

## AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes for July 1988

### Provisional Data From the National Health Interview Survey

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

#### Introduction

The National Center for Health Statistics has included a special set of supplemental questions on the adult population's knowledge and attitudes about acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). The first AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey was in the field from August through December 1987. Provisional results of that survey were published on a monthly basis in *Advance Data for Vital and Health Statistics* (Nos. 146, 148, 150, 151, and 153). During the first four months of 1988, the NHIS AIDS questionnaire was revised to meet current program needs for information about AIDS awareness. The revised AIDS Knowledge and Awareness Survey entered the field in May 1988. Provisional findings for May and June, the first two months of data collection with the new questionnaire, were published in *Advance Data for Vital and Health Statistics*, No. 160. This report presents provisional results for July 1988.

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 in AIDS knowledge or to examine relationships among various measures of knowledge, attitudes, and perceived risk. The 1987 and 1988 NHIS AIDS data bases will permit more complex analyses than those presented in this series of *Advance Data* reports, and such analyses are being undertaken by various groups in the Public Health Service.

The AIDS questionnaires were designed to provide estimates of public knowledge and attitudes about AIDS transmission and prevention of AIDS virus infection. The data were needed as input for the planning and development of AIDS educational campaigns and for monitoring

major educational efforts, e.g., the series of radio and television public service announcements entitled "America Responds to AIDS" and the brochure "Understanding AIDS," both developed by the Centers for Disease Control.

The 1987 and 1988 AIDS questionnaires were developed by the National Center for Health Statistics and interagency working groups established by the Information, Education and Risk Factor Reduction Subcommittee of the Public Health Service Executive Task Force on AIDS. The working groups included representatives from the Centers for Disease Control; the National Institutes of Health; the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration; and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

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

This report presents provisional data for July 1988 for most items included in the AIDS questionnaire, including questions designed to monitor the household mailing of the AIDS information brochure, coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control. 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 are excluded from the denominator in the calculation of estimates, but responses of "don't know" are included.

This report contains few comparisons with data from the 1987 NHIS AIDS survey, and those comparisons that are included must be interpreted with caution. The wording of some questions was changed slightly, and the context in which the questions are asked was modified by the addition of a number of new questions. In addition, the order in which response categories to certain questions were read to respondents was changed between 1987 and 1988 (see technical notes). Thus, differences observed between 1987 and 1988 results may reflect these questionnaire changes as well as actual changes in AIDS knowledge and attitudes.

## Selected findings

The following highlights describe various aspects of AIDS knowledge and attitudes as observed in the July 1988 data from the NHIS AIDS survey. Based on the measures included in this survey, AIDS knowledge was maintained in July at about the same level as in June. Those differences cited in the text are statistically significant unless otherwise noted (see table II for approximate standard errors of estimates).

*Sources of AIDS information*—In July 1988, 86 percent of all adults in the United States reported having seen public service announcements about AIDS on television; 48 percent stated that they had heard AIDS public service announcements on the radio. The proportion of persons who reported having seen or heard such announcements was higher for persons 18–49 years of age than for those 50 years and over and was higher for persons with 12 or more years of school than for those with less than 12 years of school. Twenty-four percent of all adults stated that the announcements they had heard on television and the radio were part of the "America Responds to AIDS" series.

One-fourth (25 percent) of U.S. adults reportedly read brochures or pamphlets about AIDS in the month preceding the May NHIS interview. In June this proportion increased to more than one-half (52 percent), and it remained at that level in July. During the month of June 1988, the Centers for Disease Control mailed a brochure entitled "Understanding AIDS" to all households in the United States. The large proportion of adults who had read AIDS brochures in the 1-month periods preceding the June and July interviews probably reflects the results of this mailing. In July, 68 percent of adults reported ever having read pamphlets or brochures about AIDS, compared to 43 percent in May and 64 percent in June.

By the time they were interviewed in July, 63 percent of all adults reported that they remembered having received the brochure "Understanding AIDS" at the household. Of those who had received the brochure, 58 percent had read all or almost all of it, 21 percent had read half or less, and 20 percent had not read any of the brochure. More than one-half of the adults who stated that they had read at least

some of the brochure claimed to have read it carefully, with the remainder having just skimmed through it. About one-third of those who had read the brochure felt that it had given them new information or answered questions that they had about AIDS.

*Self-assessed knowledge*—As of July 1988, 23 percent of adults stated that they knew a lot about AIDS, 44 percent said they knew some, 25 percent felt they knew a little, and 7 percent claimed to know nothing about AIDS.

*General knowledge*—General knowledge about AIDS and the AIDS virus showed little change between June and July. The great majority of adults thought it was definitely true that AIDS leads to death (88 percent), that there is no cure for AIDS at present (85 percent), and that the AIDS virus can be transmitted by means of sexual intercourse (81 percent) and from mother to infant (80 percent). Approximately three-fourths (74 percent) of adults thought it was definitely false that an AIDS vaccine is available to the public.

As shown in table 1, there were large differences by education in the proportions of adults responding correctly to these general information questions, with the more highly educated individuals the more likely to provide correct answers. Adults 30–49 years of age responded more accurately, on average, than individuals who were either younger or older, and white adults more often answered correctly than did black adults. There was no consistent difference by gender in general AIDS information level.

*Transmission of the AIDS virus*—Although the 1987 AIDS survey revealed widespread misinformation about the risk of AIDS virus transmission through casual contact, accurate knowledge in this area increased continuously between August and December. This aspect of AIDS knowledge also improved between May and June 1988, but did not change between June and July.

*Blood donation and testing*—Based on July data, 42 percent of all adults in the United States have donated blood at some time in their lives, and 14 percent have donated blood since 1985 when automatic testing of blood donations for the AIDS virus began. Six percent of adults reported having donated blood in the 12 months before interview. Younger adults were the most likely to have donated blood recently. The proportion of adults who had donated blood since 1985 increased with education, from 6 percent of persons with less than 12 years of school to 19 percent of those with more than 12 years.

Seventy-five percent of adults had heard of the blood test for the AIDS virus infection. Eighty-three percent of individuals 18–49 years of age had heard of the test, compared to 62 percent of those 50 years and over. Awareness of the AIDS blood test was greater among white than black adults (77 compared to 65 percent) and increased with education, from 52 percent of those with less than 12 years of school to 77 and 87 percent, respectively, of those with 12 years and more than 12 years of school. Two-thirds (67 percent) of adults correctly believed that blood donations are now routinely tested for the AIDS virus.

Only 3 percent of all U.S. adults reported having received counseling about taking the AIDS virus test.

Altogether, 18 percent of adults have had their blood tested for the AIDS virus. This figure includes 8 percent who reported having had the test, about the same as August-December 1987, and 10 percent who denied or were unaware of having had the test but reported having donated blood since 1985, which had been subjected to routine testing for the AIDS virus. Persons age 18–29 years and 30–49 years were more than twice as likely as those age 50 years and over to have had the AIDS blood test (24 and 20 percent, respectively, compared to 9 percent), and men were more likely than women to have done so (21 versus 15 percent). The proportion of adults whose blood had been tested increased with education, from 9 percent of those with less than 12 years of school to 23 percent of those with more than 12 years.

Seventy-five percent of all persons who reported having had their blood tested for the AIDS virus one or more times stated that at least one of the tests was done as a routine part of blood donation, 16 percent (3 percent of the total adult population) reported having taken a test voluntarily, and 12 percent took a test as part of some other activity that included routine blood testing (e.g., military induction, immigration).

Just over half (54 percent) of the individuals who reported having had their blood tested for the AIDS virus reported having received the results of the test. This proportion was much higher for black than for white adults (76 compared to 49 percent) and was greater for persons with less than 12 years of school than for those with 12 or more years (72 compared to 51 percent).

Seven percent of all adults reported plans to have their blood tested for the AIDS virus in the next 12 months. This proportion decreased with age, from 11 percent of persons age 18–29 years to 3 percent of those age 50 years and over.

Five percent of all adults in the United States received blood transfusions between 1977 when the AIDS virus is believed to have entered the United States and 1985 when routine testing of blood donations for the AIDS virus was initiated. As of July 1988, 45 percent of adults stated that the blood supply is now safe for transfusions; 26 percent did not believe the blood supply is safe; and 29 percent were uncertain. The proportion of adults trusting the safety of the blood supply increased with education, was higher for men than women, was higher for white than for black

individuals, and was higher for persons 18–49 years of age than for those 50 years and over.

*Preventive measures*—Thirty percent of adults thought that condoms are very effective in preventing transmission of the AIDS virus, and 54 percent thought that this method is somewhat effective. Eighty-three percent realized that having a monogamous relationship with a person who does not have the AIDS virus is a very effective way to prevent getting the virus. Over half of all adults realized that the diaphragm, spermicidal jellies and creams, and vasectomy are not effective in preventing AIDS virus transmission, with most of the remainder uncertain about the effectiveness of these methods.

*Risk of getting the AIDS virus*—Three percent of all adults stated that they belonged to one or more of the behavior groups associated with increased risk of AIDS virus transmission, i.e., hemophiliacs, intravenous drug users, homosexuals, etc. This proportion decreased with age, from 4 percent of adults age 18–29 to less than 1 percent of adults age 50 or over.

As of July 1988, 79 percent of U.S. adults believed there is no chance that they have the AIDS virus. Fifteen percent reported a low chance, 2 percent a medium chance, and less than 1 percent a high chance. Americans assessed their chances of getting the AIDS virus as minimal as well. Seventy-two percent reported no chance of getting the virus; 21 percent perceived themselves as being at low risk, 3 percent at medium risk, and less than 1 percent at high risk. Adults age 50 years and over were the least likely to perceive some risk of getting the AIDS virus, and women were slightly less likely than men to feel at risk.

Two-thirds (66 percent) of adults have talked to friends or relatives about AIDS, a proportion that varied with education, from 45 percent of those persons with less than 12 years of school to 78 percent of those with more than 12 years.

One-tenth of the adults in the United States reported knowing or having known someone with AIDS or the AIDS virus. This proportion was higher for adults age 18–49 years than for those age 50 years and over and was twice as high for persons with more than 12 years of school as for those with less education. Most of the individuals who had known someone with AIDS or the AIDS virus stated that more than 6 months had passed since they had seen that person.

---

### Symbols

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

---

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

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	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 <sup>1</sup>											
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1. In the past month, have you—											
1a. Seen any public service announcements about AIDS on television?											
Yes	86	86	90	83	87	86	86	88	80	89	87
No	12	13	9	14	12	12	12	10	16	10	11
Don't know	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	1	2
1b. Heard any public service announcements about AIDS on the radio?											
Yes	48	54	53	38	52	44	48	45	40	48	52
No	48	42	42	58	43	52	48	47	54	48	43
Don't know	5	4	5	5	5	4	4	8	5	4	5
2. Were any of those public service announcements called "America Responds to AIDS"?											
Yes	24	31	27	16	23	25	23	34	24	27	22
No	10	10	11	9	11	9	10	7	8	11	10
Don't know	54	48	54	60	55	54	55	49	51	53	57
Neither heard nor saw any public service announcements	11	11	8	15	11	11	11	10	17	9	10
3. In the past month, have you read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?											
Yes	52	54	56	47	47	57	53	53	40	51	60
No	47	45	43	52	52	42	47	46	59	48	39
Don't know	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
4. Have you ever read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?											
Yes	68	72	74	60	65	72	69	69	50	68	79
No	31	27	26	39	34	28	31	30	49	31	21
Don't know	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5. Where did you get the pamphlets or brochures? <sup>1,2</sup>											
Clinic, other than work clinic	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	7	5	1	2
Doctor's office (HMO)	8	11	7	5	6	9	7	10	6	7	9
Drug store	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
Public health department	1	2	2	0	1	2	1	2	2	1	1
Received in mail without asking	41	37	41	47	39	43	42	37	43	46	37
Red Cross/Red Cross blood donation	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	—	1	2	2
Other blood donation	0	1	1	—	0	0	0	—	—	1	0
School	5	11	4	2	6	5	5	8	3	3	8
Sent/phoned for/requested it	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	—	0	1
Federal/State/local government	30	24	29	35	30	29	31	21	29	28	32
Work, other than clinic or nurse	11	8	15	7	12	10	11	11	10	10	12
Work, nurse or clinic	2	2	4	1	1	4	2	3	2	2	3
Other	13	16	13	12	14	13	13	19	11	13	14
Don't know	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	—
6. The Government is mailing a brochure with basic information about AIDS to each household in the country. Was this brochure received at this household?											
Yes	63	60	65	63	62	64	64	61	54	64	67
No	24	24	23	26	24	24	23	28	34	23	20
Don't know	13	16	12	11	14	12	13	11	12	13	13
7. How much of the brochure did you read? <sup>3</sup>											
All or almost all	58	55	61	56	52	63	60	44	47	57	63
About half	13	14	14	13	14	13	12	23	10	16	13
Less than half	8	8	7	10	9	8	8	9	11	8	8
None	20	22	18	20	25	16	20	22	31	19	16
Don't know	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
8. When you read it, did you read it carefully, or did you just skim through it? <sup>3</sup>											
Read carefully	45	46	47	43	39	51	45	47	39	46	48
Skimmed through	34	31	34	36	35	33	34	28	29	35	35
Other	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	1
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	—	0	0
Did not read	20	22	18	20	25	16	20	23	32	19	16
9. Did the brochure give you any new information or answer any questions you had about AIDS? <sup>3</sup>											
Yes	24	31	23	20	22	26	22	38	23	24	24
No	56	46	58	60	53	58	58	39	45	56	59
Don't know	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Did not read	20	22	18	20	25	16	20	23	32	19	16
10. Did you discuss the brochure with anyone else in the family? <sup>3</sup>											
Yes	37	35	43	33	37	38	38	32	34	31	46
No	62	65	57	67	63	62	62	68	66	69	54
Don't know	0	0	—	—	—	0	0	—	—	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 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, July 1988—Con.**

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Race		Education		
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
Percent distribution <sup>1</sup>											
13. Did any of your children aged 10-17 read the brochure? <sup>3,4</sup>											
Yes . . . . .	29	10	29	31	32	26	29	29	27	29	28
No . . . . .	46	68	46	45	39	52	45	43	46	48	46
Don't know . . . . .	25	22	25	24	29	21	26	28	27	23	26
14. Was the brochure discussed with any of your children aged 10-17? <sup>3,4</sup>											
Yes . . . . .	35	15	36	33	35	35	35	31	29	35	35
No . . . . .	62	85	61	65	60	65	62	60	66	63	61
Don't know . . . . .	3	—	3	2	6	1	2	8	4	2	4
15. Have you ever discussed AIDS with any of your children aged 10-17? <sup>4</sup>											
Yes . . . . .	62	37	64	52	54	69	63	60	48	64	65
No . . . . .	38	63	36	48	46	31	37	40	52	36	35
Don't know . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Have any or all of your children aged 10-17 had instruction at school about AIDS? <sup>4</sup>											
Yes . . . . .	59	37	59	63	57	61	59	58	55	62	59
No . . . . .	11	16	11	7	6	15	12	9	10	10	12
Don't know . . . . .	30	46	29	31	37	24	29	32	35	28	29
21. How much would you say you know about AIDS?											
A lot . . . . .	23	23	30	16	22	24	24	17	11	20	34
Some . . . . .	44	50	47	37	43	45	44	44	30	47	49
A little . . . . .	25	24	21	32	27	24	25	28	37	28	16
None . . . . .	7	4	2	15	8	7	7	11	21	5	1
Don't know . . . . .	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 . . . . .	65	66	72	58	64	66	67	54	40	64	81
No . . . . .	15	22	15	10	16	14	15	20	18	17	12
Other . . . . .	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Don't know . . . . .	19	12	12	32	19	19	18	25	41	18	7
23a. AIDS can reduce the body's natural protection against disease.											
Definitely true . . . . .	74	77	81	64	74	74	76	57	52	74	86
Probably true . . . . .	11	11	9	14	12	10	11	13	13	12	9
Probably false . . . . .	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	4	2	2	1
Definitely false . . . . .	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	4	4	2
Don't know . . . . .	10	7	6	17	9	11	9	20	29	7	3
23b. AIDS is especially common in older people.											
Definitely true . . . . .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	0	1
Probably true . . . . .	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Probably false . . . . .	19	23	16	19	20	18	19	16	19	19	20
Definitely false . . . . .	71	67	78	67	70	73	73	67	58	75	75
Don't know . . . . .	8	7	4	13	7	8	7	13	19	5	4
23c. AIDS can damage the brain.											
Definitely true . . . . .	27	23	27	29	26	28	27	24	27	25	28
Probably true . . . . .	29	29	29	30	29	30	29	30	27	30	31
Probably false . . . . .	9	12	9	6	10	8	9	8	4	9	12
Definitely false . . . . .	6	7	7	4	6	5	6	6	4	6	6
Don't know . . . . .	29	28	28	31	29	29	28	32	38	29	23
23d. AIDS usually leads to heart disease.											
Definitely true . . . . .	10	7	9	13	10	10	10	11	13	10	8
Probably true . . . . .	20	19	21	20	20	20	20	20	20	22	18
Probably false . . . . .	19	22	20	14	21	17	19	14	11	16	26
Definitely false . . . . .	14	14	18	9	15	13	14	11	7	13	18
Don't know . . . . .	38	37	32	44	35	40	37	44	48	39	31
23e. AIDS is an infectious disease caused by a virus.											
Definitely true . . . . .	64	68	70	53	65	63	64	62	47	63	73
Probably true . . . . .	18	18	17	20	20	17	19	17	18	20	17
Probably false . . . . .	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	3	2	1
Definitely false . . . . .	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	2
Don't know . . . . .	13	9	8	21	11	14	12	17	28	10	6
23f. Teenagers cannot get AIDS.											
Definitely true . . . . .	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	1
Probably true . . . . .	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0
Probably false . . . . .	4	3	2	5	4	3	3	4	5	3	3
Definitely false . . . . .	91	94	95	85	92	91	92	88	79	94	95
Don't know . . . . .	3	1	2	7	3	3	3	6	11	2	1
23g. AIDS leads to death.											
Definitely true . . . . .	88	88	89	88	87	89	88	89	88	90	86
Probably true . . . . .	8	10	8	7	9	8	9	5	4	7	12
Probably false . . . . .	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	—	—	0	1
Definitely false . . . . .	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
Don't know . . . . .	2	1	1	4	2	2	2	4	7	1	1

**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, July 1988—Con.**

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Race		Education		
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
23h. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.											
Definitely true . . . . .	53	55	59	45	52	54	56	41	32	52	66
Probably true . . . . .	23	24	22	22	22	23	22	22	22	25	21
Probably false . . . . .	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	5	5	4
Definitely false . . . . .	5	6	5	4	5	4	4	8	6	5	4
Don't know . . . . .	15	11	9	25	15	15	14	24	36	13	6
23i. Looking at a person is enough to tell if he or she has the AIDS virus.											
Definitely true . . . . .	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	2
Probably true . . . . .	4	4	3	5	4	3	3	6	7	4	2
Probably false . . . . .	16	15	15	19	17	15	16	19	21	18	12
Definitely false . . . . .	69	75	75	57	67	70	71	59	46	70	81
Don't know . . . . .	9	5	5	18	9	9	8	14	24	8	3
23j. Any person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else during sexual intercourse.											
Definitely true . . . . .	81	82	83	78	80	82	81	80	77	84	81
Probably true . . . . .	13	14	12	12	14	12	13	12	12	12	13
Probably false . . . . .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Definitely false . . . . .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know . . . . .	4	2	2	8	4	5	4	6	10	2	3
23k. A person who has the AIDS virus can look and feel healthy and well.											
Definitely true . . . . .	47	50	52	38	48	46	48	39	26	47	58
Probably true . . . . .	29	30	28	29	29	30	29	29	28	30	30
Probably false . . . . .	6	7	5	7	6	6	6	8	8	7	4
Definitely false . . . . .	5	4	7	6	6	5	5	9	9	6	3
Don't know . . . . .	12	9	7	20	11	13	12	15	29	10	5
23l. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give the AIDS virus to her baby.											
Definitely true . . . . .	80	82	83	76	78	82	81	80	73	82	83
Probably true . . . . .	13	12	13	14	15	12	13	11	14	12	14
Probably false . . . . .	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Definitely false . . . . .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Don't know . . . . .	5	4	3	9	5	5	5	6	11	4	2
23m. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.											
Definitely true . . . . .	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	1	1
Probably true . . . . .	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	1
Probably false . . . . .	10	11	8	10	10	9	9	10	9	11	9
Definitely false . . . . .	74	74	80	66	75	73	75	63	58	74	82
Don't know . . . . .	13	9	9	21	11	15	12	21	28	12	7
23n. There is no cure for AIDS at present.											
Definitely true . . . . .	85	83	89	83	85	85	87	76	78	85	89
Probably true . . . . .	6	7	5	6	6	5	5	8	6	6	5
Probably false . . . . .	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Definitely false . . . . .	3	5	3	3	3	4	3	6	3	4	3
Don't know . . . . .	4	4	2	7	4	5	4	8	12	3	1
24. How likely do you think it is that a person will get AIDS or the AIDS virus infection from—											
24a. Living near a hospital or home for AIDS patients?											
Very likely . . . . .	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	4	3	1	1
Somewhat likely . . . . .	3	4	2	4	3	4	3	5	6	4	1
Somewhat unlikely . . . . .	8	8	8	9	8	8	8	11	9	10	5
Very unlikely . . . . .	35	37	35	32	35	35	35	34	29	36	37
Definitely not possible . . . . .	46	46	49	42	46	46	48	35	36	44	54
Don't know . . . . .	6	3	4	11	6	6	6	11	18	5	2
24b. Working near someone with the AIDS virus?											
Very likely . . . . .	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	5	6	2	1
Somewhat likely . . . . .	10	11	9	10	9	10	9	14	13	10	7
Somewhat unlikely . . . . .	11	10	11	10	11	11	10	13	10	12	10
Very unlikely . . . . .	37	38	38	35	37	37	38	30	29	37	41
Definitely not possible . . . . .	33	36	34	30	34	33	34	28	27	32	38
Don't know . . . . .	7	4	5	11	6	8	6	11	16	6	3
24c. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely . . . . .	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	13	12	7	4
Somewhat likely . . . . .	16	18	16	16	15	17	15	22	17	18	14
Somewhat unlikely . . . . .	14	15	15	13	15	14	15	12	11	14	17
Very unlikely . . . . .	33	34	34	32	34	33	35	24	24	32	40
Definitely not possible . . . . .	17	19	18	14	17	17	18	12	13	18	19
Don't know . . . . .	12	8	10	19	12	13	12	16	24	12	7

**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, July 1988—Con.**

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Race		Education		
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
<b>24d. Kissing—with exchange of saliva—a person who has the AIDS virus?</b>	Percent distribution <sup>1</sup>										
Very likely. . . . .	21	16	22	24	20	23	20	29	26	22	18
Somewhat likely. . . . .	28	30	25	28	29	27	28	27	24	28	29
Somewhat unlikely. . . . .	14	16	16	10	15	13	15	9	10	13	17
Very unlikely. . . . .	18	20	19	14	18	17	18	14	12	17	22
Definitely not possible. . . . .	7	9	9	5	7	8	7	6	5	8	8
Don't know. . . . .	12	9	9	18	12	12	12	15	23	12	6
<b>24e. Shaking hands, touching, or kissing on the cheek someone who has the AIDS virus?</b>											
Very likely. . . . .	2	1	3	3	2	3	2	5	6	2	1
Somewhat likely. . . . .	5	6	4	6	5	6	5	7	8	5	4
Somewhat unlikely. . . . .	13	14	10	14	13	12	12	15	12	15	10
Very unlikely. . . . .	38	37	41	35	40	36	38	34	30	37	42
Definitely not possible. . . . .	35	39	38	30	35	36	37	29	26	36	41
Don't know. . . . .	6	4	4	11	6	7	6	10	18	5	1
<b>24f. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has the AIDS virus?</b>											
Very likely. . . . .	8	6	8	10	8	8	7	14	12	8	6
Somewhat likely. . . . .	17	17	16	20	16	18	17	18	21	19	14
Somewhat unlikely. . . . .	14	14	15	13	15	13	14	13	13	13	16
Very unlikely. . . . .	30	34	32	24	31	29	30	25	19	29	36
Definitely not possible. . . . .	20	22	21	17	20	20	21	14	14	20	23
Don't know. . . . .	11	8	9	17	10	12	10	16	22	11	6
<b>24g. Using public toilets?</b>											
Very likely. . . . .	5	4	4	6	4	5	4	7	9	5	2
Somewhat likely. . . . .	13	14	11	14	10	15	12	18	20	14	8
Somewhat unlikely. . . . .	12	12	12	12	14	11	12	13	8	14	12
Very unlikely. . . . .	34	35	36	30	35	33	35	30	25	32	41
Definitely not possible. . . . .	26	27	29	22	27	25	27	18	17	25	31
Don't know. . . . .	11	7	8	16	10	11	10	13	20	11	5
<b>24h. Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has the AIDS virus?</b>											
Very likely. . . . .	94	95	95	91	94	94	94	90	88	95	95
Somewhat likely. . . . .	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3
Somewhat unlikely. . . . .	0	—	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Very unlikely. . . . .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Definitely not possible. . . . .	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	1
Don't know. . . . .	2	1	1	5	2	2	2	5	7	1	0
<b>24i. Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has the AIDS virus?</b>											
Very likely. . . . .	6	6	6	8	6	7	6	11	13	6	3
Somewhat likely. . . . .	19	16	18	23	18	20	19	20	21	20	17
Somewhat unlikely. . . . .	16	17	17	13	17	15	16	15	13	16	17
Very unlikely. . . . .	29	30	33	23	31	27	30	21	18	28	35
Definitely not possible. . . . .	18	22	18	14	18	18	18	16	11	18	21
Don't know. . . . .	12	8	9	19	11	14	12	17	25	11	6
<b>24j. Attending school with a child who has the AIDS virus?</b>											
Very likely. . . . .	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	5	2	1
Somewhat likely. . . . .	6	5	6	7	6	6	6	9	9	6	4
Somewhat unlikely. . . . .	11	12	11	10	12	10	11	15	10	14	9
Very unlikely. . . . .	38	39	40	35	39	37	38	33	29	37	43
Definitely not possible. . . . .	34	36	35	31	33	35	35	26	25	34	39
Don't know. . . . .	9	6	6	15	9	9	8	14	21	8	4
<b>24k. Mosquitoes or other insects?</b>											
Very likely. . . . .	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	11	13	8	4
Somewhat likely. . . . .	15	15	14	16	15	15	13	24	18	16	12
Somewhat unlikely. . . . .	9	10	9	7	9	8	9	7	6	8	10
Very unlikely. . . . .	24	25	26	20	24	23	25	17	17	22	30
Definitely not possible. . . . .	23	25	24	21	23	24	25	17	15	24	28
Don't know. . . . .	22	18	19	28	21	23	22	24	31	22	16
<b>25. Have you ever donated blood?</b>											
Yes. . . . .	42	32	45	45	54	31	44	33	30	38	51
No. . . . .	58	68	55	54	46	69	56	67	69	62	48
Don't know. . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>26a. Have you donated blood since March 1985?</b>											
Yes. . . . .	14	18	16	7	17	11	15	6	6	12	19
No. . . . .	86	81	83	92	83	89	84	93	94	87	80
Don't know. . . . .	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
<b>26b. Have you donated blood in the past 12 months?</b>											
Yes. . . . .	6	8	8	3	7	5	7	3	2	6	9
No. . . . .	93	91	92	96	92	94	92	97	97	94	90
Don't know. . . . .	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	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 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, July 1988—Con.**

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Race		Education		
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
27. Have you ever heard of a blood test that can detect the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes . . . . .	75	82	83	62	76	75	77	65	52	77	87
No . . . . .	20	14	14	31	20	20	18	30	40	18	10
Don't know . . . . .	5	4	3	7	4	5	5	5	9	5	3
28. To the best of your knowledge, are blood donations routinely tested now for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes . . . . .	67	74	74	53	67	66	69	54	41	67	80
No . . . . .	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	2	5	2
Don't know . . . . .	5	4	5	6	5	6	5	8	8	5	5
Never heard of test <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	25	18	17	38	24	25	23	35	49	23	13
29a. Have you ever received counseling or had a talk with a health professional about taking the AIDS virus test?											
Yes . . . . .	3	6	3	1	3	3	3	5	3	2	5
No . . . . .	72	76	80	60	72	72	74	60	49	75	82
Don't know . . . . .	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	1
Never heard of test <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	25	18	17	38	24	25	23	35	48	23	13
29b. Was the discussion— <sup>1,8</sup>											
With a private doctor? . . . . .	48	46	40	83	47	49	44	63	51	38	50
At a family-planning clinic? . . . . .	5	8	1	—	4	5	5	4	—	10	4
On an AIDS hotline? . . . . .	5	6	5	—	3	6	6	—	—	—	8
At a prenatal clinic? . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
At an STD or sexually transmitted disease clinic? . . . . .	5	7	3	—	6	3	6	—	—	7	5
At an AIDS/HIV counseling and testing site? . . . . .	7	12	4	—	8	6	7	8	—	10	8
With some other health professional? . . . . .	42	38	50	34	51	35	48	20	33	42	47
With some other counselor? . . . . .	11	12	11	9	14	9	13	6	20	11	9
30. During that discussion, did you receive information about how to avoid getting or passing on the AIDS virus? <sup>8</sup>											
Yes . . . . .	67	71	58	75	73	61	66	63	64	69	67
No . . . . .	32	27	40	25	26	37	33	31	30	31	31
Don't know . . . . .	2	2	2	—	1	2	1	6	6	—	1
31. Have you ever been advised by a health professional not to have the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes . . . . .	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	—	0	0	1
No . . . . .	75	81	83	62	75	74	77	64	51	77	86
Don't know . . . . .	0	—	—	0	—	0	—	0	0	—	—
Never heard of test <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	25	18	17	38	24	25	23	35	49	23	13
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	1	0	1	0	0	1
No . . . . .	75	81	82	62	75	75	77	64	51	76	87
Don't know . . . . .	0	—	0	—	0	0	0	—	0	—	—
Never heard of test <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	25	18	17	38	24	25	23	35	48	23	13
33. Have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes . . . . .	18	24	20	9	21	15	18	12	9	16	23
No . . . . .	58	60	63	52	55	61	59	53	42	62	63
Don't know . . . . .	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	2
Never heard of test <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	23	16	16	37	22	24	21	34	47	21	11
35a. How many times have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?											
Once . . . . .	4	7	5	2	4	4	4	4	3	4	6
Twice . . . . .	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
3-5 times . . . . .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	2
6-12 times . . . . .	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
More than 12 times . . . . .	0	—	0	—	—	0	0	—	—	—	0
Don't know . . . . .	10	13	12	6	13	8	11	6	5	10	14
Never heard of or never took test <sup>7</sup> . . . . .	83	76	80	91	80	86	82	88	91	84	77
35b. How many times in the past 12 months have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?											
None in the past 12 months . . . . .	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
Once . . . . .	4	7	4	2	4	3	4	4	3	3	5
More than once . . . . .	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	3
Don't know . . . . .	10	13	12	6	13	8	11	6	4	10	14
Never heard of or never took test <sup>7</sup> . . . . .	83	76	80	91	79	86	82	88	91	84	77
36. Was the test/were any of the tests, including those you had before the past 12 months— <sup>1,8</sup>											
Part of a blood donation? . . . . .	75	71	79	74	77	73	78	53	62	76	77
Part of a blood transfusion? . . . . .	1	0	2	2	1	2	1	3	0	2	2
Voluntarily sought? . . . . .	16	20	13	18	14	20	15	25	19	15	16
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample? . . . . .	12	14	13	8	14	11	12	14	14	13	12

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, July 1988—Con.**

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Race		Education		
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
38. Did you get the results of your test/any of your tests? <sup>8</sup>					Percent distribution <sup>1</sup>						
Yes . . . . .	54	59	50	53	53	55	49	76	72	50	51
No . . . . .	44	41	47	44	45	43	49	24	28	48	47
Don't know . . . . .	2	—	3	3	2	1	2	—	—	2	2
41. Do you expect to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection in the next 12 months?											
Yes . . . . .	7	11	7	3	8	6	6	11	5	7	7
No . . . . .	65	66	71	57	64	65	67	49	44	65	76
Don't know . . . . .	4	5	5	2	4	4	4	5	3	5	4
Never heard of test <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	25	18	17	38	24	25	23	35	48	23	13
42. Will the test be— <sup>1,9</sup>											
Part of a blood donation? . . . . .	42	36	49	41	42	42	48	21	26	39	50
Voluntarily sought? . . . . .	54	64	43	58	50	59	49	78	67	51	54
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample? . . . . .	15	9	22	9	19	9	14	14	10	20	12
44a. Did you have a blood transfusion at any time between 1977 and 1985?											
Yes . . . . .	5	3	5	6	4	5	5	5	5	5	5
No . . . . .	94	97	94	92	95	93	94	93	93	94	95
Don't know . . . . .	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
44b. Do you think the present supply of blood is safe for transfusions?											
Yes . . . . .	45	48	47	40	49	42	47	34	32	45	53
No . . . . .	26	30	25	23	24	27	24	32	30	26	23
Other . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Don't know . . . . .	29	22	27	37	27	31	28	34	38	29	24
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 . . . . .	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	2
Somewhat effective . . . . .	14	17	12	14	14	14	14	13	13	14	16
Not at all effective . . . . .	56	61	63	44	54	58	58	43	38	56	65
Don't know how effective . . . . .	21	17	16	30	23	20	20	31	31	21	15
Don't know method . . . . .	6	4	6	9	6	6	5	9	14	6	2
45b. Using a condom?											
Very effective . . . . .	30	33	33	24	31	28	30	29	21	30	34
Somewhat effective . . . . .	54	56	55	51	55	53	55	46	45	55	58
Not at all effective . . . . .	6	6	6	6	5	7	6	9	9	6	4
Don't know how effective . . . . .	8	4	4	16	7	9	7	13	19	6	4
Don't know method . . . . .	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	4	7	1	1
45c. Using a spermicidal jelly, foam, or cream?											
Very effective . . . . .	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Somewhat effective . . . . .	15	18	14	15	16	15	16	15	11	14	19
Not at all effective . . . . .	54	57	62	41	51	56	55	43	38	56	60
Don't know how effective . . . . .	22	18	16	32	24	20	21	30	33	22	16
Don't know method . . . . .	7	5	6	11	7	7	6	10	16	6	4
45d. Having a vasectomy?											
Very effective . . . . .	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	2	1
Somewhat effective . . . . .	3	4	1	3	3	2	3	1	4	2	2
Not at all effective . . . . .	70	68	79	62	70	71	73	57	49	71	81
Don't know how effective . . . . .	18	18	11	26	18	18	17	26	28	18	12
Don't know method . . . . .	7	7	7	8	7	8	6	13	17	6	3
45e. Two people who do not have the AIDS virus having sex only with each other?											
Very effective . . . . .	83	82	87	77	83	82	84	70	71	83	89
Somewhat effective . . . . .	8	10	6	8	8	8	7	13	9	8	7
Not at all effective . . . . .	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	6	4	4	2
Don't know how effective . . . . .	5	3	2	9	5	5	5	9	12	4	2
Don't know method . . . . .	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	4	1	0
46. What are your chances of having the AIDS virus?											
High . . . . .	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Medium . . . . .	2	4	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Low . . . . .	15	22	17	9	18	13	15	17	9	13	21
None . . . . .	79	71	78	87	77	82	80	73	83	82	75
Don't know . . . . .	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	6	5	3	2
47. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?											
High . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medium . . . . .	3	5	3	1	4	2	2	5	2	3	2
Low . . . . .	21	31	22	13	26	17	22	18	12	20	28
None . . . . .	72	60	72	82	67	77	73	68	79	73	67
Don't know . . . . .	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	7	6	4	2
High chance of already having AIDS virus . . . . .	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	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 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, July 1988—Con.**

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Race		Education		
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
49. Do you say your chance of getting AIDS is high or medium because you— <sup>10</sup>					Percent distribution <sup>1</sup>						
Have had a blood transfusion? . . . . .	8	5	13	—	8	8	7	13	15	12	—
Have had sexual contact with someone who might have the virus? . . . . .	15	17	14	2	14	16	11	32	34	13	8
Some other reason? . . . . .	67	72	60	76	65	71	72	51	46	69	77
52. Have you ever discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
Yes. . . . .	66	72	73	52	63	67	66	63	45	65	78
No . . . . .	34	28	26	48	36	32	33	37	55	35	22
Don't know . . . . .	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
53. When was the last time you discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
0-3 days ago. . . . .	8	9	9	7	8	8	8	9	8	7	9
4-7 days ago. . . . .	10	11	11	8	10	10	9	16	8	10	12
8-14 days ago. . . . .	8	8	9	7	8	9	9	5	6	8	10
15-31 days ago . . . . .	16	18	19	12	16	17	17	16	9	16	21
More than 31 days ago . . . . .	18	21	20	12	17	18	19	11	9	19	21
Don't know . . . . .	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Never discussed <sup>11</sup> . . . . .	35	28	27	49	37	33	34	38	55	35	22
54. Have you ever personally known anyone with AIDS or the AIDS virus?											
Yes. . . . .	10	11	13	7	9	11	10	15	7	8	15
No . . . . .	88	87	85	91	88	87	88	83	92	91	83
Don't know . . . . .	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
55. How long has it been since you saw this person?											
Within past 2 weeks. . . . .	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
2 weeks—less than 1 month . . . . .	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
1 month—less than 3 months . . . . .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	2
3 months—less than 6 months . . . . .	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
6 months or more. . . . .	6	8	7	5	6	7	6	9	5	5	9
Don't know . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	0
Never knew anyone with AIDS <sup>12</sup> . . . . .	90	89	87	93	91	89	90	85	93	92	85
56. How well do you know this person?											
Very well . . . . .	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
Fairly well . . . . .	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	6	2	2	3
Not very well . . . . .	4	3	6	3	4	4	4	4	2	3	6
Don't really know personally . . . . .	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	2
Other. . . . .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	2
Don't know how well . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Never knew anyone with AIDS <sup>12</sup> . . . . .	90	89	87	93	91	89	90	85	93	92	85
57. Is any of these statements true for you?											
a. You have hemophilia and have received clotting factor concentrates since 1977.											
b. You are a native of Haiti or Central or East Africa who has entered the United States since 1977.											
c. You are a man who has had sex with another man at some time since 1977, even 1 time.											
d. You have taken illegal drugs by needle at any time since 1977.											
e. Since 1977, you are or have been the sex partner of any person who would answer yes to any of the items above (57 a-d).											
f. You have had sex for money or drugs at any time since 1977.											
Yes to at least 1 statement . . . . .	3	4	3	0	4	2	2	5	2	3	3
No to all statements . . . . .	97	96	97	100	96	98	98	95	98	97	97
Refused . . . . .	0	—	—	0	—	0	0	—	—	—	0
Don't know . . . . .	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. . . . .	71	77	71	65	72	70	72	66	65	72	72
No . . . . .	22	19	20	26	21	22	21	25	26	21	20
Other. . . . .	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Don't know . . . . .	5	3	7	6	5	6	5	7	7	5	5

**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, July 1988—Con.**

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Race		Education		
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
Percent distribution <sup>1</sup>											
59. Why wouldn't you take part in the test? <sup>13</sup>											
Don't want to know if I have AIDS . . . . .	4	10	4	2	4	4	4	7	4	5	4
Don't want any counseling about AIDS. . . . .	2	4	1	2	2	2	2	4	4	1	2
Fear I'll get AIDS . . . . .	7	6	6	8	5	8	6	10	8	6	6
Don't like to give blood . . . . .	13	15	14	10	9	15	12	18	13	13	11
Don't trust Government programs . . . . .	6	7	10	3	9	5	7	5	2	5	10
It is a waste of money . . . . .	3	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Don't believe AIDS can really be cured anyway . . . . .	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	5	2	2	0
Other. . . . .	51	37	50	58	52	50	52	43	47	55	49
Don't know . . . . .	16	18	16	15	15	17	16	16	18	12	19
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. . . . .	66	70	68	61	65	67	66	68	58	65	72
Doubtful. . . . .	26	25	25	29	28	25	27	22	28	28	23
Don't know . . . . .	8	4	7	11	7	8	7	10	14	7	5
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. . . . .	79	84	82	73	79	80	80	77	69	79	86
Doubtful. . . . .	15	13	14	18	16	14	15	12	20	16	11
Don't know . . . . .	6	4	5	9	5	6	5	11	12	5	3

<sup>1</sup>Multiple responses may sum to more than 100.

<sup>2</sup>Based on persons answering yes to question 4 (includes yes to question 3).

<sup>3</sup>Based on persons answering yes to question 6.

<sup>4</sup>Based on persons answering yes to question 11, "Do you have any children aged 10 through 17?" Question 12 was "How many do you have?"

<sup>5</sup>Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 27.

<sup>6</sup>Based on persons answering yes to question 29a.

<sup>7</sup>Based on persons answering no or don't know to questions 27 and 33.

<sup>8</sup>Based on persons answering yes to question 33.

<sup>9</sup>Based on persons answering yes to question 41.

<sup>10</sup>Based on persons answering high or medium to question 46.

<sup>11</sup>Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 52.

<sup>12</sup>Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 54.

<sup>13</sup>Based 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 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes was asked of a single randomly chosen adult 18 years of age or over in each family. The estimates in this report are based on completed interviews with 3,248 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 first-quarter 1987 data from the NHIS; they are not official population estimates. Table II shows approximate standard errors of estimates presented in table 1.

**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, July 1988**

Characteristics	Sample size	Estimated population in thousands
All adults . . . . .	3,248	174,528
Age		
18-29 years . . . . .	746	47,725
30-49 years . . . . .	1,223	66,109
50 years and over . . . . .	1,279	60,695
Sex		
Male. . . . .	1,362	82,703
Female . . . . .	1,886	91,825
Race		
White . . . . .	2,695	151,003
Black . . . . .	451	19,107
Education		
Less than 12 years . . . . .	739	41,503
12 years . . . . .	1,206	66,475
More than 12 years . . . . .	1,250	62,363

Both the estimates in table 1 and the standard errors in table II are provisional. They may differ slightly from estimates made using the final data file because they were calculated using a simplified weighting procedure that does not adjust for all the factors used in weighting the final data file. A final data file covering the entire data collection period for 1988 will be available in 1989.

A number of measures of AIDS knowledge declined slightly between 1987 and 1988. These small decreases may reflect the effects of a methodological experiment that was included in the 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes during May, June, and July. This experiment was designed to investigate two aspects of questionnaire design effect: the effect of varying

the order in which response categories were read to respondents and the effect of varying the order in which questions or subparts of questions were asked. The experiment involved comparison of four different versions of the questionnaire, which were randomly assigned to respondents. In the first version, the response category order and question order were identical to those used for comparable questions in the 1987 AIDS survey. In the second version, the response category order was reversed; in the third version, the question order was modified; and in the fourth version, both the response category order was reversed and the question order was modified. The questions involved were numbers 21, 23, 24, 45-47, 61, and 62.

**Table II. Standard errors, expressed in percentage points, of estimated percents from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes, by selected characteristics: United States, July 1988**

Estimated percent	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
5 or 95 . . . . .	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.8
10 or 90 . . . . .	0.7	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.8	1.4	1.1	1.1
15 or 85 . . . . .	0.8	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.9	2.2	1.7	1.3	1.3
20 or 80 . . . . .	0.9	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.0	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.5
25 or 75 . . . . .	1.0	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.1	2.6	1.0	1.6	1.6
30 or 70 . . . . .	1.0	2.2	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.1	2.8	2.2	1.7	1.7
35 or 65 . . . . .	1.1	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.2	2.9	2.3	1.8	1.7
40 or 60 . . . . .	1.1	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.2	3.0	2.3	1.8	1.8
45 or 55 . . . . .	1.1	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.2	3.0	2.4	1.8	1.8
50 . . . . .	1.1	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.2	3.0	2.4	1.9	1.8

#### Suggested citation

National Center for Health Statistics, D. A. Dawson. AIDS knowledge and attitudes for July 1988, Provisional data from the National Health Interview Survey. *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics*. No. 161. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 89-1250. Public Health Service. Hyattsville, Md.

#### 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  
3700 East-West Highway  
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) 89-1250