



AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes for November 1987 **Provisional Data From the National Health Interview Survey**

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Introduction

The National Center for Health Statistics has introduced 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). This report presents provisional findings for November, the fourth month of data collection with the AIDS questionnaire. Data for August, September, and October 1987 have been published in *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics* Nos. 146, 148, and 150.

The *Advance Data* reports describing the NHIS AIDS data have been restricted to simple descriptive statistics in order to permit 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 AIDS data base will permit more complex analyses than those presented in this series of *Advance Data* reports, and such analyses currently are being undertaken by various groups in the Public Health Service.

The AIDS questionnaire was designed to provide baseline estimates of public knowledge and attitudes about AIDS transmission and prevention of AIDS virus infection and to measure changes in knowledge and attitudes over time. The data also were needed as input for the planning and development of AIDS educational campaigns and for evaluation of major educational efforts.

The AIDS questionnaire was 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 questionnaire includes items on self-assessment of knowledge about AIDS; sources of information about AIDS; knowledge about AIDS and AIDS-related risk factors, modes of transmission, and blood tests for the AIDS virus; plans to take such a test; recent experience with blood donation; self-assessment of chances of getting AIDS; personal knowledge of people with AIDS or the AIDS virus; and finally, willingness of respondents to take part in a proposed national seroprevalence study.

December 1987 was the last month in which AIDS data were collected using the questionnaire described in this report. In spring 1988, a new AIDS questionnaire will be included in the National Health Interview Survey. This revised questionnaire will modify some of the questions on sources of AIDS information, blood donation history, and blood testing. In summer 1988, the AIDS questionnaire will be modified again to include items designed to measure the impact of educational campaigns. Questions on risk behaviors may be included at that time.

This report presents provisional data for November 1987 for all AIDS questionnaire items. Table 1 displays percent distributions of persons 18 years of age and over by response categories according to age, sex, race, and education. In most cases, the actual question asked of the respondent is reproduced verbatim in table 1, along with the response categories. In a few cases, questions or response categories have been rephrased or combined. Refusals and other nonresponses are excluded from the denominator in the calculation of estimates, but responses of "don't know" are included.

Selected findings

The most notable changes between October and November 1987 were in the proportions of adults who reported having discussed AIDS with their children and who stated that their children had received AIDS education at school. Although the level of misinformation about the risk of AIDS virus transmission through casual contact remained high, the percents of adults who thought it very unlikely or definitely not possible to get AIDS or the AIDS virus through selected modes of casual contact continued to increase. The following highlights describe various aspects of AIDS knowledge and attitudes as observed in the November data from the NHIS AIDS survey. Unless otherwise noted, all differences cited in the text are statistically significant.

Awareness of AIDS—More than 99 percent of the adult population has heard of AIDS, and three-quarters of all adults last saw, heard, or read something about AIDS in the 3 days preceding the NHIS interview. These figures did not change between August and November 1987.

Self-perceived knowledge—There was virtually no change in the overall level of self-perceived knowledge about AIDS between August and November. In November, 21 percent of all adults stated that they know a lot about AIDS, 40 percent stated that they know some, 27 percent felt they know a little, and 11 percent claimed to know nothing about AIDS. The racial difference in self-perceived AIDS knowledge has increased over time. In August, 20 percent of white adults stated that they know a

lot about AIDS, compared to 18 percent of black adults. In November, the respective proportions were 22 percent and 14 percent. The proportions of adults who reported knowing nothing about AIDS were 9 percent for white adults and 17 percent for black adults in August; in November, the comparable proportions were 9 and 26 percent, respectively.

General knowledge—Following a number of statistically significant changes in the level of general knowledge about AIDS and the AIDS virus between August and September 1987, there were few changes between September and November. In November, more than 90 percent of all adults 18 years of age and over thought that it is definitely or probably true that AIDS leads to death, that there is no cure for AIDS at present, and that the AIDS virus can be transmitted via sexual intercourse and shared needles and from a pregnant woman to her baby. Almost as many adults, 89 percent, realized that AIDS cripples the body's natural protection against disease. Approximately three-fourths of all adults thought that it is definitely or probably true that AIDS is caused by a virus and that a person can be infected with the virus without having the disease AIDS. The proportion of adults thinking it definitely false that an AIDS vaccine is available to the public has increased steadily over time, from 65 percent in August to 69 percent in September, 71 percent in October, and 73 percent in November.

Transmission of the AIDS virus—As shown in figure 1, the proportions of adults who thought it very unlikely or definitely not possible to get AIDS or the AIDS virus

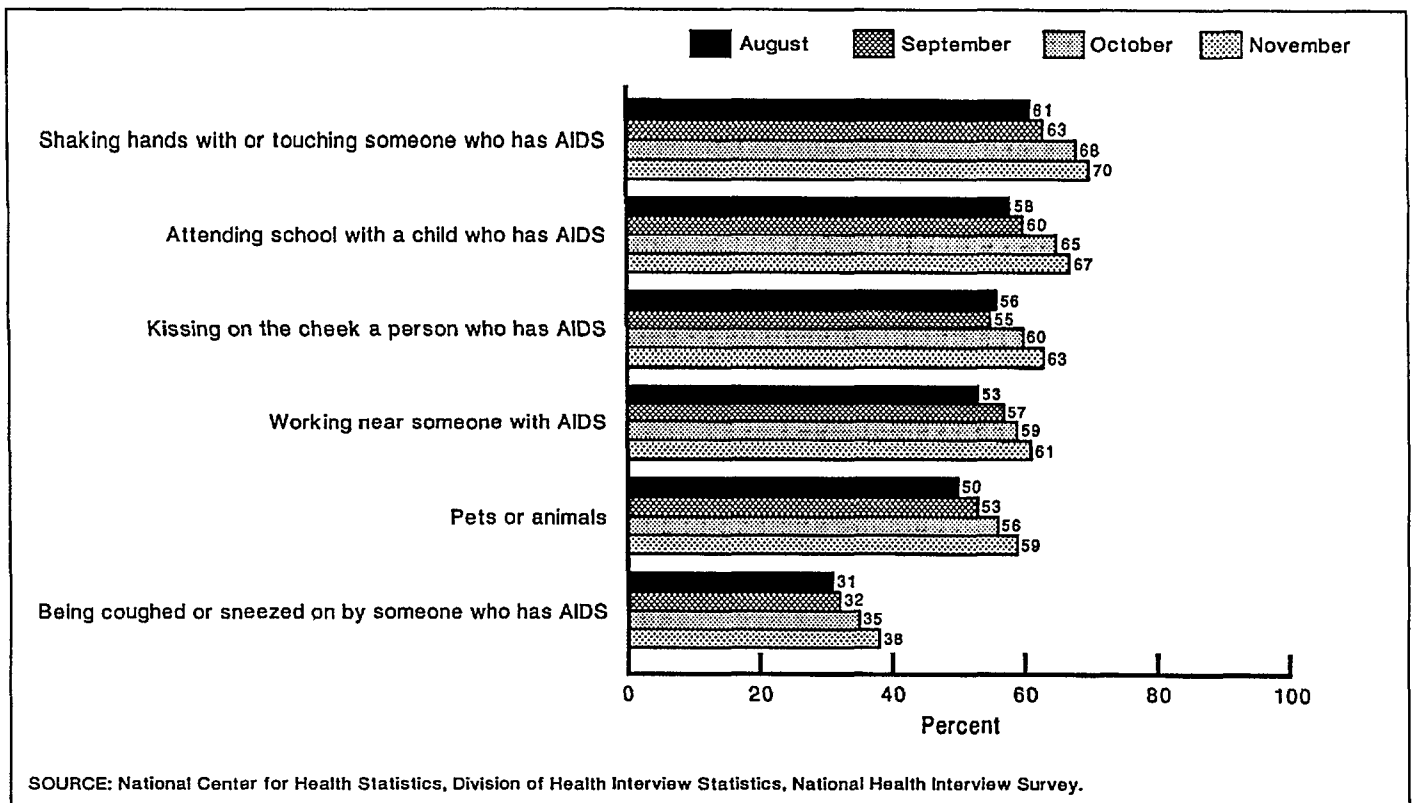


Figure 1. Provisional estimates of percent of adults who think it is very unlikely or definitely not possible to get AIDS or the AIDS virus infection from various conjectured modes of transmission: United States, August-November, 1987

through selected modes of casual contact continued to increase between October and November 1987. For the data shown in figure 1, all changes between October and November and between September and October are statistically significant; because of the relatively small sample size in August, not all of the changes between August and September are statistically significant.

In November, 70 percent of all adults realized that it is very unlikely or definitely not possible to get AIDS or the AIDS virus by shaking hands with or touching someone who has AIDS, up from 61 percent in August, 63 percent in September, and 68 percent in October. Similar levels of increase were observed for the other types of casual contact shown in figure 1. In preparing this figure, the categories "very unlikely" and "definitely not possible" were grouped for purposes of consistent presentation. Both responses are not necessarily correct for all items. For some forms of casual contact, many AIDS researchers would argue that the only correct response is "definitely not possible." The proportions of adults considering it definitely not possible to get AIDS or the AIDS virus through various forms of casual contact has increased steadily over time as well.

Blood test for the AIDS virus—Seventy-two percent of adults have heard of a blood test for infection with the AIDS virus. Over time, there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of adults who erroneously believe that the blood test results tell whether a person has the disease AIDS—from 41 percent in August to 38 percent in November. In November, only 5 percent of all adults reported having had their blood tested for the AIDS virus. An additional 2 percent stated that their blood had been tested in connection with blood donation or transfusion. Eleven percent of adults stated that they have thought about having the blood test, and 4 percent reported plans to have the test in the next 12 months—about the same proportions that have been observed since August 1987.

Risk of getting AIDS—There has been a slight but statistically significant increase over time in the proportion of adults who think that there is no chance of their getting the AIDS virus, from 60 percent in August and September to 62 percent in October and 63 percent in November. The increase was greatest among the most highly educated individuals. Among adults with more than 12 years of education, the proportion thinking that there is no chance that they will get the AIDS virus increased from 51 percent in August to 62 percent in November; for individuals with less than 12 years of education, the observed change was not statistically significant.

AIDS prevention—There was virtually no change between August and November 1987 in the proportions of adults who consider various methods effective in preventing transmission of the AIDS virus. In November, 90 percent of all adults thought that celibacy is very effective in

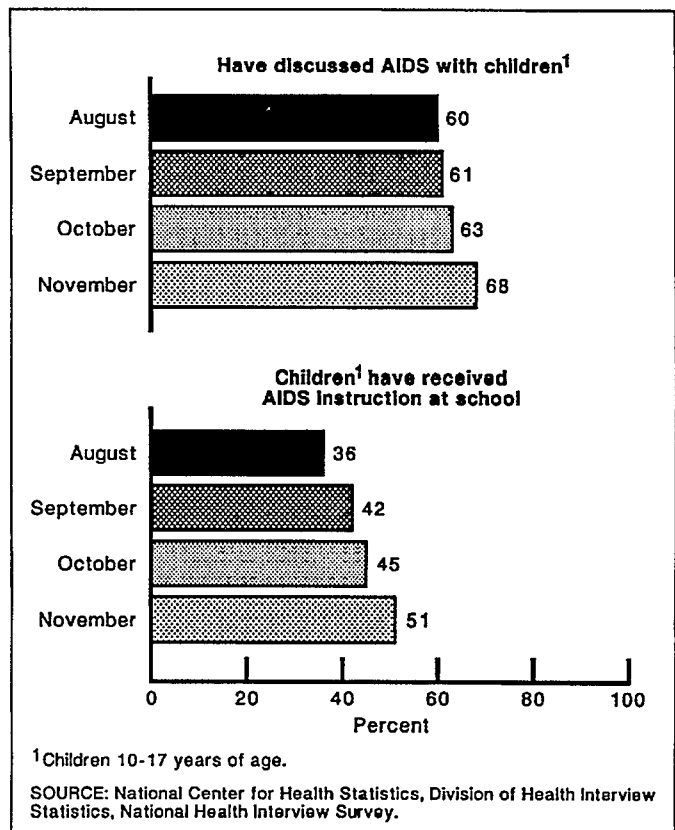


Figure 2. Provisional estimates of percent of adults with children 10-17 years of age who have discussed AIDS with their children and whose children have received AIDS instruction at school: United States, August-November, 1987

preventing AIDS virus transmission, and 85 percent considered it very effective to maintain a monogamous relationship with a person who does not have AIDS. Thirty-three percent of adults felt that using condoms is very effective in preventing transmission of the AIDS virus; 48 percent considered this method to be somewhat effective.

AIDS discussion and education—The proportion of adults who have discussed AIDS with their friends and relatives has remained fairly stable over time, but the percent who have discussed AIDS with their children has increased. In August, 60 percent of adults with children 10-17 years of age had discussed AIDS with those children; by November, the proportion had risen to 68 percent (figure 2). A large portion of the increase took place since October, when the proportion was 63 percent.

In August, 36 percent of adults with children 10-17 years of age reported that their children had received AIDS instruction in school. This proportion increased to 42 percent in September, 45 percent in October, and 51 percent in November. The proportion of adults who do not know if their children have received AIDS education in school has remained fairly stable since August, about one-third of the total.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, November 1987

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
Percent distribution ¹											
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1. Have you ever heard of AIDS? When was the last time you saw, heard, or read something about AIDS?											
0-3 days ago	75	66	76	79	76	74	76	69	70	73	79
4-7 days ago	15	19	14	12	14	15	14	16	13	15	15
8-14 days ago	3	6	3	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	2
15-31 days ago	4	5	4	2	3	4	4	5	4	4	3
More than 31 days ago	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	1
Never heard of AIDS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	4	5	2	1
2. Compared to most people, how much would you say you know about AIDS?											
A lot	21	23	25	15	21	22	22	14	8	16	34
Some	40	45	45	31	38	41	41	31	24	42	47
Little	27	28	25	30	29	26	27	29	35	33	17
Nothing	11	4	5	24	12	11	9	26	32	9	2
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
3a. AIDS is a disease caused by a virus.											
Definitely true	47	59	52	30	50	44	47	39	32	43	58
Probably true	26	23	26	28	26	25	26	22	24	28	25
Probably false	4	4	4	5	3	5	4	6	4	5	3
Definitely false	5	4	5	6	5	5	5	6	6	6	4
Don't know	18	10	13	31	16	20	17	27	34	18	10
3b. AIDS can cripple the body's natural protection against disease.											
Definitely true	72	76	80	59	72	71	74	55	48	72	85
Probably true	17	15	13	23	16	19	16	24	25	19	11
Probably false	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Definitely false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	9	7	6	15	10	9	8	19	25	7	2
3c. AIDS is especially common in older people.											
Definitely true	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0
Probably true	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Probably false	20	22	19	19	21	19	20	14	16	20	22
Definitely false	69	66	75	65	67	71	70	66	59	72	72
Don't know	9	10	5	14	11	8	8	16	22	7	5
3d. The AIDS virus can damage the brain.											
Definitely true	25	21	26	28	26	25	25	26	25	24	27
Probably true	31	33	30	31	30	32	31	36	27	34	30
Probably false	8	10	10	5	9	8	9	4	4	8	11
Definitely false	6	8	8	3	7	6	6	7	5	5	8
Don't know	29	28	26	33	29	29	29	27	39	29	24
3e. AIDS usually leads to heart disease.											
Definitely true	8	5	8	10	7	9	8	10	9	8	7
Probably true	22	22	21	22	22	21	21	23	19	23	21
Probably false	17	20	19	12	19	15	18	12	9	16	21
Definitely false	15	16	18	9	17	13	15	14	11	13	18
Don't know	39	36	34	47	36	42	39	41	52	40	32
3f. AIDS leads to death.											
Definitely true	92	92	94	88	90	94	92	88	88	93	93
Probably true	6	7	5	7	8	4	6	7	6	5	7
Probably false	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
Definitely false	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	-
Don't know	2	1	1	4	2	2	2	4	5	1	1
4a. Where do you get most of your information about AIDS? ²											
Television	84	85	82	85	82	85	84	86	88	87	79
Newspapers	57	48	61	59	61	53	59	42	41	55	67
Magazines	30	28	34	26	26	33	32	17	16	26	41
Radio	9	7	10	9	11	7	9	7	8	8	10
Relatives and friends	8	12	8	6	8	8	8	10	9	7	9
Brochures/fliers/pamphlets	8	10	9	4	6	9	7	9	5	7	10
Doctor/HMO/clinic	6	7	6	5	5	6	5	11	5	4	7
Other	15	20	19	7	14	16	14	18	8	9	24
Don't know	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
4b. Of the sources you just told me, from which one do you get the most information?											
Television	57	62	51	60	55	59	56	66	71	62	44
Newspapers	19	12	21	22	23	15	20	12	12	18	23
Magazines	9	9	12	7	7	11	10	3	5	7	14
Brochures/fliers/pamphlets	2	3	2	1	1	3	2	2	1	2	2
Doctor/HMO/clinic	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	5	3	2	2
Other	10	12	12	6	10	9	10	12	7	7	14
Don't know	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1

See footnotes at end of table.

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AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age			Sex		Race		Education			
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
5a. If you wanted more specific information about AIDS, where would you get it? ²	Percent distribution ¹										
Doctor/HMO/clinic	57	56	56	58	58	56	57	56	56	58	56
Public health department	18	17	21	15	18	18	18	19	12	15	25
Library	12	15	14	7	10	13	12	12	6	13	15
AIDS hot line	8	9	9	5	8	8	8	8	6	8	9
Other	26	29	31	19	27	25	26	27	22	25	30
Don't know	13	8	10	21	13	13	13	12	22	14	8
5b. Which one source would you most likely use?											
Doctor/HMO/clinic	46	46	43	50	47	46	46	48	48	48	42
Public health department	13	14	15	11	13	13	13	14	8	11	18
Library	7	9	9	4	6	8	7	6	4	7	9
AIDS hot line	6	7	7	4	6	6	6	6	5	6	6
Other	14	16	16	10	15	14	14	14	12	13	17
Don't know	13	8	10	21	13	13	13	12	22	14	8
6a. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.											
Definitely true	54	57	61	44	53	55	57	40	34	54	66
Probably true	24	22	23	27	26	23	24	26	23	26	22
Probably false	4	6	3	3	5	3	3	6	5	4	3
Definitely false	3	5	2	2	3	3	2	5	3	3	3
Don't know	15	10	10	24	14	16	14	23	34	13	7
6b. You can tell if people have the AIDS virus just by looking at them.											
Definitely true	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	2	1	1
Probably true	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	7	7	4	2
Probably false	15	18	14	15	18	13	15	14	16	16	14
Definitely false	69	71	77	60	67	71	71	57	51	70	79
Don't know	10	6	5	19	9	11	9	18	24	8	4
6c. Any person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else during sexual intercourse.											
Definitely true	79	83	81	75	76	82	79	79	73	83	80
Probably true	15	13	16	17	18	13	16	14	17	13	16
Probably false	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	—	1	0	1
Definitely false	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	—	0	0	1
Don't know	4	2	2	7	4	4	4	8	9	3	2
6d. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give AIDS to her baby.											
Definitely true	75	77	77	70	71	79	75	75	66	75	80
Probably true	19	19	18	20	21	16	19	18	21	19	17
Probably false	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	—	0	0	1
Definitely false	0	0	—	—	—	0	0	—	—	0	—
Don't know	6	3	4	10	7	5	6	8	12	6	2
6e. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.											
Definitely true	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	4	3	1	0
Probably true	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	7	5	3	1
Probably false	9	11	8	10	11	8	9	9	9	11	8
Definitely false	73	74	80	62	75	71	75	56	54	71	84
Don't know	14	11	9	23	11	16	12	25	28	14	6
6f. There is no cure for AIDS at present.											
Definitely true	86	88	89	80	84	87	87	77	75	85	93
Probably true	7	6	7	9	8	6	7	10	10	8	5
Probably false	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
Definitely false	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	1
Don't know	5	4	2	8	5	4	4	10	11	4	1
7. How likely do you think it is that a person will get the AIDS virus from—											
7a. Receiving a blood transfusion?											
Very likely	34	33	32	36	31	36	31	47	41	34	29
Somewhat likely	32	30	32	33	30	33	32	33	30	35	29
Somewhat unlikely	12	14	14	8	13	11	13	3	5	11	16
Very unlikely	17	19	18	13	19	14	18	5	9	14	23
Definitely not possible	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1
Don't know	5	3	2	8	5	5	4	9	12	4	1
7b. Donating or giving blood?											
Very likely	8	8	8	9	9	8	7	19	16	7	5
Somewhat likely	14	15	11	16	14	14	12	26	19	15	10
Somewhat unlikely	12	13	12	10	12	11	12	12	10	11	12
Very unlikely	35	35	38	30	36	34	37	23	21	37	40
Definitely not possible	24	25	27	21	23	25	27	10	16	24	30
Don't know	7	4	3	13	6	8	6	11	18	5	2

See footnotes at end of table.

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
Percent distribution ¹											
7c. Living near a hospital or home for AIDS patients?											
Very likely	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	0
Somewhat likely	4	4	4	5	3	5	4	7	7	4	3
Somewhat unlikely	8	11	7	8	8	8	7	13	8	8	8
Very unlikely	38	41	39	35	42	35	39	30	30	40	41
Definitely not possible	41	39	45	37	38	43	42	31	32	40	46
Don't know	8	3	4	15	7	8	7	16	20	6	2
7d. Working near someone with AIDS?											
Very likely	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	6	5	5	1
Somewhat likely	14	16	13	14	12	15	14	12	15	16	12
Somewhat unlikely	14	15	15	11	15	12	13	17	10	14	16
Very unlikely	34	36	35	32	36	33	35	27	27	34	39
Definitely not possible	27	26	29	24	26	27	27	23	24	26	29
Don't know	8	4	4	15	8	9	7	15	20	7	3
7e. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has AIDS?											
Very likely	8	7	7	9	8	8	7	13	10	9	5
Somewhat likely	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	23	23	23	20
Somewhat unlikely	16	21	17	12	17	15	16	14	15	14	19
Very unlikely	26	24	29	23	28	24	27	17	15	25	32
Definitely not possible	16	18	16	14	14	17	16	13	13	17	16
Don't know	13	9	9	20	11	14	12	20	23	12	7
7f. Kissing—with exchange of saliva—a person who has AIDS?											
Very likely	29	25	29	32	27	30	27	35	29	32	25
Somewhat likely	34	33	37	33	35	33	35	35	33	34	36
Somewhat unlikely	11	15	11	9	12	11	12	7	6	10	16
Very unlikely	11	14	12	7	10	11	11	6	6	11	13
Definitely not possible	4	5	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	5
Don't know	10	8	7	16	11	10	10	13	22	9	6
7g. Shaking hands with or touching someone who has AIDS?											
Very likely	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	4	3	1	1
Somewhat likely	7	6	6	7	7	7	6	10	9	7	5
Somewhat unlikely	15	15	17	14	16	15	15	17	12	16	17
Very unlikely	37	39	39	35	39	36	39	30	29	39	41
Definitely not possible	32	36	32	30	31	34	33	28	30	32	35
Don't know	7	3	4	13	6	7	6	11	17	5	2
7h. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has AIDS?											
Very likely	11	11	11	11	11	11	10	19	13	13	9
Somewhat likely	31	29	32	32	32	30	30	35	34	33	27
Somewhat unlikely	14	16	15	11	14	14	14	8	8	13	18
Very unlikely	19	21	21	16	20	19	21	11	13	17	25
Definitely not possible	14	16	15	13	14	15	15	11	12	15	15
Don't know	10	7	6	18	9	11	10	14	21	10	5
7i. Using public toilets?											
Very likely	7	7	6	9	6	8	6	15	12	7	5
Somewhat likely	19	19	18	22	19	20	19	26	24	22	21
Somewhat unlikely	15	16	17	12	15	15	15	13	10	14	20
Very unlikely	28	31	29	23	31	25	29	19	17	27	28
Definitely not possible	20	21	22	17	19	21	21	14	15	20	18
Don't know	11	7	8	16	10	11	10	14	22	11	9
7j. Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has AIDS?											
Very likely	93	95	96	87	93	93	93	90	83	95	93
Somewhat likely	4	4	3	5	4	4	4	6	8	3	5
Somewhat unlikely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Very unlikely	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	—
Definitely not possible	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Don't know	2	1	0	6	3	2	2	4	8	2	2
7k. Kissing on the cheek a person who has AIDS?											
Very likely	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	7	4	3	2
Somewhat likely	10	9	8	13	11	9	10	12	14	11	9
Somewhat unlikely	17	18	18	14	17	17	16	21	16	16	19
Very unlikely	35	34	37	32	36	33	36	25	24	34	37
Definitely not possible	28	32	30	24	26	30	29	22	23	29	28
Don't know	7	4	4	14	8	7	7	12	19	6	5
7l. Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has AIDS?											
Very likely	8	8	7	10	7	9	7	14	12	9	8
Somewhat likely	25	22	25	28	25	26	25	29	28	27	29
Somewhat unlikely	17	22	17	14	19	16	18	12	12	17	21
Very unlikely	22	23	27	17	24	21	24	13	12	21	20
Definitely not possible	16	18	17	12	15	16	16	14	14	16	13
Don't know	11	7	8	19	10	12	10	19	23	10	9

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age			Sex		Race		Education			
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
Percent distribution ¹											
7m. Attending school with a child who has AIDS?											
Very likely	2	3	1	2	2	2	1	5	4	2	3
Somewhat likely	8	8	9	8	8	8	8	11	11	8	9
Somewhat unlikely	13	14	13	13	13	13	13	17	11	13	14
Very unlikely	36	39	39	32	39	34	38	26	26	36	40
Definitely not possible	31	32	32	28	29	32	31	27	26	31	27
Don't know	10	4	6	18	9	11	9	14	22	9	7
7n. Mosquitoes or other insects?											
Very likely	8	9	8	8	9	7	7	13	12	9	12
Somewhat likely	24	29	25	20	25	24	23	31	27	26	23
Somewhat unlikely	11	14	11	9	13	10	12	12	6	11	11
Very unlikely	19	17	23	17	19	19	20	10	13	17	22
Definitely not possible	17	17	18	16	17	17	17	13	11	17	17
Don't know	20	15	16	30	18	23	20	22	31	20	16
7o. Pets or animals?											
Very likely	2	3	1	3	3	2	2	7	5	2	2
Somewhat likely	9	10	8	7	10	7	8	14	11	8	8
Somewhat unlikely	9	13	9	7	11	8	9	10	7	9	14
Very unlikely	29	30	32	25	30	28	31	18	20	29	33
Definitely not possible	29	28	32	27	28	31	30	23	23	30	28
Don't know	22	16	17	30	18	24	21	29	35	22	14
7p. Having sex with a person who has AIDS?											
Very likely	93	94	94	90	92	94	93	89	87	95	93
Somewhat likely	5	5	5	5	6	4	5	8	7	4	5
Somewhat unlikely	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	—	0	0	—
Very unlikely	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	1
Definitely not possible	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
Don't know	2	0	0	4	2	2	1	2	5	1	1
8. Have you ever heard of a blood test for infection with the AIDS virus?											
Yes	72	81	81	55	74	71	74	60	54	71	77
No	25	18	17	39	24	26	23	35	40	27	21
Don't know	3	1	1	6	2	3	3	5	5	3	2
9. Does this test tell whether a person has the disease AIDS?											
Yes	38	40	42	31	36	39	38	38	34	38	39
No	23	28	29	14	25	22	25	12	9	21	23
Don't know	11	13	11	11	13	10	11	10	12	12	14
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	28	19	19	45	26	29	26	40	46	29	23
10. If a person has a positive blood test for infection with the AIDS virus, does this mean that they can give someone else the AIDS virus through sexual intercourse?											
Yes	63	70	71	48	64	62	65	53	46	61	70
No	3	4	3	1	3	3	3	1	2	2	3
Don't know	6	6	7	6	7	6	7	5	7	8	4
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	28	19	19	45	26	29	26	40	46	29	23
11. Have you ever had your blood tested for infection with the AIDS virus?											
Yes	5	8	6	1	6	4	5	8	3	4	5
Yes, in blood donation/transfusion	2	3	3	1	3	2	2	2	1	2	2
No	64	69	71	51	62	64	65	49	47	63	69
Don't know	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	0
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	28	19	19	45	26	29	26	40	46	29	23
12a. Have you ever thought about having this blood test?											
Already had test	7	11	9	3	9	5	7	10	5	7	8
Yes	11	16	14	4	12	11	11	14	9	10	16
No	53	54	58	48	52	55	56	36	40	54	52
Don't know	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	28	20	19	45	26	30	26	41	46	30	24
12b. Do you plan to be tested in the next 12 months?											
Already had test	7	11	9	3	9	5	7	10	5	7	8
Yes	4	6	4	2	4	3	3	8	5	3	7
No	6	8	8	1	6	5	6	3	2	4	7
Don't know	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	3	2	3	2
Never heard of test or thought about having test (no/don't know to q. 8 or q. 12a)	82	73	77	93	79	84	82	77	87	84	76

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 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, November 1987—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
13. Where would you go to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection? ³	Percent distribution ¹										
Nowhere/wouldn't take test	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
AIDS clinic	4	4	4	7	7	2	5	2	1	5	2
Other clinic	29	35	28	18	32	27	27	44	40	34	33
Doctor/HMO	47	36	51	64	44	50	49	33	35	48	53
Red Cross/blood bank	3	4	3	1	2	5	3	6	—	5	—
Other	10	12	9	6	8	12	10	11	13	6	8
Don't know	6	9	4	5	7	5	6	5	11	2	4
14. Where would you go to find out where to have this blood test? ^{2,4}											
AIDS hot line	19	22	18	—	19	18	17	—	—	—	—
AIDS clinic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other clinic	7	5	13	—	5	12	9	—	—	12	—
Doctor/HMO	39	52	17	55	33	49	43	30	67	27	58
Friends	2	—	5	—	—	5	2	—	—	—	—
Public health department	17	11	19	45	18	16	21	—	15	29	—
Other	3	—	8	—	5	—	4	—	—	—	—
Nowhere/wouldn't take test	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Don't know	15	10	25	—	21	5	6	70	18	32	42
15. Have you donated blood since 1985?											
Yes	11	16	14	5	15	8	12	10	7	11	13
No	88	84	86	94	85	91	88	90	92	89	86
Don't know	0	—	0	1	0	0	0	—	0	0	1
16. Have you ever personally known anyone who had the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes	14	18	18	6	13	15	14	13	5	12	20
No	85	81	80	92	86	84	84	85	94	86	78
Don't know	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2
17. What are the chances of someone you know getting the AIDS virus?											
High	9	13	10	4	8	9	9	8	5	9	8
Medium	16	22	19	9	16	16	16	20	12	15	19
Low	35	37	39	28	39	31	36	23	21	36	40
None	28	19	22	41	24	31	27	28	37	30	23
Refused	0	—	0	0	—	0	0	—	0	0	—
Don't know	13	9	10	19	12	13	12	21	25	10	10
18. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?											
High	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Medium	4	5	4	2	4	3	3	8	5	3	3
Low	28	36	32	19	31	26	29	23	19	25	31
None	63	54	60	73	59	66	63	59	67	66	62
Refused	0	—	0	—	—	0	0	—	—	0	—
Don't know	4	4	3	6	5	4	4	9	9	4	3
19. Here are methods some people use to prevent getting the AIDS virus through sexual activity. How effective is—											
19a. Using a diaphragm?											
Very effective	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	5	3	3	2
Somewhat effective	11	12	10	10	10	11	10	12	11	10	15
Not at all effective	58	65	65	45	59	58	61	43	40	57	61
Don't know how effective	23	14	19	33	23	22	22	25	33	24	17
Don't know method	6	6	4	9	6	6	5	15	13	6	6
19b. Using a condom?											
Very effective	33	38	35	27	35	31	34	28	23	34	36
Somewhat effective	48	49	51	44	48	48	49	41	40	47	48
Not at all effective	6	7	5	6	4	7	6	7	8	7	5
Don't know how effective	10	4	8	18	10	11	9	17	21	10	9
Don't know method	3	2	1	5	2	3	2	7	7	2	2
19c. Using a spermicidal jelly, foam, or cream?											
Very effective	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	4	3	1	3
Somewhat effective	13	14	13	12	14	12	13	11	9	13	13
Not at all effective	56	64	64	41	55	57	58	46	41	57	62
Don't know how effective	24	16	19	35	24	23	23	26	35	23	19
Don't know method	6	5	3	9	6	6	5	13	12	5	3
19d. Being celibate, that is, not having sex at all?											
Very effective	90	91	94	85	89	91	91	85	79	91	90
Somewhat effective	5	6	3	6	5	5	5	7	8	4	4
Not at all effective	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	3	2	1	1
Don't know how effective	3	1	1	6	3	2	3	3	8	2	4
Don't know method	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	2	3	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 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, November 1987—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
19a. Two people who do not have the AIDS virus having a completely monogamous relationship, that is, having sex only with each other?	Percent distribution ¹										
Very effective	85	85	91	79	85	86	87	78	72	87	90
Somewhat effective	8	10	6	9	8	8	8	12	12	8	6
Not at all effective	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	3	2	1
Don't know how effective	4	2	1	8	4	3	3	5	10	3	3
Don't know method	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	2	3	1	0
20. Have you ever discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?	65	72	77	45	60	69	65	62	45	62	67
Yes	35	28	23	53	39	30	34	36	54	36	32
No	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0
Don't know											
21. When was the last time you discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
0-3 days ago	17	19	19	12	15	18	17	17	13	14	24
4-7 days ago	18	18	21	14	16	19	18	16	13	16	17
8-14 days ago	7	9	8	4	6	7	7	6	3	8	5
15-31 days ago	12	13	15	7	11	12	12	11	8	12	12
More than 31 days ago	8	10	8	5	6	8	7	8	4	9	7
Never discussed (no/don't know to q. 20)	36	29	24	55	41	32	36	38	56	38	33
Don't know	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	1
24. Have you ever discussed AIDS with [any of your children age 10-17]? ⁶	68	56	69	60	59	75	70	57	55	64	76
Yes	32	44	30	38	40	25	30	40	45	36	24
No	0	-	0	1	1	-	-	3	-	0	-
Don't know											
25. Have your children had any instruction at school about AIDS? ⁵	51	51	51	56	50	52	51	52	54	47	50
Yes	19	25	19	14	15	22	19	20	18	20	18
No	30	23	30	30	35	26	30	28	28	33	32
Don't know											
26. Have you ever personally known anyone with the AIDS virus?	6	5	9	4	6	6	6	7	3	5	7
Yes	92	93	88	94	91	92	92	90	95	93	91
No	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Don't know											
27. Have you ever personally known anyone with AIDS?	6	5	9	4	7	6	6	9	4	5	7
Yes	92	94	89	94	91	92	92	89	95	94	92
No	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1
Don't know											
28. 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?	69	74	72	62	69	69	69	71	63	70	71
Yes	22	18	19	27	22	21	22	20	23	22	22
No	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Other	7	6	6	9	6	8	7	7	11	6	4
Don't know											
29. Would you want to know the results of the blood test? ⁶	97	98	97	97	97	97	98	96	99	96	96
Yes	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	3
No											

¹Excludes persons for whom no response was recorded or who refused to respond. For question 2 through 27, total also excludes persons who never heard of AIDS.
²Multiple responses may sum to more than 100 percent.
³Based on persons answering yes to question 12a.
⁴Based on persons answering don't know to question 13.
⁵Based on persons answering yes to question 22, Do you have any children aged 10-17? Question 23 was, How many do you have?
⁶Based on persons answering yes to question 28.

NOTE: Total, age, sex, and education include persons of other and unknown race not shown separately under race. Education refers to years of school completed.

Technical notes

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

tionalized population is interviewed by personnel of the U.S. Bureau of the Census to obtain information on the health and other characteristics of each member of the household. Supplemental information is collected for all or a sample of household members. The AIDS knowledge and attitudes questions were 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 3,333 persons, or about 88 percent of eligible respondents.

Table I. Sample size for the National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes and estimated adult population 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, November 1987

Characteristic	Sample size	Estimated population in thousands
All adults	3,333	174,528
Age		
18-29 years.	799	47,725
30-49 years.	1,291	66,109
50 years and over	1,243	60,695
Sex		
Male	1,345	82,703
Female	1,988	91,825
Race		
White	2,794	151,003
Black	448	19,107
Education		
Less than 12 years	745	41,503
12 years.	1,254	66,475
More than 12 years.	1,299	62,363

Table I contains the estimated population size of each of the demographic subgroups included in table 1 to allow readers to derive provisional estimates of the number of people in the United States with a given characteristic, for example, the number of men who have heard of AIDS. The population figures in table I are based on first-quarter 1987 data from the NHIS; they are not official population estimates. Table II shows approximate standard errors of estimates presented in table 1. Both the estimates in table 1 and the standard errors in table II are provisional. They may differ slightly from estimates made using the final data file because they were calculated using a simplified weighting procedure that does not adjust for all the factors used in weighting the final data file. The final data file covering the entire 5-month period of data collection, August through December 1987, will be available in 1988.

Table II. Standard errors, expressed in percentage points, of estimated percents from the National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes, by selected characteristics: United States, November 1987

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	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.7
10 or 90	0.6	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.7	1.4	1.0	1.0
15 or 85	0.7	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.8	2.0	1.6	1.2	1.2
20 or 80	0.8	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.1	0.9	2.3	1.8	1.4	1.4
25 or 75	0.9	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.5
30 or 70	1.0	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.0	2.6	2.1	1.6	1.6
35 or 65	1.0	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.1	2.7	2.2	1.6	1.6
40 or 60	1.0	2.1	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.1	2.8	2.2	1.7	1.7
45 or 55	1.0	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.1	2.8	2.3	1.7	1.7
50	1.0	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.1	2.9	2.3	1.7	1.7

Symbols

- Quantity zero
- 0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.5

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Suggested citation

National Center for Health Statistics, D. A. Dawson and O. T. Thornberry. 1988. AIDS knowledge and attitudes for November 1987, Provisional data from the National Health Interview Survey. *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics*. No. 151. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 88-1250. Public Health Service, Hyattsville, Md.

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