



Critical Incident Interview Guide

Section 1: Narrative account of incident

1. Can you please describe the incident to me, focusing on the things you feel are most important? #

Do not probe directly here but use indirect probes (silence, uh-huh, etc.) to encourage them to keep talking without your asking them direct questions. It is important here that they control the discussion and lead you to what they want to focus on. Afterwards you will retrace the event and lead the interview, verifying and checking details.

Section 2: Details of event

2. So, can I just go over what happened again?

Either recount the event they have described or ask short questions to confirm the details so you get the incident very clear. Confirm whether it was emotional/physical/sexual violence.

3. When and where did the incident occur? (Probe: Date and time of day/night /home or where)
4. Was there anyone else around when this all happened?
5. What did you do immediately after the event? (Probe: whose support did s/he seek and what relationship are they to him/her? Did s/he leave the house? What happened to the children?)
6. What do you think caused the incident? (Probe: underlying causes: explore her/his role/roles of others involved/roles of other activities e.g. HIV testing/self-testing, alcohol, other partners)
7. Do you think there was something that precipitated the incident? What was this? (Probe: immediate cause)
8. Who do you think is to blame for the incident? (Probe: explore roles of both parties)
9. How do you feel about being in the same house with your partner after the incident? (Probe: fear/control/empowerment etc.)
10. What do you plan to do now/in the future? (Probe: following the incident does s/he plan to relocate, move to parents, try and resolve things through *nkoswe*, take him/her to court etc...)

Section 3: Context of event

11. Can you describe your current relationship? (Probe: length of relationship, number of children, marital status)
12. Can you describe for me the positive and negative aspects of your relationship with your current partner? (Probe: what is good about your relationship? What is bad about your relationship? Move beyond economics!)
13. Can you describe your emotional relationship with your current partner? (Probe for details on multiple partners, infidelities on both sides that may have precipitated event)
14. Can you describe your physical relationship with your current partner? (Probe for details on multiple partners, infidelities on both sides that may have precipitated event, previous incidents of violence)
15. Have you ever experienced violence in your current relationship?
16. Have you ever experienced violence in previous relationships? What impact did this have on your previous relationship? What impact did your previous experience of violence have on your current relationship?
17. What topics are difficult to discuss with your current partner?
18. What topics are easy to discuss with your current partner?
19. How long do you plan to stay with your current partner? Why?
20. Can you describe what responsibilities you have in your home? Do you think these responsibilities should all be yours? (Probe: decision-making and circumstances)
21. Can you describe what responsibilities your partner has in your home? Do you think these responsibilities should all be his/hers? (Probe: decision-making and circumstances)

Section 4: Responses to previous testing

22. Can you describe your last HIV test? (Probe: if self-testing explore previous standard test)



23. When did you last have an HIV test? Did you test with your partner? What were the circumstances of testing? (Probe: type of testing, who initiated testing? Was anyone forced to test?)
24. What happened after getting your results the last time you tested? (Before self-testing) (Probe: violence/disclosure)
25. How did you tell your partner about your status? (If couple testing explore whether s/he thought this was a good thing) (If individual testing explore who they told first and how they told/explore if/how they told their partner)
26. How did the relationship change after your previous test if you/your partner disclosed or did not disclose your HIV status?

Section 5: Links to HIV self-testing

27. Have you recently tested using a self-test kit through STAR? What were the circumstances of testing? (Probe: Who initiated testing including partners/STAR counsellors/neighbours etc. Who collected test kit(s) or were they delivered? How many test kits did s/he bring home/receive?)

Introduce the next questions by stating: Persuading someone to test involves discussion and the person makes the final decision to test. Forcing someone to test involves emotional or physical abuse and often the person does not make the ultimate decision to test.

28. Were you persuaded to test or did someone else persuade you to test using the self-test kit?
29. Were you forced to test or did you force anyone else to test using the self-test kit?
30. Is your HIV status the same as that of your partner?
31. Were the results you got the last time you tested (confirm if self-test or other HTC) the results you were expecting? Why?
32. If you found out your partner's results, were these what you expected? Why/why not?
33. If your partner found out your results, were they what s/he expected? Why/why not?
34. How far do you feel the self-testing experience caused/influenced your experiencing violence?

Make sure the participant is very explicit about what they feel was and was not caused by HIV self-testing.

35. Do you think it is acceptable to force someone to take an HIV test? In what circumstances?
36. Do you think violence is acceptable under certain circumstances? In what circumstances?