

AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes for December 1987

Provisional Data From the National Health Interview Survey

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Introduction

The National Center for Health Statistics has introduced in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) a special set of supplemental questions on the adult population's knowledge and attitudes about acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). This report presents provisional findings for December, the fifth month of data collection with the AIDS questionnaire. Data for August, September, October, and November 1987 have been published in *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics* Nos. 146, 148, 150, and 151.

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

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

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

Abuse and Mental Health Administration; and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

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

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

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

Selected findings

The following highlights describe various aspects of changes in AIDS knowledge and attitudes as observed in the August through December data from the NHIS AIDS

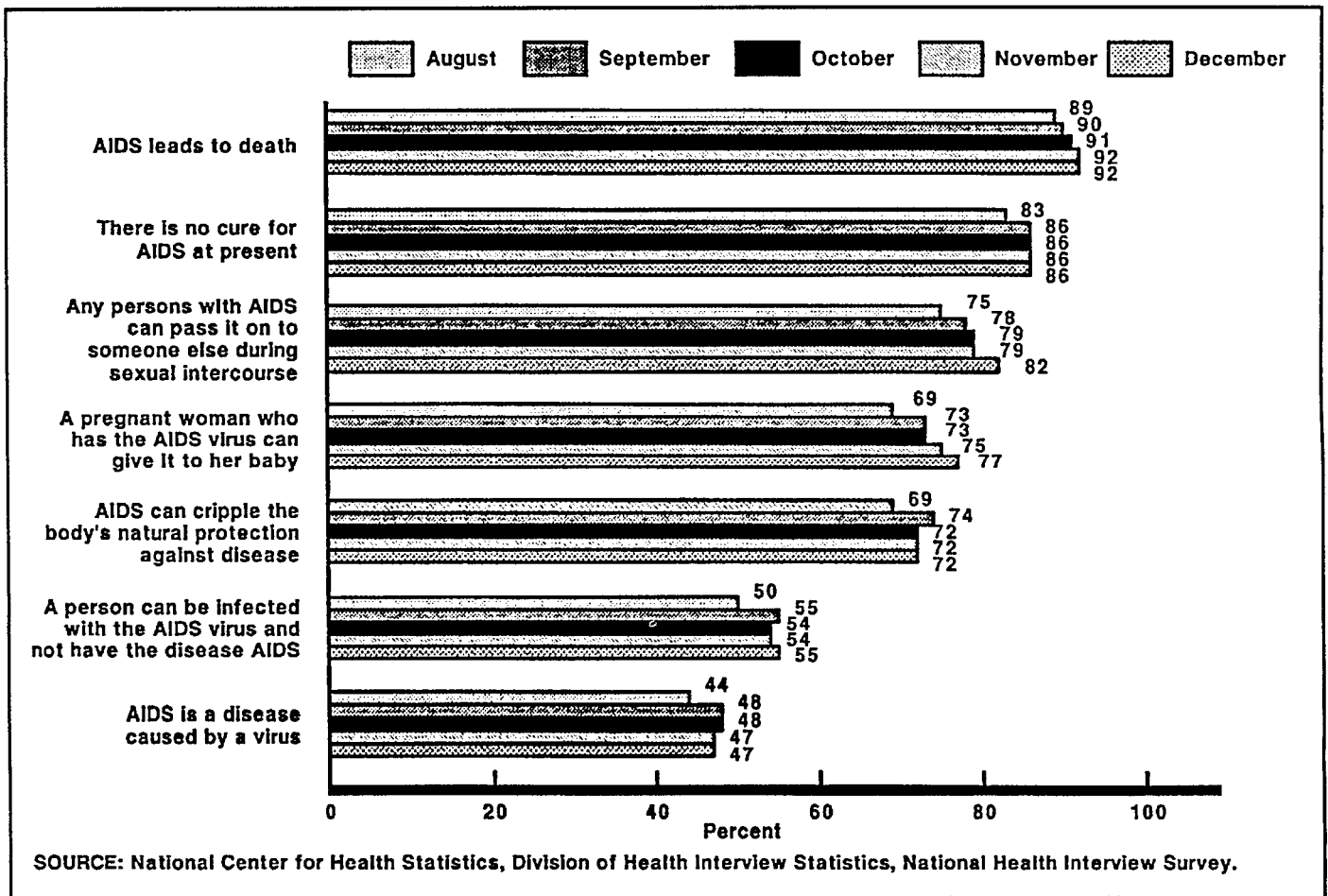


Figure 1. Estimated percent of adults 18 years of age and over who think selected statements about AIDS are definitely true: United States, August-December 1987

survey. Unless otherwise noted, all differences cited in the text are statistically significant.

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

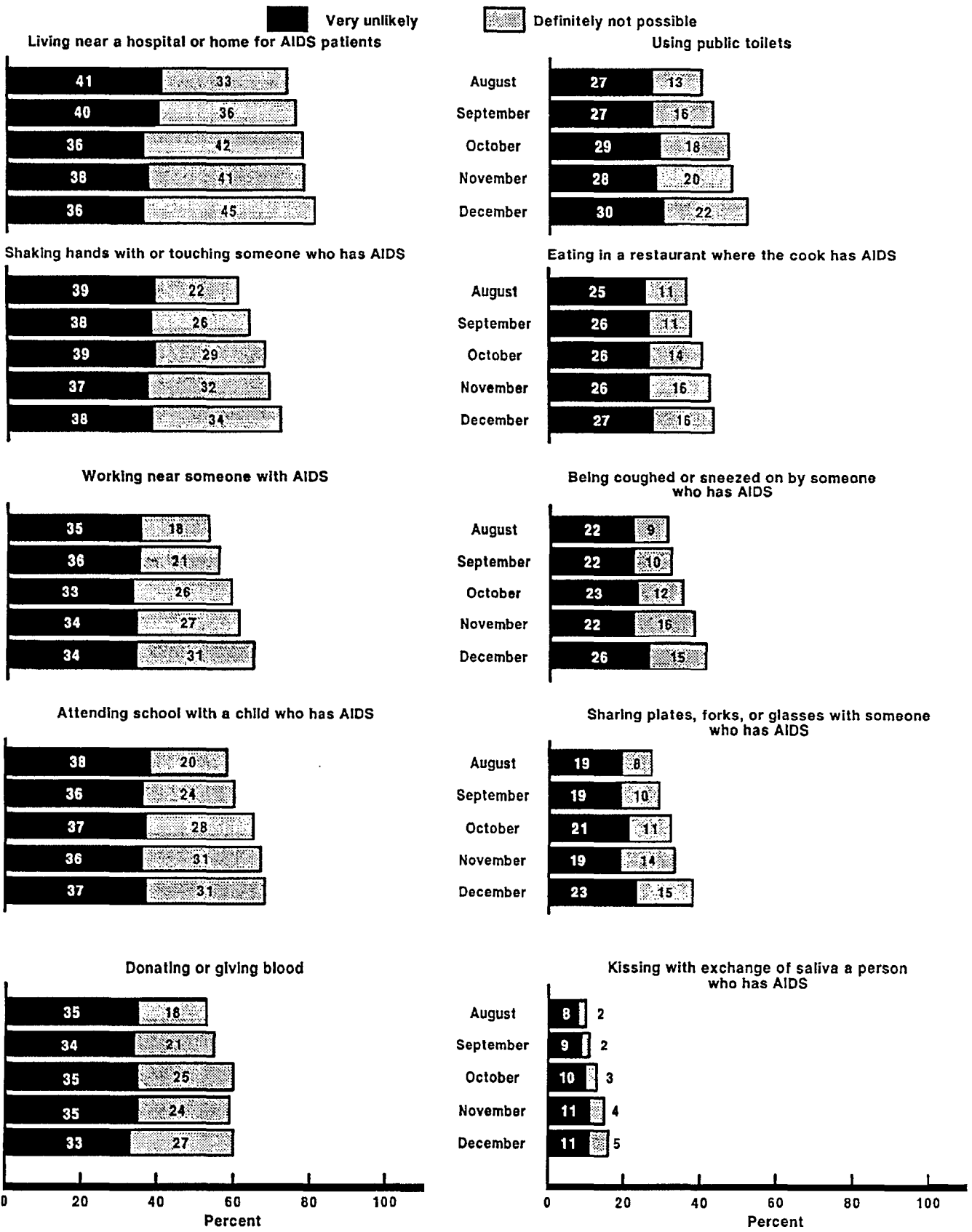
Self-perceived knowledge—The overall level of self-perceived knowledge about AIDS changed little between August and December. In December, 22 percent of all adults stated that they know a lot about AIDS, 40 percent stated that they know some, 27 percent felt they know a little, and 11 percent claimed to know nothing about AIDS. The racial difference in self-perceived AIDS knowledge has increased over time. In August, 20 percent of white adults stated that they know a lot about AIDS, compared to 18 percent of black adults. In December, the respective proportions were 23 percent and 14 percent. The proportions of adults who reported knowing little or nothing about AIDS were 39 percent for white adults and 49 percent for black adults in August; in December, the comparable proportions were 35 and 51 percent, respectively.

General knowledge—Following increases in a number of measures of general AIDS knowledge between August and September 1987 (figure 1), there were few changes during the remainder of the year. However, survey results

indicated continuous improvement in knowledge of how the AIDS virus is transmitted. The proportion of adults who thought it definitely true that the AIDS virus can be transmitted through sexual intercourse increased from 75 percent in August to 82 percent in December; for perinatal transmission, the increase was from 69 to 77 percent. Awareness of the possibility of AIDS virus transmission via shared needles for intravenous drug use was even more widespread, 93 percent, but did not increase over time.

In December, 92 percent of adults stated that it is definitely true that AIDS leads to death, and 86 percent thought it definitely true that there is no cure for AIDS at present. About three-fourths (72 percent) thought it definitely true that AIDS can cripple the immune system, and the same proportion realized that it is definitely false that an AIDS vaccine is available to the public. Seventy percent thought it definitely false that you can tell if people have AIDS just by looking at them. Only about half of all adults thought it definitely true that AIDS is caused by a virus (47 percent) and that a person can be infected with the AIDS virus without having the disease AIDS (55 percent).

Transmission of the AIDS virus—Although the 1987 NHIS AIDS survey revealed widespread misinformation about the risk of AIDS virus transmission through casual contact, knowledge in this area improved continuously between August and December. Figure 2 shows the percents



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Health Interview Survey.

Figure 2. Estimated percent of adults 18 years of age and over considering it very unlikely or definitely not possible to transmit the AIDS virus in selected ways: United States, August-December 1987

of adults who thought it very unlikely or definitely not possible to transmit the AIDS virus by means of various activities. For each activity shown, the percent of individuals stating that the activity could not possibly lead to AIDS virus transmission increased over time, with no reduction in the percent of adults thinking it very unlikely that the activity could transmit the virus.

The percent of adults who thought it definitely not possible to get AIDS or the AIDS virus from living near a hospital or home for AIDS patients increased from 33 percent in August to 45 percent in December. Changes of similar magnitude were observed for some of the other activities: shaking hands with or touching someone with AIDS (up from 22 to 34 percent), working near someone with AIDS (from 18 to 31 percent), and attending school with a child who has AIDS (from 20 to 31 percent). Despite this trend, the NHIS AIDS data show that as of December 1987, almost two-thirds of the adults in the United States still thought that a person is very or somewhat likely to get the AIDS virus by receiving a blood transfusion (66 percent) or by kissing with exchange of saliva someone with AIDS (63 percent). People were most uncertain about AIDS virus transmission via animals and insects. In December, 20 percent of adults did not know if the AIDS virus can be transmitted by mosquitoes or other insects, and 22 percent did not know if pets or other animals can spread the virus.

Blood test for the AIDS virus—By December 1987, 73 percent of U.S. adults had heard of a blood test for infection with the AIDS virus, but 40 percent—over half of those who knew about the test—mistakenly stated that the blood test results tell whether a person has the disease AIDS. There was little change between August and December in any of these measures. The proportion of adults who realized that a positive blood test means that a person can spread the AIDS virus through sexual intercourse rose from 59 percent in August to 63 percent in September and remained at that level for the rest of the year.

Throughout the period from August to December 1987, 7-8 percent of U.S. adults reported that they had ever had their blood tested for the AIDS virus, including 2-3 percent who had the blood test as a routine part of blood donation or transfusion. An additional 7-8 percent of adults said that they had thought about having the AIDS virus blood test, and 3-5 percent reported plans to be tested within 12 months of being interviewed.

Risk of getting AIDS—As of December 1987, only 9

percent of the adults in the United States felt that there was a high chance of someone they know getting the AIDS virus. Sixteen percent said there was a medium chance, 36 percent a low chance, and 26 percent felt that there was no chance that someone they know would become infected with the AIDS virus. They assessed their own chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus as even lower. In December, 62 percent of adults stated that there was no chance of their getting the AIDS virus, and 29 percent said that the chances were low. The proportions who assessed their chances of getting the AIDS virus as medium or high were 3 and 1 percent, respectively. As of December, 7 percent of the adults in the United States reported having personally known someone with the AIDS virus, and 7 percent stated that they have known someone with the disease AIDS.

AIDS prevention—There was virtually no change between August and December 1987 in the proportions of adults who considered various methods effective in preventing transmission of the AIDS virus. In December, 91 percent of all adults thought that celibacy is very effective in preventing AIDS virus transmission, and 86 percent considered it very effective to maintain a monogamous relationship with a person who does not have AIDS. Thirty-six percent of adults felt that using a condom is very effective in preventing transmission of the AIDS virus; 47 percent considered this method somewhat effective.

AIDS discussion, education, and information—In December 1987, two-thirds of U.S. adults reported that they had discussed AIDS with friends or relatives at some time. In August, 37 percent said that they had last discussed AIDS within the 7 days before being interviewed; by December, this proportion had declined to 29 percent. As of December, 62 percent of the adults with children between the ages of 10 and 17 stated that they had talked with their children about AIDS. Fifty-one percent reported that their children 10-17 years of age had received AIDS instruction at school, up from 36 percent in August.

Adults reported in December that their main source of AIDS information is television (59 percent), followed by newspapers (18 percent). If they wanted more specific AIDS information, the majority of adults (60 percent) said that they would go to a doctor, clinic, or HMO. Almost one-fifth (18 percent) of adults stated that they would go to a public health department for more detailed information about AIDS, and 12 percent listed a library as their preferred source.

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

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
Percent distribution ¹											
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1. Have you ever heard of AIDS? When was the last time you saw, heard, or read something about AIDS?											
0-3 days ago	72	64	73	78	75	70	74	63	68	71	76
4-7 days ago	15	19	15	13	14	17	15	17	15	16	15
8-14 days ago	4	6	3	2	4	3	3	5	5	3	3
15-31 days ago	4	6	5	2	3	5	4	6	4	5	4
More than 31 days ago	2	4	2	1	2	3	1	6	3	3	1
Never heard of AIDS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	3	5	2	1
2. Compared to most people, how much would you say you know about AIDS?											
A lot	22	22	28	15	23	21	23	14	8	17	35
Some	40	46	43	33	38	42	41	32	24	44	45
Little	27	28	23	30	28	26	25	35	38	30	17
Nothing	11	4	5	22	12	10	10	18	30	8	2
Don't know	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	-	0	0
3a. AIDS is a disease caused by a virus.											
Definitely true	47	57	54	33	51	44	48	45	34	46	56
Probably true	27	28	26	26	26	27	26	27	25	27	27
Probably false	4	4	3	6	4	5	5	4	5	5	3
Definitely false	5	4	5	7	4	6	5	5	5	7	4
Don't know	16	8	11	28	15	18	16	19	31	14	10
3b. AIDS can cripple the body's natural protection against disease.											
Definitely true	72	77	79	60	73	71	74	57	49	72	84
Probably true	18	17	15	23	18	19	17	24	25	20	13
Probably false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Definitely false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	0
Don't know	8	5	5	14	7	9	7	16	22	6	2
3c. AIDS is especially common in older people.											
Definitely true	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Probably true	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Probably false	18	20	17	18	18	18	18	17	17	18	18
Definitely false	73	71	77	70	72	74	74	67	63	75	77
Don't know	8	7	5	11	8	7	7	13	17	6	4
3d. The AIDS virus can damage the brain.											
Definitely true	26	22	27	27	27	25	25	32	25	25	26
Probably true	32	33	31	32	32	32	32	32	31	33	32
Probably false	8	9	9	6	8	8	9	6	4	8	11
Definitely false	7	10	8	4	8	6	7	3	5	7	8
Don't know	27	26	25	31	25	29	27	27	36	27	22
3e. AIDS usually leads to heart disease.											
Definitely true	7	6	7	8	7	7	7	13	9	7	6
Probably true	22	22	22	23	23	22	22	25	22	23	22
Probably false	18	19	20	13	18	17	19	9	9	17	23
Definitely false	14	16	18	9	16	13	15	10	9	13	18
Don't know	38	36	33	47	36	41	38	43	50	39	31
3f. AIDS leads to death.											
Definitely true	92	93	93	89	92	92	92	92	88	93	93
Probably true	7	6	6	8	7	6	7	6	7	6	7
Probably false	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
Definitely false	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
Don't know	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	2	4	1	1
4a. Where do you get most of your information about AIDS? ²											
Television	84	85	82	85	85	83	83	87	90	87	77
Newspapers	55	42	58	63	58	53	58	44	42	53	65
Magazines	28	26	31	24	24	31	29	20	13	26	37
Radio	10	9	12	9	12	9	10	10	11	10	9
Relatives and friends	9	12	10	6	9	9	8	11	9	9	9
Brochures/fliers/pamphlets	9	10	10	6	7	10	8	17	5	7	12
Doctor/HMO/clinic	6	7	9	3	5	7	6	10	3	6	9
Other	16	21	19	8	14	18	16	17	6	13	24
Don't know	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
4b. Of the sources you just told me, from which one do you get the most information?											
Television	59	63	55	62	59	59	58	67	76	64	45
Newspapers	18	11	17	23	20	15	19	11	11	16	23
Magazines	8	8	9	6	6	9	8	5	3	7	12
Brochures/fliers/pamphlets	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	1	2	3
Doctor/HMO/clinic	3	4	4	1	2	3	3	4	2	3	4
Other	10	12	12	5	10	10	10	8	5	8	13
Don't know	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1

See footnotes at end of table.

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AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age			Sex		Race		Education			
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
5a. If you wanted more specific information about AIDS, where would you get it? ²	Percent distribution ¹										
Doctor/HMO/clinic	60	63	59	58	59	60	59	67	58	63	58
Public health department	18	16	21	17	19	18	18	21	16	18	20
Library	12	14	13	7	11	12	12	8	5	12	14
AIDS hot line	9	12	10	5	8	9	9	12	5	9	10
Other	27	32	28	20	26	27	26	25	20	23	33
Don't know	11	7	8	17	11	10	11	10	20	10	5
5b. Which one source would you most likely use?											
Doctor/HMO/clinic	48	48	47	50	48	49	49	51	51	51	45
Public health department	13	11	15	12	13	12	13	15	11	12	14
Library	7	9	8	4	7	7	7	4	3	7	9
AIDS hot line	6	8	8	4	6	7	6	8	4	6	7
Other	14	16	15	12	14	14	14	12	11	12	19
Don't know	11	7	8	17	12	10	11	10	20	11	6
6a. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.											
Definitely true	55	58	62	45	55	55	58	43	36	54	68
Probably true	24	22	23	27	24	24	24	24	26	27	20
Probably false	3	5	3	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	4
Definitely false	4	7	3	3	5	3	4	6	5	5	2
Don't know	13	9	9	22	13	14	12	21	29	12	6
6b. You can tell if people have the AIDS virus just by looking at them.											
Definitely true	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	1
Probably true	4	4	3	4	3	4	3	5	5	4	3
Probably false	16	17	14	18	16	17	16	16	18	17	14
Definitely false	70	74	75	62	71	70	72	63	57	70	78
Don't know	8	4	6	15	8	8	8	14	18	7	4
6c. Any person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else during sexual intercourse.											
Definitely true	82	85	83	78	79	84	82	82	78	83	82
Probably true	14	12	14	16	16	12	14	12	15	14	14
Probably false	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Definitely false	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	3	1	2	5	3	3	3	4	7	2	2
6d. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give AIDS to her baby.											
Definitely true	77	79	79	74	74	80	77	78	73	77	79
Probably true	17	17	17	18	19	16	18	15	17	17	18
Probably false	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Definitely false	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Don't know	5	3	4	8	6	4	5	6	10	5	2
6e. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.											
Definitely true	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1
Probably true	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	7	5	3	2
Probably false	10	9	10	12	10	10	10	12	12	12	8
Definitely false	72	74	77	64	74	70	75	55	53	71	83
Don't know	14	11	10	21	12	16	12	23	28	14	6
6f. There is no cure for AIDS at present.											
Definitely true	86	86	88	83	86	86	87	82	77	86	90
Probably true	8	7	7	9	8	8	8	7	10	8	6
Probably false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Definitely false	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	1
Don't know	4	3	3	6	4	4	3	7	9	3	2
7. How likely do you think it is that a person will get the AIDS virus from—											
7a. Receiving a blood transfusion?											
Very likely	33	32	30	37	30	35	31	44	42	35	24
Somewhat likely	30	30	31	30	29	31	31	33	29	32	29
Somewhat unlikely	12	13	14	10	13	12	13	6	6	11	17
Very unlikely	19	20	21	15	22	16	20	7	9	16	27
Definitely not possible	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	2
Don't know	4	3	3	7	4	4	3	9	11	3	1
7b. Donating or giving blood?											
Very likely	8	9	7	9	9	8	7	17	15	8	5
Somewhat likely	14	15	12	14	13	14	13	22	19	14	10
Somewhat unlikely	12	14	11	11	12	11	12	12	11	13	12
Very unlikely	33	33	37	29	35	32	35	24	23	34	38
Definitely not possible	27	25	29	27	25	29	29	13	18	26	33
Don't know	6	4	4	10	6	6	5	12	15	5	2

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Percent distribution ¹											
7c. Living near a hospital or home for AIDS patients?											
Very likely	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Somewhat likely	4	5	3	4	4	3	3	7	5	4	2
Somewhat unlikely	8	8	8	9	9	8	7	12	9	8	8
Very unlikely	36	37	38	33	38	34	37	35	31	37	37
Definitely not possible	45	46	46	43	42	47	47	32	35	45	50
Don't know	6	4	4	11	6	6	5	11	17	5	2
7d. Working near someone with AIDS?											
Very likely	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	5	4	3	2
Somewhat likely	13	13	12	14	13	13	13	15	15	15	11
Somewhat unlikely	12	12	14	11	13	12	12	13	10	12	14
Very unlikely	34	34	36	31	35	33	35	29	27	33	39
Definitely not possible	31	34	30	29	29	32	31	28	27	32	31
Don't know	7	3	5	12	7	7	6	10	16	6	3
7e. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has AIDS?											
Very likely	8	8	7	10	8	8	7	13	12	9	5
Somewhat likely	22	24	21	23	24	20	21	25	24	24	20
Somewhat unlikely	14	16	16	11	14	14	15	12	10	14	17
Very unlikely	27	26	31	23	26	27	28	19	19	24	34
Definitely not possible	16	18	16	14	15	17	17	14	13	17	17
Don't know	12	9	9	20	12	13	12	17	23	12	6
7f. Kissing—with exchange of saliva—a person who has AIDS?											
Very likely	28	25	27	32	27	29	27	39	34	30	22
Somewhat likely	35	35	35	34	35	34	35	30	29	35	38
Somewhat unlikely	11	13	13	7	11	11	12	8	6	11	14
Very unlikely	11	13	12	8	11	11	12	7	9	9	14
Definitely not possible	5	6	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	6	4
Don't know	10	8	8	15	10	11	10	11	18	10	7
7g. Shaking hands with or touching someone who has AIDS?											
Very likely	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	4	1	1
Somewhat likely	7	7	6	8	8	6	6	10	10	7	5
Somewhat unlikely	14	15	15	13	16	13	14	14	12	15	14
Very unlikely	38	37	42	35	38	38	39	36	32	37	42
Definitely not possible	34	37	33	32	32	36	35	30	28	35	36
Don't know	6	3	4	11	5	6	5	8	14	5	2
7h. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has AIDS?											
Very likely	11	10	11	11	10	11	10	17	14	12	7
Somewhat likely	28	28	27	29	29	27	27	31	29	28	26
Somewhat unlikely	14	15	14	13	15	13	14	11	10	13	17
Very unlikely	23	24	26	19	23	23	24	16	17	22	29
Definitely not possible	15	17	14	14	14	16	15	14	13	15	16
Don't know	10	6	8	14	9	10	9	11	17	10	6
7i. Using public toilets?											
Very likely	6	4	6	8	6	7	5	12	12	7	6
Somewhat likely	19	21	15	20	19	18	17	25	23	20	21
Somewhat unlikely	14	15	15	11	14	13	14	12	10	14	13
Very unlikely	30	28	34	26	30	29	31	20	18	27	29
Definitely not possible	22	25	23	19	22	22	23	18	17	21	21
Don't know	10	8	7	16	9	11	10	13	20	10	10
7j. Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has AIDS?											
Very likely	93	95	94	91	93	93	94	90	88	94	94
Somewhat likely	5	4	4	6	5	5	5	6	7	5	4
Somewhat unlikely	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	0	—
Don't know	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	3	5	1	1
7k. Kissing on the cheek a person who has AIDS?											
Very likely	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	4	6	2	4
Somewhat likely	10	10	9	11	11	9	9	16	13	12	7
Somewhat unlikely	16	17	16	14	16	15	15	15	13	15	16
Very unlikely	35	35	37	34	35	36	37	28	29	35	34
Definitely not possible	30	33	31	26	27	32	30	25	24	29	33
Don't know	7	3	5	11	7	7	6	11	15	6	6
7l. Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has AIDS?											
Very likely	8	5	8	12	8	9	8	13	14	9	7
Somewhat likely	24	26	22	25	24	24	23	28	25	26	24
Somewhat unlikely	16	17	19	13	17	16	17	15	12	16	15
Very unlikely	26	28	28	21	27	25	27	17	17	23	24
Definitely not possible	15	17	15	12	14	15	15	13	12	16	17
Don't know	11	8	8	16	11	11	10	14	21	10	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 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, December 1987—Con.

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age			Sex		Race		Education			
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
Percent distribution ¹											
7m. Attending school with a child who has AIDS?											
Very likely	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	3
Somewhat likely	8	8	8	9	8	8	7	11	11	9	9
Somewhat unlikely	13	14	15	11	14	13	13	15	12	14	11
Very unlikely	37	36	41	33	38	36	38	30	28	35	35
Definitely not possible	31	37	29	30	30	33	32	28	26	33	34
Don't know	8	4	6	14	8	9	7	13	20	7	8
7n. Mosquitoes or other insects?											
Very likely	8	9	8	9	10	7	8	12	13	9	9
Somewhat likely	24	26	23	23	25	23	24	25	25	28	23
Somewhat unlikely	10	12	12	8	11	10	10	11	7	10	10
Very unlikely	20	21	24	16	22	19	22	14	13	18	16
Definitely not possible	16	17	16	16	16	17	17	13	13	16	18
Don't know	20	15	18	27	18	23	19	26	29	19	24
7o. Pets or animals?											
Very likely	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	5	4	2	2
Somewhat likely	9	10	7	9	10	8	8	13	12	10	8
Somewhat unlikely	10	12	9	8	10	9	10	10	7	10	8
Very unlikely	28	29	31	24	31	26	29	21	21	27	26
Definitely not possible	29	28	32	27	26	32	31	21	24	29	29
Don't know	22	19	19	30	20	24	21	31	32	22	27
7p. Having sex with a person who has AIDS?											
Very likely	94	95	95	92	93	95	94	93	91	95	96
Somewhat likely	4	4	4	5	6	3	4	4	4	4	3
Somewhat unlikely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0
Very unlikely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Definitely not possible	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Don't know	1	0	1	3	1	1	1	3	4	1	1
8. Have you ever heard of a blood test for infection with the AIDS virus?											
Yes	73	78	81	59	73	73	75	58	49	74	75
No	24	20	17	36	24	24	22	38	47	23	20
Don't know	3	2	2	5	3	3	3	4	5	3	5
9. Does this test tell whether a person has the disease AIDS?											
Yes	40	43	43	34	38	41	40	37	32	43	43
No	23	26	29	15	25	22	25	12	7	20	21
Don't know	10	9	9	10	9	10	10	9	9	11	11
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	27	22	19	41	27	27	25	42	51	26	25
10. If a person has a positive blood test for infection with the AIDS virus, does this mean that they can give someone else the AIDS virus through sexual intercourse?											
Yes	63	70	71	49	63	63	65	49	41	63	65
No	3	3	5	2	4	3	3	3	2	3	3
Don't know	6	5	6	7	6	6	6	5	6	7	7
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	27	22	19	41	27	27	25	42	51	26	25
11. Have you ever had your blood tested for infection with the AIDS virus?											
Yes	5	7	6	2	6	4	5	9	3	5	6
Yes, in blood donation/transfusion	3	3	4	1	3	3	3	1	1	2	3
No	63	67	70	53	62	64	66	46	43	65	64
Don't know	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	27	22	19	41	27	27	25	42	51	26	25
12a. Have you ever thought about having this blood test?											
Already had test	8	11	10	3	9	7	8	11	4	8	9
Yes	10	14	12	4	10	10	10	13	7	10	13
No	55	53	59	51	53	56	58	34	38	56	53
Don't know	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	28	22	19	42	27	28	25	43	52	26	25
12b. Do you plan to be tested in the next 12 months?											
Already had test	8	11	10	3	9	7	8	11	4	8	9
Yes	3	6	4	1	4	3	3	8	4	3	5
No	5	5	6	2	5	5	5	2	2	4	5
Don't know	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	3
Never heard of test or thought about having test (no/don't know to q. 8 or q. 12a)	82	75	78	93	81	84	83	77	90	82	78

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Race		Education		
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
13. Where would you go to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection? ³											
	Percent distribution ¹										
Nowhere/wouldn't take test	0	1	—	—	—	0	0	—	—	—	—
AIDS clinic	3	3	4	2	4	2	4	—	3	3	8
Other clinic	31	36	25	33	32	29	29	35	38	29	34
Doctor/HMO	45	36	50	50	40	49	46	42	30	51	41
Red Cross/blood bank	2	3	2	—	2	2	2	1	—	3	—
Other	12	11	14	7	11	13	11	16	20	6	13
Don't know	7	10	4	9	10	5	7	6	9	7	5
14. Where would you go to find out where to have this blood test? ^{2,4}											
AIDS hot line	11	5	31	—	10	14	14	—	13	7	20
AIDS clinic	3	—	10	—	—	7	3	—	—	—	—
Other clinic	4	—	—	21	4	3	2	17	19	—	10
Doctor/HMO	27	34	29	—	32	19	29	22	19	34	099
Friends	2	3	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Public health department	15	8	21	32	20	7	17	10	—	18	11
Other	13	16	5	15	6	25	6	29	—	14	20
Nowhere/wouldn't take test	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Don't know	26	34	5	32	26	25	26	22	49	27	40
15. Have you donated blood since 1985?											
Yes	13	19	16	5	16	10	13	10	5	12	18
No	87	81	84	95	84	90	87	90	95	88	82
Don't know	0	—	0	—	0	0	0	—	—	0	0
16. Have you ever personally known anyone who had the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes	15	19	18	8	14	16	15	11	5	13	15
No	84	80	81	90	85	83	83	88	93	85	84
Don't know	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
17. What are the chances of someone you know getting the AIDS virus?											
High	9	11	12	4	8	10	9	12	6	9	9
Medium	16	21	17	11	18	14	16	16	14	16	18
Low	36	40	39	30	38	35	39	21	23	36	33
None	26	19	22	36	23	29	25	29	34	27	27
Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	13	8	10	19	13	12	11	22	23	12	13
18. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?											
High	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Medium	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	4
Low	29	36	33	20	31	28	30	21	18	26	30
None	62	55	59	72	60	63	62	65	69	65	59
Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Don't know	4	4	3	5	4	4	3	8	9	4	7
19. Here are methods some people use to prevent getting the AIDS virus through sexual activity. How effective is—											
19a. Using a diaphragm?											
Very effective	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	5	3	2	2
Somewhat effective	11	12	10	12	11	12	11	13	11	12	9
Not at all effective	57	58	67	46	56	58	60	44	37	57	59
Don't know how effective	23	20	17	32	24	22	22	26	35	23	20
Don't know method	6	7	4	9	7	6	5	12	15	5	11
19b. Using a condom?											
Very effective	36	41	37	30	37	34	37	32	28	35	34
Somewhat effective	47	47	50	45	47	47	48	41	39	48	47
Not at all effective	6	5	6	7	5	7	5	10	8	6	6
Don't know how effective	10	7	6	16	9	10	9	14	19	9	9
Don't know method	2	1	1	4	1	2	2	4	6	1	4
19c. Using a spermicidal jelly, foam, or cream?											
Very effective	2	3	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	2	4
Somewhat effective	14	15	15	11	14	14	14	13	8	14	11
Not at all effective	56	58	63	47	55	57	58	46	43	55	57
Don't know how effective	22	18	17	32	23	22	22	27	34	23	20
Don't know method	6	6	4	9	6	6	5	11	12	5	8
19d. Being celibate, that is, not having sex at all?											
Very effective	91	91	94	88	91	91	92	89	84	92	89
Somewhat effective	4	5	3	5	4	4	4	5	5	4	4
Not at all effective	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know how effective	3	2	2	4	3	3	3	3	7	2	3
Don't know method	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	3	1	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 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, December 1987—Con.

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

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age			Sex		Race		Education			
	Total	18-29	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											
19e. Two people who do not have the AIDS virus having a completely monogamous relationship, that is, having sex only with each other?											
Very effective	86	86	91	82	87	85	88	78	76	88	82
Somewhat effective	8	8	6	9	7	8	7	11	9	7	8
Not at all effective	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	2	2
Don't know how effective	4	3	2	7	3	4	3	6	9	3	6
Don't know method	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	4	1	1
20. Have you ever discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
Yes	65	71	74	49	61	69	65	68	44	63	65
No	35	28	25	50	39	31	34	32	56	36	34
Don't know	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
21. When was the last time you discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
0-3 days ago	14	14	16	11	13	15	13	18	10	14	16
4-7 days ago	15	17	18	11	15	16	15	18	10	15	16
8-14 days ago	8	9	10	5	8	8	8	5	6	8	8
15-31 days ago	14	17	15	10	13	15	14	13	9	14	10
More than 31 days ago	9	11	10	6	8	10	9	9	5	8	11
Never discussed (no/don't know to q. 20)	36	29	27	52	40	32	36	33	58	37	36
Don't know	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
24. Have you ever discussed AIDS with [any of your children age 10-17]? ⁵											
Yes	62	59	63	56	50	73	64	57	49	61	66
No	38	41	37	44	50	27	36	43	51	39	34
Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25. Have your children had any instruction at school about AIDS? ⁵											
Yes	51	38	50	66	49	52	49	63	47	50	52
No	19	44	20	10	18	21	21	13	20	20	19
Don't know	30	17	31	25	33	27	31	24	32	29	29
26. Have you ever personally known anyone with the AIDS virus?											
Yes	7	7	10	5	6	8	7	9	4	5	7
No	91	92	88	94	92	90	91	87	95	93	92
Don't know	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	4	2	1	1
27. Have you ever personally known anyone with AIDS?											
Yes	7	6	10	5	6	8	7	10	4	5	6
No	91	93	89	94	92	91	92	88	94	93	93
Don't know	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
28. The U.S. Public Health Service has said that AIDS is one of the major health problems in the country but exactly how many people it affects is not known. The Surgeon General has proposed that a study be conducted and blood samples be taken to help find out how widespread the problem is. If you were selected in this national sample of people to have their blood tested with assurances of privacy of test results, would you have the test?											
Yes	70	75	73	63	71	69	71	70	64	70	70
No	21	19	18	26	21	21	21	19	24	22	21
Other	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Don't know	7	4	7	8	6	8	6	9	9	6	8
29. Would you want to know the results of the blood test? ⁸											
Yes	98	98	98	97	98	98	98	98	98	99	97
No	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2
Don't know	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1

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

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

Technical notes

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

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

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Sample size</i>	<i>Estimated population in thousands</i>
All adults	5,597	174,528
Age		
18-29 years.	1,433	47,725
30-49 years.	2,105	66,109
50 years and over	2,059	60,695
Sex		
Male	2,303	82,703
Female	3,294	91,825
Race		
White	4,589	151,003
Black	791	19,107
Education		
Less than 12 years.	1,273	41,503
12 years.	2,134	66,475
More than 12 years.	2,119	62,363

tionalized population is interviewed by personnel of the U.S. Bureau of the Census to obtain information on the health and other characteristics of each member of the household. Supplemental information is collected for all or a sample of household members. The AIDS knowledge and attitudes questions were asked of a single randomly chosen adult 18 years of age or over in each family. The estimates in this report are based on completed interviews with 5,597 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 heard of AIDS. The population figures in table I are based on first-quarter 1987 data from the NHIS; they are not official population estimates. Table II shows approximate standard errors of estimates presented in table 1. Both the estimates in table 1 and the standard errors in table II are provisional. They may differ slightly from estimates made using the final data file because they were calculated using a simplified weighting procedure that does not adjust for all the factors used in weighting the final data file. The final data file covering the entire 5-month period of data collection, August through December 1987, will be available in 1988.

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

<i>Estimated percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Age</i>			<i>Sex</i>		<i>Race</i>		<i>Education</i>		
		<i>18-29 years</i>	<i>30-49 years</i>	<i>50 years and over</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Less than 12 years</i>	<i>12 years</i>	<i>More than 12 years</i>
5 or 95	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.6
10 or 90	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.8
15 or 85	0.6	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	1.6	1.2	0.9	0.9
20 or 80	0.6	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.8	1.4	1.0	1.0
25 or 75	0.7	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.9	1.5	1.1	1.1
30 or 70	0.7	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.8	2.0	1.6	1.2	1.2
35 or 65	0.8	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.9	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.2
40 or 60	0.8	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.9	2.1	1.7	1.3	1.3
45 or 55	0.8	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9	2.2	1.7	1.3	1.3
50	0.8	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9	2.2	1.7	1.3	1.3

Symbols

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

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