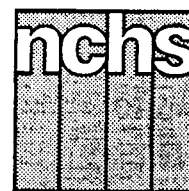


Advance Data



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

AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes for 1991

Data From the National Health Interview Survey

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Highlights

In 1991, levels of knowledge about the major modes of transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) remained high in all sociodemographic groups examined. Knowledge about other aspects of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) was more variable, with older and less-educated adults generally being less knowledgeable. Several changes in responses to survey items between 1990 and 1991 were noted, including:

- An increase from 19 to 29 percent in the proportion who felt they knew "a lot" about AIDS.
- An increase from 79 to 86 percent in the proportion who had heard the AIDS virus referred to as "HIV."
- 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 HIV.
- A slight increase in the proportion who reported ever having HIV antibody testing—excluding blood donation (from 11 to 15 percent) and testing through all means (from 26 to 29 percent).

In addition, some changes in responses were noted during 1991, particularly in the fourth quarter compared with earlier quarters. Noteworthy changes seen during 1991 included:

- The proportion who received information about AIDS from television programs in the month before the interview increased from 72 to 78 percent.
- The percentage of parents who had ever discussed AIDS with their children rose from 66 percent in the first quarter to 72 percent in the last quarter of 1991.
- The proportion who knew a person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS increased by 5 percentage points (from 77 to 82 percent).
- Those planning future testing for HIV antibodies who indicated such testing would be voluntary increased from 65 to 71 percent.
- The proportion who had heard of zidovudine (also known as AZT or azidothymidine and by the brand name "Retrovir") increased from 50 to 55 percent.

Introduction

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) 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 (1). 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 survey in *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics* (2–9). 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 NCHS 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 Prevention and from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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



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 a summary of data for the entire 1991 data-collection year. Thus there is some overlap with the earlier report that described results from the first quarter of 1991 (9). Unless otherwise stated, the results described were consistent throughout 1991. For certain items, some differences were noted for the fourth quarter of 1991, and these are pointed out. While the exact cause of these variations for that particular quarter is not known, most readers are probably aware of the considerable amount of publicity that occurred in the fourth quarter of 1991 after Earvin "Magic" Johnson announced that he was infected with HIV. Further analyses are underway to determine the impact of this announcement on responses to the NHIS and other AIDS surveys. Also, 1990 data cited in this report for comparison refers to data reported from the fourth quarter of 1990 (8). Details about the sample design and the estimation procedure can be found in "Technical notes" at the end of this report.

Table 1 shows percent distributions by response categories to most of the items included in the NHIS AIDS questionnaire for the entire adult population as well as various subgroups defined by age, sex, race and ethnicity, and education. In most cases, the actual questions 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 version of the survey. 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, the section on HIV antibody testing began with a question assessing whether persons had heard of the blood test to detect the AIDS virus infection; 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 still had 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 had not been tested for HIV were examined. Items were added to assess respondents' knowledge about the HIV antibody test, about AZT, and about the proper use of condoms. Finally, in 1991, a distinction was made between having a co-worker with HIV or AIDS and having other friends or relatives with the disease.

Selected findings

The following highlights describe survey results of the NHIS AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey for 1991. Unless otherwise noted in the text, all measures described remained stable over this period. All differences cited in the text are statistically significant at the .05 level. Table II shows provisional estimates of the standard errors associated with these results.

Sources of information

In 1991, 86 percent of adults stated that they had received information about AIDS in the past month. This was consistent with the figure reported for 1990. Of all categories listed, the primary sources of information were television programs (73 percent), newspaper articles (47 percent), magazine articles (40 percent), and radio programs (35 percent). From the third to fourth quarter of 1991, there was a notable increase in the proportion receiving AIDS information. During this time the percent of adults hearing or seeing information from any of the sources mentioned above rose from 1 to 6 percentage points.

When specifically asked about exposure to public service announcements (PSA's) in the previous month, 80 percent reported viewing them on television, 45 percent hearing them on radio, and 9 percent seeing posters in airports. For all three sources, those 18–29 years old, and those with more than 12 years of education appeared to have had more exposure to PSA's than had their counterparts.

Of parents of 10–17-year-olds, 69 percent reported ever discussing AIDS with those children. Overall, white and black parents were more likely to talk to their children about AIDS than were Hispanic parents (70 percent, compared with 61 percent). Women and those 30–49 years old were also more likely to discuss the topic. The percentage of parents discussing AIDS with their children increased with years of

education, from 56 percent for those with less than 12 years of education to 75 percent for those with more than 12 years of education. Seventy-four percent of parents reported that their children received instruction about AIDS at school. This figure is similar to the percent reported for 1990. The percentage of parents who reported talking to their children about AIDS increased in the fourth quarter of 1991 (72 percent, compared with the earlier quarters' range of 66–69 percent).

General knowledge about AIDS

In 1991, of the adults asked to assess their knowledge of AIDS, 29 percent stated they knew "a lot," and 44 percent stated they knew "some." The percentage of those who knew "a lot" had increased 10 percentage points since 1990, whereas the percent answering "some" remained stable throughout 1991. The percentages decreased for those who answered "a little" (25 percent in 1990 to 19 percent in 1991) and "nothing" (10 percent in 1990 to 8 percent in 1991).

Also in 1991, a higher percentage of people reported having heard the AIDS virus called "HIV"—86 percent in 1991, compared with 79 percent in 1990. Awareness was lower among persons with less than 12 years of education, those over 50 years old, and those of Hispanic descent (67 percent, 78 percent, and 72 percent, respectively).

In 1991, new sets of responses were used for questions pertaining to knowledge about AIDS. Prior to 1991, four responses were possible, ranging from "definitely true" to "definitely false." In 1991, the response categories were changed to "true" or "false." "Don't know" also remained an acceptable response in the 1991 questionnaire. This decrease in categories may have accounted for the change in proportions with correct responses from 1990.

Ninety-five percent of adults knew that AIDS is transmissible through sexual intercourse, 94 percent believed a pregnant woman infected

with AIDS can give it to her baby, 92 percent knew there is no cure for AIDS at present, 85 percent knew AIDS reduces the body's natural protection against disease, and 81 percent knew it is an infectious disease caused by a virus. Persons who commonly answered incorrectly included those 50 years old and over and those with 12 or fewer years of education. However, more individuals answered "don't know" than provided the incorrect true-false response.

Correct responses to other AIDS-knowledge questions were lower. Eighty percent of adults knew that a person who has the AIDS virus can look and feel healthy, but 78 percent knew that a person can be infected with HIV and not have the disease AIDS. Sixty-seven percent of adults were aware of the availability of drugs that can lengthen the life of a person infected with AIDS. For these items, the proportion with the correct response was 4–5 percentage points higher in the fourth quarter of 1991 than in previous quarters.

Also in 1991, more than half of all adults knew that early treatment of HIV can reduce symptoms in an infected person and that AIDS can damage the brain. As before, knowledge levels were lower for older individuals and those with less education.

Misconceptions about HIV transmission

The NHIS AIDS supplement provides information on respondents' perceptions of the likelihood of HIV transmission associated with several forms of contact. There were five response categories, which ranged from "very likely" to "definitely not possible." The proportion of adults who believed the various modes of transmission were "very unlikely" and "definitely not possible" remained stable throughout 1991 but for most were slightly higher than in 1990. For these two response categories, the highest percentages were reported for questions that assessed transmission by working near someone with AIDS, attending school with a child who has

AIDS, using public toilets, eating in a restaurant where the cook has AIDS, and being coughed or sneezed on.

Although general knowledge levels about AIDS were high, perceived likelihood of transmission persisted for questions evaluating transmission through casual contact with a health care worker (27 percent reported "very likely," and 33 percent reported "somewhat likely"); by sharing plates, forks, or glasses (10 and 18 percent); and through mosquitoes or other insects (9 and 16 percent). As with previous reports, younger persons, those with more education, and white adults were more likely to view these modes as unlikely or impossible factors in HIV transmission.

Blood donation and blood screening

Patterns of past blood donation were similar in 1991 to those seen in previous years. Overall, 42 percent of adults reported ever having donated blood; 18 percent had donated since March 1985 (when routine screening of donated blood for HIV began); and 6 percent had donated in the past year. In general, men were more likely to have donated than women, and donations increased with years of education.

In 1991, 60 percent of adults knew that a person could not get HIV while donating blood for use by others; 30 percent believed that they could; and 10 percent did not know. Misconceptions about transmission of HIV by donating blood were higher among black adults (43 percent believed that AIDS could be transmitted this way, compared with 27 percent of white adults), and those with less than 12 years of education (38 percent, compared with 24 percent of those with more than 12 years of schooling). It should be noted that the data did not distinguish between a respondent who believed that such transmission was likely and one who thought it was just a theoretical possibility if standard blood bank practices were not followed. Also, despite attempts to

make the wording clear, some respondents may still have mistakenly believed that the question referred to getting HIV from *receiving* blood. Further refinement of this question may help clarify the responses being elicited.

Seventy-six percent of adults in 1991 believed that blood donations were routinely tested for the AIDS virus. This figure remained stable throughout 1991, but it was higher than that reported in the last quarter of 1990 (68 percent). Also, 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 have been due in part to the elimination in 1991 of the question sequence that first asked if persons were aware of the blood test to detect HIV infection and then proceeded to other questions related to HIV testing.

HIV antibody testing

Considering HIV testing done for all reasons (including blood donation), an estimated 29 percent of adults in the United States reported having been tested for antibodies to HIV. In 1991, the percent of adults ever tested for HIV—apart from blood donation—was 15 percent, up slightly from 11 percent in the last quarter of 1990. In the remainder of this report, all reference to HIV testing is restricted to testing for reasons other than blood donation.

In 1991, the NHIS asked those adults who had not been tested for HIV why they had not. The most common response, given by 84 percent of those never tested, 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 fear of needles (1 percent), chose another unspecified reason

(6 percent), or said they did not know why they had not been tested (9 percent). These figures remained essentially the same through all of 1991.

For those who had ever been tested, about two-thirds had been tested once, and one-third had been tested more than once. This pattern was similar in all subgroups examined. About one-half of those who had been tested had had the test in the 12 months before the interview.

The reported reasons for HIV antibody testing were similar in 1991 to those reported in 1990. Twenty-five percent of those tested did so solely to find out if they were infected. Another 6 percent cited referral by their doctor, the health department, or their sex partner. Fourteen percent had been tested in preparation for hospitalization or a surgical procedure, 14 percent to apply for health or life insurance, and 7 percent each for military induction or service and for employment. Although immigration was mentioned by only 6 percent of all adults tested, it was the reason most commonly cited by Hispanic persons (31 percent). As in 1990, most of those in 1991 who reported being tested had had their last test at their doctor's office or health maintenance organization (HMO) (30 percent); at a hospital, emergency room, or outpatient clinic (25 percent); or at a community health clinic (7 percent).

As in the past, about three-quarters (79 percent) of those tested received their results. This figure decreased with age and was higher among Hispanic adults who were tested than among black or white adults who were tested (85 percent compared with 81 and 78 percent, respectively). In 1991, 60 percent of those who were tested received their results in person. This figure showed a slight decrease in the second half of 1991 from the first half (62 percent compared with 57 percent). In 1991, almost all adults tested said they felt their results were accurate (99 percent) and that their results

were handled properly in terms of confidentiality (95 percent).

The proportion who indicated intention to be tested in the next year was 9 percent, similar to that reported previously. The figure was highest among black adults (21 percent). Of those who planned to be tested, most (67 percent) said they would be tested voluntarily because they wanted to know if they were infected. The proportion of those planning testing who mentioned this as a reason increased slightly from 65 percent in the first quarter of 1991 to 71 percent in the last quarter. In addition to this reason, another 19 percent said they would be tested as part of a blood donation, and 8 percent each indicated it would be to apply for a job or for insurance (health or life). The percentages for the places where respondents said they would go to have their blood tested were similar to those for places cited by those already tested.

Seventy-four percent of adults recognized that “after a person is infected with the AIDS virus, there can be a period of time before the [blood] test shows the infection”; 23 percent responded “don’t know” to this statement. The proportion with the correct response to this item increased slightly in 1991 (70 percent correct in the first quarter compared with 76 percent in the last quarter). Persons less likely to be aware of this fact included those with less than 12 years of education (55 percent correct), Hispanic adults (61 percent correct), and those 50 years and over (64 percent correct).

Awareness about zidovudine

A new question was added to the 1991 NHIS AIDS supplement to assess an individual's awareness of zidovudine (also known as AZT or azidothymidine and by the brand name “Retrovir”). AZT was the first antiviral drug approved for use in the treatment of HIV. More than one-half of all adults reported that they had heard of this drug. A notable increase in awareness occurred from the third to fourth

quarter of 1991 (50 to 55 percent). Persons between the ages of 30 and 49 (59 percent), and those having higher levels of education were more familiar with the drug (24 percent for adults with less than 12 years of education compared with 69 percent for those with more than 12 years of education). Hispanic adults were less aware of AZT than white or black adults (32 percent compared with 55 and 43 percent, respectively).

Among persons who had heard of AZT, 89 percent were aware that AZT does not cure people with AIDS, 81 percent knew it can delay or slow down the symptoms of HIV infection, and 59 percent knew of the drug's side effects. Thirty-four percent knew AZT is only appropriate for an HIV-infected individual at certain times during the illness. Proportionately more people answered "don't know" to this question (55 percent), as opposed to those giving the incorrect response (11 percent). Half of the adults surveyed knew there are other drugs available to treat AIDS-related illnesses. Between the third and fourth quarters, this percentage rose five points (from 49 to 54 percent). However, 35 percent answered "don't know," and 14 percent did not believe other drugs existed. Slight percentage fluctuations across all sociodemographic groups indicated no specific pattern for those who answered "don't know" as opposed to the correct response. For each question, more people answered "don't know" rather than giving the incorrect response.

Perceptions about condom use

As in previous years, the 1991 NHIS asked respondents to evaluate the efficacy of condom use as a means of preventing sexual transmission of HIV. Overall, since 1990, the percentages responding "very effective" and "don't know" increased (25 and 15 percent in 1990 compared with 28 and 17 percent in 1991, respectively), and those who answered "somewhat effective"

decreased from 53 percent in 1990 to 49 percent in 1991.

The proportions of individuals who answered "very effective" stayed consistently below one-third throughout 1991. For the adults who believed condom use to be "somewhat effective" in preventing HIV infection, there was a 2-percent increase between the third and fourth quarters of 1991 (49 to 51 percent). Persons least likely to believe in the efficacy of condoms were females, black adults, those of Hispanic descent, and those with less than 12 years of education (19, 22, 21, and 32 percent, respectively).

Two new questions in the 1991 AIDS supplement gauged knowledge of correct condom use. These questions evaluated respondents' ability to distinguish the relative effectiveness of latex versus natural-membrane condoms and whether they knew the dangers of using oil-based lubricants with latex condoms. For both of these questions, more people chose "don't know" than the correct response.

Although 77 percent of adults considered condom use at least somewhat effective in preventing HIV infection, 61 percent of adults did not know if there was a difference between the effectiveness of latex and natural-membrane condoms. Nineteen percent recognized that there was a difference, and 18 percent felt there was no difference in effectiveness between the two types of condoms. Persons 30–49, white persons, and those with more than 12 years of education were more likely to provide the correct response; however, even in these groups more than half responded "don't know." Similarly, only 27 percent knew that oil-based lubricants cause latex condoms to break, and 65 percent were unsure of this effect. Six percent called the statement "false." Males and younger individuals were more likely to give the correct answer (31 and 36 percent, respectively). Correct responses increased with years of education—16 percent for those with less than 12 years of education up to 34 percent for those with more than

12 years of education. Those more likely to respond "don't know" included females (70 percent), those 50 years of age and over (76 percent), individuals of Hispanic descent (67 percent), and persons with less than 12 years of education (73 percent).

Risk of HIV infection

In 1991, 80 percent of adults felt they had no chance of being infected with HIV, and 72 percent said they had no chance of getting it in the future. Black adults were somewhat less likely than white or Hispanic persons to rate their chances of having or getting HIV as "none." Also, those 18–29 years of age were less likely than older persons to feel they had no chance of being or becoming infected. Only 1–2 percent of adults felt their chances of having or getting HIV were "high" or "medium" (these proportions varied little among the sociodemographic groups). As in the past, only a small proportion of adults (3 percent) reported being in any of the behavior categories associated with an increased risk of HIV infection.

Knowing someone with AIDS

In the past, the NHIS AIDS survey has asked respondents if they had ever personally known someone with HIV infection or AIDS. In 1991, the distinction was made between having a co-worker with HIV or AIDS 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 with years of education, from 2 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 and was higher for those 30–49 years of age than for younger or older persons. For both situations, the proportion who said they personally knew someone with AIDS was stable throughout 1991.

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Symbols

- - - Data not available
 - . . . Category not applicable
 - Quantity zero
 - 0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.5
 - Z Quantity more than zero but less than 500 where numbers are rounded to thousands
 - * Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (estimate is based on fewer than 20 births in numerator or denominator)
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Table 1. 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, 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		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
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	32	34	20	28	29	29	26	28	15	24	39
	Some	44	50	47	37	44	45	46	38	38	31	48	47
	A little	19	16	15	27	21	18	18	23	23	31	22	12
	Nothing	8	3	3	17	8	7	6	13	11	23	5	2
	Don't know	0	0	0	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	80	82	82	77	81	80	81	83	74	72	82	83
	No	18	17	16	20	17	18	17	16	25	25	16	16
	Don't know	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	3	2	2
2b.	Heard any public service announcements about AIDS on the radio?												
	Yes	45	53	49	33	50	40	43	52	50	34	45	50
	No	52	45	48	63	48	57	54	46	47	63	52	47
	Don't know	3	2	3	4	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3
2c.	Seen any public service posters in airports about AIDS?												
	Yes	9	11	10	6	10	8	8	12	13	6	7	12
	No	89	87	88	91	88	91	90	87	83	92	91	86
	Don't know	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	1	2
3.	In the past month, have you received information about AIDS from any of these sources? ¹												
	Television programs	73	74	75	72	75	72	74	75	71	68	75	75
	Radio programs	35	41	39	26	40	31	34	41	41	27	35	39
	Magazine articles	40	43	43	34	38	42	41	38	37	24	39	49
	Newspaper articles	47	41	50	49	49	46	49	42	42	33	46	56
	Street signs/billboards	16	22	17	9	18	13	15	20	18	9	14	20
	Store displays/store-distributed brochures	7	9	7	4	8	6	6	10	10	5	7	8
	Bus/streetcar/subway displays	6	10	6	3	7	5	5	13	9	4	5	8
	Health department brochures	13	19	14	8	12	15	12	19	18	10	13	15
	Workplace-distributed brochures	10	10	14	5	11	10	9	15	10	4	9	14
	School-distributed brochures	7	14	8	2	7	8	6	10	10	5	6	9
	Church-distributed brochures	4	3	4	3	3	4	3	6	6	3	4	4
	Community organization	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	6	5	2	3	5
	Friend/acquaintance	8	11	9	5	8	8	7	11	10	6	8	9
	AIDS hotline	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
	Other	3	3	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	4
	Don't know	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
	Received no AIDS information in past month	14	13	12	17	14	14	14	14	16	22	14	10
4.	Have you heard the AIDS virus called by the name "HIV"?												
	Yes	86	91	91	78	86	86	89	85	72	67	88	94
	No	12	9	8	19	12	12	10	12	24	28	10	5
	Don't know	2	1	1	4	2	2	1	3	3	5	1	1
5.	Tell me whether you think the following statements are true or false or if you don't know if they are true or false.												
5a.	AIDS can reduce the body's natural protection against disease.												
	True	85	88	91	76	87	84	88	73	77	65	86	95
	False	4	4	3	5	3	4	3	8	4	6	4	2
	Don't know	11	8	6	19	10	12	9	19	19	28	10	3
5b.	AIDS can damage the brain.												
	True	55	46	56	60	56	54	54	60	58	55	55	54
	False	16	26	18	8	17	16	17	12	15	8	16	21
	Don't know	29	28	26	32	27	30	29	28	26	36	29	25
5c.	AIDS is an infectious disease caused by a virus.												
	True	81	88	86	70	83	79	81	82	79	68	81	88
	False	6	5	6	7	5	7	6	5	4	5	7	5
	Don't know	13	8	8	24	12	14	13	14	16	27	13	7
5d.	A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.												
	True	78	81	85	69	78	78	81	72	68	59	79	88
	False	6	9	6	5	7	6	5	9	9	8	7	5
	Don't know	15	10	9	26	15	16	13	19	23	33	14	7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. 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, 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	Age			Sex		Race or ethnicity			Education			
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Non-Hispanic			Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years	
							White	Black	Hispanic				
Percent distribution													
5e. ANY person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else through sexual intercourse.													
True	95	97	97	92	95	95	96	94	94	90	96	97	
False	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Don't know.	4	2	2	7	4	4	3	5	5	10	3	2	
5f. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give it to her baby.													
True	94	96	96	90	93	95	95	93	93	87	95	97	
False	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	
Don't know.	6	4	3	10	6	5	5	6	6	12	5	3	
5g. A person who has the AIDS virus can look and feel well and healthy.													
True	80	85	86	69	81	79	83	75	68	60	80	90	
False	8	7	6	10	7	8	6	10	13	12	9	4	
Don't know.	12	8	8	21	12	13	11	15	19	28	12	5	
5h. There are drugs available which can lengthen the life of a person infected with the AIDS virus.													
True	67	66	72	62	68	66	70	58	58	50	65	77	
False	9	12	9	8	10	9	8	14	11	10	11	8	
Don't know.	24	23	19	31	22	25	22	27	31	40	24	15	
5i. Early treatment of the AIDS virus infection can reduce symptoms in an infected person.													
True	56	56	61	49	57	54	57	50	51	40	54	65	
False	12	14	12	10	12	11	11	15	11	11	13	11	
Don't know.	33	31	27	41	31	34	32	35	38	49	34	24	
5j. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.													
True	4	4	3	4	4	3	2	7	7	6	3	2	
False	82	85	88	72	84	80	85	72	71	64	83	90	
Don't know.	15	11	9	24	13	17	12	21	22	30	14	8	
5k. There is no cure for AIDS at present.													
True	92	94	95	88	93	92	94	89	85	82	94	97	
False	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	2	1	
Don't know.	5	4	3	9	5	6	4	8	11	14	4	2	
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	2	2	3	2	2	2	4	4	4	2	1	
Somewhat likely	5	4	5	5	5	5	4	6	6	6	5	4	
Somewhat unlikely	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	8	7	7	5	
Very unlikely	41	41	42	41	43	40	43	39	32	36	42	44	
Definitely not possible	39	45	42	32	38	40	40	35	42	31	39	44	
Don't know.	6	3	3	12	6	7	5	9	9	16	5	2	
6b. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has the AIDS virus?													
Very likely	6	5	6	8	6	6	5	10	7	9	7	4	
Somewhat likely	16	16	16	17	17	16	16	18	16	18	18	14	
Somewhat unlikely	12	15	12	10	12	12	12	11	13	10	12	13	
Very unlikely	35	36	37	30	36	33	36	31	27	25	33	41	
Definitely not possible	20	22	22	17	20	20	20	17	23	15	19	24	
Don't know.	10	6	7	18	9	11	10	13	13	22	10	5	
6c. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has the AIDS virus?													
Very likely	10	7	10	12	10	10	9	13	10	13	12	7	
Somewhat likely	18	16	18	20	18	18	18	20	17	20	19	16	
Somewhat unlikely	12	12	13	10	12	11	12	10	11	9	12	13	
Very unlikely	31	34	33	27	31	31	32	29	26	24	30	36	
Definitely not possible	19	25	20	14	19	20	19	16	23	15	19	22	
Don't know.	10	5	7	17	9	10	9	12	12	20	9	5	
6d. Using public toilets?													
Very likely	6	5	5	7	5	6	5	9	8	10	6	3	
Somewhat likely	11	10	9	13	11	11	10	13	12	14	12	8	
Somewhat unlikely	10	11	10	9	10	10	10	10	11	8	11	11	
Very unlikely	36	36	39	33	37	35	38	33	30	28	35	41	
Definitely not possible	28	33	31	21	29	28	29	23	28	20	28	33	
Don't know.	9	5	5	16	8	10	8	12	11	19	8	4	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. 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, 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
Percent distribution													
6e.	Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has the AIDS virus?												
	Very likely	95	97	97	91	95	95	96	92	94	89	96	97
	Somewhat likely	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	1	2	2	1
	Somewhat unlikely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Very unlikely	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
	Definitely not possible	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Don't know	3	1	1	6	2	3	2	4	4	8	2	1
6f.	Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has the AIDS virus?												
	Very likely	9	6	8	12	8	9	8	12	11	13	10	6
	Somewhat likely	18	15	18	20	18	18	18	18	17	19	19	16
	Somewhat unlikely	13	14	14	11	14	13	13	11	13	9	13	15
	Very unlikely	31	36	33	26	32	31	33	28	26	23	30	37
	Definitely not possible	17	23	18	11	17	17	17	15	19	13	17	19
	Don't know	11	7	8	19	10	12	11	14	14	22	11	6
6g.	Attending school with a child who has the AIDS virus?												
	Very likely	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	3	3	3	2	1
	Somewhat likely	4	3	4	5	5	4	4	6	5	6	5	3
	Somewhat unlikely	7	6	7	7	7	7	6	8	7	6	7	6
	Very unlikely	41	40	42	40	42	40	43	37	31	34	41	44
	Definitely not possible	39	47	41	31	38	40	39	35	45	32	39	43
	Don't know	7	3	4	14	7	7	6	10	10	18	6	3
6h.	Mosquitoes or other insects?												
	Very likely	9	9	9	9	10	9	8	14	13	13	10	6
	Somewhat likely	16	18	16	15	17	15	15	20	18	17	17	14
	Somewhat unlikely	8	10	9	6	8	8	8	7	8	6	8	9
	Very unlikely	25	25	27	23	26	24	26	21	19	17	24	30
	Definitely not possible	22	22	24	19	21	22	23	16	21	15	20	26
	Don't know	21	16	16	29	18	22	20	22	22	31	21	15
6i.	Being cared for by a nurse, doctor, dentist, or other health care worker who has the AIDS virus?												
	Very likely	27	22	25	32	25	28	25	35	29	34	31	20
	Somewhat likely	33	33	35	32	33	33	35	29	29	27	35	35
	Somewhat unlikely	13	16	14	10	14	12	14	9	10	8	11	17
	Very unlikely	15	18	17	12	17	14	16	12	13	11	13	20
	Definitely not possible	4	6	4	2	4	4	3	5	8	5	4	4
	Don't know	7	5	5	12	7	8	6	11	12	16	6	4
7.	Can a person get AIDS or the AIDS virus infection while giving or donating blood for use by others?												
	Yes	30	31	29	30	31	28	27	43	37	38	32	24
	No	60	61	65	55	60	61	65	44	49	41	59	71
	Don't know	10	7	6	16	9	11	9	13	14	21	9	5
10.	Have you ever discussed AIDS with any of your children 10-17 years of age? ²												
	Yes	69	55	70	60	57	79	70	70	61	56	67	75
	No	31	41	30	37	42	20	29	29	39	43	32	25
	Don't know	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	-	-	0	0
11.	Have any or all of your children 10-17 years of age had instruction at school about AIDS? ²												
	Yes	74	53	75	75	70	77	74	77	73	69	72	77
	No	9	16	9	5	7	10	9	6	11	8	9	9
	Don't know	17	27	16	17	22	12	17	16	16	21	18	14
12.	Have you ever given or donated blood?												
	Yes	42	35	45	44	53	32	45	35	27	28	39	51
	No	58	65	54	56	47	67	54	65	73	71	60	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	18	26	22	8	22	15	20	14	13	7	17	26
	No	81	73	77	91	77	84	80	85	86	93	83	74
	Don't know	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
13b.	Have you donated blood in the past 12 months?												
	Yes	6	9	8	3	8	5	7	4	4	2	6	9
	No	93	91	91	96	92	94	92	96	96	97	94	90
	Don't know	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. 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, 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	Percent distribution											
	Age				Sex		Race or ethnicity			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?												
Once	3	5	4	1	4	3	4	2	2	1	3	5
Twice	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	2
Three times or more	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	2
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	—
Did not donate blood in past 12 months ³	94	92	92	97	92	95	93	96	96	98	94	91
15. To the best of your knowledge, are blood donations routinely tested for the AIDS virus infection?												
Yes	76	80	82	67	76	76	79	67	64	59	77	84
No	8	7	7	9	8	8	7	13	11	11	9	6
Don't know	16	13	11	24	16	16	14	20	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	3	4	2	2	4	2	2	6	5	8	3	2
No	90	88	91	93	89	91	91	85	87	83	90	91
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	15	22	17	6	17	13	13	21	24	13	13	17
No	79	74	78	86	77	81	82	73	70	80	81	78
Don't know	6	4	5	8	6	5	6	6	6	7	6	5
17b. Why haven't you been tested? ^{1,5}												
Don't consider myself at risk of AIDS	84	77	84	87	83	84	85	76	79	79	83	86
Don't believe anything can be done if I am positive	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Don't like needles	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	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	0	0
Don't trust medical clinics/hospitals to keep test results confidential	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Already know whether I have the AIDS virus infection	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know where to go for a test	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	0
Other	7	9	7	6	7	7	7	8	9	7	7	7
Don't know	8	12	8	6	9	8	7	12	10	11	9	5
18. How many times have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection, not including blood donations?												
Once	10	14	12	4	10	9	8	12	18	9	9	11
Twice	3	4	3	1	3	2	2	5	4	2	2	3
Three times or more	2	3	2	1	3	1	2	3	2	1	2	2
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Never had test ⁶	86	78	83	94	84	87	88	79	76	87	87	84
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	3	8	6	6	8	13	6	6	8
Once	6	10	7	3	7	6	5	10	9	5	6	7
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	0
Never had test ⁶	86	78	83	94	84	87	88	79	76	87	87	83
20. Did you have any of the AIDS blood tests: ^{1,7}												
For hospitalization or a surgical procedure?	14	12	14	21	10	19	14	16	13	19	15	12
To apply for health insurance?	4	2	5	3	4	3	5	2	1	1	3	5
To apply for life insurance?	10	5	13	8	12	6	12	5	5	2	6	15
For employment?	7	8	7	5	8	6	6	11	6	5	8	7
To apply for a marriage license?	5	6	4	1	5	4	6	2	3	3	5	5
For military induction or military service?	7	12	5	2	12	2	8	7	4	2	9	8
For immigration?	6	7	6	4	7	6	1	2	31	18	3	4
Just to find out if you were infected?	25	27	24	23	25	26	24	36	23	26	26	24
Because of referral by the doctor?	4	4	4	4	3	5	4	5	3	4	5	3
Because of referral by the Health Department?	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
Referred by your sex partner?	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
Other	20	20	19	21	16	24	21	18	15	19	20	20
Don't know	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. 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, 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	Age			Sex		Race or ethnicity			Education			
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Non-Hispanic		Hispanic	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years	
							White	Black					
Percent distribution													
21. When was your last AIDS blood test for the AIDS virus infection not including blood donation? ⁷													
1991	25	27	23	26	26	24	24	33	20	22	24	26	
1990	29	31	29	26	28	31	29	32	26	28	30	29	
1989	16	17	18	12	17	16	17	13	19	14	17	17	
1988	10	11	10	8	10	10	10	6	14	13	10	9	
1987	5	4	7	4	5	5	5	4	9	7	5	5	
1986	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	
1985	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	
Don't know	6	4	6	8	6	5	5	7	6	8	6	4	
22. Did you have your last AIDS blood test— ^{1,7}													
For hospitalization or a surgical procedure?	14	11	13	22	10	18	14	16	11	18	14	11	
To apply for health insurance?	3	2	5	2	4	3	4	2	2	1	3	5	
To apply for life insurance?	9	5	13	8	12	6	12	4	5	1	6	15	
For employment?	7	7	7	5	8	5	6	11	6	5	8	7	
To apply for a marriage license?	4	5	4	1	4	3	5	2	2	3	4	4	
For military induction or military service?	7	11	5	2	12	2	8	7	3	2	9	8	
For immigration?	6	7	6	4	6	6	1	2	31	18	3	4	
Just to find out if you were infected?	25	27	24	23	24	26	23	36	22	26	26	23	
Because of referral by the doctor?	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	5	3	5	4	3	
Because of referral by the Health Department?	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	
Referred by your sex partner?	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	
Other	20	21	19	24	17	25	22	18	16	20	22	20	
Don't know	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
23. Not including a blood donation, where did you have your last blood test for the AIDS virus? ⁷													
AIDS clinic/counseling/testing site	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	
Community health clinic	7	10	6	4	7	8	6	12	11	10	8	6	
Clinic run by employer	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	1	2	3	
Doctor/HMO	30	29	30	35	28	33	30	26	33	29	30	30	
Hospital/emergency room/outpatient clinic	25	23	24	32	20	30	24	31	19	31	26	21	
STD clinic	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Family planning clinic	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	
Prenatal clinic	0	1	0	—	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	
Tuberculosis clinic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Public clinic	3	4	3	1	3	3	2	4	5	6	3	2	
Other clinic	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	
Drug treatment facility	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Military induction/service site	7	11	6	3	11	2	8	7	3	2	9	7	
Immigration site	2	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	8	5	1	1	
Other	11	10	13	9	14	9	13	8	7	5	10	15	
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
25. Did you get the results of your last test? ⁷													
Yes	79	83	79	72	78	81	78	81	85	82	79	78	
No	20	17	21	27	22	18	21	18	14	17	21	21	
Don't know	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	
26. Was this because you decided you didn't want the results or was it because you were unable to get the results? ⁸													
Didn't want	9	9	9	11	10	9	9	13	11	9	11	8	
Unable to get	21	26	20	15	24	17	19	21	32	27	19	20	
Both	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	3	0	1	
Other	53	51	56	51	50	59	56	44	43	36	53	59	
Don't know	13	11	12	20	14	13	13	17	10	24	15	9	
28. Were the results given in person, by telephone, by mail, or in some other way? ⁹													
In person	60	63	56	65	58	62	54	70	75	76	61	53	
By telephone	17	15	19	16	15	19	20	12	8	13	17	18	
By mail	15	16	15	13	18	12	16	13	13	9	15	18	
Other	8	7	9	6	9	7	9	4	4	2	7	10	
Don't know	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29. Do you believe the results of your last test were accurate? ⁹													
Yes	99	99	99	98	98	99	99	98	98	98	99	99	
No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. 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, 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	Age			Sex		Race or ethnicity			Education			
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Non-Hispanic		Hispanic	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years	
							White	Black					
Percent distribution													
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	95	94	96	94	95	94	97	92	94	95	95	
No	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	1	3	2	2	3	
Don't know.	3	2	4	2	3	2	3	1	5	4	2	3	
31. Do you expect to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection in the next 12 months?													
Yes	9	15	9	4	10	7	7	21	15	8	9	9	
No	84	75	84	90	82	85	88	66	74	81	84	85	
Don't know.	7	9	7	6	7	7	6	13	11	11	7	6	
32. Tell me if each of these statements explains why you expect to have the blood test in the next 12 months. ¹⁰													
Because it will be part of a blood donation	19	18	20	18	22	15	24	10	15	11	20	21	
Because it will be part of hospitalization or surgery you expect to have.	6	6	6	10	5	8	6	7	6	9	7	5	
Because you expect to apply for life or health insurance.	8	9	7	4	9	6	8	7	7	5	8	9	
Because you expect to apply for a job.	8	10	7	2	9	6	6	10	8	7	9	7	
Because you expect to join the military	3	5	2	—	5	1	3	4	2	3	3	3	
Because you expect to apply for a marriage license.	7	12	5	1	8	6	7	8	8	3	8	8	
Because you want to know the results.	67	74	62	59	64	71	59	77	78	79	66	61	
Because it will be a required part of some other activity that includes automatic AIDS testing	21	18	23	25	23	19	21	22	19	17	21	23	
33. Where will you go to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection? ¹⁰													
AIDS clinic/counseling/testing site	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	
Community health clinic.	10	12	9	7	10	10	8	13	14	15	11	8	
Clinic run by employer	3	2	4	2	4	2	3	2	5	2	3	3	
Doctor/HMO	39	37	39	46	36	43	41	38	33	35	40	40	
Hospital/emergency room/outpatient clinic	17	18	16	21	16	19	14	23	19	22	18	14	
STD clinic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	
Family planning clinic	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	
Prenatal clinic	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	—	0	—	
Tuberculosis clinic	0	0	—	—	0	—	—	0	—	—	0	—	
Public clinic	3	4	3	2	3	4	3	5	4	6	3	3	
Other clinic.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	2	2	
Drug treatment facility	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Military induction/service site.	4	5	5	2	7	2	5	5	1	1	4	6	
Immigration site.	0	0	—	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	0	
Other	2	1	2	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	
Don't know.	6	7	5	3	6	5	5	5	9	7	4	6	
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	73	72	77	69	74	72	75	68	61	58	73	80	
False	6	9	7	3	6	6	5	8	9	6	6	6	
Don't know.	21	19	16	28	20	22	19	24	30	36	21	14	
34b. After a person becomes infected with the AIDS virus, there can be a period of time before the test shows the infection.													
True	74	79	79	64	74	73	76	71	61	55	74	82	
False	3	4	3	2	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	
Don't know.	23	18	18	34	23	24	21	26	35	41	23	15	
37. Have you ever heard of a drug called AZT, also known as zidovudine or Retrovir?													
Yes	51	50	59	42	52	50	55	43	32	24	46	69	
No	45	47	38	53	45	46	42	53	62	70	50	29	
Don't know.	4	3	3	5	3	4	3	5	6	5	4	3	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. 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, 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	Percent distribution											
	Total	Age			Sex		Race or ethnicity			Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Non-Hispanic			Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
							White	Black	Hispanic			
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	81	82	83	76	81	80	81	75	78	71	77	85
False	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2
Don't know	17	16	15	22	16	18	17	21	19	26	20	14
38b. AZT cures people with AIDS.												
True	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	1
False	89	91	91	85	90	89	90	84	87	80	88	92
Don't know	9	7	7	14	9	10	9	13	11	17	11	7
38c. AZT has no known side effects.												
True	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	8	7	7	5	4
False	59	62	64	50	60	59	61	52	53	43	53	66
Don't know	36	33	32	45	35	37	35	39	41	50	41	30
38d. AZT is appropriate for a person with the AIDS virus infection only at certain times during the illness.												
True	34	38	36	25	34	33	33	36	37	27	29	37
False	11	11	12	10	12	11	11	13	13	11	12	11
Don't know	55	50	51	64	53	56	56	50	51	62	59	51
38e. There are other drugs available to treat AIDS-related illnesses.												
True	50	48	55	44	54	47	51	46	45	36	44	57
False	14	16	14	14	14	15	14	16	19	18	16	13
Don't know	35	36	31	41	32	38	35	37	37	46	40	30
39. Did you have a blood transfusion at any time between 1977 and 1985?												
Yes	5	2	4	7	5	5	5	5	3	6	5	4
No	94	97	95	91	94	94	94	94	96	93	94	95
Don't know	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
40. Do you have frequent blood transfusions because of sickle cell or chronic anemia?												
Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99	99	99	100	100
Don't know	0	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	34	31	19	32	24	28	29	27	19	26	33
Somewhat effective	49	51	52	43	48	50	51	41	41	37	51	53
Not at all effective	4	3	4	4	3	4	3	5	5	5	4	3
Don't know how effective	17	10	12	29	15	19	16	22	21	32	18	10
Don't know method	2	1	1	4	2	3	2	2	6	6	2	1
42. Tell me whether you think the following statements are true or false or whether you don't know if they are true or false.												
42a. Latex condoms and natural-membrane condoms are equally good at preventing transmission of the AIDS virus.												
True	18	25	19	11	21	14	17	23	19	15	19	18
False	19	24	24	11	22	17	21	14	14	8	16	28
Don't know	61	50	56	74	55	66	61	60	61	71	63	53
Don't know method	2	1	1	4	2	3	2	2	7	6	2	1
42b. Oil-based lubricants can cause latex condoms to break.												
True	27	36	30	15	31	22	27	27	20	16	24	34
False	6	7	6	4	7	4	5	8	6	5	6	6
Don't know	65	56	62	76	60	70	65	63	67	73	68	59
Don't know method	2	1	1	4	2	3	2	2	7	6	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	2	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	2	1	1
Low	17	24	18	10	18	15	17	18	12	10	15	21
None	80	72	78	87	78	81	80	73	81	83	81	77
Don't know	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	5	4	5	2	1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. 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, 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												
44. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?												
High	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Medium	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2
Low	23	30	26	14	25	21	24	23	18	13	21	30
None	72	63	69	81	69	74	72	67	74	79	74	66
Don't know	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	5	4	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 co-worker who had AIDS or the AIDS virus?												
Yes	4	4	6	3	4	5	4	5	5	2	3	7
No	87	88	85	89	86	88	88	84	84	90	89	84
Never worked, never had a co-worker	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	0
Don't know	7	7	8	7	9	6	7	10	8	6	7	9
46. Besides a co-worker, have you ever had a friend or relative who had AIDS or the AIDS virus?												
Yes	9	9	12	6	8	10	9	13	11	6	8	12
No	87	88	85	90	88	87	88	81	85	90	89	84
Don't know	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	6	4	4	3	3
47. Are any of these statements true for you?												
a. You have hemophilia or another clotting disorder and have received clotting factor concentrations since 1977.												
b. You are a man who has had sex with another man at some time since 1977, even 1 time.												
c. You have taken illegal drugs by needle at any time since 1977.												
d. You have had sex for money or drugs 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 (a–d)												
Yes to at least 1 statement	3	5	4	1	4	3	3	4	4	3	3	4
No to all statements	97	95	96	99	96	97	97	96	96	97	97	96
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

¹Multiple responses may add to more than 100.

²Based on persons answering "yes" to question 8, "Do you have any children aged 10 through 17?"

³Based on persons answering "no" or "don't know" to questions 12, 13a, or 13b.

⁴Based on persons answering "yes" to questions 13a and 15.

⁵Based on persons answering "no" to question 17a.

⁶Based on persons answering "no" or "don't know" to question 17a.

⁷Based on persons answering "yes" to question 17a.

⁸Based on persons answering "no" or "don't know" to question 25.

⁹Based on persons answering "yes" to question 25.

¹⁰Based on persons answering "yes" to question 31.

¹¹Based on persons answering "yes" to question 37.

NOTE: HMO is health maintenance organization. STD is sexually transmitted disease.

Technical Notes

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is a continuous, cross-sectional household interview survey. Each week, a probability sample of the civilian non-institutionalized 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. For the 1991 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes, one randomly chosen adult 18 years of age or over was interviewed in each family. The estimates in this report are based on completed interviews with 42,726 individuals. In 1991, the response rate to the basic NHIS core questionnaire was 96 percent; for the NHIS AIDS supplement, it was 90 percent. Therefore, the overall response rate to the 1991 AIDS survey was 86 percent.

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:

$$0.13 \times 94,638,000 \text{ women tested}$$

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 1990 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). A final data file covering the entire 1991 data collection period will be available at the end of 1992.

Table I. Sample sizes for 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.

Characteristic	Sample size	Estimated population in thousands
All adults	42,726	180,271
Age		
18–29 years	9,470	46,282
30–49 years	17,391	71,831
50 years and over	15,865	61,157
Sex		
Male	17,845	85,632
Female	24,881	94,638
Race and ethnicity		
Non-Hispanic:		
White	32,575	139,440
Black	5,608	19,585
Hispanic	3,079	14,118
Education		
Less than 12 years	9,081	36,782
12 years	15,712	72,418
More than 12 years	17,848	70,036

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, 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	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
10 or 90	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3
15 or 85	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3
20 or 80	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.4
25 or 75	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.4
30 or 70	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.4
35 or 65	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.5
40 or 60	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.8	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.5
45 or 55	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.5
50	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.5

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