	2	2	2	1	5	2	2
Somewhat effective	11	13	9	11	10	11	10	13	9	13
Not at all effective	59	58	69	48	59	58	61	43	62	53
Don't know how effective	21	18	16	29	20	21	21	25	21	21
Don't know method	8	8	5	11	9	7	7	14	6	10
19b. Using a condom?										
Very effective	33	37	35	27	33	33	34	27	33	33
Somewhat effective	49	48	53	45	49	48	50	40	50	46
Not at all effective	6	6	5	7	6	6	5	10	5	7
Don't know how effective	9	6	5	17	9	9	8	16	9	9
Don't know method	3	2	2	5	2	4	3	6	2	5
19c. Using a spermicidal jelly, foam, or cream?										
Very effective	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	4	1	2
Somewhat effective	12	12	13	11	12	13	12	16	11	14
Not at all effective	59	61	67	47	59	58	61	44	61	53
Don't know how effective	20	18	14	29	21	19	19	25	20	20
Don't know method	8	7	5	11	7	8	7	12	6	10
19d. Being celibate, that is, not having sex at all?										
Very effective	90	93	92	86	90	90	91	84	90	90
Somewhat effective	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	5	4	4
Not at all effective	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Don't know how effective	3	2	2	6	3	4	3	8	4	3
Don't know method	1	0	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, September 1987—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Marital status	
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Married	Unmarried
19e. Two people who do not have the AIDS virus having a completely monogamous relationship, that is, having sex only with each other?					Percent distribution ¹					
Very effective	85	87	90	79	86	85	87	77	87	83
Somewhat effective	7	8	6	9	7	8	7	10	7	9
Not at all effective	2	3	1	2	2	2	1	3	1	2
Don't know how effective	4	2	3	7	4	5	3	8	4	4
Don't know method	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	2
20. Have you ever discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?										
Yes	68	77	77	52	64	72	69	67	68	68
No	31	23	23	47	35	28	31	33	31	32
Don't know	0	-	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
21. When was the last time you discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?										
0-3 days ago	20	21	23	17	19	21	20	21	21	18
4-7 days ago	18	19	22	13	18	18	18	18	18	18
8-14 days ago	8	10	9	5	7	9	8	6	8	8
15-31 days ago	11	15	12	6	11	11	11	8	11	11
More than 31 days ago	7	9	7	5	6	7	7	7	6	8
Never discussed (no/don't know to q. 20)	33	24	24	50	37	29	33	35	33	33
Don't know	3	3	2	5	3	3	3	4	3	3
24. Have you ever discussed AIDS with [any of your children age 10-17]?										
Yes	14	1	32	3	12	15	13	16	18	7
No	9	2	19	3	12	6	8	14	11	5
Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No children 10-17 years of age ⁵	77	97	49	94	76	78	78	71	71	89
25. Have your children had any instruction at school about AIDS?										
Yes	10	1	22	3	10	10	9	14	13	4
No	5	1	12	1	5	6	6	4	7	3
Don't know	8	1	17	2	9	6	7	10	9	5
No children 10-17 years of age ⁵	77	97	49	94	76	78	78	71	71	89
26. Have you ever personally known anyone with the AIDS virus?										
Yes	7	7	9	4	7	7	7	9	6	8
No	91	92	89	94	91	92	92	87	92	90
Don't know	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	2
27. Have you ever personally known anyone with AIDS?										
Yes	7	6	9	4	6	7	6	10	6	8
No	92	93	89	95	92	92	92	88	93	90
Don't know	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2
28. The U.S. Public Health Service has said that AIDS is one of the major health problems in the country but exactly how many people it affects is not known. The Surgeon General has proposed that a study be conducted and blood samples be taken to help find out how widespread the problem is. If you were selected in this national sample of people to have their blood tested with assurances of privacy of test results, would you have the test?										
Yes	71	74	74	66	73	69	72	67	73	69
No	20	16	18	24	19	20	19	21	19	20
Other	3	3	3	3	2	4	3	2	3	3
Don't know	6	6	6	7	5	7	6	9	5	8
29. Would you want to know the results of the blood test? ⁶										
Yes	97	98	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	98
No	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	1
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

¹Excludes persons for whom no response was recorded or who refused to respond. For question 2 through 27, total also excludes persons who never heard of AIDS.

²Multiple responses may sum to more than 100 percent.

³Based on persons answering yes to question 12a.

⁴Based on persons answering don't know to question 13.

⁵Based on question 22, Do you have any children aged 10-17? Question 23 was, How many do you have?

⁶Based on persons answering yes to question 28.

NOTE: Total, age, sex, and marital status include persons of other and unknown race not shown separately under race.

Technical notes

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is a continuous, cross-sectional household interview survey. Each week, a probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population is interviewed by personnel of the

Table I. Sample size for the National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes and estimated adult population 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, September 1987

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Sample size</i>	<i>Estimated population in thousands</i>
All adults	3,097	174,528
Age		
18-29 years	770	47,725
30-49 years	1,196	66,109
50 years and over	1,131	60,695
Sex		
Male	1,273	82,703
Female	1,343	91,825
Race		
White	2,545	151,003
Black	461	19,107
Marital status		
Currently married	1,670	110,968
Unmarried	1,423	63,102

U.S. Bureau of the Census to obtain information on the health and other characteristics of each member of the household. Supplemental information is collected for all or a sample of household members. The AIDS knowledge and attitudes questions were asked of a single randomly chosen adult 18 years of age or over in each household. The estimates in this report are based on completed interviews with 3,097 persons, or about 85 percent of eligible respondents.

Table I contains the estimated population size of each of the demographic subgroups included in table 1 to allow readers to derive provisional estimates of the number of people in the United States with a given characteristic, for example, the number of men who have heard of AIDS. The population figures in table I are based on first-quarter 1987 data from the NHIS; they are not official population estimates. Table II shows approximate standard errors of estimates presented in table 1. Both the estimates in table 1 and the standard errors in table II are provisional. They may differ slightly from estimates made using the final data file because they were calculated using a simplified weighting procedure that does not adjust for all the factors used in weighting the final data file. The final data file covering the entire 5-month period of data collection, August through December 1987, will be available in 1988.

Table II. Standard errors, expressed in percentage points, of estimated percents from the National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes, by selected characteristics: United States, September 1987

<i>Estimated percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Age</i>			<i>Sex</i>		<i>Race</i>		<i>Marital status</i>	
		<i>18-29 years</i>	<i>30-49 years</i>	<i>50 years and over</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Unmarried</i>
5 or 95	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.2	0.6	0.7
10 or 90	0.7	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.7	0.9	1.0
15 or 85	0.8	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.9	2.0	1.1	1.2
20 or 80	0.9	1.8	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.0	2.3	1.2	1.3
25 or 75	0.9	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.0	2.5	1.3	1.4
30 or 70	1.0	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.1	2.6	1.4	1.5
35 or 65	1.0	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.1	2.7	1.4	1.6
40 or 60	1.1	2.1	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.2	2.8	1.5	1.6
45 or 55	1.1	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.2	2.8	1.5	1.6
50	1.1	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.2	2.9	1.5	1.6

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