

**Interview Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interview Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Script**

### **Introduction (10 minutes)**

*Facilitator [READ]:*

*Thank you for taking the time to meet with us today. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I will be asking the questions today and running the group. This is \_\_\_\_\_ who will be taking notes on what we discuss here today so we can make sure not to miss any of your thoughts.*

*We are talking to you today because we'd like to understand how your community feels about HIV/AIDS, what information you have heard, and what information you would like to have in the future. When we say "community," we mean your friends and family members and others you know who speak the same language as you and who live in your area. We are going to ask you all questions and then have a discussion where we hope to hear from everyone here. There are no right or wrong answers. The things we learn from you will be important to making sure you, your friends, family and others in your community get the information they need about HIV/AIDS. This discussion will take approximately ninety minutes.*

*This discussion is voluntary, meaning that you are answering these questions because you want to, not because you have to. If you prefer to not answer a question, that is okay. You can also leave the discussion at any time. This will not impact services that you receive.*

*We may share the aggregate data, or the general information that we learn, publicly so that others may learn from this discussion. If you agree to participate in this discussion, we will be using your demographic information in our analysis and reports, including your gender, age, and race/ethnicity. This will help us to identify trends and differences in responses. No names or personally identifiable information will be collected.*

*We are also asking everyone here to please keep what others share private so that everyone can talk openly and honestly. Also, we want you to ask questions or let us know if you don't understand something, or if something that we said is bothering you in any way.*

*We are recording the audio from this discussion so we can take notes and not miss anything that was said. The recording will also be transcribed after the session. The recording will not be shared with anyone outside our team, and it will be deleted after the notetaker confirms their notes are correct and the transcription services are complete. However, we will be keeping the transcript of the recording and the notes taken by the notetaker. Your personally identifiable information will not be included anywhere in the transcript or notes.*

*Thank you so much for being here and being willing to do this! Your thoughts and ideas are really helpful in providing education and resources related to HIV/AIDS in your community.*

*Before we begin, do you feel comfortable participating in this discussion and answering my questions? Do you have any questions before we start?*

*I want to highlight three key points again.*

- *Your name and personally identifiable information will not be shared in any reports.*
- *Your participation in this interview is voluntary.*
- *You can stop answering questions or leave at any time. This will not impact the services you receive.*

*Do you understand, and do you agree to continue?*

*Informed consent was obtained from participants:  Yes  No*

### **Icebreaker.**

*Facilitator [READ]:*

*I would first like to take two minutes to meet each other. Please share your name, and your favorite food. For example, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. My favorite food is \_\_\_\_\_. [Prompt participants to share.]*

*We will now begin recording (ensure Note Taker starts recording).*

### **Question 1.**

*Facilitator [READ]:*

*I want to ask you to think about your community – friends and family members and others you know who speak the same language as you and who are also [say name of community here, if needed].*

1. Describe what you and your peers know about HIV/AIDS?
  - a. Probe: What do you and your peers know about how HIV/AIDS is transmitted?
  - b. Probe: Do people you and your peers feel at risk for getting HIV/AIDS? Why or why not?

### **Question 2.**

2. What risky behaviors do your peers engage in that might put them at risk for getting (or spreading) HIV/AIDS? (10 minutes)
  - a. Probe: Describe the risky behaviors that occur in your community.
  - b. Probe: Where do these risky behaviors happen?
  - c. Probe: When do these behaviors happen? (Times, days of the week, online vs offline)
  - d. Probe: How has COVID impacted these behaviors?

### Question 3.

3. What keeps people from protecting themselves from HIV/AIDS (barriers to protection)?
  - e. Probe: What sorts of things do your peers do to minimize their risk of getting or transmitting HIV (e.g., condom use, avoiding sharing needles)?
  - f. Probe: How commonly practiced are these strategies in your community?
  - g. Probe: Describe some of the challenges that your community has in consistently protecting themselves from HIV/AIDS.

### Question 4.

4. How do you and/or your community get services and/or information about preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS? By services, I mean HIV testing, PrEP, condoms, educational materials, and other resources. (10 minutes)
  - a. Probe: Where do they get these services and information from?
  - b. Probe: What are the reliable or trusted sources in your community?
  - c. Probe: What makes it easy to get these services and information?
  - d. Probe: What makes it hard to get these services and information?
    - a. How has COVID impacted access these services?

### Question 5.

5. What do you and your peers know about HIV testing? More than half of all people living with HIV/AIDS do not know they are infected. What could we do to get more people in this community to test for HIV? (10 minutes)
  - a. Probe: Where would you or those from your community get an HIV test?
  - b. Probe: What do you and your peers know about the cost and locations of getting a test?
  - c. Probe: Describe how the test is performed.
  - d. Probe: What are some of the barriers to getting tested?
  - e. Probe: How can we encourage regular testing for you and others in your community?

### Question 6.

6. PRE-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, is an antiretroviral medicine, such as Truvada, that is taken daily by a person who is HIV-negative to reduce the risk of getting HIV. Before today, have you ever heard of PrEP? If so, what do you know about it? (10 minutes)
  - a. Probe: Have you ever used PrEP?
  - b. Probe: Do you know where to get PrEP?
  - c. Probe: Would you feel comfortable using PrEP?
  - d. Probe: What do your peers think about PrEP? Have they used it? What was their experience?
  - e. Probe: What barriers would you or your community have in taking PrEP?
  - f. Probe: How can we encourage PrEP for you or others in your community?

### **Question 7.**

7. What types of services, education, or information would be useful for your peers regarding HIV prevention? (10 minutes)

- a. Probe: If you were to design a communications or educational campaign for your peers about HIV prevention, what would that look like? What would be the primary message?
- b. Probe: What are the trusted forms of communications in your community? Where would your community trust the message from?
- c. Probe: Where would you reach your peers who are at risk for getting HIV/AIDS?
- d. Probe: What social media websites/apps do you and your peers use?
- e. Probe: How can we best reach people during the time of COVID?
- f. Probe: What additional services are needed to protect you and your community from HIV/AIDS? Be specific.

### **Closing Script (5 minutes)**

*Facilitator [READ]:*

*This concludes the questions. Thank you again for participating in this discussion today. We know that your time and ideas are valuable, and we would like to give each of you a \_\_\_\_ gift card to thank you. If you have any questions following this discussion, you can contact me at \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you.*