

AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes for July 1988

Provisional Data From the National Health Interview Survey

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Introduction

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

The *Advance Data* reports describing the NHIS AIDS data have been restricted to simple descriptive statistics to facilitate their timely release. Thus, these reports do not attempt to explain or interpret differences among population subgroups in AIDS knowledge or to examine relationships among various measures of knowledge, attitudes, and perceived risk. The 1987 and 1988 NHIS AIDS data bases will permit more complex analyses than those presented in this series of *Advance Data* reports, and such analyses are being undertaken by various groups in the Public Health Service.

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

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

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

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

This report presents provisional data for July 1988 for most items included in the AIDS questionnaire, including questions designed to monitor the household mailing of the AIDS information brochure, coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control. Table 1 displays percent distributions of persons 18 years of age and over by response categories according to age, sex, race, and education. In most cases, the actual questions asked of the respondents are reproduced verbatim in table 1, along with the coded response categories. In a few cases, questions or response categories have been rephrased or combined for clearer or more

concise presentation of results. Refusals and other nonresponse categories are excluded from the denominator in the calculation of estimates, but responses of "don't know" are included.

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

Selected findings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Symbols

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

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

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

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

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

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

See footnotes at end of table.

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

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

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

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

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

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

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

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

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

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

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

¹Multiple responses may sum to more than 100.
²Based on persons answering yes to question 4 (includes yes to question 3).
³Based on persons answering yes to question 6.
⁴Based on persons answering yes to question 11, "Do you have any children aged 10 through 17?" Question 12 was "How many do you have?"
⁵Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 27.
⁶Based on persons answering yes to question 28a.

⁷Based on persons answering no or don't know to questions 27 and 33.
⁸Based on persons answering yes to question 33.
⁹Based on persons answering yes to question 41.
¹⁰Based on persons answering high or medium to question 46.
¹¹Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 52.
¹²Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 54.
¹³Based on persons not answering yes to question 58.

Technical notes

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is a continuous, cross-sectional household interview survey. Each week, a probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population is interviewed by personnel of the U.S. Bureau of the Census to obtain information on the health and other characteristics of each member of the household. Supplemental information is collected for all or a sample of household members. The 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes was asked of a single randomly chosen adult 18 years of age or over in each family. The estimates in this report are based on completed interviews with 3,248 persons, or about 89 percent of eligible respondents.

Table I contains the estimated population size of each of the demographic subgroups included in table 1 to allow readers to derive provisional estimates of the number of people in the United States with a given characteristic, for example, the number of men who have had their blood tested for the AIDS virus. The population figures in table I are based on first-quarter 1987 data from the NHIS; they are not official population estimates. Table II shows approximate standard errors of estimates presented in table 1.

Table I. Sample sizes for the 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes and estimated adult population 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, July 1988

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

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

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

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

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

Estimated percent	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
5 or 95	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.8
10 or 90	0.7	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.8	1.4	1.1	1.1
15 or 85	0.8	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.9	2.2	1.7	1.3	1.3
20 or 80	0.9	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.0	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.5
25 or 75	1.0	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.1	2.6	1.0	1.6	1.6
30 or 70	1.0	2.2	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.1	2.8	2.2	1.7	1.7
35 or 65	1.1	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.2	2.9	2.3	1.8	1.7
40 or 60	1.1	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.2	3.0	2.3	1.8	1.8
45 or 55	1.1	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.2	3.0	2.4	1.8	1.8
50	1.1	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.2	3.0	2.4	1.9	1.8

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