

AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes: August 1988

Provisional Data From the National Health Interview Survey

Deborah A. Dawson, Ph.D., Division of Health Interview Statistics

Introduction

The National Center for Health Statistics has included a special set of supplemental questions on the adult population's knowledge and attitudes about acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). The first AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey was in the field from August through December 1987. Provisional results of that survey were published on a monthly basis in *Advance Data for Vital and Health Statistics* (Nos. 146, 148, 150, 151, and 153). During the first 4 months of 1988, the NHIS AIDS questionnaire was revised to meet current program needs for information about HIV/AIDS awareness. The revised AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey entered the field in May 1988. Provisional findings for May, June, and July, the first 3 months of data collection with the new questionnaire, were published in *Advance Data for Vital and Health Statistics*, Nos. 160 and 161. This report presents provisional findings for August 1988, comparing results with those obtained 1 year earlier in the baseline survey of August 1987.

The *Advance Data* reports describing the NHIS AIDS surveys have been restricted to simple descriptive statistics to facilitate their timely release. Thus, these reports do not attempt to explain or interpret differences among population subgroups in knowledge about HIV and AIDS or to examine relationships among various measures of knowledge, attitudes, and perceived risk. The 1987 and 1988 NHIS AIDS data bases will permit more complex analyses than those presented in this series of reports, and such analyses are being undertaken by various groups in the Public Health Service.

The AIDS questionnaires were designed to estimate public knowledge and attitudes about HIV transmission and prevention of HIV infection. The data were needed as

input for the planning and development of AIDS educational campaigns and for monitoring major educational efforts, for example, the series of radio and television public service announcements entitled "America Responds to AIDS" and the brochure "Understanding AIDS," both developed by the Centers for Disease Control.

The 1987 and 1988 AIDS questionnaires were 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 current AIDS questionnaire includes items on sources of AIDS information; self-assessed level of AIDS knowledge; basic facts about HIV and how it is transmitted; blood donation experience; awareness of and experience with the blood test for HIV detection; perceived effectiveness of selected preventive measures; self-assessed chances of becoming infected with HIV; personal acquaintance with persons with AIDS or HIV; and willingness to take part in a proposed national seroprevalence survey. A general risk behavior question, similar to that asked by the Red Cross of potential blood donors, is included in the 1988 AIDS questionnaire.

This report presents provisional data for August 1988 for most items included in the AIDS questionnaire. Table 1 displays percent distributions of persons 18 years of age and over by response categories according to age, sex, race, and education. In most cases, the actual question asked of the respondent is reproduced verbatim in table 1 along with the coded response categories. In a few cases, questions or response categories have been rephrased or combined for clearer or more concise presentation of results. Refusals

and other nonresponse categories are excluded from the denominator in the calculation of estimates, but responses of "don't know" are included.

Questions in the NHIS AIDS surveys used the term "the AIDS virus" rather than HIV because it was felt that the general population might not be familiar with the more scientific terminology. In this report, "the AIDS virus" will be used in place of HIV when it reflects the way an individual question was worded.

This report contains numerous comparisons with data from the 1987 NHIS AIDS survey that must be interpreted with some degree of caution. The wording of some questions was changed slightly, and the context in which the questions were asked was modified by the addition of a number of new questions. Differences observed between 1987 and 1988 results may reflect these questionnaire changes as well as actual changes in AIDS knowledge and attitudes.

Selected findings

The following highlights describe various aspects of AIDS knowledge and attitudes observed in the August 1988 data from the NHIS AIDS survey, focussing on changes that have occurred in the year since data collection began. Unless otherwise noted, all differences cited in the text are statistically significant (see table II for approximate standard errors of estimates).

Sources of AIDS information—In August 1988, 84 percent of all adults in the United States reported having seen public service announcements about AIDS on television, slightly lower than the estimates of 86 percent in June and July but equal to the figure for May. Forty-five percent

of adults stated that they had heard AIDS public service announcements on the radio, compared to 48 percent in July and 49 percent in May and June. Twenty-two percent of all adults stated that the announcements they had heard on television and the radio were part of the "America Responds to AIDS" series.

During June 1988, the Centers for Disease Control mailed a brochure entitled "Understanding AIDS" to all households in the United States. In June and July, 52 percent of all adults reported having read brochures or pamphlets about AIDS in the preceding month, more than twice as many as in May (25 percent). In August 1988, 42 percent of adults stated that they had read brochures or pamphlets about AIDS in the month preceding the interview. The fact that this percent is still much higher than in May could indicate that adults were continuing to read "Understanding AIDS" several weeks after having received it, or it may mean that they did not accurately remember when they received that brochure.

Self-assessed knowledge—As of August 1988, 22 percent of adults stated that they knew a lot about AIDS, 44 percent said that they knew some, 26 percent felt that they knew a little, and 7 percent claimed to know nothing about AIDS. Self-assessed knowledge about AIDS increased steadily between August 1987 and August 1988. At the beginning of that period, 20 percent of adults claimed to know a lot about AIDS; 40 percent reportedly knew some; 30 percent knew a little; and 10 percent knew nothing.

General knowledge—For most of the measures included in the NHIS, basic knowledge about AIDS and HIV increased during the year between August 1987 and August 1988. Figure 1 shows the percent of adults correctly identi-

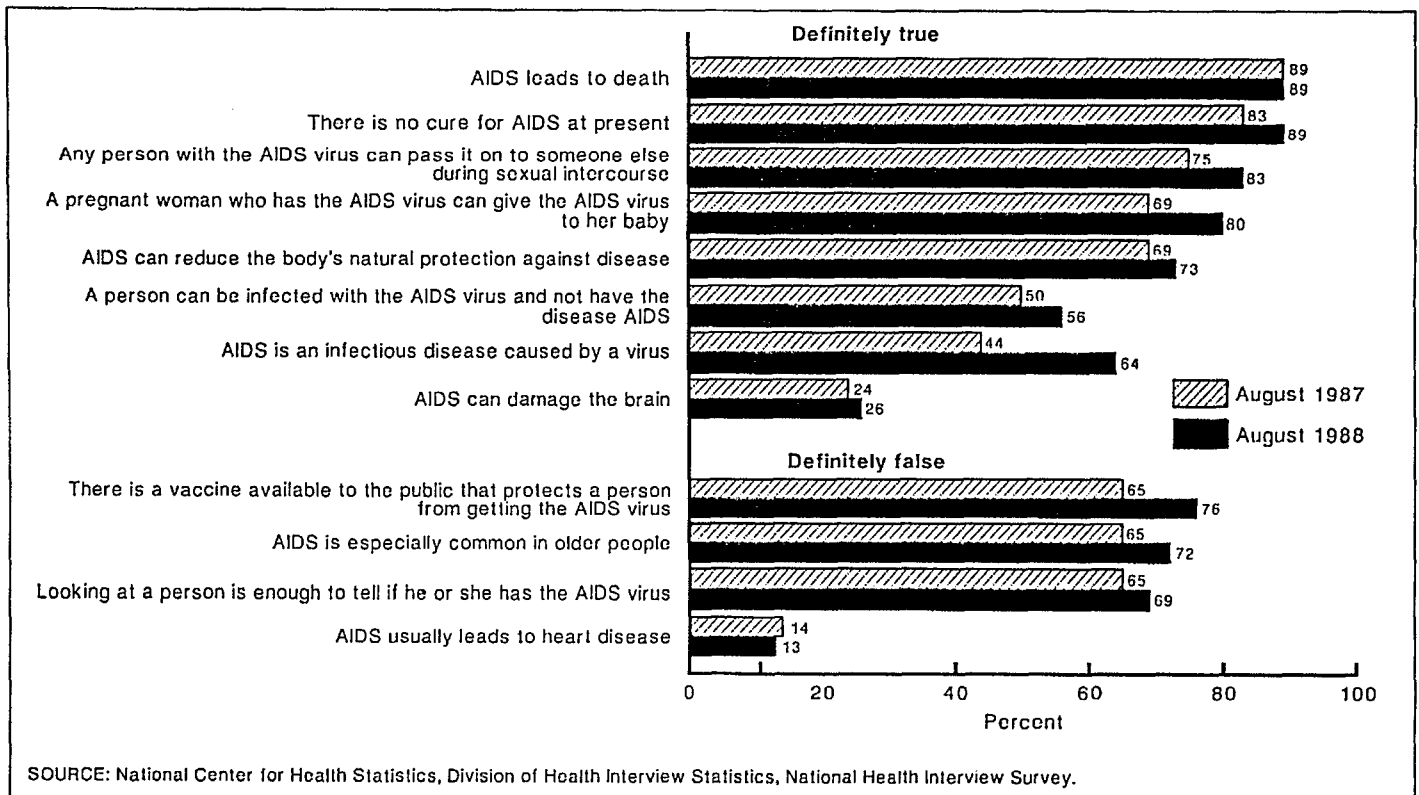


Figure 1. Provisional estimates of percent of adults responding correctly to selected AIDS knowledge items: United States, August 1987 and August 1988

fying various statements about AIDS and HIV as definitely true or definitely false. The largest increase was in the proportion of adults who thought it definitely true that AIDS is an infectious disease caused by a virus—up from 44 to 64 percent. Most increases were smaller, usually between 4 and 10 percentage points. For three statements, there was no statistically significant change. Both in August 1987 and August 1988, 89 percent of adults thought it definitely true that AIDS leads to death. The already high level of awareness of this fact at the time of the baseline survey left little room for further improvement. There also was no change in the low proportions of adults who realized that AIDS can damage the brain and that AIDS does not usually lead to heart disease.

The increase in knowledge about these basic facts was greatest for adults ages 18–29 years, bringing their overall level of knowledge up to that of adults age 30–49 years whose level of knowledge had been higher in August 1987. For older adults, knowledge remained at a lower level. Increases were greater among black than white individuals for most items, reducing but not eliminating the racial differential in knowledge about AIDS.

Misperceptions about HIV transmission—The largest improvement in knowledge between August 1987 and August 1988 was a reduction in the proportion of adults who thought HIV could be transmitted through casual contact with seropositive individuals. The data in figure 2 show both the magnitude of these changes and the amount of misinformation that still exists on this topic. Figure 2 shows the percent of adults who correctly responded that it is very unlikely or definitely not possible to transmit HIV through various activities. In August 1987, 27 percent of adults

thought it very unlikely that a person could become infected with HIV by using public toilets, and 13 percent thought it impossible. One year later, in August 1988, the respective proportions were 33 percent who considered this mode of transmission very unlikely and 24 percent who considered it impossible. Similar improvements were noted for the other activities asked about in both the 1987 and 1988 questionnaires, and the improvements in knowledge about transmission were of similar magnitude in all demographic subgroups of the adult population. Generally speaking, the activities still perceived as most threatening are those that involve potential contact with the saliva of a person infected with HIV.

Blood donation and transmission—As of August 1988, 40 percent of all adults in the United States had donated blood at some time in their lives, and 13 percent had donated blood since 1985 when routine testing of blood donations for the AIDS virus began. Two-thirds (66 percent) of adults correctly believed that blood donations are now routinely tested for the AIDS virus.

Seventy-five percent of adults had heard of the blood test for the AIDS virus infection as of August 1988, up from 70 percent in August 1987. Only 4 percent of all U.S. adults reported having received counseling about taking the AIDS virus test—5 percent of those under age 50 years and 1 percent of those age 50 years and over. Altogether, 17 percent of adults reported having had their blood tested for the AIDS virus. This figure includes 9 percent who reported having had the test, about the same as August–December 1987, and another 8 percent who were unaware of having had the test but reported having donated blood since 1985, which had been subjected to routine testing for

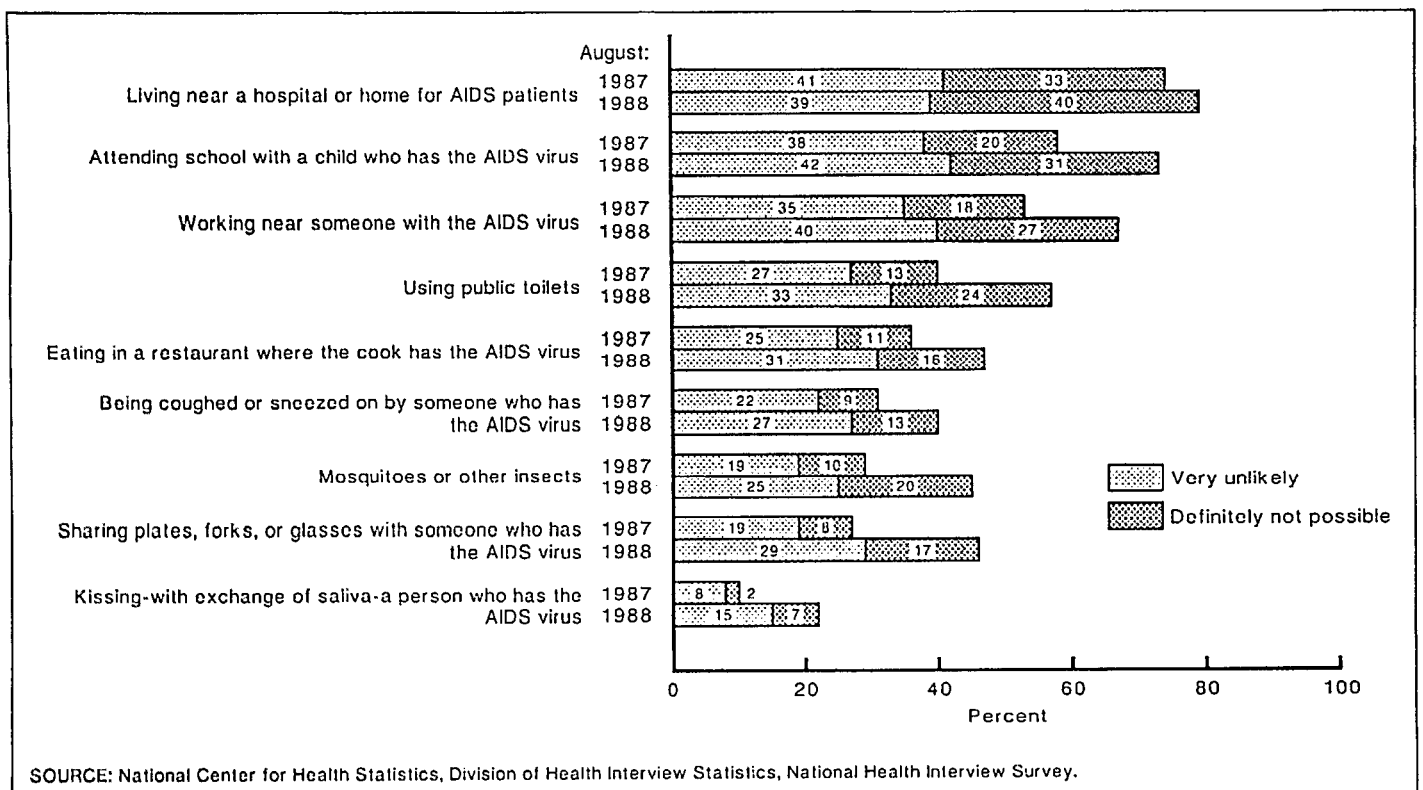


Figure 2. Provisional estimates of percent of adults who think it very unlikely or definitely not possible to transmit the AIDS virus in selected ways: United States, August 1987 and August 1988

the AIDS virus. Persons age 18–29 years were more than 3 times as likely as those age 50 years and over to have had the AIDS blood test (23 compared to 7 percent), and men were more likely than women to have done so (21 versus 13 percent). The proportion of adults whose blood had been tested increased with education from 7 percent of those with less than 12 years of school to 23 percent of those with more than 12 years.

Just over half (52 percent) of the individuals who were aware of having had their blood tested for the AIDS virus reported having received the results of the test. This proportion was much higher for black than for white adults (77 compared to 45 percent) and was greater among adults age 18–49 years (52 percent) than among those age 50 years and over (46 percent).

Five percent of all adults reported plans to have their blood tested for the AIDS virus in the next 12 months. This proportion decreased with age from 10 percent of persons age 18–29 years to 2 percent of those age 50 years and over.

Five percent of all adults in the United States received blood transfusions between 1977 when the AIDS virus is believed to have entered the United States and 1985 when routine testing of blood donations for the AIDS virus was initiated. As of August 1988, 43 percent of adults stated that the blood supply is now safe for transfusions; 28 percent did not believe the blood supply is safe; and 29 percent were uncertain. The proportion of adults trusting the safety of the blood supply increased with education, was higher for men than for women, was higher for white than for black individuals, and was higher for persons 18–49 years of age than for those 50 years and over.

Preventive measures—Twenty-nine percent of adults thought that condoms are very effective in preventing transmission of the AIDS virus, and 54 percent thought that this method is somewhat effective. These figures represent a slight shift in adults' assessment of the protective qualities of condoms compared to August 1987, when 34 percent of adults considered them very effective and 48 percent somewhat effective. In August 1988, 84 percent of adults realized that having a monogamous relationship with a person

who does not have the AIDS virus is a very effective way to prevent getting the virus—the same proportion as 1 year earlier. Over half of all adults realized that the diaphragm, spermicidal jellies and creams, and vasectomy are not effective in preventing AIDS virus transmission, with most of the remainder uncertain about the effectiveness of these methods. These figures also are comparable to those for August 1987.

Risk of getting the AIDS virus—Overall, 3 percent of all adults stated that they belonged to one or more of the behavior groups associated with increased risk of AIDS virus transmission, such as hemophiliacs, intravenous drug users, and homosexuals. This proportion decreased with age from 6 percent of adults age 18–29 years to less than 1 percent of adults age 50 years and over.

As of August 1988, 83 percent of U.S. adults believed there is no chance that they have the AIDS virus. Thirteen percent reported a low chance, 2 percent a medium chance, and less than 1 percent a high chance. Americans assessed their chances of getting the AIDS virus as minimal as well. Seventy-five percent reported no chance of their getting the virus, a proportion that has increased steadily since August 1987 when it was 60 percent. Twenty percent perceived themselves as being at low risk, 2 percent at medium risk, and less than 1 percent at high risk. Perceived risk decreased with advancing age, and women were slightly less likely than men to feel at risk of becoming infected with HIV.

As has been true since August 1987, in August 1988 almost two-thirds (65 percent) of adults reported having talked to friends or relatives about AIDS. One in 10 adults in the United States reported knowing or having known someone with AIDS or the AIDS virus. This proportion was higher for adults age 18–44 years than for those age 50 years and over, was slightly higher for women than for men, and was twice as high for persons with 12 or more years of school as for those with less education. Most of the individuals who had known someone with AIDS or the AIDS virus stated that more than 6 months had passed since they had seen that person.

Symbols

-	Quantity zero
0	Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1988

[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		Education		
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Percent distribution ¹											
1. In the past month, have you—											
1a. Seen any public service announcements about AIDS on television?											
Yes	84	85	85	83	83	85	85	84	79	85	86
No	14	14	14	15	15	14	14	14	20	14	12
Don't know	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	2	2	1	2
1b. Heard any public service announcements about AIDS on the radio?											
Yes	45	55	48	35	50	41	45	48	34	45	52
No	51	42	48	60	46	55	51	48	63	52	43
Don't know	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	5
2. Were any of those public service announcements called "America Responds to AIDS"?											
Yes	22	33	22	14	21	24	22	28	21	24	22
No	11	11	11	11	12	10	10	17	13	11	11
Don't know	53	45	54	59	53	54	55	44	49	52	57
Neither heard nor saw any public service announcements.	13	11	13	15	13	13	13	11	17	13	11
3. In the past month, have you read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?											
Yes	42	43	47	36	38	46	42	48	30	44	48
No	57	56	52	62	61	52	57	52	69	55	50
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
4. Have you ever read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?											
Yes	67	71	73	58	62	72	67	68	46	70	77
No	32	29	27	41	38	28	32	32	53	30	22
Don't know	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
5. Where did you get the pamphlets or brochures? ^{1,2}											
Clinic, other than work clinic	2	4	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	2	2
Doctor's office (HMO)	11	14	11	7	8	13	10	14	9	11	11
Drug store	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	2	1
Public health department	3	3	3	1	2	3	2	6	3	2	3
Received in mail without asking	40	37	40	44	41	40	41	43	40	43	38
Red Cross/Red Cross blood donation	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	-	1	1	2
Other blood donation	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
School	5	10	4	1	4	5	5	3	3	3	7
Sent/phoned for/requested it	0	-	1	0	0	0	0	1	-	1	0
Federal/State/local government	30	26	30	34	31	29	32	20	32	29	30
Work, other than clinic or nurse	11	9	15	7	12	10	11	13	5	12	12
Work, nurse or clinic	4	3	5	3	2	5	4	5	1	3	5
Other	13	15	14	11	15	12	13	15	12	12	15
Don't know	0	-	0	1	0	0	0	-	1	0	0
15. Have you ever discussed AIDS with any of your children aged 10-17? ³											
Yes	60	35	63	43	45	72	62	53	41	58	71
No	40	65	37	57	55	28	38	47	59	42	29
Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. Have any or all of your children aged 10-17 had instruction at school about AIDS? ³											
Yes	59	45	59	68	52	65	58	64	54	57	66
No	13	21	14	6	11	15	14	10	10	14	14
Don't know	28	34	27	26	36	20	28	26	36	30	20
21. How much would you say you know about AIDS?											
A lot	22	22	27	17	21	23	24	15	10	18	34
Some	44	53	47	33	43	45	44	41	31	48	48
A little	26	22	22	34	27	25	25	34	38	28	17
None	7	3	3	16	8	7	7	11	21	5	2
Don't know	0	-	-	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-
22. To the best of your knowledge, is there a difference between having the AIDS virus and having the disease AIDS?											
Yes	65	68	69	57	64	65	66	57	44	63	79
No	16	21	18	11	15	17	16	17	17	19	13
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
Don't know	19	11	13	32	20	18	18	26	39	18	8
23a. AIDS can reduce the body's natural protection against disease.											
Definitely true	73	79	81	61	74	73	76	60	51	72	88
Probably true	13	12	11	17	13	13	13	12	17	16	8
Probably false	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	6	3	1	1
Definitely false	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	8	4	3	1
Don't know	9	5	5	17	9	9	8	15	24	8	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 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1988—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	Age			Sex		Race		Education			
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
Percent distribution ¹											
23b. AIDS is especially common in older people.											
Definitely true	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
Probably true	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	0
Probably false	19	18	19	21	21	18	20	14	20	21	18
Definitely false	72	74	75	67	69	74	72	72	62	71	78
Don't know	8	6	6	11	9	7	7	10	16	7	4
23c. AIDS can damage the brain.											
Definitely true	26	26	24	27	25	26	25	35	26	24	28
Probably true	32	31	33	32	32	32	33	27	29	33	33
Probably false	9	9	10	7	9	8	9	4	5	9	10
Definitely false	7	7	10	4	8	6	7	7	4	6	8
Don't know	27	27	24	30	25	28	27	26	35	28	20
23d. AIDS usually leads to heart disease.											
Definitely true	9	7	9	11	8	10	8	16	12	9	7
Probably true	24	25	22	25	24	23	24	21	23	25	22
Probably false	19	20	22	13	20	17	19	12	10	18	24
Definitely false	13	14	16	9	15	12	13	12	8	11	18
Don't know	36	34	31	42	33	39	35	39	47	37	28
23e. AIDS is an infectious disease caused by a virus.											
Definitely true	64	71	70	52	65	63	64	66	49	63	74
Probably true	19	16	16	23	19	18	19	16	20	20	16
Probably false	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	2
Definitely false	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	2	4	4	3
Don't know	11	7	8	18	11	12	11	13	24	11	5
23f. Teenagers cannot get AIDS.											
Definitely true	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Probably true	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	0
Probably false	3	2	2	6	3	3	3	4	5	3	2
Definitely false	93	96	95	87	92	93	94	88	83	94	97
Don't know	3	1	2	6	3	3	2	6	9	2	1
23g. AIDS leads to death.											
Definitely true	89	88	91	87	88	90	89	90	86	91	88
Probably true	8	9	7	8	8	7	8	7	6	7	10
Probably false	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
Definitely false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	1
Don't know	2	1	1	4	2	2	2	3	6	1	1
23h. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.											
Definitely true	56	62	62	46	55	57	58	51	39	55	67
Probably true	21	19	20	24	22	20	21	18	17	25	19
Probably false	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	3	5	4	3
Definitely false	5	6	5	3	5	4	4	6	7	4	4
Don't know	14	9	10	23	14	15	13	21	32	12	7
23i. Looking at a person is enough to tell if he or she has the AIDS virus.											
Definitely true	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	3	1	1
Probably true	4	4	3	4	4	3	3	6	4	4	3
Probably false	16	14	15	19	16	16	16	15	17	18	13
Definitely false	69	74	75	58	68	69	70	64	52	69	79
Don't know	10	6	6	17	10	10	9	13	23	8	4
23j. Any person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else during sexual intercourse.											
Definitely true	83	86	86	80	81	85	84	85	79	87	83
Probably true	12	11	10	13	13	11	12	11	12	10	13
Probably false	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1
Definitely false	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
Don't know	3	1	2	6	4	3	3	3	8	2	2
23k. A person who has the AIDS virus can look and feel healthy and well.											
Definitely true	47	50	53	38	49	46	48	45	35	42	60
Probably true	30	31	29	29	28	31	30	27	24	34	28
Probably false	7	6	5	9	7	6	7	6	11	7	3
Definitely false	4	5	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	5	3
Don't know	12	7	9	19	12	12	11	15	24	12	6
23l. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give the AIDS virus to her baby.											
Definitely true	80	82	83	75	76	84	80	82	75	81	82
Probably true	15	14	13	17	17	12	15	13	15	15	15
Probably false	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
Definitely false	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	5	4	3	8	6	3	5	5	10	4	2

See footnotes at end of table.

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AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age			Sex		Race		Education			
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
Percent distribution ¹											
23m. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.											
Definitely true	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	2	2	1	1
Probably true	3	4	2	2	3	2	2	6	3	3	2
Probably false	8	10	6	10	9	8	8	10	10	8	8
Definitely false	76	78	83	68	76	76	79	65	62	77	84
Don't know	12	7	9	19	10	13	11	17	24	12	5
23n. There is no cure for AIDS at present.											
Definitely true	89	90	91	85	87	90	90	82	82	90	92
Probably true	6	4	5	8	7	5	5	9	8	5	5
Probably false	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Definitely false	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	2	1
Don't know	4	2	2	6	4	3	3	5	9	3	1
24. How likely do you think it is that a person will get AIDS or the AIDS virus infection from—											
24a. Living near a hospital or home for AIDS patients?											
Very likely	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	6	3	2	1
Somewhat likely	4	4	3	5	5	3	3	6	6	4	2
Somewhat unlikely	8	8	7	8	7	8	8	8	9	9	5
Very unlikely	39	41	40	37	39	39	39	38	35	39	42
Definitely not possible	40	41	43	36	39	41	42	29	28	40	47
Don't know	8	4	5	13	8	7	6	13	20	6	2
24b. Working near someone with the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	5	3	3	2
Somewhat likely	10	11	9	10	9	10	9	12	13	10	7
Somewhat unlikely	13	16	13	12	14	13	13	16	12	14	13
Very unlikely	40	39	42	38	41	39	41	33	31	40	46
Definitely not possible	27	28	29	23	26	28	28	22	22	27	30
Don't know	8	3	5	15	8	8	7	11	19	7	3
24c. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	6	7	6	6	6	7	5	12	8	7	5
Somewhat likely	19	19	17	21	19	19	18	21	20	22	14
Somewhat unlikely	16	16	17	14	17	15	16	13	12	17	17
Very unlikely	31	32	33	27	32	30	32	24	26	27	39
Definitely not possible	16	19	17	13	15	17	17	16	13	15	19
Don't know	12	7	10	19	11	12	11	16	21	12	6
24d. Kissing—with exchange of saliva—a person who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	20	16	20	23	18	21	20	19	22	22	16
Somewhat likely	30	30	30	31	31	29	31	30	27	33	29
Somewhat unlikely	15	16	17	13	14	16	15	15	10	14	19
Very unlikely	15	18	16	12	17	14	16	12	13	13	19
Definitely not possible	7	10	8	5	8	7	7	10	7	7	8
Don't know	12	9	9	17	11	13	11	15	20	12	8
24e. Shaking hands, touching, or kissing on the cheek someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	4	4	1	1
Somewhat likely	7	6	7	8	8	7	6	11	7	9	6
Somewhat unlikely	14	14	15	14	15	14	15	12	14	17	11
Very unlikely	36	34	38	36	36	37	37	32	31	35	42
Definitely not possible	33	40	33	26	31	34	33	30	26	32	38
Don't know	8	5	5	13	8	7	7	11	17	7	3
24f. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	7	7	7	8	7	8	7	10	9	8	6
Somewhat likely	21	19	20	22	20	21	20	23	21	22	18
Somewhat unlikely	15	15	16	14	15	15	15	14	12	16	15
Very unlikely	29	30	30	27	29	28	30	23	25	25	35
Definitely not possible	17	21	18	12	17	16	17	17	13	15	20
Don't know	12	8	9	18	11	13	11	13	21	13	6
24g. Using public toilets?											
Very likely	5	6	3	5	4	5	4	8	8	5	2
Somewhat likely	12	11	10	13	11	12	10	18	16	13	7
Somewhat unlikely	14	14	16	13	15	14	15	11	11	17	14
Very unlikely	33	33	36	31	35	32	35	27	27	30	41
Definitely not possible	24	27	27	19	25	23	25	21	16	23	31
Don't know	12	9	8	19	11	13	11	15	22	13	5

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 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1988—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	Age			Sex		Race		Education			
	Total	18-29	30-49	50 years	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than	12 years	More than
		years	years	and over					12 years		12 years
Percent distribution ¹											
24h. Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has the AIDS virus?	95	97	97	91	94	95	95	92	88	97	97
Very likely	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	3	4	1	1
Somewhat likely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	—
Somewhat unlikely	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
Very unlikely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Definitely not possible	3	1	1	6	2	3	2	2	7	1	1
Don't know											
24i. Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has the AIDS virus?	6	5	5	9	6	7	6	9	9	6	5
Very likely	22	19	22	25	21	24	22	25	24	26	18
Somewhat likely	18	21	19	16	19	18	19	17	16	17	21
Somewhat unlikely	27	30	30	23	29	25	28	22	18	25	35
Very unlikely	13	18	14	9	13	13	13	12	11	13	15
Definitely not possible	12	7	10	19	11	13	12	15	22	12	6
Don't know											
24j. Attending school with a child who has the AIDS virus?	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	0
Very likely	6	5	6	7	6	6	5	9	6	7	4
Somewhat likely	12	13	12	11	11	12	12	11	11	13	10
Somewhat unlikely	42	40	44	40	45	39	43	35	36	40	47
Very unlikely	31	36	31	26	29	32	31	27	25	31	34
Definitely not possible	9	5	6	16	8	10	8	15	20	8	4
Don't know											
24k. Mosquitoes or other insects?	7	8	7	6	7	7	6	11	10	7	5
Very likely	16	18	15	15	16	15	15	19	19	18	12
Somewhat likely	10	11	9	9	9	10	10	9	6	12	10
Somewhat unlikely	25	25	28	22	26	24	26	24	18	24	31
Very unlikely	20	21	21	17	19	21	21	13	14	18	25
Definitely not possible	23	18	19	31	22	24	22	24	33	22	17
Don't know											
25. Have you ever donated blood?	40	31	44	44	53	29	42	35	31	38	49
Yes	59	69	56	56	47	70	57	65	68	62	51
No	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Don't know											
26a. Have you donated blood since March 1985?	13	18	16	5	16	10	13	10	4	13	18
Yes	87	82	84	94	83	90	86	89	95	87	81
No	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
Don't know											
26b. Have you donated blood in the past 12 months?	6	8	7	2	7	5	6	4	2	6	8
Yes	93	91	92	97	92	95	93	96	97	94	91
No	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
Don't know											
27. Have you ever heard of a blood test that can detect the AIDS virus infection?	75	82	81	61	73	75	76	67	56	75	85
Yes	21	16	15	30	21	20	19	28	35	21	11
No	5	1	3	9	5	4	5	5	9	4	4
Don't know											
28. To the best of your knowledge, are blood donations routinely tested now for the AIDS virus infection?	66	73	73	52	65	67	67	56	46	66	78
Yes	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	2	3	3
No	6	6	5	6	6	6	6	7	8	6	5
Don't know	26	18	19	39	27	25	24	33	44	25	15
Never heard of test ⁴											
29a. Have you ever received counseling or had a talk with a health professional about taking the AIDS virus test?	4	6	5	1	4	4	3	7	2	3	5
Yes	71	76	76	60	69	72	72	60	54	72	80
No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Don't know	26	18	19	39	27	25	24	33	44	25	15
Never heard of test ⁴											
29b. Was the discussion— ^{1,5}	42	54	28	67	42	42	42	41	45	46	39
With a private doctor?	4	3	6	—	6	3	2	14	9	7	2
At a family-planning clinic?	1	1	2	—	1	2	2	—	—	2	2
On an AIDS hotline?	5	10	—	—	2	7	4	5	8	—	6
At a prenatal clinic?	2	—	4	—	4	1	2	3	—	2	3
At an STD or sexually transmitted disease clinic?	5	3	8	—	6	4	6	3	2	3	7
At an AIDS/HIV counseling and testing site?	51	49	55	33	55	48	55	37	77	45	49
With some other health professional?	14	14	12	23	17	11	11	24	21	5	17
With some other counselor?											
30. During that discussion, did you receive information about how to avoid getting or passing on the AIDS virus? ²	66	64	67	66	63	68	66	62	64	71	63
Yes	33	36	32	34	35	32	34	34	29	29	37
No	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	4	6	—	—
Don't know											

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 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1988—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	Age			Sex		Race		Education			
	Total	18-29	30-49	50 years	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than	12 years	More than
		years	years	and over					12 years		12 years
Percent distribution ¹											
31. Have you ever been advised by a health professional not to have the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes	0	0	1	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
No	74	82	80	61	73	75	75	67	56	75	84
Don't know	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	0
Never heard of test ⁴	26	18	19	39	27	25	24	33	44	25	15
32. Have you ever been advised by friends or relatives not to have the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes	0	-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No	74	82	81	61	73	75	75	67	56	75	85
Don't know	0	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0
Never heard of test ⁴	26	18	19	39	27	25	24	33	44	25	15
33. Have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes ⁵	17	23	21	7	21	13	17	19	7	16	23
No	57	58	60	53	52	62	59	47	48	59	62
Don't know	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2
Never heard of test ⁴	24	16	18	38	25	24	23	33	43	23	14
35a. How many times have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection? ⁷											
Once	5	7	6	1	5	4	4	7	3	5	6
Twice	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	3	1	1	1
3-5 times	1	2	2	0	2	1	1	3	1	0	2
6-12 times	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
More than 12 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
Don't know ⁵	9	12	10	4	11	7	9	5	2	9	12
Never heard of or never took test ⁸	84	77	80	94	80	88	84	82	93	84	78
35b. How many times in the past 12 months have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection? ⁷											
None in the past 12 months	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	0	1	3
Once	4	7	6	1	5	3	4	9	3	4	5
More than once	2	2	3	0	3	1	2	2	1	1	3
Don't know ⁵	9	12	10	5	11	7	9	6	2	9	12
Never heard of or never took test ⁸	84	77	79	94	79	87	84	81	93	84	77
36. Was the test/were any of the tests, including those you had before the past 12 months— ¹											
Part of a blood donation? ^{6,7}	72	69	71	79	71	72	76	48	51	73	74
Part of a blood transfusion? ⁹	1	0	2	3	1	2	1	1	3	1	1
Voluntarily sought? ⁹	17	20	16	11	15	20	13	41	37	13	16
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample? ⁹	13	15	11	11	16	8	10	30	17	11	13
38. Did you get the results of your test/any of your tests? ⁹											
Yes	52	51	53	46	52	51	45	77	73	54	45
No	47	49	45	54	47	48	53	23	23	45	55
Don't know	1	-	2	-	1	1	1	-	4	1	-
41. Do you expect to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection in the next 12 months?											
Yes	5	10	6	2	7	5	5	8	3	5	7
No	64	66	71	56	62	66	67	50	49	65	73
Don't know	5	7	5	3	5	4	4	8	4	5	5
Never heard of test ⁴	26	18	19	39	27	25	24	33	44	25	15
42. Will the test be— ^{1,10}											
Part of a blood donation?	40	35	49	29	45	33	47	11	11	38	48
Voluntarily sought?	50	55	47	42	43	59	46	62	74	62	36
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample?	16	18	12	23	20	12	12	35	12	9	23
44a. Did you have a blood transfusion at any time between 1977 and 1985?											
Yes	5	3	6	6	4	6	5	5	6	5	5
No	93	96	93	92	94	92	93	94	92	94	93
Don't know	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2
44b. Do you think the present supply of blood is safe for transfusions?											
Yes	43	45	45	38	47	39	45	33	34	41	50
No	28	31	28	26	25	31	27	34	30	31	23
Other	0	-	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	0
Don't know	29	24	27	36	29	30	28	33	36	28	26
45. Here are some methods people use to prevent getting the AIDS virus through sexual activity. How effective is—											
45a. Using a diaphragm?											
Very effective	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	6	4	2	1
Somewhat effective	12	14	9	13	12	11	12	15	10	13	12
Not at all effective	57	60	67	44	54	61	59	50	40	57	68
Don't know how effective	23	18	18	31	24	21	23	20	33	24	15
Don't know method	6	5	4	9	7	6	5	9	14	5	3

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 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1988—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		Education		
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
Percent distribution ¹											
45b. Using a condom?											
Very effective	29	34	32	23	34	25	30	27	22	29	34
Somewhat effective	54	57	56	50	52	57	55	51	46	56	57
Not at all effective	4	3	5	5	3	6	4	7	6	5	3
Don't know how effective	10	5	6	18	9	10	9	11	21	9	5
Don't know method	2	1	1	4	2	2	2	3	5	1	1
45c. Using a spermicidal jelly, foam, or cream?											
Very effective	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Somewhat effective	14	20	13	11	15	14	15	12	9	13	19
Not at all effective	55	56	63	44	52	57	56	48	42	56	61
Don't know how effective	24	19	18	35	25	22	23	27	36	25	15
Don't know method	6	4	5	10	7	5	5	10	13	6	4
45d. Having a vasectomy?											
Very effective	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Somewhat effective	2	5	1	1	3	2	2	5	2	2	3
Not at all effective	71	69	82	60	70	72	74	61	52	71	82
Don't know how effective	19	18	12	28	19	18	18	23	30	20	11
Don't know method	7	7	4	10	7	7	6	10	15	6	4
45e. Two people who do not have the AIDS virus having sex only with each other?											
Very effective	84	87	87	77	85	83	86	73	73	85	89
Somewhat effective	7	6	7	8	6	7	6	12	8	6	6
Not at all effective	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	2	2
Don't know how effective	6	4	3	10	6	6	5	9	11	6	2
Don't know method	2	1	1	3	2	2	1	3	4	1	1
46. What are your chances of having the AIDS virus?											
High	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Medium	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
Low	13	18	16	7	15	12	13	15	6	13	18
None	83	77	80	89	80	85	83	77	89	83	78
Don't know	2	2	1	3	2	2	1	5	3	2	1
47. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?											
High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
Medium	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	2	3
Low	20	28	22	11	22	17	20	21	10	19	27
None	75	66	73	84	72	77	76	70	84	76	68
Don't know	3	2	2	4	2	3	2	5	4	2	2
High chance of already having AIDS virus	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
49. Do you say your chance of getting AIDS is high or medium because you— ¹¹											
Have had a blood transfusion?	9	4	8	23	9	8	9	13	20	13	3
Have had sexual contact with someone who might have the virus?	22	35	15	8	32	7	17	59	36	8	26
Some other reason?	66	69	71	47	57	78	67	49	36	82	65
52. Have you ever discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
Yes	65	74	74	49	61	69	66	61	45	64	79
No	34	26	26	50	39	30	34	39	55	35	20
Don't know	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
53. When was the last time you discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
0-3 days ago	6	9	7	4	6	7	6	10	5	6	7
4-7 days ago	10	10	11	9	9	11	10	13	9	9	12
8-14 days ago	6	7	8	4	5	7	7	5	3	7	8
15-31 days ago	16	19	18	12	15	17	17	12	11	16	20
More than 31 days ago	20	25	24	13	19	21	21	16	13	20	26
Don't know	6	3	6	7	6	5	6	4	4	6	6
Never discussed ¹²	35	26	26	51	39	31	34	39	55	36	21
54. Have you ever personally known anyone with AIDS or the AIDS virus?											
Yes	10	11	12	7	9	10	9	16	6	8	14
No	89	87	86	92	88	89	90	80	92	91	84
Don't know	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	4	2	1	1
55. How long has it been since you saw this person?											
Within past 2 weeks	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
2 weeks-less than 1 month	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
1 month-less than 3 months	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
3 months-less than 6 months	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	2
6 months or more	7	8	9	4	7	6	6	13	5	5	10
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Never knew anyone with AIDS ¹³	90	89	88	94	91	90	91	84	94	92	86

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 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1988—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	Age			Sex		Race		Education			
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution ¹										
56. How well do you know this person?											
Very well	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Fairly well	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	5	1	2	3
Not very well	4	5	5	2	4	4	4	4	3	3	6
Don't really know personally	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	2
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2
Don't know how well	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Never knew anyone with AIDS ¹³	90	89	88	94	91	90	91	84	94	92	86
57. Is any of these statements true for you?											
a. You have hemophilia and have received clotting factor concentrates since 1977.											
b. You are a native of Haiti or Central or East Africa who has entered the United States since 1977.											
c. You are a man who has had sex with another man at some time since 1977, even 1 time.											
d. You have taken illegal drugs by needle at any time since 1977.											
e. Since 1977, you are or have been the sex partner of any person who would answer yes to any of the items above (57 a-d).											
f. You have had sex for money or drugs at any time since 1977.											
Yes to at least 1 statement	3	6	2	1	3	2	2	5	2	3	3
No to all statements	97	94	97	99	97	97	97	95	98	97	97
Refused	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	—
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0
58. 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	70	75	74	61	69	70	70	72	65	69	74
No	22	20	19	28	23	21	22	22	27	23	18
Other	2	2	2	4	3	2	3	1	2	2	3
Don't know	6	4	6	7	5	6	5	5	5	6	5
59. Why wouldn't you take part in the test? ¹⁴											
Don't want to know if I have AIDS	4	4	6	2	4	3	3	4	2	4	4
Don't want any counseling about AIDS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Fear I'll get AIDS	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	9	8	10	3
Don't like to give blood	12	17	12	9	11	13	12	14	8	16	11
Don't trust Government programs	6	7	7	4	6	5	6	5	3	5	8
It is a waste of money	3	1	3	5	4	3	4	—	4	3	2
Don't believe AIDS can really be cured anyway	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	0	4	1	2
Other	53	47	50	58	53	53	53	52	54	49	57
Don't know	16	19	14	16	13	18	15	18	19	15	13
61. When Federal public health officials give information about AIDS, do you believe what they say or are you doubtful about the information they give?											
Believe	64	71	67	54	64	63	64	62	54	63	70
Doubtful	29	24	29	33	30	29	30	25	32	30	26
Don't know	7	5	5	12	6	8	6	13	14	7	4
62. When they [public health officials] give advice about how to help keep from getting AIDS, do you believe their advice or are you doubtful about what they say?											
Believe	77	82	80	70	78	77	79	71	67	78	84
Doubtful	17	14	16	20	18	16	17	18	21	18	13
Don't know	6	3	4	9	5	7	5	11	12	5	3

¹Multiple responses may sum to more than 100.
²Based on persons answering yes to question 4 (includes yes to question 3).
³Based on persons answering yes to question 11, "Do you have any children aged 10 through 17?" Question 12 was "How many do you have?"
⁴Persons answering no or don't know to question 27.
⁵Based on persons answering yes to question 29a.
⁶Includes persons answering yes to question 26a and no or don't know to questions 27 and 33.
⁷Based on yes answers to question 33. See footnote 6.
⁸Persons answering no or don't know to questions 26a, 27, and 33.
⁹Based on persons answering yes to question 33; excludes persons answering yes to question 26a.
¹⁰Based on persons answering yes to question 41.
¹¹Based on persons answering high or medium to question 46.
¹²Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 52.
¹³Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 54.
¹⁴Based on persons not answering yes to question 58.

Technical notes

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

tionalized population is interviewed by personnel of the 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 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes was asked of a single randomly chosen adult 18 years of age or over in each family. The estimates in this report are based on completed interviews with 3,159 persons, or about 88 percent of eligible respondents.

Table I. Sample sizes for the 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes and estimated adult population 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1988

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Sample size</i>	<i>Estimated population in thousands</i>
All adults	3,159	174,528
Age		
18-29 years	733	47,725
30-49 years	1,210	66,109
50 years and over	1,216	60,695
Sex		
Male	1,308	82,703
Female	1,851	91,825
Race		
White	2,668	151,003
Black	395	19,107
Education		
Less than 12 years	721	41,503
12 years	1,201	66,475
More than 12 years	1,171	62,363

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 had their blood tested for the AIDS virus. 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. A final data file covering the entire data collection period for 1988 will be available in 1989.

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, August 1988

<i>Estimated percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Age</i>			<i>Sex</i>		<i>Race</i>		<i>Education</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>Less than 12 years</i>	<i>12 years</i>	<i>More than 12 years</i>
5 or 95	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.8
10 or 90	0.7	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.1
15 or 85	0.8	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9	2.3	1.7	1.3	1.3
20 or 80	0.9	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.0	2.6	1.9	1.5	1.5
25 or 75	1.0	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.1	2.8	2.1	1.6	1.6
30 or 70	1.0	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.1	3.0	2.2	1.7	1.7
35 or 65	1.1	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.2	3.1	2.3	1.8	1.8
40 or 60	1.1	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.2	3.2	2.3	1.8	1.8
45 or 55	1.1	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.2	3.2	2.4	1.8	1.9
50	1.1	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.2	3.2	2.4	1.9	1.9

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 Centers for Disease Control
 National Center for Health Statistics
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