

Marisol II

Eddie and I are married now. We have two beautiful daughters. They are wonderful kids and we love them very much. Although I know Eddie sniffs cocaine once in a while, he did stop shooting drugs to keep our family together. Eddie thinks that he may be HIV positive. All the friends that he used to shoot up with are dead now. They died of AIDS. He has been tested three times but each time he got scared and would not go back to get the results. I tested negative three times but that doesn't make me worry any less.

I learned about AIDS and condoms from Maria a counselor at the Lower East Side Health project. She said that if Eddie and I used condoms every time that we had sex that I could lower my risk of getting AIDS. Maria also gave me some condoms to start with, which I took home.

I love Eddie so much but that doesn't mean that I shouldn't protect myself. Who is going to look after my daughter if something happens to me! I want to be there for my kids. If I don't take care of myself no one else will. I must make sure that I am in the best possible health to raise my kids.

That night when Eddie came home, he asked me about the condoms. I told him that we should try to use them from now on. At first he didn't like the idea of using condoms but I insisted on it! I told him that if he won't use them, then he is not going to get anything from me. We could still have great sex, I said, it may feel different but that doesn't mean that it couldn't be special.

We went into the bedroom and hugged and kissed each other. I told him how handsome I thought he was...then we began to undress one another. I took out a condom and he said that he didn't know if he wanted to use it – so I gently pushed Eddie back onto the bed and told him that I'd take care of everything...

1. **Characterization:** Latina housewife with children.
2. **Membership:** Female sex partner of an IDU.
3. **Risk behavior:** She has not been using condoms with her partner. (Condom main partner)
4. **Goal:** Start using condoms.
5. **Stage of Change:** Action.
6. **Influencing factor:** She fears that she may contract HIV from her husband. (Perceived Risk).
7. **Barrier to Overcome:** Her husband did not want to use condoms.
Strategy: She insisted.
8. **Positive Outcome:** She no longer engages in unprotected sex with her husband.

9. Source: The Lower East Side Health Project Role Model Stories Library; October 1991 – Vol. 1, No 5 (B); Susan Tross, Ph.D., Principal Investigator