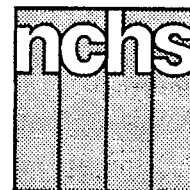


Advance Data



From Vital and Health Statistics of the CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL/National Center for Health Statistics

AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes for January-March 1991

Provisional Data from the National Health Interview Survey

by Ann M. Hardy, Dr. P.H., Division of Health Interview Statistics

Highlights

In general, levels of knowledge about acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), especially about the major modes of transmission, were fairly high in the first quarter of 1991 and patterns of knowledge levels by sociodemographic factors were similar to those seen in past years. Several changes between the last quarter of 1990 and the first quarter of 1991 were noted including:

- An increase of 10 percentage points in the proportion who felt they knew a lot about AIDS.
- An increase of 3-6 percentage points in the percent of adults stating that various forms of casual contact were very unlikely or definitely not possible ways to transmit human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- An increase from 68 to 77 percent in the proportion who believe blood is routinely tested for HIV.
- A slight increase in the proportion who reported HIV

antibody testing, excluding blood donation (from 11 to 14 percent).

Some new questions were added to the 1991 AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey. Noteworthy findings include:

- Most of those who have never been tested for HIV apart from blood donation stated this was because they were not at risk of acquiring HIV infection.
- Half of all adults had heard of azidothymidine (AZT). Of those, most knew it could delay symptoms and that it was not a cure for AIDS. However, many were unsure about other aspects of AZT treatment.
- While 76 percent of adults believed condoms were at least somewhat effective in preventing sexual transmission of HIV, only 17 percent of persons knew that natural membrane condoms and latex condoms were not equal in preventing transmission of HIV and only 26 percent knew that

oil-based lubricants could damage condoms. For both items, about two-thirds of adults indicated that they did not know the answer.

Introduction

The National Center for Health Statistics has included questions about HIV and AIDS as part of the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) since 1987. The purpose of these questions is to provide population-based data on adults' knowledge about AIDS and transmission of HIV and on their experience with HIV antibody testing. Such information is used to help plan and monitor various educational and prevention programs. The questionnaire used in 1991 is the fourth version of this survey. Although new questions have been introduced in each version to meet changing data needs, many questions have been used repeatedly to allow for examination of trends. NCHS has routinely published results from this



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control
National Center for Health Statistics



survey in *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics* (1-7). In addition, public use data tapes of the 1987-90 surveys are currently available and more detailed exploration of the data is encouraged.

The NHIS AIDS questionnaires have been developed by the National Center for Health Statistics and an Interagency Task Force created by the Public Health Service Data Policy Committee. The Task Force includes representatives from other centers within the Centers for Disease Control and from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, the National AIDS Program Office, the National Institutes of Health, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, the Office of Population Affairs, the Indian Health Service, the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Data and methods

This report presents provisional data for the first quarter of 1991 for most items included in the NHIS AIDS questionnaire. Details about the sample design and the estimation procedure can be found in the technical notes at the end of this report. Table 1 shows percent distributions by response categories for the entire adult population as well various subgroups defined by age, sex, race and ethnicity, and education. In most cases, the actual questions asked are reproduced verbatim in the tables along with the response categories. Refusals and other nonresponse categories (generally 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 survey uses the phrase "the AIDS virus" rather than "HIV" because it is felt to be more widely recognized; however, in this report the two terms are used synonymously.

When interpreting trend data, revisions in the questionnaire,

whether in actual wording or in context and location of questions, must be considered. There were several important changes and additions to the 1991 questionnaire. First, the series of knowledge items that contain selected statements about HIV and AIDS (question 5 in the 1991 survey) had five possible responses in earlier versions of the questionnaire: definitely true, probably true, probably false, definitely false, and don't know. In 1991 the distinction between definitely and probably was eliminated, leaving true, false, and don't know as the only possible response choices.

Before 1991, in the section on HIV antibody testing, an initial question assessing whether persons had heard of the blood test to detect the AIDS virus infection was asked; those who were not aware of the test were skipped past the remainder of this section. In 1991 this lead-in was eliminated because of concern about people attempting to end the survey prematurely. Persons who truly were not familiar with HIV antibody testing would still have the option of responding "don't know" to questions in this section.

Several new items were added to the 1991 survey including the perceived likelihood of becoming infected by receiving care from an infected health care worker or by donating blood. Reasons why persons have not been tested for HIV were assessed. Items were added to assess respondents' knowledge about the HIV antibody test, about AZT, and about the proper use of condoms. Finally, a distinction between having a co-worker with HIV or AIDS and having other friends or relatives with the disease was made in 1991.

Selected findings

Sources of information—In 1991 the NHIS again asked about seeing or hearing public service announcements (PSA's) about AIDS. Seventy-nine percent of adults reported seeing a PSA on television; this is similar to

the figure obtained in 1989 (the last time this question was asked). Forty-two percent of adults reported hearing an AIDS PSA on the radio, similar to the 45 percent reported in 1989.

In terms of more general sources of information, 85 percent of adults reported receiving information about AIDS from at least one source in the month before interview. Television programs were the most common; 72 percent of persons reported these as a source of AIDS information. Newspapers and magazines were reported by 43 and 39 percent, respectively. About one-third of adults reported radio programs as a source of information.

Two items about information received by children aged 10-17 years showed little change from 1990. About two-thirds of parents reported they had ever discussed AIDS with their children and 74 percent reported that their children received instruction at school about AIDS. As in the past, women were much more likely to have discussed AIDS with their children than men.

General knowledge about AIDS—An increase was noted from 1990 to 1991 in the percentage of adults who said they knew a lot about AIDS (from 19 to 29 percent). The proportions who said they knew some, little, or none decreased slightly.

The proportion of persons who reported having heard the AIDS virus called "HIV" increased slightly from 79 percent in the last quarter of 1990 to 83 percent in the first quarter of 1991. Awareness of this term remained lower among older persons, those with less than 12 years of education, and Hispanic adults.

In 1991 the possible responses to the series of knowledge statements changed from definitely true, probably true, probably false, definitely false, and don't know to true, false, and don't know. Because of this, the proportion with the correct response increased for all these questions in the first quarter of 1991 compared with the last quarter of 1990. However, for many of the

questions the proportion who responded "don't know" also increased.

Over 90 percent of adults knew that anyone with the AIDS virus could transmit it through sexual intercourse, that an infected pregnant woman could give it to her baby, and that there is no cure for AIDS at present. Even among those with less than 12 years of education, over 80 percent responded correctly to these questions.

Many adults were also aware that HIV decreases the body's natural protection against diseases (85 percent correct), that AIDS is an infectious disease caused by a virus (81 percent), that persons with HIV infection can look and feel well and healthy (80 percent), and that there is no vaccine available for AIDS or HIV (80 percent). The responses to these questions showed more variation by sociodemographic characteristics, particularly age and education, than did those to the questions on the major modes of HIV transmission. Older adults (those 50 years of age and over) and adults with less than 12 years of education were less likely to respond correctly than younger and more educated persons. In all groups, persons were more likely to respond "don't know" to the statements rather than to give the incorrect true-false response.

For other questions knowledge levels were lower. Seventy-seven percent of adults knew that a person could be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS. About two-thirds of adults were aware that there are drugs available that can lengthen the life of an infected person. Just over half of adults (56 percent) knew that AIDS can damage the brain and that early treatment of HIV infection can reduce symptoms in an infected person. Again, older and less educated persons showed less understanding of these facts about AIDS.

Misperceptions about transmission of AIDS and HIV—As in previous NHIS AIDS surveys, the 1991 survey assessed people's perception of the

likelihood of transmission of HIV by various forms of casual and nonintimate contact. Possible response categories ranged from very likely to definitely not possible. Slight increases (of 3–6 percentage points) in the proportion who felt that transmission of HIV through most of these modes was either very unlikely or definitely not possible were noted in the first quarter of 1991 compared with the last quarter of 1990. However, misperceptions about transmission still persisted. About one quarter of all respondents erroneously believed sharing eating utensils with an infected person, eating in a restaurant where the cook was infected, being coughed or sneezed on by an infected person, or mosquitoes or other insects had at least some likelihood of transmission. As in the past, persons with more education, younger adults, and white adults were more likely to perceive these modes as unlikely to transmit HIV.

In 1990 the first instance of HIV transmission from an infected health care worker to several patients was reported (8). Followup studies of patients of other HIV infected health care workers conducted both before and after the report of these cases have not demonstrated any other instances where transmission to patients has occurred and the CDC estimates that this type of event is very rare (9). In 1991 a question was added to this section of the NHIS asking persons to assess the likelihood of getting HIV by being cared for by an infected nurse, doctor, dentist, or other health care worker. Over half (55 percent) of adults rated this as very or somewhat likely to transmit HIV. Only 6 percent of persons felt this would definitely not result in transmission, and 17 percent felt it would be very unlikely. There were slight differences among demographic subgroups in perceived likelihood of transmission for this type of contact.

Blood donation and blood screening—Forty-three percent of adults reported having ever donated blood; 19 percent had donated since

March 1985 when routine screening of donated blood for HIV began and 7 percent had donated in the past year. Sixty-two percent of adults knew that a person could not get HIV while giving or donating blood for use by others, 29 percent felt they could, and 10 percent of adults did not know. Seventy-seven percent of adults in the first quarter of 1991 believed that blood donations are routinely tested for the AIDS virus. This is an increase from 68 percent reported in the last quarter of 1990. However, the proportion who did not know the answer to this question more than doubled between 1990 and 1991 from 7 to 16 percent. These changes may be due in part to the elimination in 1991 of the question that first asked if persons were aware of the blood test to detect HIV infection before proceeding to other questions related to HIV testing. Of those who donated blood since 1985 and who were also aware that blood donations are screened for HIV, only 4 percent reportedly donated blood at least in part to be tested for HIV.

HIV antibody testing—Counting testing done for all reasons, including blood donation, 29 percent of adults in the United States have been tested for antibodies to HIV. The percent of adults tested for HIV apart from blood donation increased slightly from 11 percent at the end of 1990 to 14 percent in the first quarter of 1991. The remainder of this report discussing past experience with HIV testing is limited to testing apart from blood donation.

The 1991 NHIS attempted to determine why adults had not been tested for HIV. The most common response, given by 84 percent of those never tested (excluding donation), was that they did not consider themselves to be at risk for AIDS. Very few respondents (less than 2 percent) chose recognized barriers to testing such as fear of discrimination, not knowing where to go for testing, and not trusting the medical community to keep results confidential as reasons they had not been tested. The remainder listed another unspecified reason

(6 percent) or said they did not know why they had not been tested (9 percent).

For those who had been tested, the reported reasons for HIV antibody testing were similar in the first quarter of 1991 to those reported in 1990. Twenty-nine percent of those tested did so just to find out if they were infected. Another 7 percent were referred by their doctor, the health department, or their sex partner for testing. Fourteen percent had been tested because of a hospitalization or surgical procedure, 10 percent to apply for life insurance, and 7 percent for military induction or service. While immigration was only mentioned by 5 percent of all adults tested, it was mentioned by 26 percent of Hispanic persons tested.

As in 1990, most of those in the first quarter of 1991 who reported testing were tested at their doctor or HMO or at a hospital, emergency room, or an outpatient clinic (58 percent of those tested). These were the most commonly mentioned sites among all the various population subgroups examined. Seven percent each were tested at a community health clinic or a military induction or service site.

As in the past, about three-quarters of those tested got their results. Of those who did not receive results only 10 percent said they did not want them, 21 percent said they could not get them, and 53 percent said there was another reason they had not gotten their results. At least some in this latter category may have been persons whose results were not yet available and who will ultimately get their results. Also unchanged from 1990 is the way in which people reported getting their results: 62 percent received their results in person, 17 percent over the telephone, and 14 percent in the mail. In the first quarter of 1991, almost all adults tested said they felt their results were accurate (98 percent) and that their results were handled properly in terms of confidentiality (95 percent).

The proportion who indicated that they plan to be tested in the next year was 8 percent, similar to figures reported earlier. The figure was highest among black adults, 20 percent. Of those who plan to be tested, 65 percent said it would be because they wanted to know the results, 25 percent said it would be part of a blood donation, 7 percent each indicated it would be to apply for a job, to join the military, or to apply for a marriage license.

A new question was added in 1991 to determine more about people's understanding of the HIV antibody test. Seventy percent of adults recognized that after one is infected with HIV, there is a period of time before the blood test shows the infection; 26 percent responded "don't know" to this statement. While the proportion with the incorrect response was similar across sociodemographic groups, the percent who responded "don't know" was higher among older adults, Hispanic persons, and those with less education.

Awareness about AZT—The 1991 NHIS AIDS survey also assessed whether persons had heard of the drug AZT, the first antiviral drug approved for the treatment of HIV infection. Those who had heard of AZT were also asked a series of specific questions about AZT. In the first quarter of 1991, 50 percent of adults had heard of AZT. Familiarity with AZT increased sharply with years of education from 23 percent who had heard of AZT among those with less than 12 years of education to 68 percent for those with more than 12 years. Black adults were somewhat less aware of the drug than white persons (40 percent compared with 53 percent); Hispanic persons were less aware than either of these two groups (28 percent).

Among persons who had heard of AZT, 87 percent knew that AZT does not cure persons with AIDS and 80 percent knew that AZT can delay or slow down symptoms of HIV infection. The other knowledge items about AZT elicited fewer correct

responses. Fifty-seven percent of adults knew that AZT has side effects and 33 percent were aware that the drug could only be used at certain times during the illness. Few persons actually gave the incorrect response to these two items; many (38 and 56 percent, respectively) responded "don't know." Almost half (49 percent) of persons were aware that there are other drugs to treat AIDS-related illnesses; again a large proportion (36 percent) said they did not know the correct answer to this question. This pattern of a high proportion being unsure of the correct answer to these three items was seen in all sociodemographic groups examined and few differences in the proportion with correct responses were noted.

Perceptions about condoms—In 1991 respondents were again asked to rate the efficacy of condoms as a means of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV. A slight increase in the proportion who rated condoms as very effective was noted between the last quarter of 1990 and the first quarter of 1991 (from 25 to 28 percent). The proportion who rated them as somewhat effective dropped slightly (from 53 to 48 percent) and the proportion who did not know how effective they were increased slightly (from 15 to 18 percent).

The 1991 survey contained two new questions to measure knowledge about the proper use of condoms. While three-quarters of adults in the first quarter of 1991 believed condoms to be at least somewhat effective in preventing the spread of HIV, far fewer were able to answer the specific questions about use correctly. Only 17 percent of adults correctly answered "false" to the statement that latex condoms and natural membrane condoms are equally good at preventing HIV transmission; 19 percent thought this statement was true. Most (62 percent) reported that they did not know the correct response. Younger persons were much more likely to give the correct response

than adults 50 years of age and over; correct responses also increased by years of education. White adults and males were slightly more likely to respond correctly than black or Hispanic adults or females. However, in all groups, the largest proportion of respondents did not know which response to choose. A similar pattern was noted for the second knowledge question about condoms. Twenty-six percent of adults knew that oil-based lubricants can cause latex condoms to break, 6 percent thought this statement was false and 66 percent did not know. Again, correct responses were noted more frequently among younger persons than those 50 years of age and over, among males than females, and among those with more than 12 years of education compared with those with less than 12 years.

Risk of HIV infection— Eighty-one percent of adults in the first quarter of 1991 felt they had no chance of having HIV infection; only 1 percent rated their chances of this as high or medium. Similarly, 74 percent of adults said they had no chance of getting HIV infection in the future. Twenty-two percent felt their chances were low and only 2 percent felt they were at high or medium risk for getting HIV. Only 3 percent of adults reported being in any of the behavior categories associated with an increased risk of HIV infection. These figures varied little by sociodemographic characteristics and are similar to figures reported previously.

Knowledge of someone with AIDS— In the past, the NHIS AIDS survey has assessed if adults had personally known someone with HIV infection or AIDS. In 1991 the distinction was made between having a co-worker with HIV and knowing others (friends or relatives) with the infection. Four percent of adults reported having had a co-worker with HIV or AIDS. This figure increased by years of education from 1 percent of those with less than 12 years to 7 percent for those with more than 12 years. Nine percent of persons reported having a friend or relative with the disease. This also increased with years of education.

References

1. Dawson DA, Thornberry OT. AIDS knowledge and attitudes for December 1987: Provisional data from the National Health Interview Survey. Advance data from vital and health statistics; no 153. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1988.
2. Hardy AM, Dawson DA. AIDS knowledge and attitudes for December 1988: Provisional data from the National Health Interview Survey. Advance data from vital and health statistics; no 175. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1989.
3. Hardy AM. AIDS knowledge and attitudes for October–December 1989: Provisional data from the National Health Interview Survey. Advance data from vital and health statistics; no 186. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1990.
4. Dawson DA. AIDS knowledge and attitudes for January–March 1990: Provisional data from the National Health Interview Survey. Advance data from vital and health statistics; no 193. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1990.
5. Fitti JE, Cynamon M. AIDS knowledge and attitudes for April–June 1990: Provisional data from the National Health Interview Survey. Advance data from vital and health statistics; no 195. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1990.
6. Adams PF, Hardy AM. AIDS knowledge and attitudes for July–September 1990: Provisional data from the National Health Interview Survey. Advance data from vital and health statistics; no 198. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1991.
7. Hardy AM. AIDS knowledge and attitudes for October–December 1990: Provisional data from the National Health Interview Survey. Advance data from vital and health statistics; no 204. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1991.
8. Centers for Disease Control. Update: Transmission of HIV infection during invasive dental procedures—Florida. MMWR 1991; 40:377–81.
9. Centers for Disease Control. Update: Investigations of patients who have been treated by HIV-infected health care workers. MMWR 1992; 41:344–6.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1991 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1991

[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 or ethnicity			Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
		Percent distribution										
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1. How much would you say you know about AIDS?												
A lot	29	33	34	20	29	29	29	26	28	14	25	40
Some	44	49	48	37	43	46	46	36	38	32	48	48
A little	20	16	15	27	21	18	18	24	24	33	22	11
Nothing	7	2	3	16	7	7	6	14	10	22	5	2
Don't know	0	–	0	0	0	0	0	–	–	–	0	0
2. In the past month have you—												
2a. Seen any Public Service Announcements about AIDS on television?												
Yes	79	80	80	76	80	78	80	81	70	70	82	81
No	19	18	18	20	18	19	18	17	28	27	16	17
Don't know	2	1	2	4	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	2
2b. Heard any Public Service Announcements about AIDS on the radio?												
Yes	42	52	46	31	48	37	42	49	45	31	44	47
No	54	45	51	65	48	59	55	49	52	65	53	50
Don't know	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	3	4	4	3
2c. Seen any Public Service Posters in airports about AIDS?												
Yes	10	12	10	7	12	8	9	11	12	6	8	13
No	89	86	88	91	86	91	89	88	84	92	91	85
Don't know	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	4	2	1	2
3. In the past month, have you received information about AIDS from any of these sources? ¹												
Television programs	72	73	73	71	73	71	72	75	70	69	74	72
Radio programs	32	38	35	24	38	27	31	38	36	24	32	36
Magazine articles	39	41	41	34	37	40	40	34	33	22	38	47
Newspaper articles	43	38	46	45	45	42	45	37	39	29	43	51
Street signs/billboards	16	23	17	9	19	13	15	20	16	9	14	21
Store displays/store distributed brochures	7	10	8	4	8	6	6	10	10	5	7	8
Bus/streetcar/subway displays	7	11	6	4	8	6	5	13	10	5	5	9
Health department brochures	14	19	15	8	13	15	13	18	18	10	13	16
Workplace distributed brochures	10	11	14	6	11	10	10	15	9	3	10	15
School distributed brochures	8	14	8	2	6	9	7	10	10	5	7	10
Church distributed brochures	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	7	4	3	4	4
Community organization	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	6	3	2	3	5
Friend/acquaintance	7	11	8	4	7	7	6	10	9	6	7	8
AIDS hotline	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Other	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	4
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	0
Received no AIDS information in past month	15	14	13	18	15	16	15	14	17	22	15	12
4. Have you heard the AIDS virus called by the name HIV?												
Yes	83	88	88	73	82	83	85	81	66	60	84	92
No	15	11	11	23	16	15	14	15	31	35	14	7
Don't know	2	1	1	4	2	2	2	4	3	5	2	1
5a. AIDS can reduce the body's natural protection against disease.												
True	85	87	91	77	86	84	88	72	78	66	86	95
False	4	4	3	5	3	5	3	9	3	6	5	2
Don't know	11	9	5	19	10	11	8	19	19	28	10	3
5b. AIDS can damage the brain.												
True	56	47	58	61	57	56	55	60	64	58	57	55
False	16	25	17	8	17	16	17	12	13	8	15	21
Don't know	28	28	24	31	27	28	28	28	23	34	28	24
5c. AIDS is an infectious disease caused by a virus.												
True	81	88	86	69	83	79	81	79	81	67	80	88
False	6	4	6	6	5	6	6	6	3	5	6	5
Don't know	14	8	8	24	12	15	13	15	16	27	13	7
5d. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.												
True	77	78	84	68	77	77	80	68	64	57	78	86
False	7	9	6	6	7	7	6	10	9	8	7	5
Don't know	16	12	10	26	16	16	14	22	27	35	14	8
5e. ANY person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else through sexual intercourse.												
True	95	96	97	92	95	95	95	94	96	91	96	96
False	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2
Don't know	4	2	2	7	4	4	3	4	3	8	3	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 1991 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1991 – 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	Race or ethnicity											
	Age			Sex		Non-Hispanic			Education			
	Total	18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
5f. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give it to her baby.	Percent distribution ¹											
True	94	96	97	91	93	95	95	92	94	88	95	97
False	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
Don't know	5	4	3	9	6	4	5	7	5	11	4	3
5g. A person who has the AIDS virus can look and feel well and healthy.	80	84	86	69	80	79	82	74	63	60	79	90
True	7	6	6	9	7	8	6	9	11	11	9	4
False	13	10	8	22	13	14	11	17	27	29	13	6
Don't know												
5h. There are drugs available which can lengthen the life of a person infected with the AIDS virus.	67	63	72	63	67	66	70	56	53	51	65	77
True	9	12	9	7	10	9	8	17	14	10	11	7
False	24	24	19	30	23	25	22	27	33	39	25	16
Don't know												
5i. Early treatment of the AIDS virus infection can reduce symptoms in an infected person.	56	55	61	50	57	55	58	50	47	40	54	65
True	11	14	12	8	11	11	11	14	10	10	12	11
False	33	31	27	41	32	34	32	36	43	50	34	24
Don't know												
5j. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.	4	4	3	4	4	3	3	7	6	7	3	3
True	80	83	87	68	81	78	82	69	69	60	81	88
False	17	13	10	28	15	19	15	24	25	33	16	9
Don't know												
5k. There is no cure for AIDS at present.	92	93	95	88	92	92	94	87	86	81	93	97
True	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	4	3	4	2	2
False	6	5	3	10	5	6	4	10	11	15	4	2
Don't know												
6. How likely do you think it is that a person will get AIDS or the AIDS virus infection from—												
6a. Working near someone with the AIDS virus?												
Very likely	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	4	3	3	2	1
Somewhat likely	5	4	5	6	5	5	5	6	5	6	5	4
Somewhat unlikely	7	6	7	6	6	7	6	7	11	8	7	5
Very unlikely	41	40	43	41	43	40	43	40	32	37	41	44
Definitely not possible	40	45	42	33	39	40	41	34	41	30	40	44
Don't know	6	3	3	11	5	6	5	10	8	15	4	2
6b. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has the AIDS virus?												
Very likely	6	4	5	7	5	6	5	9	7	9	6	4
Somewhat likely	16	14	16	17	16	16	16	19	12	17	18	13
Somewhat unlikely	13	16	13	11	13	12	13	11	14	11	13	14
Very unlikely	35	37	37	30	36	34	36	31	30	27	33	41
Definitely not possible	21	23	23	17	21	22	21	16	24	15	21	24
Don't know	10	5	6	18	9	10	9	14	12	22	9	5
6c. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has the AIDS virus?												
Very likely	10	7	10	11	10	10	9	14	11	13	12	7
Somewhat likely	18	16	18	20	19	17	18	19	17	20	19	17
Somewhat unlikely	12	14	13	11	13	12	13	11	11	10	13	13
Very unlikely	31	32	32	28	31	31	32	28	26	25	29	35
Definitely not possible	20	27	21	15	20	21	20	17	24	14	20	24
Don't know	9	5	6	15	8	9	8	11	11	18	8	5
6d. Using public toilets?												
Very likely	6	5	5	7	5	6	4	10	8	11	6	3
Somewhat likely	10	9	9	13	10	11	10	12	12	14	12	7
Somewhat unlikely	11	12	11	10	11	11	11	10	12	9	12	11
Very unlikely	36	36	38	33	37	35	37	33	30	29	34	41
Definitely not possible	29	34	32	22	30	29	30	23	26	20	29	34
Don't know	8	5	5	15	7	9	8	11	13	18	8	4

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 1991 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1991–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	Race or ethnicity											
	Age			Sex		Non-Hispanic			Education			
	Total	18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
6e. Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has the AIDS virus?	Percent distribution ¹											
Very likely	96	98	97	92	95	96	96	91	96	90	96	98
Somewhat likely	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	2	1	1
Somewhat unlikely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Very unlikely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Definitely not possible	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	2	1	1	6	2	2	2	4	2	7	2	1
6f. Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has the AIDS virus?												
Very likely	9	6	8	12	8	9	8	13	10	14	10	5
Somewhat likely	18	14	18	21	18	18	18	16	19	20	19	17
Somewhat unlikely	13	14	14	11	14	12	13	11	13	10	13	15
Very unlikely	32	37	33	27	33	31	33	30	28	24	30	38
Definitely not possible	18	23	19	12	17	18	18	17	17	12	18	20
Don't know	11	6	8	18	10	11	10	13	13	20	10	6
6g. Attending school with a child who has the AIDS virus?												
Very likely	2	0	2	2	2	1	1	3	2	3	2	1
Somewhat likely	4	2	4	5	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	3
Somewhat unlikely	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	9	7	6	8	7
Very unlikely	41	40	42	41	42	40	43	38	32	35	41	45
Definitely not possible	40	48	42	31	39	41	40	35	46	33	40	43
Don't know	6	3	3	13	6	6	6	10	8	17	5	2
6h. Mosquitoes or other insects?												
Very likely	9	10	9	10	10	9	8	15	12	13	10	6
Somewhat likely	17	18	17	16	18	16	16	23	18	18	18	16
Somewhat unlikely	8	10	8	6	8	8	8	6	8	7	8	9
Very unlikely	25	24	27	24	26	24	27	19	20	18	24	30
Definitely not possible	21	22	23	18	21	21	22	17	18	13	20	25
Don't know	20	17	16	27	17	22	19	21	24	31	20	14
6i. Being cared for by a nurse, doctor, dentist, or other health care worker who has the AIDS virus?												
Very likely	22	17	21	29	22	23	21	28	24	29	26	16
Somewhat likely	33	31	35	33	33	33	35	28	28	26	34	36
Somewhat unlikely	13	16	14	9	13	12	14	9	8	7	12	17
Very unlikely	17	20	19	13	18	17	18	13	15	13	14	22
Definitely not possible	6	9	6	3	6	6	5	9	11	7	6	6
Don't know	8	6	6	13	8	8	7	14	14	18	7	4
7. Can a person get AIDS or the AIDS virus infection while giving or donating blood for use by others?												
Yes	29	31	28	28	31	26	25	45	36	36	31	23
No	62	61	66	57	60	63	66	40	48	42	61	72
Don't know	10	8	7	15	9	10	9	14	16	22	9	5
10. Have you ever discussed AIDS with any of your children aged 10–17? ²												
Yes	66	45	68	56	54	76	68	66	56	53	64	73
No	34	55	32	44	45	24	31	34	44	47	36	27
Don't know	0	—	0	—	—	0	0	—	—	—	0	—
11. Have any or all of your children aged 10–17 had instruction at school about AIDS? ²												
Yes	74	51	75	78	72	76	73	80	77	68	74	76
No	9	12	9	6	7	10	10	4	7	8	9	9
Don't know	17	36	16	15	21	14	17	16	16	23	17	15
12. Have you ever given or donated blood?												
Yes	43	35	47	44	54	33	46	37	29	29	40	52
No	57	65	53	55	46	67	54	63	71	71	59	48
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13a. Have you donated blood since March 1985?												
Yes	19	26	23	9	22	16	20	15	16	7	17	26
No	81	74	77	91	77	84	80	85	84	92	83	73
Don't know	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
13b. Have you donated blood in the past 12 months?												
Yes	7	9	8	3	8	6	7	4	6	3	6	10
No	93	90	91	96	91	94	92	95	94	97	94	90
Don't know	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1

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 1991 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1991 – 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	Race or ethnicity											
	Age			Sex		Non-Hispanic			Education			
	Total	18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
14. How many times in the past 12 months have you donated blood?	Percent distribution ¹											
Once	3	5	4	1	4	3	4	2	3	2	3	5
Twice	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	3
Three times or more	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	2
Don't know	0	—	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	—
Did not donate blood in past 12 months	93	91	92	97	92	94	93	96	94	97	94	90
15. To the best of your knowledge, are blood donations routinely tested for the AIDS virus infection?												
Yes	77	80	82	68	76	77	80	66	64	60	77	85
No	7	6	7	9	8	7	6	10	12	10	8	5
Don't know	16	14	11	24	16	16	14	24	25	30	15	10
16. Was one of your reasons for donating blood because you wanted to be tested for the AIDS virus infection? ⁴												
Yes	4	7	2	1	5	2	3	11	6	6	3	3
No	92	88	94	97	91	95	93	83	92	88	93	93
Don't know	0	0	—	—	0	—	0	—	—	—	0	—
17a. Except for blood donations since 1985, have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?												
Yes	14	20	16	6	15	12	12	22	20	11	13	16
No	81	76	79	86	79	83	82	73	75	82	81	80
Don't know	6	4	5	9	6	5	6	5	4	7	6	5
17b. Why haven't you been tested? ^{1,5}												
Don't consider myself at risk of AIDS	84	76	85	88	83	85	86	76	77	79	83	87
Don't believe anything can be done if I am positive	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Don't like needles	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1
Afraid of losing job, insurance, housing, friends, family if people knew I was positive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—	0
Don't trust medical clinics/hospitals to keep test results confidential	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Already know whether I have the AIDS virus infection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	1	0	0
Don't know where to go for a test	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	0
Other	6	8	6	6	6	7	6	8	8	6	6	7
Don't know	9	14	8	6	10	8	7	13	14	14	9	6
18. How many times have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection, not including blood donations?												
Once	9	12	11	4	9	9	8	13	15	8	8	10
Twice	2	4	2	1	3	2	2	5	3	1	2	3
Three times or more	2	3	2	1	2	1	2	3	2	1	2	2
Don't know	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Never had test ⁶	87	80	84	95	85	88	89	78	80	89	88	85
19. How many times in the past 12 months have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection, not including blood donations?												
None	7	10	9	2	8	6	6	9	11	5	6	8
Once	6	8	6	3	6	5	5	10	7	5	5	6
Twice	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1
Three times or more	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Never had test ⁶	87	80	84	94	85	88	89	78	80	89	88	85
20. Did you have any of the AIDS blood tests: ^{1,7}												
For hospitalization or a surgical procedure?	14	11	14	19	10	17	13	16	16	18	16	10
To apply for health insurance?	3	1	4	4	4	3	4	2	1	2	3	4
To apply for life insurance?	10	7	11	12	12	8	12	3	9	5	4	16
For employment?	6	8	5	4	8	4	5	10	6	6	7	6
To apply for a marriage license?	5	6	6	1	6	4	6	2	1	4	5	6
For military induction or military service?	7	11	5	2	11	2	8	6	3	1	9	8
For immigration?	5	5	5	5	5	5	1	4	26	15	2	3
Just to find out if you were infected?	29	31	27	27	30	27	26	41	25	26	30	28
Because of referral by the doctor?	5	7	4	5	3	8	6	6	5	7	7	4
Because of referral by the Health Department?	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	0
Because of referral by your sex partner?	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other	21	19	22	20	15	27	22	18	21	23	20	21
Don't know	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	—	0	1	1	0

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 1991 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1991—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	Race or ethnicity										
		Age			Sex		Non-Hispanic			Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
21. When was your last AIDS blood test for the AIDS virus infection not including blood donation? ⁷		Percent distribution ¹										
1991	7	8	6	8	7	7	7	11	2	8	5	8
1990	40	39	39	42	37	43	38	44	37	37	40	39
1989	20	22	20	13	19	20	21	17	22	15	22	20
1988	12	13	12	11	13	11	12	9	15	16	11	12
1987	6	6	7	4	7	6	6	6	9	5	5	8
1986	3	3	4	1	4	2	3	2	2	3	2	4
1985	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	1
Don't know	7	6	6	11	8	5	7	6	11	11	7	5
22. Did you have your last AIDS blood test: ^{1,7}												
For hospitalization or a surgical procedure?	13	11	13	18	9	17	12	17	12	16	16	9
To apply for health insurance?	3	1	5	4	4	3	4	3	2	2	4	3
To apply for life insurance?	10	8	12	12	13	8	13	3	9	5	4	17
For employment?	6	8	5	4	8	4	5	10	6	5	7	6
To apply for a marriage license?	4	4	5	1	5	4	5	2	1	4	4	5
For military induction or military service?	7	10	5	2	11	2	7	5	4	2	8	7
For immigration?	4	4	4	5	5	4	1	3	23	14	1	3
Just to find out if you were infected?	28	30	27	27	29	27	26	40	24	24	31	26
Because of referral by the doctor?	5	7	4	4	3	7	5	6	4	7	7	3
Because of referral by the Health Department? . . .	1	1	—	0	0	1	0	3	—	0	1	—
Because of referral by your sex partner?	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Other	22	22	22	24	17	28	24	19	21	25	23	21
Don't know	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
23. Not including a blood donation, where was your last blood test for the AIDS virus done? ⁷												
AIDS clinic/counseling/testing site	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	—	0	2
Community health clinic	7	9	6	4	7	8	6	11	6	7	9	6
Clinic run by employer	2	3	2	1	3	1	3	0	2	—	2	3
Doctor/HMO	31	29	31	38	30	32	31	30	38	38	27	31
Hospital/emergency room/outpatient clinic	27	25	27	30	21	34	26	32	25	34	32	21
STD clinic	1	1	0	—	1	0	0	0	3	2	0	0
Family planning clinic	0	1	0	—	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Prenatal clinic	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	1
Tuberculosis clinic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public clinic	3	4	2	0	3	2	2	5	3	4	3	2
Other clinic	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	1	2	3
Drug treatment facility	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	—	—	1	—	0
Military induction/service site	7	10	5	4	11	2	7	4	4	2	9	7
Immigration site	1	1	0	—	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Other	15	12	19	13	17	13	17	13	9	6	11	21
Don't know	0	—	0	0	0	—	0	—	—	0	0	—
25. Did you get the results of your last test? ⁷												
Yes	80	82	80	71	79	80	78	81	87	80	81	78
No	20	17	19	28	21	19	21	19	13	18	18	22
Don't know	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	—	2	0	0
26. Was this because you didn't want the results or was it because you were unable to get the results? ⁸												
Didn't want	10	9	12	6	8	12	9	14	14	9	12	9
Unable to get	21	32	17	14	27	14	22	15	34	27	23	18
Both	2	1	1	5	1	3	1	6	—	7	—	2
Other	53	47	58	53	50	57	56	38	52	40	46	62
Don't know	13	9	12	22	14	12	12	26	—	18	18	8
28. Were the results given in person, by telephone, by mail, or in some other way? ⁹												
In person	62	63	59	67	58	65	58	64	81	77	62	56
By telephone	17	15	18	18	15	18	19	14	4	15	16	18
By mail	14	16	15	9	19	9	14	18	13	6	16	16
Other	7	7	8	5	7	7	9	5	2	2	6	10
Don't know	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29. Do you believe the results of your last test were accurate? ⁹												
Yes	98	98	98	96	98	98	98	97	99	98	98	98
No	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	—	1	2	0	—
Don't know	2	2	1	3	2	1	1	3	0	1	2	2
30. Do you feel that the confidentiality of the results of your last test for the AIDS virus infection was handled properly? ⁹												
Yes	95	96	94	98	95	95	95	98	94	96	94	96
No	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2
Don't know	2	1	4	1	3	2	3	—	2	2	2	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 1991 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1991—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	Race or ethnicity											
	Age			Sex		Non-Hispanic			Education			
	Total	18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
31. Do you expect to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection in the next 12 months?	Percent distribution ¹											
Yes	8	15	8	4	9	7	6	20	11	8	8	8
No	85	76	86	90	83	86	89	66	78	83	85	86
Don't know	7	9	6	7	7	7	5	14	11	10	7	6
32. Tell me if each of these statements explain why you expect to have the blood test in the next 12 months. ¹⁰												
Because it will be part of a blood donation	25	24	25	27	26	23	31	10	30	19	23	29
Because it will be part of hospitalization or surgery you expect to have	6	6	7	6	5	8	6	7	6	10	7	4
Because you expect to apply for life or health insurance	7	9	6	4	8	6	7	7	11	8	7	7
Because you expect to apply for a job	7	9	6	3	8	6	7	6	8	7	9	5
Because you expect to join the military	4	6	3	—	5	2	2	5	7	7	2	3
Because you expect to apply for a marriage license	7	12	4	0	8	7	8	4	14	6	9	6
Because you want to know the results	65	76	55	58	65	64	55	80	75	86	66	54
Because it will be a required part of some other activity that includes automatic AIDS testing	21	16	24	27	22	19	22	18	21	15	23	22
33. Where will you go to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection? ¹⁰												
AIDS clinic/counseling/testing site	2	3	1	1	3	1	2	2	—	—	2	3
Community health clinic	10	13	9	6	10	11	6	16	14	14	12	7
Clinic run by employer	3	1	5	—	3	1	2	1	5	—	3	4
Doctor/HMO	39	36	39	48	36	42	41	39	29	44	37	39
Hospital/emergency room/outpatient clinic	18	17	16	23	17	18	15	21	22	19	18	17
STD clinic	0	0	1	—	1	0	0	—	—	—	0	1
Family planning clinic	0	1	0	—	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
Prenatal clinic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis clinic	0	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Public clinic	3	4	3	0	1	4	2	4	5	6	3	1
Other clinic	3	2	3	4	3	3	3	1	4	4	2	3
Drug treatment facility	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Military induction/service site	4	5	4	1	5	2	5	2	1	2	3	5
Immigration site	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	0	0	1	—	0	0	0	—	2	—	1	0
Don't know	5	7	5	1	6	4	5	7	4	5	5	5
34. Tell me whether you think the following statements about the blood test for the AIDS virus infection are true or false or if you do not know whether they are true or false.												
34a. Sometimes the results of a blood test for the AIDS virus infection can be wrong.												
True	72	70	76	68	73	71	74	67	56	57	72	79
False	7	9	8	4	7	7	6	8	10	6	7	7
Don't know	22	21	17	28	20	22	20	25	34	36	21	15
34b. After a person becomes infected with the AIDS virus, there can be a period of time before the test shows the infection.												
True	70	75	74	61	70	70	72	69	56	54	70	78
False	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	4
Don't know	26	20	22	36	26	26	25	27	40	43	26	18
37. Have you ever heard of a drug called AZT, also known as Zidovudine or Retrovir?												
Yes	50	48	58	42	51	49	53	40	28	23	45	68
No	47	49	39	54	46	47	43	56	67	72	51	30
Don't know	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	4	5	4	4	3
38. Tell me whether you think the following statements about AZT are true or false or if you don't know whether they are true or false. ¹¹												
38a. AZT can delay or slow down the symptoms of AIDS virus infection.												
True	80	82	82	74	79	81	80	75	81	69	76	84
False	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	2
Don't know	18	16	16	23	19	18	18	23	16	29	22	15
38b. AZT cures people with AIDS.												
True	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	1
False	87	90	90	81	87	88	88	83	86	79	85	90
Don't know	11	9	9	17	12	11	11	15	11	19	13	9

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 1991 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1991—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	Race or ethnicity											
	Total	Age			Sex		Non-Hispanic			Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
Percent distribution ¹												
38c. AZT has no known side effects.												
True	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	8	3	7	6	4
False	57	61	61	49	57	58	58	50	59	45	48	65
Don't know	38	33	35	46	38	37	37	42	38	47	45	31
38d. AZT is appropriate for a person with the AIDS virus infection only at certain times during the illness.												
True	33	38	36	24	33	34	32	38	40	33	27	37
False	11	12	11	10	12	10	11	10	16	6	13	11
Don't know	56	50	52	66	55	56	57	51	44	60	60	53
38e. There are other drugs available to treat AIDS-related illnesses.												
True	49	46	54	42	52	47	51	41	41	36	43	55
False	15	18	14	13	14	15	14	19	26	16	16	14
Don't know	36	36	31	44	34	38	36	40	33	49	41	31
39. Did you have a blood transfusion at any time between 1977 and 1985?												
Yes	5	2	5	7	4	5	5	5	1	6	5	4
No	94	97	94	92	94	94	94	95	98	93	94	95
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
40. Do you have frequent blood transfusions because of Sickle Cell or Chronic Anemia?												
Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	—	0	0	0
No	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99	100	100	100	100
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
41. How effective do you think the use of a condom is to prevent getting the AIDS virus through sexual activity?												
Very effective	28	35	31	19	32	24	28	28	23	19	25	35
Somewhat effective	48	50	51	43	47	49	50	39	42	37	51	51
Not at all effective	4	3	4	4	3	4	3	5	5	6	4	3
Don't know how effective	18	11	13	29	16	20	16	26	25	33	19	10
Don't know method	2	1	1	5	2	3	2	2	5	5	2	1
42. Tell me whether you think the following statements are true or false or whether you don't know whether they are true or false.												
42a. Latex condoms and natural membrane condoms are equally good at preventing transmission of the AIDS virus.												
True	19	28	20	11	23	15	18	22	21	15	21	18
False	17	22	20	9	19	15	18	13	12	8	13	25
Don't know	62	49	59	76	57	67	62	63	63	72	64	56
Don't know method	2	1	1	5	2	3	2	2	5	5	2	1
42b. Oil-based lubricants can cause latex condoms to break.												
True	26	37	30	14	31	22	27	28	20	17	24	33
False	6	8	5	4	7	5	5	7	6	4	6	6
Don't know	66	54	63	77	61	70	66	63	69	74	69	59
Don't know method	2	1	1	5	2	3	2	2	5	5	2	1
43. What are your chances of having the AIDS virus?												
High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Medium	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Low	16	22	17	9	17	14	16	18	10	9	14	20
None	81	74	80	88	79	83	82	75	85	86	82	78
Don't know	2	2	1	3	2	2	1	5	3	4	2	1
44. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?												
High	0	1	0	—	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Medium	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	2	2
Low	22	29	24	13	24	20	22	22	17	12	19	28
None	74	65	72	83	71	76	74	70	77	81	76	68
Don't know	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	4	3	5	2	1
N/A—High chance of already having the AIDS virus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
45. Have you ever had a coworker who had AIDS or the AIDS virus?												
Yes	4	4	6	3	4	5	4	4	6	1	3	7
No	87	87	86	89	87	88	88	84	83	89	90	84
Never worked, never had a coworker	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	0
Don't know	7	7	8	7	9	6	7	10	9	7	6	8
46. Have you ever had a friend or relative who had AIDS or the AIDS virus?												
Yes	9	9	12	6	8	10	9	10	9	5	8	12
No	87	88	85	90	88	87	88	84	85	90	88	85
Don't know	4	3	3	4	4	3	3	6	5	5	4	3

See footnotes at end of table.

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 residing in the United States 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. Information on special health topics is collected for all or a sample of household members. The 1991 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes is asked of one randomly chosen adult 18 years of age or over in each family. The estimates in this report are based on completed interviews with 9,983 individuals, about 87 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 women who have had their blood tested for HIV. The population estimates in table I are based on 1989 data from the NHIS inflated to

national population controls by age, race, and sex. The population controls are based on the 1980 census carried forward to 1989. These estimates, therefore, may differ from 1990 census results brought forward to the survey date. Population controls incorporating census results will be used for survey estimation beginning later in the decade.

Table II shows approximate standard errors for most of the estimates presented in table 1. These standard error estimates were derived by applying a design effect of 1.3 to the standard errors that would have been obtained with a simple random sample design. The reader is cautioned about comparing estimates when the denominator is small (for example, when looking only at those persons who did not receive the results of their HIV antibody test).

The estimates in table 1 and the standard errors in table II are provisional. They may differ slightly from estimates made using the final 1991 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 1991 data collection period will be available at the end of 1992.

Table I. Sample sizes for January–March 1991 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes and estimated adult population 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1991

Characteristics	Sample size	Estimated population in thousands
All adults	9,983	180,271
Age		
18–29 years	2,300	46,282
30–49 years	4,101	71,831
50 years and over	3,582	61,157
Sex		
Male	4,183	85,632
Female	5,800	94,638
Race and ethnicity		
Non-Hispanic white	7,746	139,440
Non-Hispanic black	1,255	19,585
Hispanic	644	14,118
Education		
Less than 12 years	1,736	36,782
12 years	2,069	72,418
More than 12 years	1,461	70,036

¹Estimates below the cutoff points have an RSE of more than 30 percent and are considered to be statistically unreliable.

Table II. Standard errors, expressed in percentage points, of estimated percents from the 1991 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1991

Estimated percent	Total	Age			Sex		Race and ethnicity			Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
5 or 95	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.4
10 or 90	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	1.1	1.5	0.8	0.6	0.6
15 or 85	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.3	1.8	1.0	0.8	0.7
20 or 80	0.5	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.5	2.0	1.1	0.8	0.8
25 or 75	0.6	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.6	1.6	2.2	1.2	0.9	0.9
30 or 70	0.6	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.7	2.3	1.3	1.0	0.9
35 or 65	0.6	1.3	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.7	2.4	1.3	1.0	1.0
40 or 60	0.6	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.8	2.5	1.4	1.0	1.0
45 or 55	0.6	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.8	2.5	1.4	1.1	1.0
50	0.6	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.8	2.5	1.4	1.1	1.0

Symbols

- . . . Category not applicable
 - Quantity zero
 - * Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (see Technical notes)
-

Suggested citation

Hardy AM. AIDS knowledge and attitudes for January–March 1991: Provisional data from the National Health Interview Survey. Advance data from vital and health statistics; no 216. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1992.

Copyright information

This report may be reprinted without further permission.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control
National Center for Health Statistics
6525 Belcrest Road
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

BULK RATE POSTAGE & FEES PAID PHS/NCHS PERMIT NO. G-281
--

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

To receive this publication regularly, contact
the National Center for Health Statistics by
calling 301-436-8500

DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 92-1250