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INTERVIEWER: Tell me about what you are doing now and how you got to being a dental nurse, what has led up to it?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I started off by leaving school and I went to college to do hairdressing and beauty therapy.

INTERVIEWER: Was that at [NAME OF SCHOOL]?

INTERVIEWEE: No actually it was in Hyde because I lived in Glossop until September. And I did my full time training at college but I decided about nine months before the exams that I really didn't like what I was doing, but because my dad had paid so much out for it I stuck it out and I passed all the exams and I actually came out with flying colours really, considering I wasn't interested in it. So I left college and for about the first year I did do hairdressing. I went to a salon and worked as a junior and became a stylist.

INTERVIEWER: Did you not like it?

INTERVIEWEE: I just didn't like it; I don't like the idea, the way they set the shops out because it's like you are on a conveyer belt. You have got a head in front of you, cut, cut, cut and move. Because the thing was when it came down to it I wasn't actually doing their hair. One girl would wash it, then you would have one girl pulling the streaks if you were doing streaks, and then you would put the stuff on and then you would have somebody else timing it and somebody else washing it off and then you would cut it and blow it. And you never felt that you had really done the full thing and it was like that with perming. Like cutting, you would cut if and half the time you would have somebody else blowing it so that was something else. They would blow it completely different to what you would want to do so I didn't like the way it was set out, so I thought I would go mobile.

INTERVIEWER: Did you have a car?

INTERVIEWEE: Well this was the problem because I didn't have a car. I had been living with this lad for a few years, and we decided that we were going to buy our own house so it was too much of a risk for me to give up full time work with a basic rate coming in a week and going mobile and having no money one week and so much the next week when we had a mortgage. So I decided not to do that and I went into dental nursing.

INTERVIEWER: How did you get into dental nursing?

INTERVIEWEE: Well at the time I was doing sales repping. I have done cashiering, I've done sales repping, I have done the lot. So at the time I was actually a sales rep and enjoyed it but that was another problem without a car, I had somebody else taking me around to all the appointments which was getting to be a pain in the end because I had that many appointments I couldn't possibly keep them all and do his business as well, and that was causing too much of a problem so the boss said to me if you get your driving license you will be fine. But we

wanted to buy a house and I wanted to have a basic salary coming in a week. I am sorry about it now really, but that was what we decided on. And there was an advert in the paper for a receptionist. I had never been a receptionist, but I thought I would give it a stab and the first thing, I walked into the surgery, and this bloke was interviewing me, and I walked right into this x-ray machine. I made a total idiot of myself. So that set me off straight away because I actually became myself through doing that, I didn't go in with this attitude of like sitting there dead stiff and everything. And we got on really well, we just hit it off with each other and in the end I was there for an hour and half and the one that was there before me had only been in for 10 minutes. So we were just chatting about everything, we weren't even talking about the job, it was just chatting so I had the job. Then I was there for two weeks and I was actually thrown in the deep end because somebody else left so I was automatically head receptionist then, and then the nurse started training me on surgery and then she had quite a lot of time off for about two months.

INTERVIEWER: So did you get any official training then?

INTERVIEWEE: Well no you have got to be in the practice for 22 months before you can do your certificate which I am starting in September at night school. And then I became a nurse doing that and then I left Glossop in September because I had trouble with my fiancé and I decided he wasn't for me.

INTERVIEWER: It was quite a long-term relationship then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes it was five odd years, well it would have been six years this month. But I left in September.

INTERVIEWER: Why was that?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I thought at the time I'm too young and I wasn't enjoying ... completely different and I got dead frustrated and I became ill with it in the end, I just lost so much weight and was so unhappy. And then my mum moved to Manchester because she had ... for a few years, she's remarried now to an Italian, and she has moved back to Manchester which is in [SOUTH MANCHESTER SUBURB] and she could see how depressed I was getting. It all happened in one week actually; we just had such a row and I thought this is it, I've got the excuse to go now, and I left.

INTERVIEWER: Was it a difficult decision?

INTERVIEWEE: Well it was very quick actually because I knew for the last two years of our relationship really that it wasn't working out and I knew that I wasn't going to end up marrying him but I still kept going ahead with things. And the final decision was the fact that one weekend we had been out and we had a really nice weekend with each other which was very rare and he started talking about marriage and I just sort of went yes, and all the rest of it, and I wasn't really giving positive answers but the following Monday morning his mum said congratulations. So I said, 'what do you mean?', and she said 'well I

believe you are getting married, have you set the date, JASON told us it was sometime in August'. This will be this August coming. Well I just sat there and put the phone down and just burst into tears. I thought, this is my life and it's gone. So my dad came round and I told my dad, and he said you are best off getting out now. It's gone too far and I just left.

INTERVIEWER: Was it before when you were younger it was the relationship you really wanted?

INTERVIEWEE: I honestly don't think I sat down for long enough and really thought about it. I was just taking every day as it came.

INTERVIEWER: So it wasn't like when you were younger and sort of 'I want to get married'?

INTERVIEWEE: I went out with him for three years before I would even get engaged and I wouldn't even get engaged to him. The thing is my mum and dad have been divorced and all my aunties and uncles have been divorced, my dad has been divorced twice actually. So I have been brought up with a very..

INTERVIEWER: Cynical?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes in fact I'm against marriage in a certain way. I am for it in other ways. I think if you really know you are right for each other and you know you want to spend the rest of your life, well that's it, go ahead, but it's not me. Not at the moment anyway. So I had this cynical view about it but he had the total opposite, he was strict Catholic and his mum and dad wanted it and they didn't like us living together and he thought it was right and he thought we got on and he thought we were happy.

INTERVIEWER: This is good enough?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, this is good enough, and it took me three years before I got engaged to him.

INTERVIEWER: So how has your life changed since you left him?

INTERVIEWEE: Oh dramatically. It is dramatic really but then I have jumped from the frying pan into the fire. Like I said I left Glossop in September, came into Withington and I moved on a Sunday, came for this job on the Tuesday for the interview and got it and started on Thursday.

INTERVIEWER: Right, so it was a week?

INTERVIEWEE: So it was just a week, get to Manchester, get settled in and got myself a job straight away which I was really pleased about and then on the Friday my Auntie ANGELA and my uncle, because she was at the time going through a divorce and she was very much in the same boat, like I was very depressed and she was dead depressed, and she said let's go out. She's my aunty but she is like a kid at heart, so we went out on a Friday night and I met this lad called RYAN.

INTERVIEWER: And this was all in the same week?

INTERVIEWEE: But the thing was at first he was just a very good medicine for me because he didn't want any strings and I didn't want

any strings at all. And I didn't find out until the end of November that he was actually engaged. So I was just shocked. He told me himself and he sat me down one night and told me everything and he got dead upset with it and he said I feel really disgusted with what I have done but TIFFANY, there is just nothing left in the relationship between me and this girl and I only see her once a week he said, and that's when she comes round to see me. He said I have tried telling her time and time again its' over and she just won't accept it and it's getting really hard. And all this came together and why I hadn't been down his area so much and I hadn't really met that much of the family because of this thing that was going on. So I sat there and I thought, what shall I do, and I went home and told my mum and she said 'well look', we get on so well, which we do. We just laugh all the time with each other and we have got this very open minded view of life, we get on great. She said, 'well, why bite your nose off to spite your face'. Stick with him, as far as he's concerned it's over with her and you know that even if you finish with him you know they will end up not going out with each other for much longer. But I felt lousy about it, I thought what about this poor girl that doesn't even know what's going on.

INTERVIEWER: So you were feeling guilty?

INTERVIEWEE: I felt so guilty for her. So I didn't know what to do and I did actually finish with him. I said, 'look RYAN, I can't carry on like this', and he said 'but its over, I've told her now and its over, I have finished with her'. I said, 'I don't care, I'm just not ready for this'. Because I thought, well he has finished with her now and he is probably thinking like me and you now, so I finished with him and he just kept coming back and coming back. I went back with him which I'm dead glad about, but at least I know that when I did go back with him that he had finished with the girl and it was over, and he had made it quite clear to her that he was seeing me.

INTERVIEWER: Is it a very different type of relationship?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes definitely. It has since February become a lot more deeper owing to the fact that now I can actually admit that I do love him and I can see what love is because with JASON I could always remember thinking to myself, well do I really love him, what's love. I like the lad, I think a lot of him, I still care for him. If anything happened I would be really upset but I never really wanted to spend my life with him. Whereas with RYAN I can sit down and think well, yes, I really want to do this and I really want to do that, but we are still taking every day as it comes because we both said let's not rush into anything. We have started more or less living with each other now and we have still not really had that many arguments. We have our disagreements. There are certain sides of each other that we haven't seen and he hasn't seen my really nasty horrible..

INTERVIEWER: First thing in the morning

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. He has not seen me in the way that I was like with JASON. JASON I walked all over, and I was and I would say some really evil nasty things to him and he would still be there, so I got used to treating him like that. But with RYAN, RYAN can turn round and say to me 'shut up' and I will shut up like that straight away.

INTERVIEWER: Why is that?

INTERVIEWEE: I have no idea. He has got a hold on me that nobody has ever had.

INTERVIEWER: And you like that?

INTERVIEWEE: And I do like it but

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you have quite a strong personality then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Did you dominate the..?

INTERVIEWEE: I definitely dominated JASON, definitely. I took RYAN to meet my dad a few months ago for the first time and it was all polite conversation and the second time I took him up I left them together and me and my dad's wife went out for the day. And we left RYAN and my dad talking and watching the football with a few lagers and naturally they got talking, and dad actually said to RYAN, I have never ever known anybody to be able to tell TIFFANY to shut up and she shut up, and I have never known anybody to have such a hold on her. He said, and what she needs is sorting out because I have had my own way for too long. Like with JASON I had my own way all the time. If I wanted to do something I would do it, and in the back of my head I thought well he's still there, so what, I'll do it. And that's probably what ruined the relationship as well as the fact that I had I didn't actually try for anything because he was always there and I feel very sorry for him because it was a shock for him when I left, but I was only hurting him more by staying.

INTERVIEWER: How old were you when you starting going out with him?

INTERVIEWEE: Fifteen. I was dead young. That's another thing, we never ever gave each other a chance to grow up. Because we split up when I was about eighteen for about four or five months I think it was, and in that few months we both changed so much, by the time we got back with each other we had new things to learn about each other because that break gave us a bit of breathing space. We still threw ourselves back into the relationship again.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think you started a serious relationship so young, I should imagine most of your friend were out with lots of different boyfriends?

INTERVIEWEE: I think girls of the age fifteen to sixteen are looking for a relationship, because they always count the days they have been going out with someone. 'I have been going out with him now fifteen days and two hours and so many seconds' and I think every girl at that age wants to be going out with somebody.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think that is?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know, because all of my friends were doing the same thing yet they all split up with these particular lads, like they were all JASON'S friends and they were all my friends and everybody went out with each other and over the last few years everybody has split up, everybody apart from one couple who got married, but I don't think the marriage is going right. She tells me it's not going right and she said, 'I was the one that made the mistake by marrying him'. And they have all gone different ways now.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think ...

INTERVIEWEE: Oh yes. I think a lot of it had to do with the fact that when my mum and dad split up, this was when I was eleven, and then I found out that my mum wasn't even really my mum you see. For a few years I felt very very rejected.

INTERVIEWER: Was that because you were adopted?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. JASON came along and my dad has never been a loving person, we get on very very well and I lived with my dad and it was just me and him. But he was not one for showingand if you have got any worries or problems you can't go to my dad and my mum wasn't around for me to go to her so I think when JASON came along he was there showing so much love and attention I just fell into his arms. But then as I was growing older, I knew I could stand on my own two feet and I think I really did use him as a fatherly figure for the first few years. Everybody who met JASON and knew my father said 'isn't he like your dad'. And he is, he's very much like my dad, not the fact that JASON relationship anyway but his looks and his attitude to life. Well a lot of his attitude to life, not everything. Like my dad was very critical about marriage and things like that but JASON was opposite in that way. He was a lot like my dad in certain views.

INTERVIEWER: When your mum was around did you get much advice from your parents?

INTERVIEWEE: When I did see my mum she brought me up to date, if I had any problems and things like that but it was very hard for me to communicate with her because I didn't see her a lot, it was once a year. So naturally when you see your mum once or twice. I would go on holiday to see her in Italy which was great and it was more of a holiday atmosphere and I was sort of get in and get out. I think she thought I was telling her everything but I did keep a lot of feelings to myself.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think perhaps.....

INTERVIEWEE: No I'm not now.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, but then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I was. I've got a much better relationship with my mum now that. We have daughter and mother arguments but I'm a lot more open with her I think and I tell her my problems. I still don't think I tell her my personal problems, I think there are certain things that I do keep to myself.

INTERVIEWER: When you were at school the type of sex education or PSE thing which is social education which is much more about relationships, what type of thing did you do, did you have any support there?

INTERVIEWEE: We didn't basically do very much at all, even the sex education was done in biology classes and we all treated it like a joke. All the lads would be so you didn't really take a lot of it in, and I don't think they really went into much depth with it, not enough anyway. They didn't talk about infections, really it was very very basic. All we were taught was how you got pregnant and what happens when the baby is developing and that was it.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think had enough information or advice about it?

INTERVIEWEE: From school?

INTERVIEWER: Yes or from home, or where did you get it from?

INTERVIEWEE: Well friends and youth clubs and things like that. It was basically friends, like talking with the girls.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you got good advice from your girlfriends?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes because we were always looking at some book. I remember the very first time somebody told me about what sex was. I was in Spain at the time and I was only eleven or twelve I think, and I went with my Mum and her sister and we heard about this nudist beach and there were these two lads and my cousins. 'Let's go and have a look', and these lads started talking, they were about thirteen or fourteen, and they told us about it. Oh it's disgusting, oh that's awful. I was really upset about I had heard about sex and that was the first time I had heard about it.

INTERVIEWER: Was it something you were scared of then?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't think I was scared, it was so horrific, I didn't believe it really, but then I got back to school and 'oh that's rubbish, you don't do that, babies are born in your stomach'. 'Yes and then you go and have your stomach cut out'. I honestly thought it was disgusting. But then when you were going to school you did get the basic sexual education, but I don't think you got enough at all. If they had given us a note with all the warnings and everything then I don't think as many kids would have gone out trying it. I did at a young age, I was too young really. Looking back on it now at the time I thought I was so grown up and I thought I am adult now, I've done this. But really it was so stupid, but I think maybe if the teachers had a bit more of an understanding of what sex was and about the warnings of pregnancy. Because I thought I wouldn't get pregnant. I can name loads of girls from our school who all left pregnant, the quietest ones as well.

INTERVIEWER: Were people using contraception or.. ?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Not at all?

INTERVIEWEE: At parties, I started going to parties when I was fifteen, sixteen and I from experience that there wasn't any contraception going round whatsoever. It was a case of you weren't planning on doing it, you get there and you would have a few to drink, and you would meet a lad and then you would start kissing and before you know it, it's happening. Then it's too late, it's happened.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think people really don't plan to do it or they?

INTERVIEWEE: No..... unless you are planning..... what can I do on a Friday night, I'm going to have to get some contraception. Alright then, that's fine, but it's not very nice when it's planned. I think it's just something that happens, there is a build up to it. And I think to stop halfway through the build up and say, 'right get your condom out now'..

INTERVIEWER: This is one of the things we are interested in in terms of AIDS because one of the ways of protecting yourself is using condoms and a lot of people say the same thing about that, that it's not something that you think about, it's the last thing you are going to be thinking about at that time, do you think that it is the case or do you think that's the way sex..?

INTERVIEWEE: I would like to be able to say that say if I went out one night and I met a stranger, I would like to think that I would be the type of person who would use a condom, but the thing is, like when I started sleeping with RYAN; I had been going out with him a few months, but he was still a stranger really in the way that how would I know if he had AIDS or not, but because I had been with him for a few months and I did know him basically, I thought I would be alright. That's the attitude I had at the time. If I was diagnosed with AIDS now then I would think it was my own bloody fault, and my dad said when he first met him 'find out whether he's got AIDS first, go and get a test the pair of you'. That's just something you can't do. I couldn't turn round and say 'RYAN I really do want you to use a condom', it wouldn't have made any difference if I had asked him then or when we was married, because I could have said to him right I want you to use a condom until we are married, but say he did have it and then we got married and we started having sex without the condom.

INTERVIEWER: You are thinking that your relationship is going to be long term anyway, often when you start a relationship you think it's going to be long term and it turns out not to be, say RYAN'S girlfriend really did drag him back or something, do you think that situation is different when you say it's going to be a long relationship - what is the point of using protection when somebody's got it and you are going to have it,

INTERVIEWEE: I have not had a short relationship. I would like to be able to think that I would use it because when I met RYAN... No I haven't really because when I first met RYAN I wasn't planning on settling down with him yet I still didn't use it, so I suppose I wouldn't.

But I am sure that if I was to go out one night with a girl and I had a one-night stand I think I would. I hope to death I would, I would like to think that I would.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think makes it difficult to?

INTERVIEWEE: To actually use them? I don't know whether it's embarrassment or you are putting that person down or something. The climax to intercourse is all passion and kissing and I think to actually just stop and he puts a condom on or for me to turn round and say, 'I want you to put this on', it just ruins the whole thing then. The whole point of sex is enjoyment or love and if you have got either you are not prepared to stop halfway through and say, 'right I want you to put a condom on now'.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that using a condom makes it into something much more basic?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes I think it's like a machine. It's like step three, and step four - go ahead. It's so basic and it takes the whole meaning out of what I like to think of sex. But if I had a one-night stand I would like to use it.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think it would probably be up to you if you were going to do that, to ask somebody?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes I would ask.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think it likely that your partner or the man would actually offer? Do you think in that way men are as concerned about protecting against AIDS?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I've not known one. Even a few friends that are male and talk to me openly, and I know they are going to go to bed with anyone in sight and they are not bothered at all. Because AIDS seems to be such a thing that is so far away and its only since I've been a dental nurse and I have been going to a few conferences on AIDS that I have really took a view on it and I thought, bloody hell it's there and it's just as easy for me to get it as it is for any other person. I say to them you should do, but they say when you are with a girl it's all you're after or you like the girl and you are just not bothered about something like that at the time. Next day they might think, oh bloody hell I should have used a condom really, you don't know what she's got. If she slept with me the first time who else has she been with, and then it's too late. I don't think men are generally that bothered about it.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think that women are more bothered than men, presumably from what you are saying you think women are?

INTERVIEWEE: Well women have always been more concerned about sex, they are concerned about virginity and concerned about pregnancy because it's them, so I think it's natural for them to be more concerned about viruses and things. I don't know the reason why. Me and SHARON talk about it and she says 'well it scares me to death', I think it's basically because it's always been that women have more

laid on their shoulders and they just accepted it more like that. But there again there are going to be those that aren't bothered at all and just sleep anywhere without any protection. I think the majority of women care at the moment than men.

INTERVIEWER: How serious a risk do you think it is?

INTERVIEWEE: I think it's very serious. I went to an AIDS conference in October last year and we had all the latest figures for how many people had full blown AIDS in Stockport and Manchester and I came out crying. I was so scared and I came out thinking, I can't carry on with this job. But if we carry on our job in the professional way that we are supposed to then I will not get it unless I stab myself with a needle with the virus on. But we are very very careful of things like that now and we take all precautions, but I actually came out of that meeting and I was scared to death, I couldn't sleep that night. I told my mum everything and she was sat there saying 'good god, I didn't think it was that bad'. Because at the time I was doing a lot of practice in Moss Side and the October 1988 figures that they gave us said that the most were in Manchester and it's usually where there is a lot of drugs, and the Moss Side centre I am sure you must know is terrible and I thought, how many patients a day am I seeing that are HIV positive. There are going to be a couple a week definitely. That's where they said the biggest group is going to be, and yet I have asked the basic questions of every patient that comes through the door about hepatitis, AIDS and their medical history and I have never once had anybody turn round and say yes.

INTERVIEWER: Presuming they know?

INTERVIEWEE: Some people must do. In the two years I have been doing it now I must have seen somebody that knows they have got AIDS but yet nobody has admitted to it. And then again there will be people who don't know they have got it, so it did scare me, and by that time I had slept with RYAN but for about two weeks after that I was paranoid about it and I told him everything and even he got scared with it.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think people in general, well you have obviously changed your ideas about it from getting information and finding out about it, do you think people in general understand the level of risk?

INTERVIEWEE: No because even last night, went for a drink in the pub up there and we got one of the punters who is twenty three, coming up and talking to us and his friend and they started asking us 'what do we do working' and they were dead interested in what we were doing and then we started talking about AIDS and when we started telling them figures and everything; they didn't know anything and I sat there thinking, 'am I the only person that knows?'. Honest to god, they didn't even know the basic facts about it, yet they were interested.

INTERVIEWER: What type of things?

INTERVIEWEE: Well basically they were just asking questions about the whole thing and they were going 'really!', like they really thought it was more or less a gay disease, they had that attitude that it was just a gay disease and that it was only gays that get it. They were more concerned about the figures, like how many people are actually getting it and how it's on the increase and how it's going to double in the next decade. They got pretty worried about that and then KAREN actually asked one of them 'would you use a condom if you met a girl tonight?' and he said 'no', so she said, 'why not?'. 'Because I won't get it'. She said, 'yes but you've got as much chance as anybody else of getting it', and he said, 'no I won't get it'. He was dead sure himself he wouldn't get it but basically they didn't know very much about it at all. About the ways of how you can get it, they didn't understand that. They thought that even if you slept with a girl, I don't know where they got this information from, but one of them thought if you slept with a girl that had AIDS the chance of you getting it was one in ten million. That was his attitude.

INTERVIEWER: He was quite shocked?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes he thought he would probably get away with it. RYAN, I tell him all the latest information that I get about it; you get leaflets coming round and I take them home and read it. He is passing that information on to his friends and he tells me that when he tells them they don't believe him.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think people have this attitude?

INTERVIEWEE: Because they probably don't know people who have got it. I was told now that everybody knows somebody with AIDS, even though they may not know they have got AIDS. I have told that to a few people and they say, 'well I don't know anybody who's got AIDS' and I say 'yes but that person doesn't know they have got AIDS as well but if you look round your ring of friends and family one of them will have AIDS', and they can't take it in. And I think it's basically because it's not been so near to family with a lot of people. I think when it hits your family that's when they are going to think, God. Like I know that if one of my sisters got it or a close friend of mine has got it and say DONNA for instance, if DONNA was to come in and say 'TIFFANY, I've got AIDS', I would think God, it's not got to the scale, they think it's somewhere else it's happened.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think of the health education campaign and stuff on the TV?

INTERVIEWEE: Well last year they were really pushing with it and they must have just done it for last year because I remember every other was something to do with AIDS and they were really good advertisements. Like the billboards you see had them, but I think it has slowed down this year, specially the last four or five months it's just come to a gradual stop. I can't remember the last time I saw something but I don't watch a lot of telly.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that gives people the idea that the disease has slowed down?

INTERVIEWEE: Well yes because it's alright when it's on the front of the newspaper, you naturally read the front page but a week later it's gone out of your mind. It's like anything, you read something on the front page and say, 'did you hear about that?', but a week later you've forgotten all about it. I think if they do slow it down like that people's attitude will slow down as well.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think would be the best way of educating more people about it?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I think it should definitely be brought into sex education in school as a very strong point, not just run over it and say, 'oh yes, and you can get AIDS'. Really go into the actual disease itself biologically, like take it as part of a biology lesson so people would know why you get it, how you get it, what the disease actually is and affects your immune system. I think that should be taught in schools. I think the leaflets should be a lot more detailed because I have got a leaflet in there and it's only telling you that what everybody basically knows anyway. It's not telling you anything new so really all it's doing is jogging your mind.

INTERVIEWER: And what sort of things do you think

INTERVIEWEE: Like what I think they should learn in schools really. Basically more about the disease itself, more about the risks of getting it and probably putting a few figures on like what scared me in October. Say they were to put the April 1989 figures on it to let people know how its escalated since April last year so they can see it's definitely on the increase, because I have never seen a leaflet yet that's actually told you the figures, the percentage of people who have got it.

INTERVIEWER: It's putting it in real terms?

INTERVIEWEE: I think they are bothered about scaring people myself, I think the government are too concerned about scaring people too much. How can you be scared too much, I think it is something that should be taken very seriously. I think these leaflets that they are sending out are drab, I don't think it has done anything whatsoever. We have got one in there about not catching AIDS from the dentist and it shouldn't really say that. Because you could catch AIDS from a dentist if the nurse wasn't very good, if she was using a shared needle. I think they should highlight it a bit more in the way that how to avoid getting AIDS really.

INTERVIEWER: Who do you think is most at risk from AIDS?

INTERVIEWEE: Well that's only because I was told that at that conference. It's basically drug users that have one of the highest risk groups, along with gays.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know why that is why they are high risk groups at the moment?

INTERVIEWEE: No idea.

INTERVIEWER: They didn't really present a reason?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I know it's through sharing a needle.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think it will always stay that way, for instance, it's always that they will be the highest risk?

INTERVIEWEE: If people's attitudes changed about AIDS, yes I still think it will be because I think people who are on drugs like heroine and use needles, I don't think they have got it in them to change their attitude because they are still doing it now. Yes I think they will remain a high risk group.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think heterosexuals are at risk as well?

INTERVIEWEE: Oh yes, but I think the more figures come up and the more it comes to people's families and friends, sex is going to change in people's lives. I think in the next ten years if the figures go up as much as they say they will, then everybody will know somebody who's got AIDS. I think attitudes will definitely start changing and I think the next generation of children, say the nine year olds now, by the time they come to sixteen they will know somebody in the family or they know a friend or a father's friend or whoever and then children who have been born with it, they have got to grow up yet if they live. They probably won't live but some of them might. I think things will have to change.

INTERVIEWER: In what way do you think they will change?

INTERVIEWEE: I think the attitude about sex will be not as casual as it is still now. I think it's definitely changed over the last ten years, because like the sixties was like a baby boom and then it has changed a bit more.

INTERVIEWER: More concerned about..

INTERVIEWEE: Well definitely, but I think it will probably change again over the next ten years.

INTERVIEWER: What do you feel about attitudes changing, do you think that's a good thing or a bad thing?

INTERVIEWEE: It's definitely a good thing, I hope everybody's attitude does change.

INTERVIEWER: Apart from actually helping stop AIDS just in general?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes I do, because I regret what I did when I was a teenager. I really do regret it. I think it will make people more aware of what actually sex is and its' not just something that you try out. I think we will have to stop kids trying it out because of the AIDS, and think, 'I know somebody who's got AIDS I'm not doing that'. So then they will sit back and they will eventually meet somebody they love and they will have to give in to it, but then they will actually be somebody who they respect.

INTERVIEWER: And they will stay with that partner?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes they will probably stay with that person, I think their attitude will change along with that.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think it will be women's attitude or men's attitude that will change?

INTERVIEWEE: Everybody has to change. Like I said I think women have already got more of a conscience about it, but I think they still need to be more changed, especially men. I really don't know that many blokes who I think would use a condom or even are concerned about it. I mean they have never been concerned about getting women pregnant have they. And when they do get them pregnant they blame it on the woman because they never think it's their fault. Whereas when I met RYAN the very first thing he asked me before we had sex, 'was I using contraception'.

INTERVIEWER: Did that impress you about him?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes very much so. This was actually ... because I knew it was going to happen and he knew it was going to happen and he just stopped and said 'TIFFANY, are you on the pill?' and I said 'No I'm not', and he went, 'you're not!', so I said 'no I've got a coil'. I am sure to this day if I had said no, I'm not using anything he wouldn't have done it. He stopped to ask so what was the point of asking if he wasn't bothered.

INTERVIEWER: Were you surprised?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I was surprised by his attitude because he was quite a jack the lad when I met him. I thought he was one of them who would run around and have anything with a skirt on but he's not at all. That's what I do like about him a lot. He's got a good open attitude towards life, I was very impressed that he asked me. I mean I would have gone ahead whether he had asked me or not.

INTERVIEWER: You wouldn't if you

INTERVIEWEE: No, well I don't know whether I would if I hadn't have been... actually said to RYAN well I'm not using anything. But hopefully he would have had some condoms but if he hadn't asked I still would have because I know my conscience is clear you see, I probably would have sat back afterwards and thought, well he doesn't even know whether I'm on anything. But he did ask.

INTERVIEWER: He sounds as if he's a good catch to me.

END OF RECORDING