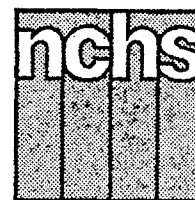


Advance Data



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

AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes for October–December 1989 Provisional Data From the National Health Interview Survey

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Introduction

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) 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 From Vital and Health Statistics* (Nos. 146, 148, 150, 151, and 153). A public use data tape containing the information collected in 1987 is available from NCHS.

During the first 4 months of 1988, the NHIS AIDS questionnaire was revised to meet current program needs for information about AIDS awareness. The revised AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey entered the field in May 1988. Provisional findings for the remainder of 1988 were published periodically *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics* Nos. 160, 161, 163, 164, 167,

and 175); in addition, two special reports focusing on minority populations were published from the 1988 data *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics* Nos. 165 and 166). A public use data tape of the 1988 AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey is also now available. The NHIS AIDS questionnaire used in 1988 was continued throughout 1989. Reports based on the 1989 data are being issued on a quarterly basis. This report presents provisional data for the period October–December 1989.

The *Advance Data* reports describing the NHIS AIDS data have been restricted to simple descriptive statistics to facilitate their timely release. Thus, these reports do not attempt to explain or interpret differences among population subgroups or to examine relationships among various measures of knowledge and AIDS-related behavior (e.g., testing). The NHIS AIDS data bases 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 estimate public knowledge about AIDS virus (HIV) transmission and its prevention. These data are needed to plan and develop AIDS educational campaigns and to monitor major educational efforts, for example, 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 NHIS AIDS questionnaires were developed by the National Center for Health Statistics and interagency working groups established by the Information, Education, and Risk Factor Reduction Subcommittee of the Public Health Service Executive Task Force on AIDS. The working groups included representatives from the Centers for Disease Control; the National Institutes of Health; the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration; and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The current AIDS questionnaire includes items on sources of AIDS



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Public Health Service
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information; self-assessed levels of AIDS knowledge; basic facts about the AIDS virus (HIV) and how it is transmitted; blood donation experience; awareness of and experience with the blood test for HIV; personal acquaintance with persons with AIDS or HIV; 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 also included.

This report presents provisional data for October–December 1989 for most items included in the AIDS questionnaire. 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 (generally comprising less than 1 percent of total responses) are excluded from the denominator in the calculation of estimates, but responses of “don’t know” are included.

The NHIS AIDS questionnaire uses the phrase “the AIDS virus” rather than “HIV,” because it was felt that the general population might not be familiar with the more scientific terminology at the time the survey began. In this report, the two terms are used synonymously.

Selected findings

The following highlights describe various aspects of AIDS knowledge and attitudes as observed in the October–December 1989 data from the NHIS AIDS survey. Unless otherwise noted in the text, all measures described remained stable over this 3-month period. Any differences cited in the text are statistically significant at the .05 level (see table II for provisional standard errors of estimates).

Sources of AIDS information—The proportion of adults 18 years of age

and over who reported having seen or heard public service announcements (PSA’s) about AIDS on television or on the radio in the month before the NHIS interview (80 percent and 45 percent, respectively) remained stable throughout 1989. For both, the proportion who had seen or heard these announcements increased with years of education. Black adults were more likely than white adults to report having heard radio PSA’s (51 percent compared with 44 percent), a difference which has been noted since the question was introduced in 1988. As in previous months, approximately one quarter of those who had seen or heard these announcements recalled that they were part of the “America Responds to AIDS” series.

Twenty-one percent of adults reported that they had read AIDS brochures or pamphlets in the previous month. This figure also remained essentially unchanged throughout 1989, but is much lower than the 52 percent figure recorded in June and July 1988, coincident with the national mailout of the “Understanding AIDS” brochure. The proportion who reported ever having read brochures or pamphlets (61 percent) was similar to figures reported for previous months. Black adults were more likely than white adults to report having read brochures in the previous month (29 percent compared with 19 percent). However, the proportion who reported ever having read AIDS brochures was essentially the same in both racial groups. Proportions having read brochures in either time period increased with educational attainment; females were more likely than males to have read this type of information.

Sixty-two percent of parents with children between the ages of 10 and 17 years said they had ever discussed AIDS with them and 63 percent said their children in this age group had received instruction about AIDS in school. In addition, 61 percent of all adults had ever discussed AIDS with a friend or relative. All of these figures were higher for females than males and increased with increasing years of

education. All figures remained essentially unchanged throughout 1989.

Self-assessed knowledge—Levels of self-assessed knowledge about AIDS among adults did not change in 1989 with 68 percent of the adult population claiming to know at least something about AIDS and the remainder stating that they knew little or nothing. While similar proportions of black and white adults said they knew a lot about AIDS (23 percent and 25 percent, respectively), a higher proportion of black adults than white adults claimed they knew little or nothing (41 percent compared with 30 percent). Other groups with a high proportion claiming little or no knowledge about AIDS included those with less than 12 years of education (50 percent) and those 50 years of age and over (49 percent).

General knowledge—The responses to most of the questions dealing with general AIDS knowledge remained unchanged during 1989. Knowledge about the three major modes of HIV transmission (sexual, through sharing contaminated needles for drug use, and from mother to baby during pregnancy), remained high in all demographic subgroups examined. The proportion who said it was definitely true that a pregnant woman with the AIDS virus could give it to her baby increased slightly from 81 percent in October and November 1989 to 84 percent in December 1989. There were also slight increases between the first and last quarters of 1989 in the proportion of adults who felt it was definitely true that a person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS (from 55 percent in quarter 1 to 58 percent in quarter 4) and in the proportion who stated it was definitely true that a person with the AIDS virus can look and feel healthy (from 48 percent to 51 percent).

As in previous months, general AIDS knowledge increased by education and was higher for those under 50 years of age than for those 50 years and over. There also remained racial differentials seen in previous months with white adults giving the correct definitive response more often than blacks. However, in

most instances, this differential was 10 percentage points or less.

Misperceptions about HIV

transmission—Responses to most questions dealing with the possibility of HIV transmission by casual contact showed a slight increase in correct perceptions about this type of transmission from December 1988 to the fourth quarter of 1989. For these questions, the proportion of adults who thought it very unlikely or definitely not possible to spread HIV through casual contact increased by 3 to 5 percentage points (see figure 1). The two questions showing the largest increase dealt with the likelihood of transmission by shaking hands, touching, or kissing on the cheek someone with the AIDS virus and by attending school with a child who has AIDS. These improvements were noted in most demographic subgroups examined with slightly larger increases for black adults and those with less than 12 years of education.

Blood donation and testing—In October–December 1989, as in previous months, 40 percent of adults reported ever having donated blood including 16 percent who donated blood since March 1985 when routine screening for HIV antibodies began, and 7 percent who reported donating blood in the 12 months before interview. Also unchanged throughout 1989 was the proportion who said they had heard of the blood test for the AIDS virus (74 percent). This proportion remained lower among black adults (66 percent) compared with white adults (76 percent), among those 50 years of age or over (61 percent) compared with those who were younger (82 percent), and among those with less than a high school education (55 percent) compared with those with at least a high school education (79 percent). Sixty-five percent of adults believed that blood donations are routinely tested for HIV antibodies and 49 percent felt the present blood supply was safe for

transfusion. Again, these figures have remained stable for many months.

In October–December 1989, 21 percent of adults indicated that they had been tested for the AIDS virus infection. As in the past, the majority of those who were tested had their testing done as part of a blood donation (67 percent), 19 percent sought testing voluntarily, and 17 percent were tested as part of another activity which required routine testing (such as a physical examination for military induction). The percent who have been tested has been rising steadily since May 1988 when the figure was 16 percent. Increases in the proportion who have been tested were noted during 1989 for five subgroups: those 18–29 years of age (from 26 percent in quarter 1 to 30 percent in quarter 4), males (from 22 to 26 percent), white adults (from 19 to 22 percent), black adults (from 15 to 20 percent), and those with more than 12 years of education (from 26 to 30 percent). Seven percent of adults

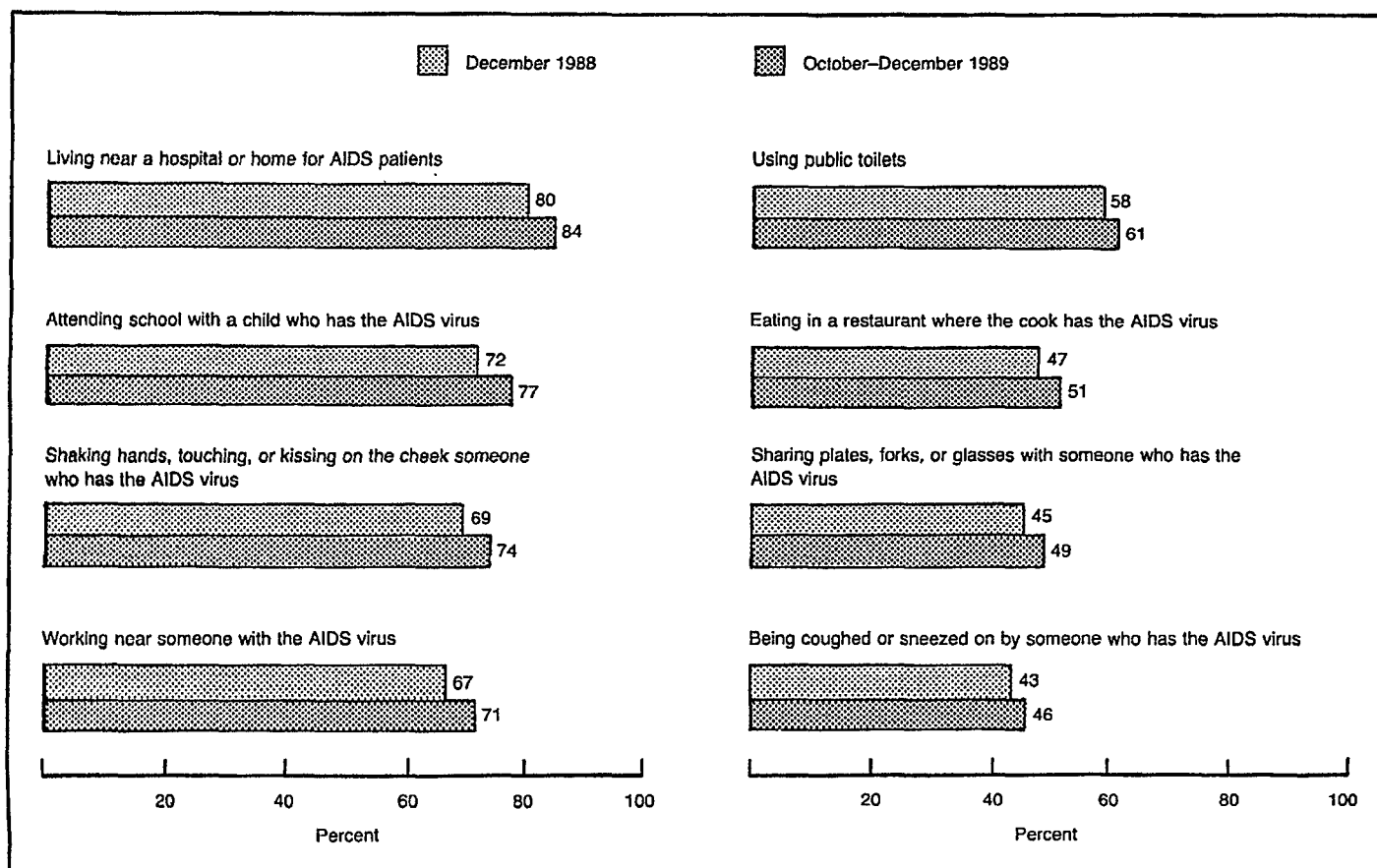


Figure 1. Provisional estimates of percent of adults who thought it very unlikely or definitely not possible to become infected with HIV in selected ways, December 1988 and October–December 1989

interviewed in October–December 1989 indicated that they expected to be tested for the AIDS virus infection in the next 12 months; this figure also remained stable during 1989.

Preventive measures—In the fourth quarter of 1989, 86 percent of adults felt that using condoms were somewhat or very effective in preventing HIV transmission through sexual activity. The perception that this prevention method was at least somewhat effective was high in all sociodemographic subgroups (71 percent or greater). These figures remained essentially the same during 1989. A monogamous relationship between two uninfected people was viewed as a very effective method of prevention by the majority of adults in all subgroups (74 percent or more). While the overall proportion who stated that monogamy was very

effective remained stable throughout 1989, the proportion rose among black adults from 70 percent in quarter 1 to 79 percent in quarter 4.

Risk of getting HIV—During October–December 1989, 83 percent of adults felt that they had no chance of having HIV infection and 77 percent felt they had no chance of getting HIV infection. Both of these proportions remained unchanged from previous months. For both, females were more likely than males to report no chance of having or getting HIV. Those 50 years of age and over and those with 12 or fewer years of education were also more likely to report no chance of infection than younger and more educated persons. As in previous months, a small percent of adults (2 percent) reported belonging to one or more of the groups with behaviors associated with

increased risk of AIDS (e.g., intravenous drug users and homosexually active men).

Knowing someone with AIDS or HIV infection—Fourteen percent of U.S. adults interviewed during October–December 1989 reported knowing someone with AIDS or HIV. This percentage has increased steadily since the survey began in August 1987. Increases in the proportion who reported knowing someone with AIDS were noted for several groups in 1989: those 18–29 years of age (from 11 to 14 percent), females (from 12 to 15 percent), white adults (from 11 to 14 percent), black adults (from 13 to 17 percent), and those with more than 12 years of education (from 17 to 20 percent).

Suggested citation

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Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1989 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, October–December 1989

[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	Percent distribution ¹						100
1. In the past month, have you—											
1a. Seen any public service announcements about AIDS on television?											
Yes	80	79	82	78	80	80	80	79	71	82	83
No	18	19	17	20	18	19	18	20	27	17	16
Don't know	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
1b. Heard any public service announcements about AIDS on the radio?											
Yes	45	51	50	35	49	41	44	51	33	45	51
No	51	46	45	61	47	55	52	47	64	50	45
Don't know	4	3	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4
2. Were any of those public service announcements called "America Responds to AIDS"?											
Yes	24	36	26	14	24	25	24	31	22	25	26
No	13	12	13	13	14	12	13	12	11	13	14
Don't know	46	36	46	53	46	46	47	40	42	47	47
Neither heard nor saw any public service announcements. .	17	17	15	20	17	18	17	17	25	16	14
3. In the past month, have you read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?											
Yes	21	24	25	13	19	22	19	29	13	20	26
No	79	75	74	86	80	77	80	70	87	80	74
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4. Have you ever read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?											
Yes	61	69	70	45	58	64	61	63	41	59	74
No	38	31	29	54	41	36	38	36	58	40	26
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5. Where did you get the pamphlets or brochures? ^{1,2}											
Clinic, other than work clinic	3	5	3	2	2	4	2	8	6	3	3
Doctor's office (HMO)	23	23	24	20	19	26	23	23	25	23	22
Drug store	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	2
Public health department	3	4	3	2	3	3	2	6	3	3	3
Received in mail without asking	23	17	22	33	23	24	25	16	24	23	24
Red Cross/Red Cross blood donation	3	4	4	2	4	3	4	2	2	3	4
Other blood donation	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
School	13	24	11	4	12	14	13	9	8	10	16
Sent/phoned for/requested it	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Federal/State/local government	12	7	13	16	13	12	14	6	11	13	12
Work, other than clinic or nurse	14	10	18	11	16	13	14	17	8	14	16
Work, nurse or clinic	4	3	6	3	3	5	4	6	2	3	6
Other	18	19	17	18	19	17	17	22	19	18	17
Don't know	5	4	4	8	7	4	6	2	6	5	5
15. Have you ever discussed AIDS with any of your children aged 10–17? ³											
Yes	62	45	63	55	49	73	62	61	48	61	70
No	38	55	36	45	51	27	37	38	52	39	30
Don't know	0	—	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
16. Have any or all of your children aged 10–17 had instruction at school about AIDS? ³											
Yes	63	42	65	60	58	69	63	69	56	63	67
No	13	31	12	10	12	14	13	10	14	14	12
Don't know	24	27	23	30	31	17	24	20	30	23	21
21. How much would you say you know about AIDS?											
A lot	24	26	31	15	24	24	25	23	11	20	35
Some	44	50	48	36	43	45	45	36	29	48	48
A little	24	22	19	33	25	24	23	30	38	27	15
None	7	3	3	16	8	7	7	11	22	5	2
Don't know	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
22. To the best of your knowledge, is there a difference between having the AIDS virus and having the disease AIDS?											
Yes	65	67	73	55	65	66	68	55	43	64	79
No	17	23	17	13	18	16	16	21	18	19	14
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	18	11	10	32	17	18	16	24	39	17	7
23a. AIDS can reduce the body's natural protection against disease.											
Definitely true	75	79	83	64	77	74	78	61	53	76	86
Probably true	11	12	9	14	11	11	11	12	16	11	9
Probably false	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Definitely false	3	4	2	4	3	3	3	7	5	4	2
Don't know	9	5	5	17	8	10	7	18	24	8	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 1989 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, October–December 1989—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											
23b. AIDS is especially common in older people.											
Definitely true	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	0
Probably true	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	1	1
Probably false	15	17	15	16	16	15	16	12	16	15	16
Definitely false	76	75	79	72	75	77	77	73	65	78	80
Don't know	7	5	4	10	7	7	6	10	15	5	4
23c. AIDS can damage the brain.											
Definitely true	27	23	27	30	28	26	26	35	29	28	26
Probably true	30	30	29	31	30	30	30	28	30	30	30
Probably false	10	13	12	6	10	10	11	6	5	9	13
Definitely false	9	11	11	5	9	9	9	7	4	8	12
Don't know	24	23	21	29	22	26	24	23	32	25	19
23d. AIDS usually leads to heart disease.											
Definitely true	10	8	10	11	11	9	9	19	14	11	8
Probably true	21	21	21	22	21	22	21	22	23	22	20
Probably false	19	21	22	14	20	18	20	10	10	17	25
Definitely false	17	18	20	12	18	16	18	13	9	15	22
Don't know	33	31	26	41	30	35	32	35	44	35	25
23e. AIDS is an infectious disease caused by a virus.											
Definitely true	64	69	72	52	67	62	64	65	50	64	72
Probably true	18	19	15	20	17	18	18	14	21	18	15
Probably false	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Definitely false	5	4	5	6	4	6	5	5	5	6	5
Don't know	11	6	6	20	10	12	10	14	22	10	6
23f. Teenagers cannot get AIDS.											
Definitely true	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Probably true	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Probably false	3	1	2	4	3	3	3	2	4	3	2
Definitely false	94	96	96	89	94	94	94	91	86	95	97
Don't know	2	1	1	5	2	2	2	4	8	1	0
23g. AIDS leads to death.											
Definitely true	85	84	85	84	84	86	84	89	85	87	82
Probably true	12	13	12	11	13	11	12	7	8	10	15
Probably false	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Definitely false	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	2	1	1	4	2	2	2	3	6	1	1
23h. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.											
Definitely true	58	61	65	49	58	59	60	51	40	57	69
Probably true	20	19	19	22	20	19	20	16	20	21	18
Probably false	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	5	4	3
Definitely false	5	7	5	4	6	4	4	9	6	5	4
Don't know	13	9	8	23	12	15	12	19	29	13	6
23i. Looking at a person is enough to tell if he or she has the AIDS virus.											
Definitely true	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	5	4	2	3
Probably true	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	5	4	4
Probably false	13	11	11	16	13	13	13	13	17	13	10
Definitely false	71	77	77	60	71	71	73	63	53	72	80
Don't know	9	5	6	17	9	10	8	14	21	8	4
23j. Any person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else during sexual intercourse.											
Definitely true	83	86	85	79	82	84	83	84	79	85	83
Probably true	11	11	11	13	12	11	12	10	11	10	13
Probably false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Definitely false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	4	2	2	7	4	3	3	5	8	3	2
23k. A person who has the AIDS virus can look and feel healthy and well.											
Definitely true	51	58	58	38	53	48	52	44	33	50	61
Probably true	27	26	26	29	26	27	27	24	25	28	27
Probably false	6	6	5	9	6	7	6	8	10	6	5
Definitely false	5	5	5	6	5	6	5	9	8	6	3
Don't know	11	6	7	19	10	11	10	16	24	10	4
23l. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give the AIDS virus to her baby.											
Definitely true	82	85	86	76	80	84	82	83	73	84	85
Probably true	13	12	11	15	14	11	13	11	16	12	12
Probably false	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Definitely false	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	4	2	3	7	5	4	4	6	10	3	2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1989 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, October–December 1989—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											
23m. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.											
Definitely true	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	5	3	2	1
Probably true	3	4	2	3	3	3	3	5	5	3	2
Probably false	8	8	7	10	8	8	8	6	9	9	7
Definitely false	75	76	82	65	76	73	77	63	58	75	83
Don't know	12	9	7	20	10	14	11	20	26	12	6
23n. There is no cure for AIDS at present.											
Definitely true	85	86	88	80	84	85	86	82	76	86	88
Probably true	7	7	6	9	8	7	7	6	9	7	6
Probably false	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
Definitely false	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2
Don't know	4	3	3	7	4	5	4	7	11	3	2
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	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1
Somewhat likely	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	5	2	3
Somewhat unlikely	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	5
Very unlikely	37	38	35	37	39	35	37	37	35	38	36
Definitely not possible	47	49	51	42	45	49	49	40	36	47	54
Don't know	6	3	4	10	5	6	5	9	15	4	2
24b. Working near someone with the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	2	1
Somewhat likely	9	9	9	10	9	9	9	10	11	10	8
Somewhat unlikely	11	12	11	11	12	11	11	9	11	12	10
Very unlikely	38	40	39	37	39	37	39	38	33	38	41
Definitely not possible	33	35	35	29	32	34	34	31	26	33	37
Don't know	6	3	4	11	6	7	5	9	16	5	2
24c. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	10	10	7	4
Somewhat likely	18	18	17	19	18	17	18	17	21	19	15
Somewhat unlikely	14	16	15	12	15	13	15	12	11	15	16
Very unlikely	31	32	32	27	31	30	31	27	23	29	36
Definitely not possible	20	21	23	16	19	21	20	18	14	20	24
Don't know	11	6	8	19	10	13	11	14	22	11	6
24d. Kissing—with exchange of saliva—a person who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	25	20	26	29	25	26	24	31	30	27	21
Somewhat likely	29	29	29	29	29	29	30	26	27	30	30
Somewhat unlikely	12	15	12	9	13	11	12	10	8	11	15
Very unlikely	16	20	18	11	17	15	16	13	10	14	21
Definitely not possible	8	10	8	5	7	9	8	8	7	8	8
Don't know	10	6	7	16	9	10	9	11	19	9	5
24e. Shaking hands, touching, or kissing on the cheek someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	1
Somewhat likely	6	6	5	7	6	6	6	8	9	6	5
Somewhat unlikely	12	12	11	12	12	11	12	10	13	12	11
Very unlikely	39	39	40	39	41	37	40	39	34	41	41
Definitely not possible	35	40	38	28	32	37	36	31	26	34	41
Don't know	6	3	3	11	6	6	5	9	15	5	2
24f. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	8	7	9	10	8	9	8	12	11	10	6
Somewhat likely	20	17	19	22	20	19	19	21	21	22	17
Somewhat unlikely	13	15	14	12	14	13	14	10	12	14	14
Very unlikely	29	32	30	26	31	27	30	28	22	27	34
Definitely not possible	20	24	21	15	18	21	20	17	15	18	24
Don't know	9	6	7	15	9	10	9	11	19	9	5
24g. Using public toilets?											
Very likely	6	6	5	6	5	6	5	11	9	6	4
Somewhat likely	12	12	10	14	11	12	11	14	16	13	9
Somewhat unlikely	12	13	12	12	13	12	12	9	11	13	12
Very unlikely	34	34	36	31	35	32	34	31	27	33	38
Definitely not possible	27	30	31	22	27	27	28	23	19	26	34
Don't know	9	5	7	15	8	10	9	12	19	10	4

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 1989 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, October–December 1989—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											
24h. Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely.	95	96	97	92	95	94	95	93	89	96	97
Somewhat likely.	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	4	2	2
Somewhat unlikely.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Very unlikely.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Definitely not possible.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Don't know.	2	0	1	4	1	2	2	3	6	1	1
24i. Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely.	7	5	7	9	6	8	7	11	10	7	5
Somewhat likely.	20	18	19	23	21	19	20	20	22	22	17
Somewhat unlikely.	16	17	17	15	17	16	17	15	14	17	17
Very unlikely.	29	33	32	23	30	28	30	26	20	29	34
Definitely not possible.	17	20	19	12	16	17	17	16	12	16	20
Don't know.	11	7	7	17	10	12	10	12	21	10	6
24j. Attending school with a child who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely.	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	4	3	2	1
Somewhat likely.	5	4	5	6	5	5	5	6	6	5	4
Somewhat unlikely.	10	9	11	10	10	11	10	10	12	10	9
Very unlikely.	42	42	43	41	45	39	43	39	36	43	44
Definitely not possible.	35	40	37	29	33	37	36	30	26	34	40
Don't know.	7	3	4	12	6	7	6	11	16	5	2
24k. Mosquitoes or other insects?											
Very likely.	10	10	10	9	11	9	9	14	13	11	7
Somewhat likely.	17	20	15	17	18	16	17	17	20	17	15
Somewhat unlikely.	9	10	9	7	9	8	9	8	7	9	9
Very unlikely.	24	24	25	22	25	22	24	20	17	23	28
Definitely not possible.	20	19	22	18	19	21	21	16	14	19	25
Don't know.	21	16	18	28	18	24	21	25	30	22	16
25. Have you ever donated blood?											
Yes.	40	33	43	42	51	31	42	34	29	36	50
No.	59	67	57	57	49	69	58	66	70	64	50
Don't know.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26a. Have you donated blood since March 1985?											
Yes.	16	22	19	7	19	12	16	13	5	14	23
No.	84	77	81	93	80	88	83	86	94	86	77
Don't know.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
26b. Have you donated blood in the past 12 months?											
Yes.	7	9	8	3	8	5	7	5	2	6	10
No.	93	90	91	97	91	95	93	94	97	94	90
Don't know.	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
27. Have you ever heard of a blood test that can detect the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes.	74	80	82	61	74	74	76	66	55	73	85
No.	22	18	15	33	22	22	20	29	39	22	12
Don't know.	4	2	3	7	4	4	4	5	6	4	3
28. To the best of your knowledge, are blood donations routinely tested now for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes.	65	71	73	51	65	65	67	56	45	64	77
No.	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	4
Don't know.	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	7	6	6	5
Never heard of test ⁴	26	20	18	39	26	26	24	34	45	27	15
29a. Have you ever received counseling or had a talk with a health professional about taking the AIDS virus test?											
Yes.	4	7	6	1	5	4	4	5	2	4	6
No.	70	73	76	59	70	69	71	60	52	70	79
Don't know.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Never heard of test ⁴	26	20	18	39	26	26	24	34	45	27	15
29b. Was the discussion— ^{1,5}											
With a private doctor?	52	51	50	72	46	58	53	54	52	51	53
At a family-planning clinic?	9	15	5	6	6	13	8	17	21	13	5
On an AIDS hotline?	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	—	2	2	1
At a prenatal clinic?	5	10	2	1	1	9	4	14	11	8	2
At an STD or sexually transmitted disease clinic?	3	4	3	2	4	3	3	6	3	7	2
At an AIDS/HIV counseling and testing site?	7	5	9	11	11	4	8	4	5	6	9
With some other health professional?	42	39	47	26	49	35	42	38	20	44	45
With some other counselor?	9	12	7	8	9	10	9	6	16	8	9
30. During that discussion, did you receive information about how to avoid getting or passing on the AIDS virus? ⁵											
Yes.	61	71	57	33	65	56	57	85	68	63	58
No.	39	29	42	67	35	43	43	15	32	37	41
Don't know.	0	—	1	—	0	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 1989 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, October–December 1989—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
31. Have you ever been advised by a health professional not to have the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?					Percent distribution ¹						
Yes	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
No	74	79	81	61	74	73	75	66	54	73	84
Don't know	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Never heard of test ⁴	26	20	18	39	26	26	24	34	45	27	15
32. Have you ever been advised by friends or relatives not to have the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No	74	79	81	61	74	74	75	66	54	73	85
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	0
Never heard of test ⁴	26	20	18	39	26	26	24	34	45	27	15
33. Have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes ³	21	30	26	9	26	17	22	20	10	19	30
No	52	50	55	51	49	56	53	47	43	55	55
Don't know	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
Never heard of test ⁴	24	17	17	38	23	25	23	31	45	25	13
35a. How many times have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection? ⁷											
Once	7	10	9	2	8	6	7	6	5	6	9
Twice	1	2	2	0	2	1	1	3	1	1	2
3–5 times	2	3	2	0	2	1	2	2	0	1	2
6–12 times	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
More than 12 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	0	0
Don't know ⁸	11	14	13	6	13	8	11	9	4	9	15
Never heard of or never took test ⁸	79	70	74	91	74	83	78	80	90	82	70
35b. How many times in the past 12 months have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection? ⁷											
None in the past 12 months	4	6	5	2	5	3	4	3	3	3	6
Once	5	8	7	1	6	4	5	6	3	5	7
More than once	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	3
Don't know ⁸	10	14	12	5	13	8	11	9	4	9	14
Never heard of or never took test ⁸	79	70	74	91	74	83	78	80	90	81	70
36. Was the test/were any of the tests, including those you had before the past 12 months— ¹											
Part of a blood donation? ^{6,7}	67	65	66	74	68	65	68	58	49	68	69
Part of a blood transfusion? ⁹	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Voluntarily sought?	19	17	21	14	16	23	17	32	23	19	18
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample? ⁹	17	22	16	13	21	13	17	15	30	17	16
38. Did you get the results of your test/any of your tests? ⁹											
Yes	57	57	59	50	55	60	55	72	73	54	56
No	42	41	41	49	44	39	44	28	27	45	44
Don't know	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	—	—	1	1
41. Do you expect to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection in the next 12 months?											
Yes	7	11	8	2	9	5	6	12	5	6	9
No	63	63	69	57	61	65	66	46	45	64	72
Don't know	4	6	4	2	4	4	3	8	5	4	4
Never heard of test ⁴	26	20	18	39	26	26	24	34	45	27	15
42. Will the test be— ^{1,10}											
Part of a blood donation?	45	40	49	48	49	40	51	27	23	38	56
Voluntarily sought?	45	48	41	47	40	52	37	70	65	52	34
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample?	18	22	15	14	20	14	18	16	20	19	17
44a. Did you have a blood transfusion at any time between 1977 and 1985?											
Yes	5	3	6	7	5	6	5	6	6	5	5
No	93	97	93	91	94	93	93	92	92	94	94
Don't know	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
44b. Do you think the present supply of blood is safe for transfusions?											
Yes	49	53	52	42	53	45	51	40	34	48	58
No	27	27	26	28	25	29	26	34	33	28	24
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	24	19	21	30	22	25	23	26	33	24	19
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	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	1
Somewhat effective	12	14	10	12	12	11	12	12	10	13	12
Not at all effective	61	62	70	49	60	62	63	52	43	60	71
Don't know how effective	20	16	14	29	20	19	19	25	32	20	13
Don't know method	6	5	4	8	6	6	5	8	12	5	3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1989 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, October–December 1989—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											
45b. Using a condom?											
Very effective	33	40	35	25	35	31	33	34	25	31	38
Somewhat effective	53	52	55	52	53	53	54	48	46	55	55
Not at all effective	5	4	5	7	5	6	5	6	8	6	3
Don't know how effective	7	3	4	13	6	7	6	10	16	6	3
Don't know method	2	1	1	4	1	2	2	2	5	1	1
45c. Using a spermicidal jelly, foam, or cream?											
Very effective	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Somewhat effective	13	17	13	10	14	12	13	12	9	13	16
Not at all effective	59	62	67	47	57	61	60	54	44	59	66
Don't know how effective	22	16	16	33	23	21	21	26	35	22	15
Don't know method	5	4	3	9	5	6	5	6	11	5	3
45d. Having a vasectomy?											
Very effective	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Somewhat effective	2	4	2	2	3	2	2	4	3	3	2
Not at all effective	74	75	83	64	75	74	77	63	55	75	84
Don't know how effective	15	13	9	24	15	16	15	21	28	15	9
Don't know method	6	6	4	8	5	6	5	8	13	5	3
45e. Two people who do not have the AIDS virus having sex only with each other?											
Very effective	85	85	89	80	86	84	86	79	74	86	90
Somewhat effective	7	9	6	8	7	8	7	9	9	7	7
Not at all effective	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	1
Don't know how effective	4	3	2	8	4	5	4	7	11	4	1
Don't know method	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	2	4	1	1
46. What are your chances of having the AIDS virus?											
High	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Medium	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Low	13	18	15	7	15	11	13	13	8	12	17
None	83	78	81	88	80	85	83	80	85	85	80
Don't know	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	5	5	2	1
47. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?											
High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Medium	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Low	18	24	21	9	21	15	19	14	10	16	24
None	77	69	74	86	73	80	77	76	81	80	71
Don't know	3	3	2	4	3	2	2	6	6	2	1
High chance of already having AIDS virus	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
49. Do you say your chance of getting AIDS is high or medium because you— ¹¹											
Have had a blood transfusion?	7	2	8	16	6	9	5	15	13	6	6
Have had sexual contact with someone who might have the virus?	19	27	20	3	22	16	19	31	29	17	17
Some other reason?	61	64	61	56	58	65	65	54	46	65	66
52. Have you ever discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
Yes	61	69	70	44	58	64	61	60	41	61	72
No	39	31	30	55	42	36	38	39	59	39	28
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
53. When was the last time you discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
0–3 days ago	6	6	7	4	5	6	6	9	4	6	6
4–7 days ago	7	8	8	5	6	8	7	7	5	6	9
8–14 days ago	6	7	7	4	6	6	6	7	4	6	7
15–31 days ago	12	13	14	9	12	12	12	10	7	12	15
More than 31 days ago	26	31	30	17	24	27	26	23	17	26	30
Don't know	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	5	4
Never discussed ¹²	39	31	30	56	42	37	39	40	59	40	28
54. Have you ever personally known anyone with AIDS or the AIDS virus?											
Yes	14	14	18	9	13	15	14	17	7	11	20
No	85	85	81	89	85	84	85	81	91	88	79
Don't know	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1
55. How long has it been since you saw this person?											
Within past 2 weeks	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	2
2 weeks–less than 1 month	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
1 month–less than 3 months	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
3 months–less than 6 months	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2
6 months or more	10	9	13	7	9	10	10	11	5	8	14
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Never knew anyone with AIDS ¹³	86	86	82	91	87	85	86	83	93	89	80

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 1989 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, October–December 1989—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											
56. How well do you know this person?											
Very well	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	4	2	2	2
Fairly well	3	3	4	2	3	4	3	5	1	3	5
Not very well	6	6	7	4	5	6	6	5	3	4	8
Don't really know personally	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	2	3
Other	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Don't know how well	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Never knew anyone with AIDS ¹³	86	86	82	91	87	86	86	83	93	89	80
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	2	4	3	0	3	2	2	3	2	2	3
No to all statements	97	96	97	99	97	98	97	97	97	98	97
Refused	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	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	74	80	76	66	76	72	75	71	67	74	77
No	20	15	18	26	19	21	19	22	24	20	18
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	5	5	5	6	5	6	5	6	8	5	4
59. Why wouldn't you take part in the test? ¹⁴											
Don't want to know if I have AIDS	4	7	4	3	4	5	4	5	4	4	4
Don't want any counseling about AIDS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Fear I'll get AIDS	5	4	4	5	5	4	4	5	6	5	4
Don't like to give blood	14	18	14	11	12	15	13	15	14	14	13
Don't trust Government programs	7	6	11	5	9	6	7	9	5	7	10
It is a waste of money	4	2	3	5	4	3	4	3	2	4	4
Don't believe AIDS can really be cured anyway	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1
Other	49	43	48	53	49	49	51	41	44	49	53
Don't know	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	2
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	67	75	69	58	66	68	67	66	59	66	72
Doubtful	27	21	28	32	29	26	28	26	29	29	25
Don't know	6	4	3	10	5	6	5	7	12	5	3
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	81	86	84	75	82	81	82	81	72	81	87
Doubtful	15	12	14	18	15	15	15	15	19	16	12
Don't know	3	2	2	7	3	4	3	5	9	3	1

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 11, "Do you have any children aged 10 through 17?" Question 12 was "How many do you have?"

⁴Persons answering no or don't know to question 27.

⁵Based on persons answering yes to question 29a.

⁶Includes persons answering yes to question 26a and no or don't know to questions 27 and 33.

⁷Based on yes answers to question 33. See footnote 6.

⁸Persons answering no or don't know to questions 26a, 27, and 33.

⁹Based on persons answering yes to question 33; excludes persons answering yes to question 26a.

¹⁰Based on persons answering yes to question 41.

¹¹Based on persons answering high or medium to question 46.

¹²Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 52.

¹³Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 54.

¹⁴Based 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. Information on special health topics is collected for all or a sample of household members. The 1989 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes is asked of one randomly chosen adult 18 years of age or over in each family. The estimates in this report are based on completed interviews with 11,007 persons, or about 87 percent of eligible respondents.

Table I contains the estimated population size of each of the

demographic subgroups included in table 1 to allow readers to derive provisional estimates of the number of people in the United States with a given characteristic, for example, the number of men who have had their blood tested for HIV. The population figures in table I are based on 1988 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. A final data file covering the entire data collection period for 1989 will be available at the end of 1990.

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

<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Sample size</i>	<i>Estimated population in thousands</i>
All adults	11,007	177,321
Age		
18–29 years	2,586	46,957
30–49 years	4,434	68,986
50 years and over	3,987	61,377
Sex		
Male	4,683	84,131
Female	6,324	93,190
Race		
White	9,095	149,510
Black	1,485	19,457
Education		
Less than 12 years	2,347	39,502
12 years	4,032	68,301
More than 12 years	4,577	67,872

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, October–December 1989

<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	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4
10 or 90	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5
15 or 85	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.7
20 or 80	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.7
25 or 75	0.5	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.4	1.1	0.8	0.8
30 or 70	0.5	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.8
35 or 65	0.6	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.6	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.9
40 or 60	0.6	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	1.6	1.3	1.0	0.9
45 or 55	0.6	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	1.6	1.3	1.0	0.9
50	0.6	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	1.6	1.3	1.0	0.9

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