

Kaiser Family Foundation – Women and HIV/AIDS in the United States: Setting an Agenda for the Future
Viacom Highlights
October 23, 2003

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FEMALE SPEAKER: I know what you're looking for when you look down at your shoes to the door, you look anywhere but in my eyes. You're looking for an excuse. Lame, no good, irresponsible, backtalk excuse for fooling around, for doing it without using protection. What was your excuse?

MALE SPEAKER: Ah, ah, ah, well.

FEMALE SPEAKER: I've heard that one before.

FEMALE SPEAKER 2: For more information about HIV/AIDS call toll free 1-866-344-KNOW.

FEMALE SPEAKER 3: AIDS, the number one killer of African American women 25-34. Two out of every three women getting HIV are African American. Most African American women contract AIDS through unprotected sex. HIV is preventable. Using a condom provides protection against HIV, protect yourself. Respect yourself. To get the facts about safer sex, call toll free 1-866-(Unintelligible).

FEMALE SPEAKER 3: What are you doing here and how'd you get in?

FEMALE SPEAKER 4: I keep the key to every house I sell, but that's not the point. I have to talk to you. Todd wants me to get an HIV test. Isn't that some mess?

FEMALE SPEAKER 3: What? Isn't he going to have one too?

FEMALE SPEAKER 4: Yeah, but we're not talking about him. We're talking about me. For him to suggest that I get one, he must think I've got cooties.

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FEMALE SPEAKER 3: Or he could just be smart. What's the big deal, I get one every six months?

FEMALE SPEAKER 4: But, you need to, you're a ho.

FEMALE SPEAKER 3: I am not a whore. I'm sexually liberated. At least I was before I became celibate and frustrated and horny and you might want to fasten up that top bottom and back up a little.

FEMALE SPEAKER 4: All I'm saying is before him, I hadn't had sex in almost two years. So, why do I have to take some stupid test. I mean if I had something, I wouldn't look this healthy and fabulous.

FEMALE SPEAKER 3: Toni, when was the last time you had an HIV test?

FEMALE SPEAKER 4: Look at me. I don't need that mess. Obviously I'm blessed.

FEMALE SPEAKER 3: Oh my god you need to take this test.

FEMALE SPEAKER 4: But, I told you I haven't had sex in almost two years.

FEMALE SPEAKER 3: You could be asymptomatic for longer than that.

FEMALE SPEAKER 4: Look, if I'm going to die, I want to die ignorant and happy. I've not built to suffer.

FEMALE SPEAKER 3: Look, if you have HIV, and I'm sure you don't you need to find out so you don't pass it on to someone you care about like Todd, and secondly you don't have

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to die especially if you detect before you develop symptoms. I mean there's drugs now. People are living with the virus. People are living and shopping with the virus.

FEMALE SPEAKER 4: Where Lynn? At the hospital gift shop?

FEMALE SPEAKER 3: Toni! Look you are a 32 year...

FEMALE SPEAKER 4: One.

FEMALE SPEAKER 3: You are a sexually active woman.

FEMALE SPEAKER 4: Technically, I'm never that active.

They do all the work.

LYNN: Can I get you anything? Like maybe a pillow some soup, we have juice. Would you like some Nyquil?

FEMALE SPEAKER 5: Lynn I have AIDS. I need a cure, not some stuffy-head, fever so I can rest medicine.

LYNN: Sorry. I just felt like I should do something.

FEMALE SPEAKER 5: I'll take a foot massage.

Lynn: Okay, you've got it.

FEMALE SPEAKER 6: I found this heating pad in the back.

FEMALE SPEAKER 5: Okay, you guys enough.

FEMALE SPEAKER 6: You can't just drop drama like a life-threatening disease and expect us not to react.

FEMALE SPEAKER 5: Well, that (Unintelligible). You have one minute, what do you need to know?

FEMALE SPEAKER 6: Are you okay?

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FEMALE SPEAKER 5: I'm still on meds, my viral lode is down. I get tired sometimes, but overall I feel pretty good.

FEMALE SPEAKER 6: Are you HIV positive or do you have fullblown AIDS?

FEMALE SPEAKER 5: Full-blown AIDS. This is an outbreak, it's not airborne.

FEMALE SPEAKER 6: I don't know. You hear things.

FEMALE SPEAKER 5: You did not hear that. Maya it's only transmitted through blood and semen, so I think everybody here is okay.

FEMALE SPEAKER 6: Do you know how Brian got it?

FEMALE SPEAKER 5: From another man.

FEMALE SPEAKER 6: Oh my god, he couldn't use a condom?

FEMALE SPEAKER 5: No, because if he put a condom in his pocket then he'd be admitting to himself that he was going out to have sex with men, and that would make him gay which according to him, he's not.

FEMALE SPEAKER 6: So, where is Brian now?

FEMALE SPEAKER 5: Back home living with his mom.

FEMALE SPEAKER 7: Hey sisters! Here's some lines you want to stay away from. I look safe, don't I? You know I ain't got nothing. You know where I've been. Baby, it just don't feel natural to me. Please, they can't make them big enough for me. And, here's a good one. Here's a good one. You know I love you girl. You're not going to let this come between us. Un huh, I'm

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not hearing it. You use protection. No excuses. Call 1-866-344-KNOW.

FEMALE SPEAKER 8: In '94, I took the test, it was in March, and then I went for a life insurance policy. They make you take the HIV test, and I had gotten sick and I went into the hospital and I had this fever that would not break. And, this doctor came up to me and said, "Listen we can't break your fever. Do you have AIDS?" and, I said, "AIDS? Are you crazy because only gay people get AIDS?" And, I opened the mailbox and there was a letter saying that, "Dear Miss Davis, we're sorry to reject you but you have the HIV/AIDS virus. You need to go to the health department." It changes your whole life, and I didn't want to believe it.

MALE SPEAKER 2: Hey Brad! You have a sore throat here?

BRAD: Actually, my throats okay. I told my mom it hurt so she'd make the appointment. I was just too embarrassed to tell her the real reason.

MALE SPEAKER 2: Which is?

BRAD: It kind of itches when I pee. You know it's no big deal. The same thing happened to a friend of mine. It was just a little infection, so he went to his doctor gave him some pills and cleared it right up. So, I figured if you just give me some pills I can get out of here.

MALE SPEAKER 2: Sounds good. What kind of pills?

BRAD: I don't know.

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MALE SPEAKER 2: L Maybe you should talk to a doctor or something. Probably is just a urinary infection but I'm going to have to run a few tests and asks you some questions. Are you sexually active?

BRAD: Maybe why?

MALE SPEAKER 2: Relax, nothing leaves this room.

BRAD: Yeah, I've kind of been sexually active.

MALE SPEAKER 2: Kind of?

BRAD: Okay, I've been having sex all over the place.

MALE SPEAKER 2: You're only 15.

BRAD: Yeah, pretty cool, huh?

MALE SPEAKER 2: Fine I guess, as long as you're using condoms.

BRAD: Nobody uses condoms.

MALE SPEAKER 2: Are you living in a cave? There are dangerous things out there, not to mention the fact that you got a girl pregnant you idiot.

BRAD: It doesn't feel as good.

MALE SPEAKER 2: Well, you wouldn't know that if you were wearing a condom all the time, would you? Now, it's made a lot of work for both of us. I need to run a full panel for STDS - Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

BRAD: What do you mean like AIDS?

MALE SPEAKER 2: Yeah, amongst others.

BRAD: And, you've got to do all this just because I

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don't use condoms.

MALE SPEAKER 2: Yeah, that's right.

BRAD: Do you use condoms with your wife?

MALE SPEAKER 2: I'm not married.

BRAD: what about with your girlfriend?

MALE SPEAKER 2: Actually I'm not seeing anybody right now, but when I do find someone with whom I wish to have a serious relationship, and if she feels the same way, then and only then will we proceed to the next level, responsibly which means, that yes, I always do wear a condom.

BRAD: You haven't had sex in a long time, have you?

MALE SPEAKER 2: This may hurt a little bit more than usual.

FEMALE SPEAKER 9: I knew that there was another young woman in (Unintelligible) who was also positive. I dated a boy who had known Jacob. So, we went into a coffee store one day and he said, "There's Jacob. She has HIV too." I invited her to a conference that was the first national conference for HIV positive youth. There were around 60 or 80 people who have other HIV or AIDS. So, we decided it was very important to someone document that we wanted to tell people what it was like for us. We wanted people to understand how hard this disease is to live with. It is important to express what we all thought about living with this disease because there was so much focus on adults living with this virus, and they let all the focus

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off young people.

FEMALE SPEAKER 10: We traveled across the country, and then we found other young people who was also HIV positive.

FEMALE SPEAKER 11: When it came to the nurse going down her list, she was like "Well, had we have sex with IV drug user?" "No." "Have you had sex with so and so, and such and such." And it was like, "No, no, no." "Well, how many partners have you had?" And, I said, "Six." And it just happened to me that on her little sheet of paper it said, "If patient has six or more partners, they should be tested." Having the virus inside makes you feel like no one's ever going to touch you, and telling people that you have a virus makes you scared. No matter how long (Unintelligible) I really, really want to grow old. There are so many people who don't want to get wrinkles. There's so many people who don't want to have grey hair, but all I want is to have long grey hair that I put up in a bun, and lots and lots of wrinkles.

FEMALE SPEAKER 12: She knows half of new HIV infections happen to people under 25 so, she always uses protection. Do you? Call for more information.

[END OF PRESENTATION]

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