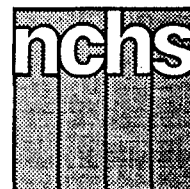


# Advance Data



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

## AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes for January–March 1990 Provisional Data From the National Health Interview Survey

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### Introduction

The National Center for Health Statistics has included questions about acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) since 1987. Data concerning the adult population's knowledge and attitudes about AIDS and transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are collected to assist in the planning of educational programs. Since the initiation of the NHIS AIDS survey, its scope has widened to include many questions on HIV testing and blood donation experience. In addition to assessing self-perceived risk of becoming infected with HIV, the survey includes a general risk behavior question similar to that asked by the Red Cross of potential blood donors. At various points in its history, the AIDS survey also has been used as a tool for evaluating public awareness campaigns and for assessing the public's willingness to participate in a national seroprevalence survey. Information on the NHIS AIDS survey sample is contained in the technical notes at the end of this report.

The first AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes survey was in the field from August–December 1987. Provisional results of that survey were published monthly in *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics* (Nos. 146, 148, 150, 151, and 153). During the first 4 months of 1988, the NHIS questionnaire was revised to meet program needs at that time. The revised AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey entered the field in May 1988. Provisional findings for the remainder of 1988 were published periodically (*Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics* Nos. 160, 161, 163, 164, 167, and 175); in addition, two special reports with a focus on minority populations were published from the 1988 data (*Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics* Nos. 165 and 166).

The 1988 AIDS questionnaire was used without modification throughout 1989, and results were published on a quarterly basis (*Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics* Nos. 176, 179, 183, and 186). For 1990, the AIDS questionnaire was revised again, with added emphasis on HIV testing procedures

and on the distinction between testing in connection with blood donation and for other reasons. Provisional survey findings will continue to be published on a quarterly basis for the 1990 data.

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

The *Advance Data* reports describing the NHIS AIDS data have been restricted to simple descriptive statistics to facilitate their timely release. Thus, these reports do not attempt to explain or interpret differences among population subgroups or to examine relationships among various measures of



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knowledge and behavior. The NHIS AIDS data bases permit more complex analyses than those presented in this series of *Advance Data* reports, and further exploration of the data is encouraged. Public use data tapes of the 1987 and 1988 AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Surveys are available at this time, and the data tape for 1989 will be released by the end of this year.

This report presents provisional data for January–March 1990 for most items included in the NHIS AIDS questionnaire. Table 1 displays percent distributions of persons 18 years of age and over by response categories, according to age, sex, race/ethnicity, and education. In most cases, the actual questions asked of the respondents are reproduced verbatim in table 1 along with the coded response categories. In a few cases, questions or response categories have been rephrased or combined for clearer or more concise presentation or results. 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 questionnaire uses the phrase “the AIDS virus” rather than “HIV,” because it is felt to be more widely recognized and understood. In this report the two terms are used synonymously.

The population subgroups used in presenting the 1990 NHIS AIDS data differ from those used in previous reports. In reports based on the 1987–89 surveys, two racial categories were shown: white and black. The 1990 reports show three categories that reflect both race and ethnic origin: non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and Hispanic. This change, which reflects the increasing demand for information about the Hispanic population, means that estimates by race cannot be compared directly between the 1990 and earlier NHIS AIDS *Advance Data* reports. In addition, the revisions in the questionnaire, whether in actual wording or in context and location of questions, must be considered when interpreting trend data.

### Selected findings

The following highlights describe survey results of the NHIS AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey for the period January–March 1990. Unless otherwise noted in the text, all measures described remained stable over the 3-month 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.

*General AIDS knowledge—*  
General knowledge about AIDS and HIV was ascertained through a series of statements about the general characteristics of the disease and how it is transmitted. Respondents were asked to classify each statement as definitely true, probably true, probably false, or definitely false. As shown in figure 1, most measures of general knowledge about AIDS and HIV improved between the last quarter of 1989 and the first quarter of 1990. For the most part, the changes observed between these two quarters were larger than those occurring throughout the entire year of 1989.

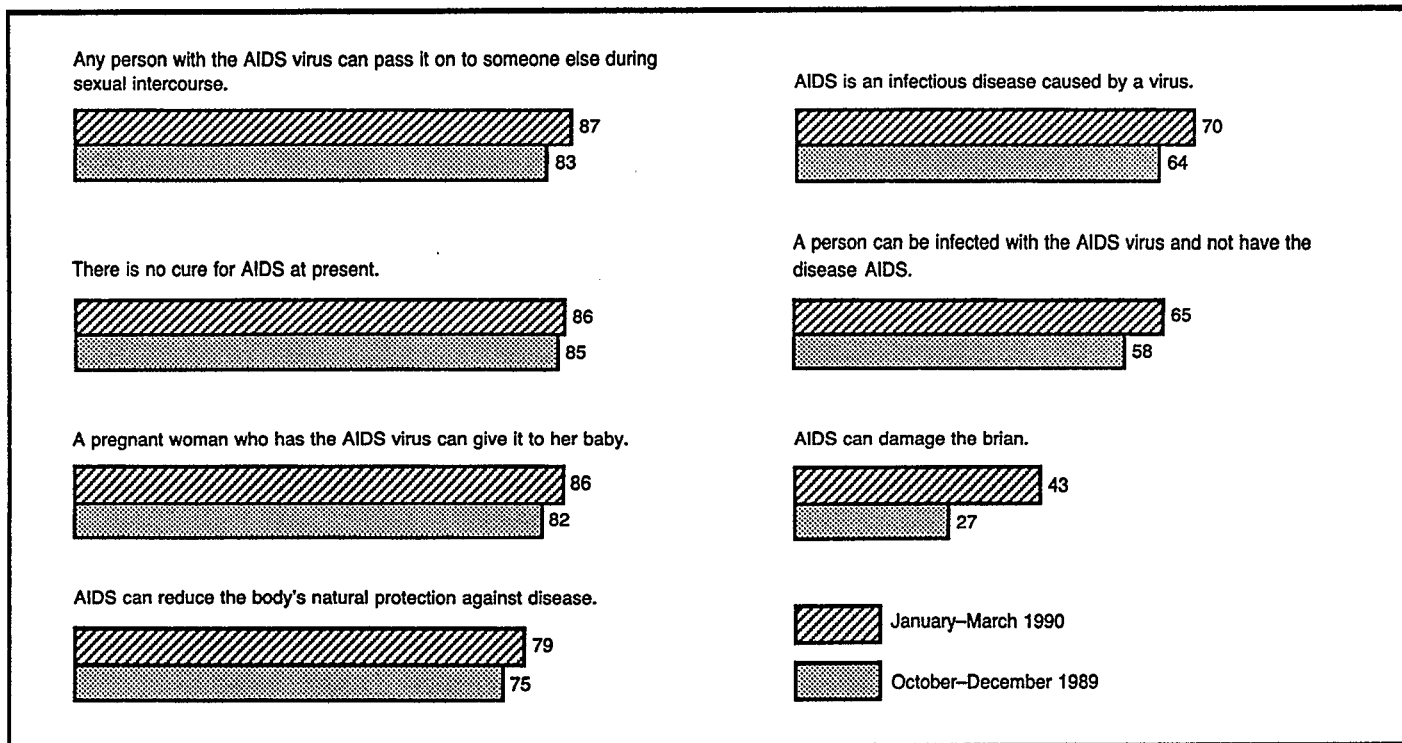


Figure 1. Provisional estimates of percent of adults reporting that selected statements are definitely true: United States, January–March 1990

The largest increases were in the areas where general knowledge was lowest. For example, the percent of adults who stated that it is definitely true that AIDS can damage the brain rose from 27 to 43 percent, and the percent who thought it definitely true that a person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have AIDS rose from 58 to 65 percent. Knowledge about the main modes of HIV transmission improved as well, despite a high baseline level. The proportions of adults who thought it definitely true that HIV can be transmitted via sexual intercourse and from a pregnant woman to her child each increased by 4 percentage points to 87 and 86 percent, respectively. The proportion of adults who thought it very likely that HIV can be transmitted by sharing needles for drug use remained stable at 96 percent. (Knowledge about HIV transmission via needle sharing was asked in a separate series of questions with different response categories.)

Despite the overall improvement in knowledge, there was a decrease in one area. In October–December 1989, 75 percent of U.S. adults 18 years of age and over realized that it is definitely false that there is a vaccine for the AIDS virus; for January–March 1990, this proportion was 68 percent. This change may reflect failure to distinguish between a vaccine and drugs that are used in treatment of AIDS/HIV, e.g., zidovudine (AZT), or it may result from publicity concerning progress towards development of a vaccine.

Although most objective measures of general AIDS knowledge registered gains between the last quarter of 1989 and the first quarter of 1990, self-assessed knowledge about AIDS decreased. In October–December 1989, 24 percent of adults stated that they knew a lot about AIDS; in January–March 1990, this proportion declined to 18 percent. Between the same two periods, the proportion of adults claiming to know nothing about AIDS increased from 7 to 11 percent. It is impossible to determine whether this shift in self-assessed knowledge reflects a sense of

information overload associated with the constantly increasing amount of information available about development of a vaccine for HIV, modes of transmission, and forms of treatment, or if it is solely an effect of questionnaire design changes. Although this question is worded the same in 1990 as in preceding years, its location has changed so that it is now the first question asked.

During the first quarter of 1990, as in all previous quarters, general knowledge about AIDS varied by demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. Persons aged 50 years and over were less knowledgeable than younger persons. Knowledge increased directly with number of years of school completed. For 5 out of the 9 measures of general AIDS knowledge examined, non-Hispanic white adults were more likely than non-Hispanic black or Hispanic adults to respond correctly. For 3 of the remaining 4 measures, knowledge did not vary by race/ethnicity; for one measure (awareness that AIDS can damage the brain), non-Hispanic black adults were the most knowledgeable. There was no consistent difference by gender in general AIDS knowledge. These differentials in objective measures of knowledge were generally consistent with those in self-assessed knowledge about AIDS. The population subgroups most likely to state that they know a lot about AIDS were persons below 50 years of age and those with more than 12 years of school.

Two new items regarding general AIDS knowledge were added to the 1990 NHIS AIDS survey. One of these is a question asking whether the respondent had ever heard the AIDS virus referred to as “HIV.” Two-thirds of adults were familiar with this term as of January–March 1990, but this proportion was much lower for persons 50 years of age and over (54 percent), with less than 12 years of school (42 percent), or who were of Hispanic origin (48 percent). The second new item was a statement that there are drugs available to extend the life of a person infected with HIV. Slightly less than half of all adults (46 percent) categorized this

statement as definitely true; an additional 27 percent stated that it is probably true.

*Misinformation about HIV transmission*—The NHIS AIDS questionnaire asked respondents to estimate the risk of HIV transmission associated with several forms of casual contact with infected or potentially infected individuals, e.g., working with someone with AIDS, using public toilets, and so forth. Respondents were offered five response options for the likelihood of transmission: very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, very unlikely, and definitely not possible. Both “very unlikely” and “definitely not possible” were interpreted as correct responses, even for forms of contact where our current understanding of the virus indicates that there definitely is no possibility of transmission. The decision to accept “very unlikely” as correct was based on the large numbers of respondents who chose that option, seemingly unwilling to commit themselves to the concept of a zero probability.

As has been true since 1987, the results for January–March 1990 indicated that many misperceptions about HIV transmission remain. The proportion of adults who assessed the risk of transmission as “very unlikely” or “definitely not possible” varied from less than half for transmission via insect bites or contact with the saliva of an infected individual (sharing eating utensils, being sneezed/coughed on) to about three-fourths for working near or attending school with someone with HIV. Most of these measures did not change between October–December 1989 and January–March 1990, but the proportion of adults who thought it very unlikely or definitely not possible to become infected by working with an infected individual rose from 71 to 76 percent. In contrast, the proportion who thought it unlikely or definitely not possible to transmit HIV by sharing eating utensils decreased from 49 to 46 percent.

As with general AIDS knowledge, there were demographic and

socioeconomic differentials in misperceptions about HIV transmission. Adults 50 years of age and over were more likely than younger adults to be misinformed, and non-Hispanic black and Hispanic individuals generally had more misperceptions than did non-Hispanic white individuals. The level of misinformation decreased with increasing educational attainment. Again, there was no consistent differential by gender.

*Information and communication about AIDS*—From October–December 1989 to January–March 1990, the proportion of adults who reported discussing AIDS with their children aged 10–17 years rose from 62 to 68 percent, and the proportion who reported that their children had received instruction in school about AIDS rose from 63 to 73 percent. Ninety-one percent of adults stated that they had received information about AIDS/HIV in the month preceding the NHIS AIDS survey. The most commonly reported sources of information were television (cited by 80 percent of adults), newspapers and magazines (57 and 46 percent, respectively), and radio (34 percent).

Sources of AIDS information differed by race and ethnicity. Radio was cited more frequently by Hispanic and non-Hispanic black adults than by non-Hispanic white adults; the opposite was true for newspapers which were reported most often by non-Hispanic white individuals. There were three sources of information that were reported more often by Hispanic than non-Hispanic individuals: street signs and billboards, store displays, and mass transit displays (signs in buses and subways).

*Blood donation and testing*—There was no change in blood donation experience between October–December 1989 and January–March 1990. Data for the first quarter of 1990 indicated that 39 percent of adults had ever donated blood, 16 percent had donated blood since March 1985 (when blood donations were first routinely tested for HIV), and 7 percent had donated blood in the preceding year. Multiple

donations were common among those who had donated blood. Of the 16 percent of adults who had donated blood since March 1985, half (8 percent) donated blood 3 or more times. In the year preceding interview, 4 percent of adults had donated blood once, 1 percent had donated blood twice, and 2 percent had donated blood 3 or more times.

Seventy-eight percent of U.S. adults had heard of the blood test to detect HIV antibodies, up from 74 percent in the last quarter of 1989. Sixty-eight percent, seven-eighths of those familiar with the blood test, knew blood donations are routinely tested for HIV. Three percent of the persons who had donated blood since March 1985—an estimated 700,000 individuals—reportedly did so at least in part to be tested for HIV. Use of blood donation as a means of being tested for HIV was reported more often by men than women and was far more common for non-Hispanic black adults than other adults.

Not counting testing performed in conjunction with blood donation, 10 percent of U.S. adults are reported to have had their blood tested for HIV antibodies, including 7 percent tested only once and 3 percent with multiple tests. Including the 16 percent of adults who were tested as a part of blood donation since 1985, an estimated 26 percent of the adult population has been tested. This is a substantial increase over the estimate of 21 percent from October–December 1989, but the difference may partly reflect questionnaire changes. In 1988–89, the NHIS AIDS questionnaire asked if respondents had had the AIDS blood test; if they did not respond positively but had donated blood since March 1985, they were included in the estimate of persons tested. In this year's survey, respondents are asked separately about blood donations and testing exclusive of blood donations; then the two estimates are summed.

The proportion of adults who had been tested exclusive of blood donations declined sharply with age, from 16 percent of persons 18–29

years of age to 12 and 3 percent, respectively, of those 30–49 years of age and 50 years of age and over. Men were slightly more likely than women to have been tested exclusive of blood donations, 12 compared with 9 percent. Hispanic and non-Hispanic black adults were more likely than non-Hispanic white adults to have been tested outside of blood donations, 15 and 14 percent compared with 9 percent. The probability of having been tested also increased with education, from 7 percent of persons with less than 12 years of school to 13 percent of those with more than 12 years of school.

Of persons tested exclusive of blood donations, 51 percent stated that all their tests were required, i.e., conducted as a part of an activity that includes mandatory blood testing. For 45 percent their tests were voluntary. Three percent had both required and voluntary tests. The most commonly cited reasons for required tests were hospitalization or surgery (reported by 12 percent of persons tested outside of blood donations) and military induction or service (11 percent). In addition, 9 percent were tested as a requirement of employment, 6 percent for life insurance, 5 percent for immigration (cited by 35 percent of Hispanic adults who were tested exclusive of blood donations), 3 percent for health insurance, and 12 percent for other reasons. Individuals may have cited more than one reason for a single test (e.g., for both employment and health insurance) or may have had more than one required test; thus, the sum of the individual reasons exceeds the proportion of persons with at least one required blood test.

One-third of persons tested for HIV antibodies exclusive of blood donations—including both voluntary and required testing—had their last blood test at a doctor's office or HMO, and about one-fourth (26 percent) were tested at a hospital clinic or emergency room. Eleven percent were tested at military induction or service sites. Only 3 percent were tested at designated

AIDS clinic, counseling, or testing sites. Just 38 percent were counseled about AIDS and HIV before the test was administered. Three-fourths (77 percent) received their test results; of those that did not, one-third reportedly wanted the results of their tests. Of those persons who received their test results, 27 percent were given counseling about prevention of HIV transmission at the time the results were provided. Sixty-two percent got their test results in person, compared with smaller proportions who received their test results by mail (17 percent), telephone (15 percent), or in some other way (5 percent). The vast majority (92 percent) of persons tested for HIV felt that their tests were handled properly in terms of confidentiality of test results.

Seven percent of U.S. adults reportedly plan to be tested for HIV antibodies in the next 12 months, according to the NHIS AIDS data for January–March 1990. The proportion of these persons who had been tested previously has not yet been determined, but it is likely that some are repeaters. This figure, which has remained fairly stable over the past year, was two to three times higher for minorities than for non-Hispanic white adults. Sixteen percent of non-Hispanic black adults reported plans to be tested, compared with 11 percent of Hispanic adults and 5 percent of non-Hispanic white adults.

Of persons who plan to be tested, two-thirds stated that they would be tested voluntarily, because they personally wanted to know if they are infected. Twenty-six percent plan to

be tested as part of blood donation, and 16 percent cited the need for testing as a requirement for a job. Some individuals reported more than one reason for anticipated testing. The locations at which persons plan to be tested are similar to those reported for tests already conducted, with private doctors or HMO's, and hospital emergency rooms or clinics accounting for over half (36 and 22 percent, respectively).

*Risk of HIV infection*—The first-quarter 1990 NHIS AIDS survey results indicated that 5 percent of U.S. adults, an estimated 9 million persons, received blood transfusions between 1977 and 1985. This is the period when HIV is thought to have entered the United States and when routine screening of blood donations began. Half of the nation's adults think the blood supply is now safe for transfusions.

The 1990 AIDS survey revealed increasing uncertainty about the efficacy of condom use in preventing HIV transmission. The proportion of adults who think condoms are very effective in preventing transmission of the virus declined from 33 percent in October–December 1989 to 27 percent in January–March 1990, while the proportion who did not know rose from 7 to 12 percent. Although these shifts occurred in all population subgroups, the increase in uncertainty was especially evident among non-Hispanic black adults. For this group, the proportion who did not know how effective condoms are in preventing HIV transmission rose from 10 percent in the last quarter of 1989 to 20 percent in January–March 1990.

Eighty-one percent of adults felt there was no chance of their having been infected with HIV, and 15 percent said there was a low chance. The proportions who thought there was a medium or high chance of already being infected were 2 percent and less than 1 percent, respectively. Between the last quarter of 1989 and the first quarter of 1990, the proportion of persons who thought there was no chance of their becoming infected with HIV in the future dropped from 77 to 73 percent, reversing a long-term increase in this area. As of January–March 1990, 21 percent believed that they had a low chance of becoming infected; three and less than 1 percent, respectively, cited a medium or high chance. Only 2 percent of adults reported being in any of the categories associated with a high risk of HIV infection. This proportion has remained stable since the risk behavior question was added to the NHIS AIDS questionnaire in 1988.

As of January–March 1990, one out of every seven adults (14 percent) knew someone with AIDS or HIV, the same figure as in the last quarter of 1989. This proportion was higher for persons under 50 years of age than for those age 50 years and over but did not vary by sex or race/ethnicity. The proportion of adults who reported knowing someone with AIDS or HIV increased sharply with number of years of school, from 7 percent of persons with less than 12 years of school to 21 percent of those with more than 12 years of school.

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#### Symbols

- Quantity zero
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**Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1990 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1990**

[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/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   |                |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| 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  | 18             | 21          | 21          | 12                | 18   | 18     | 19           | 14    | 17       | 8                  | 14       | 28                 |
| Some   | 47             | 56          | 52          | 33                | 46   | 47     | 48           | 39    | 41       | 29                 | 49       | 54                 |
| A little   | 24             | 20          | 21          | 31                | 24   | 24     | 24           | 27    | 28       | 32                 | 28       | 16                 |
| Nothing  | 11             | 2           | 5           | 25                | 11   | 11     | 10           | 19    | 13       | 30                 | 8        | 3                  |
| Don't know   | 0              | 0           | 0           | 0                 | 0    | 0      | 0            | 0     | 1        | 0                  | 0        | 0                  |
| 2. In the past month, have you received information about AIDS from any of these sources? <sup>1</sup> |                |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Television   | 80             | 81          | 80          | 78                | 81   | 79     | 81           | 78    | 77       | 76                 | 80       | 82                 |
| Radio  | 34             | 41          | 36          | 25                | 38   | 29     | 33           | 35    | 36       | 25                 | 32       | 40                 |
| Magazines  | 46             | 51          | 49          | 39                | 44   | 48     | 46           | 44    | 44       | 28                 | 45       | 57                 |
| Newspapers   | 57             | 53          | 60          | 55                | 59   | 54     | 58           | 48    | 48       | 41                 | 55       | 67                 |
| Street signs/billboards  | 13             | 21          | 14          | 7                 | 15   | 12     | 12           | 21    | 18       | 10                 | 13       | 16                 |
| Store displays/store distributed brochures   | 8              | 13          | 8           | 4                 | 9    | 7      | 7            | 14    | 9        | 7                  | 9        | 8                  |
| Bus/streetcar/subway displays  | 5              | 8           | 5           | 3                 | 6    | 5      | 4            | 13    | 8        | 4                  | 5        | 6                  |
| Health department brochures  | 19             | 29          | 20          | 11                | 17   | 21     | 18           | 24    | 21       | 14                 | 19       | 22                 |
| Workplace distributed brochures  | 13             | 13          | 17          | 7                 | 12   | 13     | 12           | 15    | 13       | 5                  | 12       | 17                 |
| School distributed brochures   | 9              | 16          | 11          | 3                 | 8    | 11     | 8            | 12    | 13       | 8                  | 8        | 12                 |
| Church distributed brochures   | 5              | 5           | 5           | 5                 | 5    | 5      | 4            | 9     | 8        | 4                  | 5        | 6                  |
| Community organization   | 5              | 6           | 6           | 4                 | 5    | 5      | 5            | 9     | 7        | 3                  | 5        | 7                  |
| Friend/acquaintance  | 13             | 20          | 14          | 7                 | 13   | 14     | 13           | 18    | 13       | 11                 | 12       | 15                 |
| Other  | 4              | 5           | 4           | 3                 | 3    | 4      | 4            | 3     | 2        | 2                  | 3        | 5                  |
| Don't know   | 1              | 0           | 1           | 1                 | 1    | 0      | 1            | 1     | 0        | 1                  | 1        | 0                  |
| Received no AIDS information in past month   | 9              | 7           | 8           | 11                | 8    | 10     | 9            | 10    | 11       | 14                 | 9        | 6                  |
| 3. Have you heard the AIDS virus called HIV?   |                |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes  | 67             | 73          | 74          | 54                | 65   | 68     | 69           | 64    | 48       | 42                 | 65       | 82                 |
| No   | 31             | 26          | 25          | 42                | 33   | 29     | 28           | 33    | 49       | 54                 | 32       | 16                 |
| Don't know   | 2              | 1           | 2           | 4                 | 2    | 3      | 2            | 4     | 3        | 4                  | 3        | 1                  |
| 4a. AIDS can reduce the body's natural protection against disease.                                     |                |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Definitely true  | 79             | 82          | 85          | 68                | 80   | 78     | 82           | 65    | 65       | 55                 | 80       | 91                 |
| Probably true  | 9              | 9           | 7           | 11                | 8    | 9      | 8            | 10    | 14       | 14                 | 9        | 5                  |
| Probably false   | 1              | 1           | 1           | 2                 | 1    | 2      | 1            | 4     | 3        | 3                  | 1        | 1                  |
| Definitely false   | 2              | 3           | 2           | 2                 | 2    | 2      | 2            | 5     | 2        | 4                  | 2        | 1                  |
| Don't know   | 9              | 5           | 5           | 17                | 9    | 10     | 7            | 17    | 16       | 24                 | 7        | 2                  |
| 4b. AIDS can damage the brain.   |                |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Definitely true  | 43             | 40          | 45          | 42                | 44   | 41     | 42           | 47    | 43       | 40                 | 44       | 44                 |
| Probably true  | 26             | 27          | 25          | 26                | 26   | 26     | 27           | 25    | 23       | 27                 | 27       | 25                 |
| Probably false   | 7              | 10          | 8           | 4                 | 7    | 7      | 7            | 3     | 10       | 4                  | 6        | 10                 |
| Definitely false   | 4              | 6           | 5           | 2                 | 5    | 4      | 5            | 3     | 5        | 3                  | 4        | 6                  |
| Don't know   | 20             | 16          | 17          | 26                | 19   | 21     | 20           | 22    | 19       | 26                 | 20       | 16                 |
| 4c. AIDS is an infectious disease caused by a virus.   |                |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Definitely true  | 70             | 80          | 76          | 56                | 74   | 67     | 70           | 71    | 71       | 56                 | 70       | 78                 |
| Probably true  | 14             | 11          | 13          | 18                | 13   | 15     | 14           | 12    | 17       | 17                 | 15       | 12                 |
| Probably false   | 2              | 2           | 1           | 2                 | 1    | 2      | 2            | 2     | 1        | 2                  | 3        | 1                  |
| Definitely false   | 3              | 2           | 3           | 3                 | 3    | 3      | 3            | 2     | 2        | 3                  | 3        | 3                  |
| Don't know   | 11             | 4           | 7           | 20                | 10   | 12     | 10           | 14    | 10       | 22                 | 10       | 6                  |
| 4d. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.                        |                |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Definitely true  | 65             | 71          | 72          | 53                | 64   | 66     | 68           | 58    | 55       | 46                 | 64       | 77                 |
| Probably true  | 16             | 13          | 15          | 19                | 17   | 15     | 16           | 16    | 16       | 19                 | 16       | 14                 |
| Probably false   | 3              | 3           | 2           | 3                 | 3    | 2      | 2            | 3     | 4        | 4                  | 3        | 2                  |
| Definitely false   | 3              | 5           | 3           | 2                 | 3    | 3      | 3            | 5     | 4        | 4                  | 4        | 2                  |
| Don't know   | 13             | 8           | 9           | 22                | 13   | 14     | 11           | 18    | 22       | 28                 | 13       | 6                  |
| 4e. ANY person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else through sexual intercourse.          |                |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Definitely true  | 87             | 92          | 89          | 82                | 86   | 88     | 88           | 85    | 86       | 82                 | 89       | 89                 |
| Probably true  | 9              | 6           | 8           | 11                | 9    | 8      | 8            | 9     | 9        | 10                 | 8        | 8                  |
| Probably false   | 1              | 1           | 1           | 1                 | 1    | 1      | 1            | 1     | 1        | 1                  | 0        | 1                  |
| Definitely false   | 0              | 1           | 0           | 0                 | 1    | 0      | 1            | 0     | 0        | 0                  | 0        | 1                  |
| Don't know   | 3              | 1           | 2           | 6                 | 3    | 3      | 3            | 5     | 3        | 7                  | 2        | 1                  |
| 4f. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give it to her baby.                                   |                |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Definitely true  | 86             | 90          | 88          | 81                | 84   | 88     | 87           | 85    | 84       | 78                 | 87       | 90                 |
| Probably true  | 10             | 7           | 9           | 12                | 11   | 8      | 10           | 8     | 9        | 13                 | 10       | 8                  |
| Probably false   | 0              | 0           | 0           | 0                 | 0    | 0      | 0            | 0     | 1        | 0                  | 0        | 0                  |
| Definitely false   | 0              | 0           | 0           | 0                 | 0    | 0      | 0            | 0     | 1        | 0                  | 0        | –                  |
| Don't know   | 4              | 2           | 2           | 7                 | 4    | 4      | 3            | 6     | 5        | 9                  | 3        | 2                  |

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1990 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1990—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/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   |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| 4g. There are drugs available to treat AIDS or the AIDS virus which can lengthen the life of an infected person. |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| Definitely true . . . . .  | 46             | 46          | 52          | 39                | 47   | 45           | 49    | 39    | 32        | 33                 | 44       | 56                 |
| Probably true . . . . .  | 27             | 27          | 25          | 28                | 26   | 27           | 27    | 23    | 25        | 25                 | 28       | 26                 |
| Probably false . . . . .   | 6              | 6           | 6           | 5                 | 6    | 5            | 5     | 7     | 8         | 6                  | 6        | 5                  |
| Definitely false . . . . .   | 6              | 9           | 5           | 5                 | 6    | 5            | 5     | 10    | 12        | 7                  | 6        | 5                  |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 16             | 12          | 11          | 23                | 15   | 17           | 14    | 21    | 23        | 30                 | 15       | 8                  |
| 4h. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.               |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| Definitely true . . . . .  | 3              | 3           | 3           | 3                 | 3    | 3            | 2     | 5     | 5         | 4                  | 3        | 2                  |
| Probably true . . . . .  | 4              | 4           | 3           | 4                 | 3    | 4            | 3     | 6     | 9         | 6                  | 4        | 2                  |
| Probably false . . . . .   | 11             | 11          | 10          | 11                | 10   | 11           | 11    | 10    | 12        | 10                 | 11       | 10                 |
| Definitely false . . . . .   | 68             | 71          | 74          | 58                | 69   | 66           | 71    | 56    | 52        | 50                 | 67       | 78                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 15             | 11          | 10          | 25                | 14   | 16           | 14    | 23    | 23        | 30                 | 15       | 8                  |
| 4i. There is no cure for AIDS at present.  |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| Definitely true . . . . .  | 86             | 88          | 88          | 81                | 86   | 86           | 87    | 79    | 81        | 77                 | 86       | 90                 |
| Probably true . . . . .  | 6              | 5           | 5           | 7                 | 6    | 5            | 6     | 6     | 5         | 7                  | 6        | 5                  |
| Probably false . . . . .   | 1              | 1           | 1           | 1                 | 1    | 1            | 1     | 3     | 1         | 1                  | 1        | 1                  |
| Definitely false . . . . .   | 2              | 3           | 2           | 2                 | 2    | 2            | 2     | 3     | 4         | 3                  | 2        | 2                  |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 5              | 3           | 3           | 9                 | 4    | 6            | 4     | 9     | 9         | 11                 | 5        | 2                  |
| 5. How likely do you think it is that a person will get AIDS or the AIDS virus infection from—                   |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| 5a. Working near someone with the AIDS virus?  |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| Very likely . . . . .  | 3              | 2           | 3           | 3                 | 3    | 3            | 2     | 6     | 5         | 5                  | 3        | 2                  |
| Somewhat likely . . . . .  | 6              | 5           | 6           | 7                 | 6    | 6            | 5     | 8     | 11        | 8                  | 7        | 5                  |
| Somewhat unlikely . . . . .  | 9              | 10          | 10          | 9                 | 10   | 9            | 9     | 9     | 12        | 8                  | 10       | 10                 |
| Very unlikely . . . . .  | 40             | 38          | 41          | 40                | 42   | 38           | 42    | 36    | 25        | 34                 | 40       | 42                 |
| Definitely not possible . . . . .  | 36             | 42          | 36          | 30                | 34   | 38           | 36    | 31    | 37        | 30                 | 35       | 39                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 6              | 3           | 4           | 11                | 6    | 6            | 5     | 10    | 9         | 15                 | 6        | 2                  |
| 5b. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has the AIDS virus?  |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| Very likely . . . . .  | 6              | 5           | 5           | 7                 | 6    | 5            | 5     | 10    | 7         | 8                  | 7        | 3                  |
| Somewhat likely . . . . .  | 18             | 19          | 17          | 19                | 19   | 18           | 18    | 18    | 21        | 22                 | 19       | 15                 |
| Somewhat unlikely . . . . .  | 13             | 15          | 14          | 11                | 14   | 13           | 13    | 12    | 12        | 10                 | 14       | 14                 |
| Very unlikely . . . . .  | 32             | 33          | 34          | 30                | 33   | 32           | 34    | 26    | 25        | 24                 | 31       | 38                 |
| Definitely not possible . . . . .  | 21             | 24          | 22          | 17                | 20   | 21           | 21    | 20    | 23        | 17                 | 19       | 24                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 10             | 5           | 7           | 17                | 9    | 11           | 9     | 14    | 12        | 18                 | 10       | 5                  |
| 5c. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has the AIDS virus?                                       |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| Very likely . . . . .  | 11             | 9           | 11          | 12                | 11   | 11           | 10    | 15    | 10        | 14                 | 12       | 8                  |
| Somewhat likely . . . . .  | 21             | 19          | 21          | 22                | 22   | 20           | 21    | 21    | 19        | 22                 | 21       | 19                 |
| Somewhat unlikely . . . . .  | 14             | 16          | 15          | 12                | 14   | 14           | 14    | 13    | 11        | 10                 | 14       | 16                 |
| Very unlikely . . . . .  | 28             | 30          | 29          | 26                | 29   | 28           | 29    | 23    | 24        | 21                 | 28       | 33                 |
| Definitely not possible . . . . .  | 18             | 22          | 18          | 14                | 17   | 18           | 17    | 16    | 23        | 15                 | 17       | 20                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 9              | 4           | 7           | 15                | 8    | 10           | 8     | 12    | 13        | 18                 | 8        | 4                  |
| 5d. Using public toilets?  |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| Very likely . . . . .  | 6              | 5           | 6           | 7                 | 6    | 6            | 5     | 10    | 9         | 10                 | 7        | 3                  |
| Somewhat likely . . . . .  | 14             | 13          | 12          | 16                | 14   | 14           | 13    | 15    | 16        | 19                 | 15       | 10                 |
| Somewhat unlikely . . . . .  | 12             | 13          | 13          | 10                | 11   | 12           | 12    | 11    | 11        | 9                  | 13       | 13                 |
| Very unlikely . . . . .  | 35             | 35          | 36          | 32                | 37   | 33           | 36    | 29    | 26        | 26                 | 34       | 40                 |
| Definitely not possible . . . . .  | 25             | 29          | 28          | 19                | 25   | 26           | 26    | 21    | 25        | 19                 | 24       | 30                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 9              | 5           | 5           | 15                | 8    | 9            | 7     | 14    | 13        | 18                 | 8        | 4                  |
| 5e. Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has the AIDS virus?  |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| Very likely . . . . .  | 96             | 98          | 97          | 93                | 96   | 96           | 97    | 93    | 95        | 91                 | 96       | 98                 |
| 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           | 0           | 0                 | 0    | 0            | 0     | 0     | —         | 0                  | 0        | 0                  |
| Definitely not possible . . . . .  | 0              | 0           | 0           | 0                 | 0    | 0            | 0     | 0     | 1         | 0                  | 0        | 0                  |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 2              | 1           | 1           | 4                 | 2    | 2            | 1     | 3     | 3         | 6                  | 1        | 0                  |
| 5f. Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has the AIDS virus?   |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| Very likely . . . . .  | 8              | 5           | 8           | 11                | 9    | 8            | 8     | 11    | 10        | 12                 | 9        | 6                  |
| Somewhat likely . . . . .  | 19             | 17          | 19          | 21                | 20   | 19           | 19    | 19    | 17        | 19                 | 21       | 17                 |
| Somewhat unlikely . . . . .  | 15             | 17          | 16          | 13                | 15   | 15           | 16    | 14    | 16        | 12                 | 14       | 18                 |
| Very unlikely . . . . .  | 30             | 34          | 32          | 24                | 31   | 29           | 31    | 27    | 22        | 21                 | 29       | 36                 |
| Definitely not possible . . . . .  | 17             | 21          | 18          | 13                | 17   | 17           | 17    | 16    | 21        | 16                 | 17       | 18                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 11             | 6           | 8           | 17                | 9    | 12           | 10    | 13    | 15        | 20                 | 11       | 5                  |

See footnotes at end of table.

# 8 Advance Data

**Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1990 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1990—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/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  |       |             |             |                   |      |        |                |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| 5g. Attending school with a child who has the AIDS virus?   |       |             |             |                   |      |        |                |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Very likely . . . . .   | 2     | 1           | 2           | 3                 | 2    | 2      | 2              | 4     | 2        | 4                  | 2        | 1                  |
| Somewhat likely . . . . .   | 6     | 5           | 6           | 7                 | 7    | 5      | 5              | 7     | 8        | 8                  | 6        | 4                  |
| Somewhat unlikely . . . . .   | 10    | 9           | 10          | 9                 | 10   | 10     | 10             | 9     | 9        | 9                  | 10       | 9                  |
| Very unlikely . . . . .   | 41    | 40          | 44          | 39                | 41   | 41     | 43             | 39    | 34       | 35                 | 41       | 45                 |
| Definitely not possible . . . . .   | 35    | 42          | 35          | 29                | 34   | 35     | 35             | 31    | 39       | 29                 | 35       | 37                 |
| Don't know . . . . .  | 7     | 2           | 4           | 13                | 6    | 7      | 6              | 10    | 8        | 15                 | 6        | 2                  |
| 5h. Mosquitoes or other insects?  |       |             |             |                   |      |        |                |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Very likely . . . . .   | 11    | 13          | 11          | 10                | 12   | 10     | 10             | 16    | 16       | 15                 | 11       | 8                  |
| Somewhat likely . . . . .   | 20    | 23          | 18          | 19                | 20   | 19     | 19             | 22    | 21       | 21                 | 22       | 17                 |
| Somewhat unlikely . . . . .   | 9     | 10          | 10          | 7                 | 8    | 9      | 9              | 7     | 8        | 6                  | 8        | 11                 |
| Very unlikely . . . . .   | 24    | 24          | 25          | 23                | 25   | 24     | 25             | 20    | 20       | 19                 | 22       | 30                 |
| Definitely not possible . . . . .   | 19    | 18          | 21          | 17                | 18   | 20     | 19             | 16    | 16       | 14                 | 18       | 22                 |
| Don't know . . . . .  | 18    | 12          | 16          | 25                | 17   | 19     | 18             | 20    | 19       | 25                 | 19       | 13                 |
| 8. Have you ever discussed AIDS with any of your children aged 10–17? <sup>2</sup>  |       |             |             |                   |      |        |                |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .   | 68    | 58          | 69          | 58                | 56   | 78     | 68             | 72    | 59       | 54                 | 65       | 76                 |
| No . . . . .  | 32    | 42          | 31          | 42                | 44   | 21     | 32             | 28    | 41       | 46                 | 34       | 24                 |
| Don't know . . . . .  | 0     | 0           | 0           | 0                 | 0    | 0      | 0              | 0     | 0        | 0                  | 0        | 0                  |
| 9. Have any or all of your children aged 10–17 had instruction at school about AIDS? <sup>2</sup>                         |       |             |             |                   |      |        |                |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .   | 73    | 51          | 73          | 78                | 71   | 75     | 73             | 69    | 73       | 66                 | 73       | 76                 |
| No . . . . .  | 9     | 20          | 9           | 4                 | 7    | 11     | 8              | 9     | 11       | 9                  | 8        | 9                  |
| Don't know . . . . .  | 18    | 29          | 18          | 18                | 22   | 15     | 18             | 22    | 17       | 24                 | 19       | 15                 |
| 10. Have you ever donated blood?  |       |             |             |                   |      |        |                |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .   | 39    | 34          | 41          | 42                | 51   | 29     | 42             | 33    | 24       | 27                 | 37       | 49                 |
| No . . . . .  | 60    | 66          | 59          | 58                | 49   | 71     | 58             | 66    | 76       | 72                 | 63       | 51                 |
| Don't know . . . . .  | 0     | 0           | 0           | 0                 | 0    | 0      | 0              | 0     | 0        | 1                  | 0        | 0                  |
| 11a. Have you donated blood since March 1985?   |       |             |             |                   |      |        |                |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .   | 16    | 23          | 18          | 8                 | 20   | 12     | 17             | 12    | 11       | 7                  | 14       | 22                 |
| No . . . . .  | 84    | 77          | 82          | 92                | 80   | 88     | 83             | 87    | 89       | 92                 | 86       | 77                 |
| Don't know . . . . .  | 1     | 0           | 1           | 1                 | 1    | 0      | 1              | 1     | 0        | 1                  | 0        | 0                  |
| 11b. Have you donated blood in the past 12 months?  |       |             |             |                   |      |        |                |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .   | 7     | 9           | 8           | 3                 | 8    | 5      | 7              | 4     | 5        | 3                  | 6        | 10                 |
| No . . . . .  | 93    | 91          | 91          | 96                | 91   | 94     | 92             | 95    | 95       | 96                 | 94       | 90                 |
| Don't know . . . . .  | 1     | 0           | 1           | 1                 | 1    | 0      | 1              | 1     | 1        | 1                  | 1        | 1                  |
| 12. How many times have you donated blood since March 1985?   |       |             |             |                   |      |        |                |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Once . . . . .  | 5     | 9           | 4           | 2                 | 5    | 4      | 5              | 4     | 5        | 3                  | 4        | 6                  |
| Twice . . . . .   | 3     | 5           | 3           | 1                 | 4    | 2      | 3              | 4     | 2        | 1                  | 3        | 4                  |
| Three times or more . . . . .   | 8     | 9           | 10          | 4                 | 10   | 5      | 9              | 4     | 4        | 3                  | 7        | 11                 |
| Don't know . . . . .  | 0     | 0           | 0           | 0                 | 0    | 0      | 0              | 0     | 0        | 0                  | 0        | 0                  |
| Did not donate blood since March 1985 <sup>3</sup> . . . . .  | 84    | 77          | 82          | 92                | 80   | 88     | 83             | 88    | 89       | 93                 | 86       | 78                 |
| 13. How many times have you donated blood in the past 12 months?  |       |             |             |                   |      |        |                |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Once . . . . .  | 4     | 6           | 4           | 2                 | 4    | 3      | 4              | 3     | 3        | 2                  | 3        | 5                  |
| Twice . . . . .   | 1     | 1           | 2           | 1                 | 2    | 1      | 2              | 1     | 0        | 0                  | 1        | 2                  |
| Three times or more . . . . .   | 2     | 2           | 2           | 1                 | 2    | 1      | 2              | 1     | 1        | 1                  | 1        | 2                  |
| Don't know . . . . .  | 0     | 0           | 0           | 0                 | 0    | 0      | 0              | 0     | 0        | 0                  | 0        | 0                  |
| Did not donate blood in the past 12 months <sup>4</sup> . . . . .   | 93    | 91          | 92          | 97                | 91   | 95     | 93             | 96    | 95       | 97                 | 94       | 90                 |
| 14. Have you ever heard of a blood test that can detect the AIDS virus infection?   |       |             |             |                   |      |        |                |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .   | 78    | 84          | 85          | 64                | 79   | 76     | 80             | 65    | 67       | 59                 | 78       | 88                 |
| No . . . . .  | 20    | 15          | 13          | 31                | 19   | 21     | 17             | 33    | 31       | 37                 | 20       | 10                 |
| Don't know . . . . .  | 3     | 1           | 2           | 5                 | 2    | 3      | 3              | 2     | 2        | 4                  | 3        | 2                  |
| 15. To the best of your knowledge, are blood donations routinely tested for the AIDS virus infection?                     |       |             |             |                   |      |        |                |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .   | 68    | 76          | 76          | 54                | 69   | 67     | 72             | 53    | 57       | 49                 | 68       | 79                 |
| No . . . . .  | 4     | 3           | 4           | 3                 | 4    | 3      | 3              | 5     | 4        | 3                  | 4        | 4                  |
| Don't know . . . . .  | 6     | 5           | 5           | 8                 | 6    | 6      | 5              | 8     | 7        | 7                  | 6        | 5                  |
| Never heard of test <sup>5</sup> . . . . .  | 22    | 16          | 15          | 36                | 21   | 24     | 20             | 35    | 33       | 41                 | 22       | 12                 |
| 16. Was one of your reasons for donating blood because you wanted to be tested for the AIDS virus infection? <sup>6</sup> |       |             |             |                   |      |        |                |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .   | 3     | 4           | 2           | 1                 | 4    | 1      | 1              | 15    | 3        | 3                  | 3        | 2                  |
| No . . . . .  | 83    | 83          | 85          | 77                | 80   | 86     | 85             | 58    | 76       | 77                 | 78       | 86                 |
| Don't know . . . . .  | 0     | 0           | 0           | 0                 | 0    | 0      | 0              | 0     | 0        | 0                  | 0        | 0                  |
| Never heard of test <sup>5</sup> . . . . .  | 9     | 8           | 7           | 17                | 9    | 8      | 8              | 13    | 10       | 18                 | 12       | 5                  |
| 17. Except for blood donations since 1985, have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?                   |       |             |             |                   |      |        |                |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .   | 10    | 16          | 12          | 3                 | 12   | 9      | 9              | 14    | 15       | 7                  | 9        | 13                 |
| No . . . . .  | 65    | 66          | 71          | 59                | 66   | 65     | 69             | 49    | 48       | 50                 | 67       | 73                 |
| Don't know . . . . .  | 2     | 2           | 2           | 2                 | 2    | 2      | 2              | 1     | 3        | 2                  | 2        | 2                  |
| Never heard of test <sup>5</sup> . . . . .  | 22    | 16          | 15          | 36                | 21   | 24     | 20             | 35    | 33       | 41                 | 22       | 12                 |

See footnotes at end of table.



**Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1990 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1990—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/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  |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| 18. How many times have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection, not including blood donations?  |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| Once  | 7              | 10          | 8           | 2                 | 7    | 6            | 6     | 10    | 11        | 5                  | 6        | 9                  |
| Twice   | 2              | 3           | 2           | 1                 | 2    | 1            | 1     | 2     | 2         | 1                  | 1        | 2                  |
| Three times or more   | 1              | 3           | 2           | 0                 | 2    | 1            | 1     | 2     | 2         | 1                  | 2        | 2                  |
| Don't know  | 0              | 0           | 0           | 0                 | 0    | 0            | 0     | 0     | —         | 0                  | 0        | 0                  |
| Never heard of/had test <sup>7</sup>  | 90             | 84          | 88          | 97                | 88   | 91           | 91    | 86    | 85        | 93                 | 91       | 87                 |
| 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  | 4              | 6           | 6           | 1                 | 5    | 4            | 4     | 5     | 6         | 3                  | 4        | 6                  |
| Once  | 5              | 8           | 6           | 2                 | 6    | 4            | 4     | 7     | 8         | 3                  | 4        | 6                  |
| Twice   | 1              | 1           | 1           | 0                 | 1    | 0            | 1     | 1     | 1         | 1                  | 0        | 1                  |
| Three times or more   | 0              | 1           | 0           | 0                 | 0    | 0            | 0     | 1     | 0         | 0                  | 0        | 0                  |
| Don't know  | 0              | 0           | 0           | 0                 | 0    | 0            | 0     | 0     | —         | 0                  | 0        | 0                  |
| Never heard of/had test <sup>7</sup>  | 90             | 84          | 88          | 97                | 88   | 91           | 91    | 86    | 85        | 93                 | 91       | 87                 |
| 20a. Were the blood tests, including those you had before the past 12 months, required or did you go for them voluntarily, or were there some of each? <sup>8</sup> |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| All required  | 51             | 55          | 49          | 43                | 52   | 50           | 50    | 46    | 64        | 59                 | 54       | 46                 |
| All volunteered   | 45             | 41          | 46          | 54                | 44   | 46           | 45    | 50    | 34        | 40                 | 40       | 49                 |
| Some of each  | 3              | 4           | 4           | 1                 | 4    | 2            | 4     | 2     | 2         | 1                  | 5        | 4                  |
| Don't know  | 1              | 1           | 1           | 1                 | 0    | 1            | 1     | 0     | —         | —                  | 1        | 1                  |
| 20b. Were any of the blood tests required for: <sup>8</sup>   |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| Hospitalization or a surgical procedure?  | 12             | 12          | 10          | 19                | 7    | 18           | 15    | 8     | 3         | 19                 | 13       | 9                  |
| Health insurance?   | 3              | 2           | 5           | 2                 | 4    | 2            | 4     | 1     | 3         | 1                  | 2        | 5                  |
| Life insurance?   | 6              | 4           | 9           | 4                 | 8    | 4            | 8     | 2     | 2         | 1                  | 4        | 9                  |
| Employment?   | 9              | 9           | 9           | 8                 | 8    | 9            | 8     | 11    | 10        | 7                  | 9        | 9                  |
| Military induction or military service?   | 11             | 18          | 8           | 2                 | 19   | 2            | 12    | 15    | 6         | 2                  | 16       | 11                 |
| Immigration?  | 5              | 6           | 6           | —                 | 6    | 5            | 1     | 1     | 35        | 16                 | 6        | 2                  |
| Other   | 12             | 14          | 9           | 14                | 8    | 17           | 11    | 15    | 12        | 17                 | 14       | 9                  |
| Don't know  | —              | —           | —           | —                 | —    | —            | —     | —     | —         | —                  | —        | —                  |
| 21. When was your last blood test for the AIDS virus infection? <sup>8</sup>  |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| 1990  | 8              | 8           | 8           | 11                | 9    | 8            | 8     | 9     | 7         | 8                  | 9        | 8                  |
| 1989  | 53             | 57          | 50          | 56                | 55   | 52           | 52    | 57    | 60        | 55                 | 52       | 53                 |
| 1988  | 19             | 18          | 20          | 17                | 16   | 22           | 19    | 19    | 13        | 16                 | 18       | 20                 |
| 1987  | 10             | 9           | 10          | 8                 | 11   | 8            | 10    | 9     | 7         | 9                  | 10       | 9                  |
| 1986  | 3              | 4           | 3           | 4                 | 3    | 3            | 4     | 3     | 4         | 3                  | 6        | 2                  |
| 1985  | 2              | 1           | 3           | 1                 | 3    | 1            | 2     | 1     | 6         | 2                  | 1        | 3                  |
| Don't know  | 3              | 2           | 3           | 2                 | 2    | 3            | 3     | 1     | —         | 3                  | 1        | 3                  |
| 22a. Was your last test required or did you go for it voluntarily? <sup>8</sup>   |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| Required  | 52             | 57          | 50          | 47                | 53   | 51           | 52    | 47    | 62        | 57                 | 57       | 48                 |
| Voluntary   | 47             | 43          | 48          | 53                | 46   | 47           | 47    | 52    | 37        | 42                 | 42       | 50                 |
| Don't know  | 1              | 0           | 1           | 1                 | 1    | 1            | 1     | 0     | —         | —                  | 1        | 1                  |
| 22b. Was the test required for: <sup>8</sup>  |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| Hospitalization or a surgical procedure?  | 12             | 12          | 9           | 20                | 6    | 18           | 14    | 8     | 2         | 18                 | 13       | 8                  |
| Health insurance?   | 3              | 2           | 4           | 2                 | 4    | 2            | 4     | 0     | 4         | 1                  | 3        | 4                  |
| Life insurance?   | 6              | 4           | 8           | 3                 | 8    | 4            | 8     | 2     | 2         | 1                  | 4        | 9                  |
| Employment?   | 7              | 7           | 8           | 8                 | 7    | 8            | 7     | 10    | 8         | 5                  | 8        | 8                  |
| Military induction or military service?   | 10             | 16          | 7           | 2                 | 17   | 1            | 10    | 14    | 6         | 2                  | 15       | 10                 |
| Immigration?  | 5              | 6           | 6           | —                 | 6    | 5            | 1     | 1     | 35        | 16                 | 6        | 2                  |
| Other   | 10             | 12          | 8           | 14                | 7    | 14           | 9     | 14    | 11        | 16                 | 11       | 8                  |
| Don't know  | —              | —           | —           | —                 | —    | —            | —     | —     | —         | —                  | —        | —                  |
| 23. Not including a blood donation, where was your last blood test for the AIDS virus done? <sup>8</sup>  |                |             |             |                   |      |              |       |       |           |                    |          |                    |
| AIDS clinic/counseling/testing site   | 3              | 2           | 5           | 1                 | 3    | 3            | 3     | 5     | 4         | 1                  | 3        | 4                  |
| Clinic run by employer  | 4              | 3           | 5           | 5                 | 4    | 4            | 4     | 5     | 5         | 2                  | 4        | 4                  |
| Doctor/HMO  | 33             | 30          | 34          | 38                | 32   | 34           | 31    | 29    | 47        | 39                 | 26       | 35                 |
| Public health department  | 6              | 7           | 6           | 4                 | 6    | 5            | 5     | 5     | 7         | 6                  | 6        | 5                  |
| Hospital/emergency room/outpatient clinic   | 26             | 24          | 25          | 37                | 20   | 33           | 28    | 27    | 14        | 31                 | 29       | 22                 |
| STD clinic  | 0              | 1           | 1           | —                 | 0    | 1            | 0     | 0     | 2         | —                  | 1        | 0                  |
| Family planning clinic  | 0              | 1           | 0           | —                 | 0    | 1            | 0     | 0     | 1         | 1                  | 0        | 0                  |
| Prenatal clinic   | 1              | 1           | 0           | —                 | 0    | 1            | 1     | 1     | —         | 2                  | 1        | —                  |
| Tuberculosis clinic   | —              | —           | —           | —                 | —    | —            | —     | —     | —         | —                  | —        | —                  |
| Other clinic  | 6              | 6           | 6           | 4                 | 5    | 7            | 5     | 5     | 5         | 7                  | 4        | 6                  |
| Drug treatment facility   | 0              | 0           | —           | —                 | 0    | —            | 0     | —     | —         | —                  | —        | 0                  |
| Military induction/service site   | 11             | 17          | 8           | 2                 | 18   | 2            | 11    | 13    | 9         | 2                  | 15       | 10                 |
| Immigration site  | 1              | 1           | 1           | —                 | 1    | 1            | 0     | —     | 5         | 2                  | 1        | 0                  |
| Other   | 9              | 8           | 9           | 10                | 10   | 8            | 11    | 7     | 1         | 6                  | 7        | 12                 |
| Don't know  | —              | —           | —           | —                 | —    | —            | —     | —     | —         | —                  | —        | —                  |

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 1990 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1990—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/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 |
| 24. Before your last blood test for the AIDS virus infection, were you counseled about the AIDS virus and the meaning of the test? <sup>8</sup>  | Percent distribution |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .  | 38                   | 39          | 39          | 28                | 42   | 32     | 35           | 54    | 35       | 35                 | 35       | 40                 |
| No . . . . .   | 61                   | 60          | 60          | 72                | 57   | 67     | 64           | 44    | 64       | 64                 | 64       | 59                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 0                    | 0           | 0           | 1                 | 0    | 0      | 0            | 0     | —        | 0                  | 0        | 0                  |
| 25. Did you get the results of your last test? <sup>8</sup>  |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .  | 77                   | 78          | 76          | 77                | 77   | 76     | 75           | 82    | 80       | 80                 | 77       | 76                 |
| No . . . . .   | 22                   | 22          | 22          | 22                | 22   | 22     | 24           | 16    | 17       | 17                 | 22       | 23                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 1                    | 0           | 1           | 2                 | 0    | 1      | 1            | 1     | 2        | 2                  | 1        | 1                  |
| 26. Did you want the results of your last test? <sup>9</sup>   |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .  | 33                   | 33          | 37          | 21                | 33   | 34     | 32           | 48    | 26       | 26                 | 25       | 39                 |
| No . . . . .   | 62                   | 60          | 59          | 79                | 62   | 61     | 64           | 37    | 74       | 72                 | 68       | 56                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 5                    | 7           | 4           | —                 | 5    | 5      | 4            | 15    | —        | 2                  | 7        | 5                  |
| 27. When you received the results of your last test, did you receive counseling or talk with a health professional about how to lower your chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus or how to avoid passing it on to another person? <sup>10</sup> |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .  | 27                   | 30          | 25          | 22                | 26   | 27     | 21           | 41    | 40       | 30                 | 28       | 24                 |
| No . . . . .   | 73                   | 70          | 75          | 78                | 74   | 73     | 79           | 59    | 60       | 70                 | 72       | 75                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 0                    | —           | 0           | —                 | 0    | 0      | 0            | —     | —        | —                  | 0        | 0                  |
| 28. Were the results given in person, by telephone, by mail or in some other way? <sup>10</sup>  |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| In person . . . . .  | 62                   | 65          | 59          | 65                | 63   | 61     | 59           | 62    | 87       | 80                 | 65       | 55                 |
| By telephone . . . . .   | 15                   | 12          | 18          | 15                | 13   | 18     | 18           | 10    | 7        | 9                  | 13       | 19                 |
| By mail . . . . .  | 17                   | 17          | 19          | 11                | 16   | 18     | 18           | 23    | 5        | 8                  | 17       | 20                 |
| Other . . . . .  | 5                    | 7           | 3           | 5                 | 6    | 3      | 5            | 5     | 1        | 3                  | 4        | 6                  |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 1                    | —           | 0           | 4                 | 1    | 0      | 1            | —     | —        | 1                  | 1        | 1                  |
| 29. Do you feel your last test for the AIDS virus infection was handled properly in terms of the confidentiality of your test results? <sup>8</sup>  |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .  | 92                   | 95          | 90          | 93                | 92   | 93     | 93           | 90    | 90       | 89                 | 93       | 93                 |
| No . . . . .   | 3                    | 2           | 4           | 3                 | 4    | 3      | 3            | 4     | 5        | 6                  | 3        | 3                  |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 4                    | 3           | 5           | 4                 | 4    | 3      | 3            | 5     | 5        | 5                  | 3        | 4                  |
| 30. Do you expect to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection in the next 12 months?   |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .  | 7                    | 14          | 7           | 2                 | 8    | 6      | 5            | 16    | 11       | 6                  | 7        | 7                  |
| No . . . . .   | 67                   | 66          | 75          | 60                | 67   | 68     | 72           | 44    | 50       | 49                 | 67       | 78                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 3                    | 5           | 4           | 2                 | 4    | 3      | 3            | 6     | 7        | 3                  | 3        | 3                  |
| Never heard of test <sup>5</sup> . . . . .   | 22                   | 16          | 15          | 36                | 21   | 24     | 20           | 35    | 33       | 41                 | 22       | 12                 |
| 31. Tell me which of these statements explain why you will have the blood test: <sup>11</sup>  |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Voluntarily, because you personally want to know if you are infected . . . . .   | 66                   | 70          | 64          | 50                | 63   | 69     | 60           | 80    | 71       | 74                 | 67       | 60                 |
| As part of a blood donation . . . . .  | 26                   | 24          | 28          | 28                | 28   | 24     | 32           | 16    | 23       | 24                 | 26       | 28                 |
| As part of a hospitalization or surgical procedure . . . . .   | 10                   | 9           | 9           | 14                | 8    | 12     | 9            | 12    | 12       | 8                  | 13       | 8                  |
| As a requirement for health insurance . . . . .  | 11                   | 12          | 11          | 10                | 11   | 11     | 8            | 15    | 19       | 15                 | 11       | 9                  |
| As a requirement for life insurance . . . . .  | 9                    | 10          | 5           | 13                | 9    | 8      | 7            | 14    | 6        | 11                 | 8        | 8                  |
| As a requirement for a job, other than military . . . . .  | 16                   | 16          | 17          | 14                | 16   | 16     | 14           | 19    | 29       | 18                 | 17       | 14                 |
| As a requirement for the military . . . . .  | 10                   | 13          | 9           | 2                 | 15   | 4      | 10           | 15    | 6        | 7                  | 12       | 11                 |
| As a requirement for immigration . . . . .   | 4                    | 3           | 4           | 2                 | 3    | 4      | 2            | 5     | 9        | 6                  | 4        | 2                  |
| As a required part of some other activity that includes a blood sample and automatic AIDS testing . . . . .  | 15                   | 18          | 12          | 11                | 15   | 15     | 15           | 16    | 10       | 15                 | 13       | 16                 |
| 32. Where will you go to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection? <sup>11</sup>   |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| AIDS clinic/counseling/testing site . . . . .  | 2                    | 2           | 2           | —                 | 2    | 1      | 1            | 3     | 2        | —                  | 3        | 1                  |
| Clinic run by employer . . . . .   | 4                    | 4           | 4           | 8                 | 4    | 5      | 3            | 6     | 10       | 2                  | 7        | 3                  |
| Doctor/HMO . . . . .   | 36                   | 37          | 35          | 42                | 37   | 36     | 38           | 32    | 43       | 42                 | 38       | 33                 |
| Hospital/emergency room/outpatient clinic . . . . .  | 22                   | 22          | 21          | 24                | 22   | 23     | 22           | 22    | 15       | 25                 | 22       | 21                 |
| Other clinic . . . . .   | 7                    | 8           | 7           | 1                 | 4    | 10     | 5            | 9     | 17       | 10                 | 5        | 8                  |
| Public health department . . . . .   | 8                    | 8           | 8           | 4                 | 7    | 9      | 7            | 12    | 4        | 11                 | 7        | 7                  |
| Red Cross/blood bank . . . . .   | 9                    | 4           | 12          | 14                | 9    | 7      | 12           | 1     | 3        | 2                  | 7        | 13                 |
| Other . . . . .  | 8                    | 10          | 8           | 4                 | 11   | 5      | 9            | 11    | 6        | 2                  | 9        | 12                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 3                    | 4           | 3           | 2                 | 3    | 4      | 4            | 3     | 0        | 4                  | 3        | 3                  |

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1990 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1990—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/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 |
| 33. Did you have a blood transfusion at any time between 1977 and 1985?  | Percent distribution |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .  | 5                    | 2           | 5           | 7                 | 4    | 6      | 5            | 5     | 3        | 6                  | 5        | 5                  |
| No . . . . .   | 94                   | 97          | 94          | 91                | 95   | 93     | 94           | 94    | 96       | 93                 | 94       | 94                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 1                    | 1           | 1           | 2                 | 1    | 1      | 1            | 1     | 1        | 2                  | 1        | 1                  |
| 34. Do you think the present supply of blood is safe for transfusions?   |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .  | 50                   | 56          | 52          | 42                | 56   | 44     | 53           | 37    | 39       | 36                 | 50       | 57                 |
| No . . . . .   | 29                   | 28          | 28          | 30                | 24   | 32     | 26           | 36    | 38       | 34                 | 29       | 25                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 22                   | 16          | 19          | 29                | 20   | 23     | 21           | 26    | 23       | 30                 | 21       | 18                 |
| 35. How effective do you think the use of a condom is to prevent getting the AIDS virus through sexual activity?           |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Very effective . . . . .   | 27                   | 32          | 30          | 21                | 31   | 24     | 28           | 30    | 24       | 20                 | 26       | 33                 |
| Somewhat effective . . . . .   | 53                   | 54          | 55          | 48                | 52   | 53     | 54           | 41    | 53       | 44                 | 54       | 56                 |
| Not at all effective . . . . .   | 4                    | 4           | 4           | 4                 | 3    | 5      | 4            | 5     | 4        | 6                  | 4        | 3                  |
| Don't know how effective . . . . .   | 12                   | 8           | 8           | 21                | 10   | 14     | 11           | 20    | 12       | 22                 | 12       | 7                  |
| Don't know method . . . . .  | 4                    | 2           | 2           | 6                 | 3    | 4      | 3            | 5     | 7        | 8                  | 3        | 2                  |
| 36. What are your chances of having the AIDS virus?  |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| High . . . . .   | 0                    | 1           | 1           | 0                 | 1    | 0      | 0            | 1     | 1        | 0                  | 1        | 0                  |
| Medium . . . . .   | 2                    | 3           | 2           | 1                 | 3    | 1      | 2            | 3     | 3        | 3                  | 1        | 2                  |
| Low . . . . .  | 15                   | 22          | 17          | 7                 | 16   | 14     | 16           | 16    | 10       | 8                  | 14       | 20                 |
| None . . . . .   | 81                   | 73          | 78          | 89                | 79   | 82     | 81           | 77    | 81       | 84                 | 83       | 77                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 2                    | 1           | 2           | 2                 | 2    | 2      | 1            | 4     | 4        | 5                  | 1        | 1                  |
| 37. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?   |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| High . . . . .   | 0                    | 1           | 1           | 0                 | 1    | 0      | 0            | 1     | 0        | 0                  | 0        | 1                  |
| Medium . . . . .   | 3                    | 4           | 3           | 2                 | 4    | 2      | 3            | 4     | 4        | 4                  | 3        | 3                  |
| Low . . . . .  | 21                   | 28          | 23          | 12                | 22   | 19     | 22           | 18    | 13       | 11                 | 18       | 28                 |
| None . . . . .   | 73                   | 65          | 70          | 84                | 71   | 76     | 73           | 72    | 77       | 80                 | 76       | 67                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 2                    | 2           | 2           | 3                 | 2    | 2      | 2            | 4     | 4        | 5                  | 2        | 1                  |
| N/A—High chance of already having the AIDS virus . . . . .   | 0                    | 1           | 1           | 0                 | 1    | 0      | 0            | 1     | 1        | 0                  | 1        | 0                  |
| 38. Have you ever personally known anyone with AIDS or the AIDS virus?   |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes . . . . .  | 14                   | 14          | 18          | 11                | 13   | 15     | 14           | 16    | 15       | 7                  | 12       | 21                 |
| No . . . . .   | 84                   | 85          | 80          | 88                | 85   | 83     | 84           | 83    | 84       | 92                 | 87       | 78                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 1                    | 1           | 1           | 1                 | 1    | 1      | 1            | 2     | 1        | 1                  | 1        | 2                  |
| 39. Is any of these statements true for you?   |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| a. You have hemophilia and have received clotting factor concentrates since 1977.  |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| b. You are a native of Haiti or Central or East Africa who has entered the United States since 1977.                       |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| c. You are a man who has had sex with another man at some time since 1977, even 1 time.                                    |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| d. You have taken illegal drugs by needle at any time since 1977.  |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| e. Since 1977, you are or have been the sex partner of any person who would answer yes to any of the items above (39 a-d). |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| f. You have had sex for money or drugs at any time since 1977.   |                      |             |             |                   |      |        |              |       |          |                    |          |                    |
| Yes to at least 1 statement . . . . .  | 2                    | 4           | 3           | 1                 | 3    | 2      | 2            | 4     | 3        | 2                  | 2        | 3                  |
| No to all statements . . . . .   | 97                   | 96          | 97          | 99                | 97   | 98     | 98           | 96    | 97       | 97                 | 98       | 97                 |
| Don't know . . . . .   | 0                    | 0           | 0           | 0                 | 0    | 0      | 0            | 1     | 0        | 1                  | 0        | 0                  |

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

<sup>2</sup>Based on persons answering yes to question 6, "Do you have any children aged 10 through 17?" Question 7 was "How many do you have?"

<sup>3</sup>Persons answering no or don't know to question 10 or 11a.

<sup>4</sup>Persons answering no or don't know to question 10, 11a, or 11b.

<sup>5</sup>Persons answering no or don't know to question 14.

<sup>6</sup>Based on persons answering yes to question 11a.

<sup>7</sup>Persons answering no or don't know to questions 14 or 17.

<sup>8</sup>Based on persons answering yes to question 17.

<sup>9</sup>Persons answering no or don't know to question 25.

<sup>10</sup>Based on persons answering yes to question 25.

<sup>11</sup>Based on persons answering yes to question 30.

**Technical notes**

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is a continuous, cross-sectional household interview survey. Each week, a probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population is interviewed by personnel of the U.S. Bureau of the Census to obtain information on the health and other characteristics of each member of the household. Information on special health topics is collected for all or a sample of household members. The 1990 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes is asked of one randomly chosen adult 18 years of age or over in each family. The estimates in this report are based on completed interviews with 9,379 persons, or about 87 percent of eligible respondents.

Table I contains the estimated population size of each of the

demographic subgroups included in table 1 to allow readers to derive provisional estimates of the number of people in the United States with a given characteristic, for example, the number of men who have had their blood tested for HIV. The population figures in table I are based on 1989 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 from estimates made using the final data file because they were calculated using a simplified weighting procedure that does not adjust for all the factors used in weighting the final data file. A final data file covering the entire data collection period for 1990 will be available at the end of 1991.

**Table I. Sample sizes for the 1989 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes and estimated adult population 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, January–March 1990**

| Characteristics              | Sample size | Estimated population in thousands |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| All adults . . . . .         | 9,379       | 179,518                           |
| <b>Age</b>                   |             |                                   |
| 18–29 years . . . . .        | 2,238       | 46,512                            |
| 30–49 years . . . . .        | 3,751       | 71,074                            |
| 50 years and over . . . . .  | 3,390       | 61,932                            |
| <b>Sex</b>                   |             |                                   |
| Male . . . . .               | 3,887       | 85,252                            |
| Female . . . . .             | 5,492       | 94,266                            |
| <b>Race/ethnicity</b>        |             |                                   |
| Non-Hispanic white . . . . . | 7,372       | 140,498                           |
| Non-Hispanic black . . . . . | 1,150       | 19,438                            |
| Hispanic . . . . .           | 520         | 14,162                            |
| <b>Education</b>             |             |                                   |
| Less than 12 years . . . . . | 2,074       | 39,807                            |
| 12 years . . . . .           | 3,434       | 68,559                            |
| More than 12 years . . . . . | 3,778       | 69,365                            |

**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, January–March 1990**

| Estimated percent  | Total | Age         |             |                   | Sex  |        | Race/ethnicity |       |          | Education          |          |                    |
|--------------------|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|------|--------|----------------|-------|----------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|
|                    |       | 18–29 years | 30–49 years | 50 years and over | Male | Female | White          | Black | Hispanic | Less than 12 years | 12 years | More than 12 years |
| 5 or 95 . . . . .  | 0.3   | 0.6         | 0.5         | 0.5               | 0.4  | 0.4    | 0.3            | 0.8   | 1.2      | 0.6                | 0.5      | 0.5                |
| 10 or 90 . . . . . | 0.4   | 0.8         | 0.6         | 0.7               | 0.6  | 0.5    | 0.4            | 1.1   | 1.7      | 0.8                | 0.7      | 0.6                |
| 15 or 85 . . . . . | 0.5   | 1.0         | 0.8         | 0.8               | 0.7  | 0.6    | 0.5            | 1.4   | 2.0      | 1.0                | 0.8      | 0.7                |
| 20 or 80 . . . . . | 0.5   | 1.1         | 0.8         | 0.9               | 0.8  | 0.7    | 0.6            | 1.5   | 2.3      | 1.1                | 0.9      | 0.8                |
| 25 or 75 . . . . . | 0.6   | 1.2         | 0.9         | 1.0               | 0.9  | 0.8    | 0.6            | 1.6   | 2.4      | 1.2                | 1.0      | 0.9                |
| 30 or 70 . . . . . | 0.6   | 1.2         | 1.0         | 1.0               | 0.9  | 0.8    | 0.7            | 1.7   | 2.6      | 1.3                | 1.0      | 1.0                |
| 35 or 65 . . . . . | 0.6   | 1.3         | 1.0         | 1.1               | 1.0  | 0.8    | 0.7            | 1.8   | 2.7      | 1.3                | 1.0      | 1.0                |
| 40 or 60 . . . . . | 0.7   | 1.3         | 1.0         | 1.1               | 1.0  | 0.9    | 0.7            | 1.9   | 2.8      | 1.4                | 1.1      | 1.0                |
| 45 or 55 . . . . . | 0.7   | 1.4         | 1.0         | 1.1               | 1.0  | 0.9    | 0.7            | 1.9   | 2.8      | 1.4                | 1.1      | 1.0                |
| 50 . . . . .       | 0.7   | 1.4         | 1.1         | 1.1               | 1.0  | 0.9    | 0.7            | 1.9   | 2.8      | 1.4                | 1.1      | 1.0                |

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