

EDD184 Michelle
RT 14/9/89

Age 21, A/C, has secretarial qualifications, works as a SECRETARY. Lives at home with her Mum and Dad and two sisters, one older and one younger. Shares a room with the younger one and they get on badly. Heterosexual. Tall and big boned, made me feel tiny. Wearing a bright turquoise dress. She was very nervous when I first met her at the school, spent the drive to her house telling her about the research. We joked quite a lot to put ourselves at ease. Best way to approach her was as if we were having a gossip together, she seemed to feel happiest with this. Interview took place at her home in the front room. The whole thing had to be quite covert as her family were home, walking in and out, and she was telling me things that were secret from her parents who would have been really shocked. She told them I was a friend from work. Very conspiratorial feeling to the whole thing. When people came into the room I had to hide the tape recorder. She appeared to be quite used to this type of thing and despite the situation was very open in what she told me.

Sex Ed: None at all from home, saying that her Mum and Dad 'are not that type of parents'. Very basic biological at school which she thought inadequate (Catholic school). Most of her sex education was from her friends which she feels was often misleading. has example of being given some of friends Mums pill and told that one would stop you getting pregnant. Also learnt and continues to from problem pages in magazines. Parents don't like her having anything to do with boys at all, she completely disregards this but keeps secrets from them.

AIDS Knowledge: mostly from training at work. Actual information is not a problem but she has a very fatalistic attitude about avoiding thinking about Aids because she says it is depressing. Knows it is a risk but feels it won't happen to her. Finds it more embarrassing to talk about with partner than pregnancy. Thinks everyone is at risk, not just gays or drug addicts.

Risks: Takes risks in terms of AIDS. Sees safe sex as being impossible for herself and would rather settle down in a relationship now than have to use condoms. She personally finds condoms very embarrassing and will not use them even if partner offers. Doesn't seem to take many other risks, although uses the pill against pregnancy which she is aware is risky as her Mum is very anti-pill on health grounds.

Relationships: Has a 'thing' for older men, I have no idea what this means but it seems to be a bit strange. First sexual experience was when she was 14 with a 27 year old. Sounds like it was in fact a rape although she does not identify it as being so. Felt dirty, ashamed, too young etc. Didn't have sex again until she was 16, this time with a man in his thirties. She lied about her age to him scared that he would think her too young. This relationship lasted 6 months until she started being unfaithful. Had a long period of having a number of boyfriends at once which she seemed to have really enjoyed. Was going out to clubs a lot enjoyed being popular, 'up to 3 men in one day' she says! Is now in a more serious relationship and she is trying hard to be faithful, says that she wants to settle down in this one. Sees sexual relationships as being fun and relationships with men as something general. For instance, she talks about older men and the better way they treat you (she is keen

on being wined, dined and attended to) rather than talking about specific individual behaviour in the way many of the other yw do.