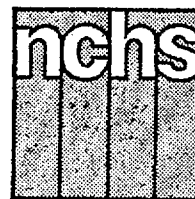


Advance Data



From Vital and Health Statistics of the National Center for Health Statistics

AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes for April–June 1989

Provisional Data From the National Health Interview Survey

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Introduction

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has included 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). 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 From Vital and Health Statistics* (Nos. 146, 148, 150, 151, and 153). A public use data tape containing the information collected in 1987 is available from NCHS.

During the first 4 months of 1988, the NHIS AIDS questionnaire was revised to meet changing program needs and the new survey entered the field in May 1988. Provisional findings for 1988 were published periodically (*Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics*, Nos. 160, 161, 163, 164, 167, and 175); in addition, two special reports focusing on minority populations were published using the 1988 data (*Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics*, Nos. 165 and 166). A public use data tape of the 1988 AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey will be available at the end of this year.

The NHIS AIDS questionnaire used in 1988 is being continued throughout 1989. Reports based on the 1989 data will be issued on a quarterly basis; *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics* No. 176 summarized data from the first quarter of 1989. This report presents provisional data for second quarter (April–June) of 1989.

The *Advance Data* reports describing the NHIS AIDS data 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 or to examine relationships among various measures of knowledge and AIDS-related behavior (e.g., testing). The NHIS AIDS data bases permit more complex analyses than those presented in this series of *Advance Data* reports, and such analyses are being undertaken by various groups in the Public Health Service.

The AIDS questionnaires were designed to estimate public knowledge about AIDS virus (HIV) transmission and its prevention. These data are needed to plan and develop AIDS educational campaigns and to monitor 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 NHIS 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 levels of AIDS knowledge; basic facts about the AIDS virus (HIV) and how it is transmitted; blood donation experience; awareness of and experience with the blood test for HIV; self-assessed chances of getting 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 also included.

This report presents provisional data for April–June 1989 for most



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Centers for Disease Control
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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 questions asked of the respondents are 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 (generally comprising less than 1 percent of total responses) are excluded from the denominator in the calculation of estimates, but responses of "don't know" are included.

The NHIS AIDS questionnaire uses the phrase "the AIDS virus" rather than "HIV," because it was felt that the general population might not be familiar with the more scientific terminology at the time the survey began. In this report, the two terms are used synonymously.

Selected findings

The following highlights describe various aspects of AIDS knowledge and attitudes as observed in the April–June 1989 data from the NHIS AIDS survey. Unless otherwise noted in the text, all measures described remained stable over this 3-month period. Any differences cited in the text are statistically significant at the 0.05 level (see table II for provisional standard errors of estimates).

Sources of AIDS information—Eighty percent of adults interviewed in April–June 1989 reported having seen AIDS public service announcements on television in the past month, and 45 percent reported hearing announcements on the radio. These proportions were similar to the proportions who reported seeing or hearing such announcements in the first quarter of 1989. As in previous months, the proportion of adults who had seen or heard announcements was higher for those with 12 or more years of school than for those with less than 12 years. The proportion who reported having read AIDS brochures or pamphlets in the previous month (23 percent) and

the proportion who had ever read such material (62 percent) remained essentially unchanged between the first quarter and second quarter of 1989.

Sixty-two percent of adults said they had discussed AIDS with a friend or relative in the past. For about one-third of these persons, the discussion had occurred more than one month before interview. Sixty-two percent of parents with children between the ages of 10 and 17 reported having discussed AIDS with them. All of these figures have remained stable for many months. The percent of adults who reported that their children aged 10–17 had received instruction about AIDS in school increased slightly from 60 percent in the first quarter of 1989 to 64 percent in the second quarter. This figure has risen steadily from 35 percent in August 1987 when the AIDS survey began.

Self-assessed knowledge—The distribution of adults by level of self-assessed knowledge about AIDS did not change between the first quarter and second quarter of 1989 with 67 percent of the adult population claiming to know at least something about AIDS and the remaining one-third saying they knew little or nothing. The proportion who claimed little or no knowledge increased with decreasing years of school and was over 50 percent for those with less than a high school education. This proportion was also higher for those over 49 years of age than for those who were younger (49 percent compared with 24 percent) and higher for black adults than white adults (41 percent compared with 31 percent).

General knowledge—The responses to questions dealing with general AIDS knowledge remained essentially the same in the second quarter of 1989 as in the first quarter. A large proportion of adults (75 percent or more) in all the sociodemographic subgroups examined responded correctly to questions about the three major modes of HIV transmission (sexual, through contaminated needles, and from mother to baby during pregnancy). Awareness was particularly high for transmission

by sharing needles for drug use; 90 percent or more in all subgroups thought it very likely that AIDS could be transmitted this way. The majority of adults (85 percent) also recognized that there is no cure at present for AIDS and 93 percent knew that the statement that teens cannot get AIDS was definitely false. Awareness of these two facts was also high (79 percent or more with the correct response) in all demographic subgroups.

For the other questions about AIDS, there was more variability among the demographic subgroups in the proportion with the correct response. In general, those who were more educated and those who were less than 50 years old were more likely to give the correct definitive response. As in the past, the two statements that dealt with the pathophysiology of AIDS had the lowest proportions with the correct definitive response. Only 26 percent of adults definitely knew that AIDS can damage the brain and only 16 percent responded "definitely false" to the statement that AIDS usually leads to heart disease. These two statements also had higher proportions responding "don't know" than any other general knowledge question (25 and 36 percent, respectively).

Misperceptions about transmission of the AIDS virus—A series of questions in the NHIS AIDS survey addressed misperceptions about HIV transmission through casual contact. In general, there were no changes between the first and second quarter of 1989 in the proportion of adults who thought it very unlikely or definitely not possible to spread HIV by casual contact. As indicated by responses to these transmission questions, kissing with the exchange of saliva was the most likely to be viewed as an actual mode of transmission. Over half of U.S. adults (56 percent) felt this was somewhat or very likely to transmit AIDS. Misperceptions also existed for other potential exposures to saliva (such as being coughed or sneezed on or sharing eating utensils with an HIV infected person) and for transmission by mosquitoes or other insects; 26–29 percent of persons

thought these methods were at least somewhat likely to spread AIDS. Fewer persons (11 percent or less) felt that other, more indirect contacts with infected individuals (such as in school or at work) would be likely modes of transmission. In general, black adults, those 50 years and older, and those with less than 12 years of school were less likely to correctly assess the low or nonexistent risk of transmission by casual contact than white adults, those less than 50 years, and those with at least a high school education.

Blood donation and testing—As in the first quarter of 1989, 40 percent of adults interviewed in April–June 1989 reported ever having donated blood, 15 percent had donated since March 1985 when routine screening of donated blood for antibodies to HIV began, and 7 percent had donated in the year preceding interview. Three-fourths of adults were aware of the AIDS blood test, 66 percent thought that blood donations are routinely screened, while less than half (48 percent) felt that the present blood supply was safe for transfusions. These figures have remained stable for many months.

Including all blood donors since March 1985, 20 percent of adults in April–June 1989 had had their blood tested for antibodies to HIV. This figure has risen slightly but steadily from 16 percent in May 1988. When the 3 months in the second quarter of 1989 were examined separately, an increase was observed from 19 percent tested for those interviewed in both April and May 1989 to 22 percent

tested for those interviewed in June 1989. Within the demographic subgroups, a slight increase in those tested between the first and second quarter of 1989 occurred among black adults (from 15 percent to 19 percent). While the proportion tested has increased over the last year, there has been no change in the distribution of those tested by circumstance. In April–June 1989, the majority of persons tested (69 percent) had their testing done as part of a blood donation, 18 percent were tested voluntarily, and 15 percent took the test as part of another activity requiring routine testing (such as a physical examination for military induction).

In the second quarter of 1989, as in the first quarter, 7 percent of adults indicated that they plan to have the HIV antibody test in the next year. The proportion who planned testing differed by sex and race. Men were more likely than women to indicate plans for testing (9 percent compared with 5 percent) and black adults were more likely than white adults to plan testing (13 percent compared with 6 percent). The proportion of black persons with future testing plans increased from 9 percent in January–March 1989.

Preventive measures—As in the first quarter of 1989, a high proportion (more than 80 percent) felt that condoms and a monogamous relationship between two uninfected persons were two methods that were at least somewhat effective in preventing

transmission of the AIDS virus. Even within various demographic subgroups, at least 72 percent of persons recognized the effectiveness of these methods and few (5 percent or less) were unfamiliar with them. Over half of all adults felt that the diaphragm, spermicides, and vasectomy were not effective in preventing AIDS virus transmission. Most of the remainder were uncertain about the effectiveness of these particular methods.

Risk of getting the AIDS virus—Overall, 2 percent of adults in April–June 1989 stated that they belonged to one or more of the groups with behaviors associated with increased risk for acquiring AIDS (such as intravenous drug users and homosexually active men). This figure is not different from that reported in the first quarter of 1989. Less than 1 percent of adults felt that they had a high chance of having or getting the AIDS virus. Most felt their chances were low or nonexistent for either having or getting HIV infection (96 percent and 95 percent, respectively).

As in the first quarter of 1989, 12 percent of adults in the second quarter reported knowing someone with AIDS or HIV infection, including 5 percent who said they knew this person very or fairly well. Black adults were more likely than white adults to know a person with AIDS. This proportion also increased with education and was higher for those 30–49 years than for those who were either younger or older.

Symbols

- - - Data not available
 - . . . Category not applicable
 - Quantity zero
 - 0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05
 - Z Quantity more than zero but less than 500 where numbers are rounded to thousands
 - * Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision
 - # Figure suppressed to comply with confidentiality requirements
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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 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, April-June 1989

[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	80	82	82	78	80	80	80	82	75	82	82
No	17	17	17	19	18	17	17	16	23	16	15
Don't know	2	1	2	4	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
1b. Heard any public service announcements about AIDS on the radio?											
Yes	45	52	49	35	50	40	44	53	36	45	50
No	51	44	47	61	46	56	52	44	59	51	46
Don't know	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
2. Were any of those public service announcements called "America Responds to AIDS"?											
Yes	22	32	23	14	22	23	20	34	23	23	21
No	12	12	12	12	13	12	12	11	10	12	14
Don't know	49	42	50	54	50	49	51	42	45	50	52
Neither heard nor saw any public service announcements.	16	14	15	20	16	17	16	13	21	15	14
3. In the past month, have you read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?											
Yes	23	26	26	15	21	24	21	30	17	21	28
No	77	73	73	84	78	75	78	70	83	78	72
Don't know	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
4. Have you ever read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?											
Yes	62	70	70	48	60	65	62	63	45	61	74
No	37	30	29	50	39	34	37	36	54	38	25
Don't know	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5. Where did you get the pamphlets or brochures? ^{1,2}											
Clinic, other than work clinic	3	4	2	2	2	3	2	6	5	2	2
Doctor's office (HMO)	21	22	23	17	18	24	22	18	20	23	20
Drug store	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	1
Public health department	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	5	3	3	2
Received in mail without asking	27	19	26	37	26	28	28	23	27	28	26
Red Cross/Red Cross blood donation	3	4	4	1	4	2	3	1	1	3	3
Other blood donation	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
School	13	24	11	4	12	13	12	13	10	11	15
Sent/phoned for/requested it	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
Federal/State/local government	15	11	16	19	16	15	16	8	12	14	17
Work, other than clinic or nurse	13	9	17	10	15	11	13	16	8	11	16
Work, nurse or clinic	4	3	6	3	3	5	4	5	2	4	6
Other	17	18	16	16	17	16	15	23	19	16	16
Don't know	5	3	4	7	5	4	5	3	6	4	5
15. Have you ever discussed AIDS with any of your children aged 10-17? ³											
Yes	62	51	64	54	48	74	63	61	49	64	67
No	38	48	36	45	51	25	37	39	50	36	32
Don't know	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
16. Have any or all of your children aged 10-17 had instruction at school about AIDS? ³											
Yes	64	53	64	66	59	68	64	60	52	67	66
No	12	19	12	6	11	13	13	10	12	11	13
Don't know	24	28	24	28	31	19	23	30	35	22	21
21. How much would you say you know about AIDS?											
A lot	23	23	29	17	23	23	24	20	11	18	35
Some	44	50	48	34	44	43	45	38	31	48	47
A little	25	24	20	32	25	25	24	29	36	28	16
None	8	3	3	17	8	8	7	12	22	5	2
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	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	64	63	72	56	65	64	66	57	42	62	80
No	16	23	16	10	16	16	15	18	17	18	12
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	20	14	12	33	19	21	19	25	41	20	7
23a. AIDS can reduce the body's natural protection against disease.											
Definitely true	74	77	81	64	76	73	76	63	54	74	87
Probably true	11	11	10	13	12	11	11	13	15	12	8
Probably false	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	1
Definitely false	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	6	5	4	2
Don't know	10	7	5	17	8	11	9	14	24	8	2

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	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	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Probably true	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Probably false	16	18	14	16	16	16	16	13	15	15	17
Definitely false	75	75	79	70	75	75	76	74	67	77	78
Don't know	7	5	5	11	7	7	6	9	14	6	4
23c. AIDS can damage the brain.											
Definitely true	26	22	27	29	27	26	26	33	27	26	26
Probably true	30	31	30	29	30	29	29	32	29	31	29
Probably false	10	13	11	7	11	10	11	6	5	10	14
Definitely false	9	10	10	5	9	8	9	6	6	8	11
Don't know	25	24	21	30	23	27	25	23	32	26	20
23d. AIDS usually leads to heart disease.											
Definitely true	9	7	11	10	9	10	9	14	13	10	7
Probably true	21	20	21	23	21	21	21	26	20	23	20
Probably false	18	21	20	12	19	16	19	11	9	15	26
Definitely false	16	20	19	10	17	15	16	13	9	14	21
Don't know	36	32	29	45	33	38	36	36	48	38	26
23e. AIDS is an infectious disease caused by a virus.											
Definitely true	63	67	70	50	64	61	63	60	50	61	72
Probably true	19	19	16	21	19	18	19	19	20	21	16
Probably false	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	2
Definitely false	5	5	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	5	4
Don't know	12	7	7	20	10	13	11	13	23	11	6
23f. Teenagers cannot get AIDS.											
Definitely true	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Probably true	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Probably false	3	2	2	4	3	3	2	5	5	2	2
Definitely false	93	95	96	89	93	94	94	89	87	95	96
Don't know	2	1	1	5	2	2	2	4	7	2	1
23g. AIDS leads to death.											
Definitely true	85	84	86	84	84	86	85	89	87	88	81
Probably true	11	12	11	11	13	10	12	7	8	9	15
Probably false	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Definitely false	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Don't know	2	1	1	4	2	2	2	2	4	1	1
23h. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.											
Definitely true	57	58	64	47	56	57	58	51	40	56	67
Probably true	20	19	19	22	21	19	20	20	19	21	20
Probably false	4	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
Definitely false	5	6	5	4	6	5	4	8	6	5	4
Don't know	15	12	9	24	14	16	14	18	31	14	6
23i. Looking at a person is enough to tell if he or she has the AIDS virus.											
Definitely true	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	4	4	2	2
Probably true	4	4	3	5	4	4	4	6	6	4	3
Probably false	14	13	13	16	15	13	14	14	16	15	12
Definitely false	69	73	76	58	68	70	71	63	51	69	79
Don't know	10	6	6	18	10	10	9	13	23	9	4
23j. Any person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else during sexual intercourse.											
Definitely true	83	85	84	80	81	85	83	82	79	85	83
Probably true	12	11	12	12	14	10	12	13	12	11	13
Probably false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Definitely false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	3	2	2	6	3	4	3	4	7	3	2
23k. A person who has the AIDS virus can look and feel healthy and well.											
Definitely true	49	53	56	38	51	47	50	43	33	46	61
Probably true	27	28	27	27	27	27	27	27	24	29	27
Probably false	7	7	6	10	7	8	7	7	10	8	5
Definitely false	5	5	4	6	5	6	5	9	9	6	3
Don't know	11	7	7	19	10	12	11	14	23	11	5
23l. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give the AIDS virus to her baby.											
Definitely true	81	84	83	76	78	83	81	82	75	81	84
Probably true	14	13	13	15	16	12	14	12	16	14	13
Probably false	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Definitely false	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Don't know	5	3	3	8	5	4	4	5	9	4	3

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
23m. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.	Percent distribution ¹										
Definitely true	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	4	3	2	1
Probably true	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	4	4	2	1
Probably false	9	9	8	9	9	8	9	8	9	9	8
Definitely false	75	76	82	67	76	74	78	64	60	76	84
Don't know	12	10	7	19	11	13	11	19	25	11	6
23n. There is no cure for AIDS at present.											
Definitely true	85	84	88	83	85	86	87	79	80	86	88
Probably true	7	8	6	8	8	6	7	8	8	7	7
Probably false	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Definitely false	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Don't know	4	4	2	6	4	4	3	8	9	4	2
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	1	1	2	2	2	1	3	3	2	1
Somewhat likely	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	5	5	3	2
Somewhat unlikely	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	11	7	7	5
Very unlikely	38	40	38	38	41	36	39	35	35	39	39
Definitely not possible	44	44	48	39	42	46	46	35	35	43	51
Don't know	7	4	4	12	7	7	6	10	16	6	2
24b. Working near someone with the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	4	4	2	1
Somewhat likely	9	8	8	10	8	9	8	10	10	10	7
Somewhat unlikely	11	12	11	11	12	11	11	13	10	11	11
Very unlikely	40	41	41	37	41	38	41	35	32	40	43
Definitely not possible	31	33	33	27	30	32	32	29	27	30	34
Don't know	7	4	4	13	7	7	6	9	16	6	2
24c. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	6	6	6	8	6	6	6	11	11	6	4
Somewhat likely	18	18	18	19	19	17	18	18	19	20	16
Somewhat unlikely	15	17	15	11	16	13	15	13	11	14	17
Very unlikely	29	30	32	26	29	29	30	26	21	29	34
Definitely not possible	19	21	20	16	18	20	19	17	16	18	21
Don't know	13	8	9	20	12	14	12	15	22	13	7
24d. Kissing—with exchange of saliva—a person who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	26	21	25	31	25	27	25	31	31	28	21
Somewhat likely	30	28	30	30	31	29	30	29	27	31	30
Somewhat unlikely	12	16	13	8	14	11	13	10	9	11	16
Very unlikely	15	18	17	11	15	15	16	11	10	14	19
Definitely not possible	6	9	7	4	6	7	6	7	6	6	7
Don't know	10	8	8	16	9	11	10	13	18	10	6
24e. Shaking hands, touching, or kissing on the cheek someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	5	4	2	1
Somewhat likely	6	5	6	7	7	6	6	9	9	7	5
Somewhat unlikely	11	11	12	12	12	11	11	12	12	12	10
Very unlikely	39	41	40	37	41	38	40	36	33	41	41
Definitely not possible	34	37	36	29	32	36	35	29	26	32	40
Don't know	7	4	4	12	7	7	6	9	15	6	2
24f. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	9	8	9	10	9	9	9	13	13	10	7
Somewhat likely	20	17	20	22	20	20	20	22	22	22	17
Somewhat unlikely	14	15	14	11	14	13	14	13	12	14	15
Very unlikely	28	29	30	24	29	27	29	23	20	28	33
Definitely not possible	18	23	20	14	18	19	19	18	14	17	22
Don't know	11	7	7	18	10	12	11	11	20	11	6
24g. Using public toilets?											
Very likely	6	5	5	8	5	7	5	10	10	6	3
Somewhat likely	12	11	10	14	11	12	11	13	17	12	8
Somewhat unlikely	12	12	12	11	12	12	12	11	10	12	12
Very unlikely	34	34	36	31	35	32	35	28	23	35	38
Definitely not possible	27	30	30	20	27	26	27	23	20	24	33
Don't know	11	7	7	17	9	12	10	15	20	10	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, April-June 1989—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											
24h. Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has the AIDS virus?												
Very likely	95	97	96	91	95	95	95	92	90	96	97	
Somewhat likely	2	2	2	4	2	3	2	4	4	2	2	
Somewhat unlikely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Very unlikely	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Definitely not possible	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Don't know	2	0	1	4	2	2	2	3	5	1	1	
24i. Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has the AIDS virus?												
Very likely	7	5	6	10	7	7	7	10	11	7	4	
Somewhat likely	19	16	18	23	20	19	19	20	21	20	18	
Somewhat unlikely	17	19	18	13	18	16	17	15	13	17	19	
Very unlikely	30	34	32	23	30	29	31	26	20	30	36	
Definitely not possible	15	18	17	11	15	15	15	14	13	14	17	
Don't know	12	9	8	19	11	13	12	14	22	12	6	
24j. Attending school with a child who has the AIDS virus?												
Very likely	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	4	2	1	
Somewhat likely	5	4	5	5	5	5	4	7	7	5	4	
Somewhat unlikely	9	8	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	9	
Very unlikely	42	43	44	40	45	40	43	37	35	44	45	
Definitely not possible	34	39	36	29	32	36	35	32	29	32	39	
Don't know	7	4	4	13	7	8	7	10	17	7	3	
24k. Mosquitoes or other insects?												
Very likely	10	10	9	10	10	9	8	16	14	10	6	
Somewhat likely	17	19	16	15	17	16	16	19	19	18	15	
Somewhat unlikely	8	9	9	6	9	7	8	9	6	8	9	
Very unlikely	24	24	26	23	26	23	25	20	19	23	29	
Definitely not possible	18	17	20	16	17	18	19	13	12	16	23	
Don't know	24	20	20	31	22	26	24	22	30	25	18	
25. Have you ever donated blood?												
Yes	40	33	42	43	51	30	41	34	29	37	40	
No	60	67	58	57	49	70	58	66	71	62	59	
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
26a. Have you donated blood since March 1985?												
Yes	15	22	17	7	18	12	15	11	7	13	21	
No	85	78	83	93	81	88	84	89	93	86	78	
Don't know	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
26b. Have you donated blood in the past 12 months?												
Yes	7	8	8	3	8	5	7	4	3	6	9	
No	93	91	91	97	91	95	93	96	97	94	90	
Don't know	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
27. Have you ever heard of a blood test that can detect the AIDS virus infection?												
Yes	75	81	83	61	76	74	76	66	55	76	86	
No	21	17	14	33	20	22	20	29	38	21	11	
Don't know	4	2	3	7	4	4	4	4	7	3	3	
28. To the best of your knowledge, are blood donations routinely tested now for the AIDS virus infection?												
Yes	66	71	76	52	67	65	68	56	46	67	78	
No	4	6	3	3	3	4	3	5	3	4	4	
Don't know	5	4	4	6	5	5	5	6	7	5	4	
Never heard of test ⁴	25	19	17	39	24	26	24	34	45	24	14	
29a. Have you ever received counseling or had a talk with a health professional about taking the AIDS virus test?												
Yes	4	6	6	1	5	4	4	7	3	4	6	
No	70	74	77	59	71	69	72	59	52	72	80	
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	
Never heard of test ⁴	25	19	17	39	24	26	24	34	45	24	14	
29b. Was the discussion— ^{1,5}												
With a private doctor?	52	42	55	73	52	52	52	51	59	46	53	
At a family-planning clinic?	9	13	8	2	4	14	9	10	10	14	6	
On an AIDS hotline?	2	0	3	—	2	2	1	3	—	1	3	
At a prenatal clinic?	4	6	4	—	0	8	3	6	6	4	3	
At an STD or sexually transmitted disease clinic?	4	4	4	—	4	4	3	8	1	4	5	
At an AIDS/HIV counseling and testing site?	11	9	13	5	12	9	10	14	5	11	13	
With some other health professional?	41	43	42	31	42	40	40	48	29	38	49	
With some other counselor?	11	9	13	10	12	11	9	21	9	11	12	
30. During that discussion, did you receive information about how to avoid getting or passing on the AIDS virus? ⁵												
Yes	57	62	57	39	60	54	51	84	48	59	59	
No	42	36	42	59	39	44	48	15	51	40	39	
Don't know	2	1	2	3	1	2	2	0	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 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, April-June 1989—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											
31. Have you ever been advised by a health professional not to have the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
No	74	80	83	61	76	73	76	66	55	75	85
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Never heard of test ⁴	25	19	17	39	24	26	24	34	45	24	14
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	0
No	74	80	83	61	76	73	76	66	55	75	85
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Never heard of test ⁴	25	19	17	39	24	26	24	34	45	24	14
33. Have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes ⁶	20	29	23	9	24	17	20	19	11	18	27
No	55	53	59	52	53	57	56	48	44	58	59
Don't know	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2
Never heard of test ⁴	23	17	15	37	21	25	22	32	43	22	12
35a. How many times have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection? ⁷											
Once	6	10	7	2	6	6	6	7	4	5	8
Twice	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	2
3-5 times	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
6-12 times	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
More than 12 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	0	0
Don't know ⁸	10	15	12	6	13	8	11	8	5	10	14
Never heard of or never took test ⁸	80	71	77	91	76	83	80	82	89	82	73
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	3	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	1	3	4
Once	5	8	7	2	6	4	5	7	4	4	7
More than once	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	1	0	2	2
Don't know ⁸	10	15	11	5	12	8	10	8	5	9	14
Never heard of or never took test ⁸	80	71	77	91	76	83	80	81	89	82	73
36. Was the test/were any of the tests, including those you had before the past 12 months—											
Part of a blood donation? ⁸	69	68	68	73	71	66	72	51	58	69	72
Part of a blood transfusion? ⁹	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1
Voluntarily sought? ⁹	18	17	18	19	15	21	16	29	21	19	17
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample? ⁹	15	18	16	6	16	14	14	23	21	15	14
38. Did you get the results of your test/any of your tests? ⁹											
Yes	58	62	57	53	55	62	55	81	74	55	57
No	41	38	42	47	45	37	45	19	25	45	43
Don't know	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	—	1	1	—
41. Do you expect to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection in the next 12 months?											
Yes	7	11	8	3	9	5	6	13	5	7	9
No	64	64	70	56	62	65	67	47	46	65	73
Don't know	4	6	5	2	5	3	3	7	5	3	4
Never heard of test ⁴	25	19	17	39	24	26	24	34	45	24	14
42. Will the test be— ^{1,10}											
Part of a blood donation?	40	38	46	30	42	38	49	15	15	40	48
Voluntarily sought?	52	58	45	60	47	60	44	73	76	52	45
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample?	16	16	17	14	19	11	15	20	11	17	17
44a. Did you have a blood transfusion at any time between 1977 and 1985?											
Yes	5	4	5	7	5	5	5	6	7	5	5
No	94	96	94	91	94	94	94	93	92	94	95
Don't know	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
44b. Do you think the present supply of blood is safe for transfusions?											
Yes	48	52	51	41	53	44	50	38	34	47	57
No	27	28	26	27	23	31	26	35	33	27	23
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	25	19	22	31	23	26	24	27	32	26	19
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	3	2	2	3	2	2	4	3	2	2
Somewhat effective	12	14	12	13	12	13	12	13	11	13	13
Not at all effective	57	60	65	46	56	58	59	48	41	57	67
Don't know how effective	21	17	16	30	22	21	21	24	30	22	15
Don't know method	7	6	6	10	8	7	6	11	15	6	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, April–June 1989—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											
45b. Using a condom?											
Very effective	33	39	36	25	36	30	33	31	25	32	39
Somewhat effective	52	51	55	51	52	53	54	49	47	54	54
Not at all effective	5	4	4	6	4	6	5	7	8	5	3
Don't know how effective	8	4	4	14	7	8	7	10	16	7	3
Don't know method	2	1	1	4	1	2	2	3	5	2	0
45c. Using a spermicidal jelly, foam, or cream?											
Very effective	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	1	2
Somewhat effective	15	17	15	13	15	15	15	16	10	14	18
Not at all effective	55	61	61	45	54	57	56	50	44	55	62
Don't know how effective	22	17	17	31	23	21	21	24	30	23	15
Don't know method	6	4	5	10	6	6	6	7	13	6	3
45d. Having a vasectomy?											
Very effective	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Somewhat effective	3	4	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3
Not at all effective	72	71	81	63	73	72	75	61	55	72	82
Don't know how effective	17	17	11	24	17	17	16	22	26	18	11
Don't know method	6	5	5	9	6	7	5	11	14	6	3
45e. Two people who do not have the AIDS virus having sex only with each other?											
Very effective	84	85	87	79	85	83	86	73	73	84	90
Somewhat effective	8	9	7	9	7	9	7	14	11	8	7
Not at all effective	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	2	1
Don't know how effective	5	3	3	8	5	4	4	7	10	4	2
Don't know method	1	0	1	3	1	2	1	2	3	1	0
46. What are your chances of having the AIDS virus?											
High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Medium	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	4	2	2	2
Low	12	18	14	6	14	11	12	16	8	11	16
None	84	77	82	90	81	86	85	75	85	85	81
Don't know	2	2	1	3	2	2	1	4	4	1	1
47. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?											
High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Medium	2	3	2	1	3	2	2	4	2	2	2
Low	17	24	20	8	20	15	17	19	10	16	23
None	78	69	75	87	74	81	79	71	81	80	73
Don't know	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	5	5	2	1
High chance of already having AIDS virus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
49. Do you say your chance of getting AIDS is high or medium because you— ¹¹											
Have had a blood transfusion?	7	6	6	11	6	9	9	—	8	10	4
Have had sexual contact with someone who might have the virus?	21	19	26	12	21	19	23	15	25	25	13
Some other reason?	57	57	57	57	54	62	57	56	44	50	71
52. Have you ever discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
Yes	62	70	72	47	59	66	63	64	46	61	74
No	37	30	28	53	41	34	37	36	53	39	26
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
53. When was the last time you discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
0-3 days ago	7	8	8	4	6	7	7	9	6	6	8
4-7 days ago	8	8	9	6	7	8	7	11	5	8	9
8-14 days ago	7	7	7	5	6	7	7	7	5	6	8
15-31 days ago	13	14	15	9	12	13	13	12	9	12	16
More than 31 days ago	24	29	27	16	23	25	24	20	17	24	28
Don't know ¹²	5	4	5	5	5	4	5	4	5	5	4
Never discussed	38	30	28	54	41	34	37	36	54	39	26
54. Have you ever personally known anyone with AIDS or the AIDS virus?											
Yes	12	11	16	8	11	14	12	16	7	10	18
No	86	88	82	91	88	85	87	81	92	89	81
Don't know	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
55. How long has it been since you saw this person?											
Within past 2 weeks	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
2 weeks—less than 1 month	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
1 month—less than 3 months	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
3 months—less than 6 months	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
6 months or more	9	8	12	6	8	9	8	12	5	7	13
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Never knew anyone with AIDS ¹³	88	89	84	92	89	87	88	84	93	90	82

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, April–June 1989—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	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	2
Fairly well	3	2	4	2	2	3	2	5	1	2	4
Not very well	5	4	6	3	4	5	5	4	2	3	7
Don't really know personally	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	3
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Don't know how well	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Never knew anyone with AIDS ¹³	88	89	84	92	89	87	88	84	93	90	82
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	2	3	2	1	3	2	2	3	2	2	2
No to all statements	98	97	97	99	97	98	98	97	97	98	98
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	73	78	75	65	75	70	73	72	67	73	75
No	20	16	18	26	18	22	20	21	24	20	19
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Don't know	6	5	6	7	5	7	6	6	8	6	5
59. Why wouldn't you take part in the test? ¹⁴											
Don't want to know if I have AIDS	4	6	5	2	4	3	4	6	4	4	4
Don't want any counseling about AIDS.	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
Fear I'll get AIDS	6	7	6	6	7	6	6	12	8	7	4
Don't like to give blood	12	18	14	8	11	13	12	13	10	13	13
Don't trust Government programs	6	6	8	5	9	5	6	7	4	7	8
It is a waste of money	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	1	2	3	3
Don't believe AIDS can really be cured anyway	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	1	1
Other	53	43	51	59	51	54	55	46	48	51	59
Don't know	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	4	3	2	1
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	67	75	67	60	67	67	67	63	59	66	72
Doubtful	28	22	29	31	28	27	28	29	31	29	25
Don't know	6	3	4	9	5	6	5	8	10	5	3
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	80	86	82	75	81	80	81	76	72	80	86
Doubtful	16	12	15	19	16	15	16	18	20	17	12
Don't know	4	2	3	7	3	5	3	6	8	3	2

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 noninstitutionalized 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 1989 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 10,590 persons, or about 89 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 had their blood tested for the AIDS virus. The population figures in table I are based on 1988 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 1989 will be available at the end of 1990.

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, April-June, 1989

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Sample size</i>	<i>Estimated population in thousands</i>
All adults	10,590	177,321
<i>Age</i>		
18-29 years	2,429	46,957
30-49 years	4,288	68,986
50 years and over	3,873	61,377
<i>Sex</i>		
Male	4,480	84,131
Female	6,110	93,190
<i>Race</i>		
White	8,586	149,510
Black	1,552	19,457
<i>Education</i>		
Less than 12 years	2,506	39,502
12 years	3,913	68,301
More than 12 years	4,094	67,872

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, April-June, 1989

<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	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4
10 or 90	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6
15 or 85	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.7
20 or 80	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.8
25 or 75	0.5	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.8
30 or 70	0.6	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.9
35 or 65	0.6	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.6	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.9
40 or 60	0.6	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.9
45 or 55	0.6	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.6	1.2	1.0	1.0
50	0.6	1.3	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.6	2.1	1.0	1.0

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