

Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (IRMA)

Name: _____ Gender: _____ Date: _____

This 45-item questionnaire is a self-reported assessment tool that evaluates the respondents' level of agreement when considering statements about women, sexual assault, and rape accusations.

Please indicate the extent to which you tend to agree or disagree with each statement. In each case, make your choice in terms of how you feel right now, not what you have felt in the past or would like to feel.

There are seven possible responses to each of the items in the questionnaire:

1 = Not at all agree; **2** = Somewhat disagree; **3** = Slightly disagree; **4** = Neutral;

5 = Slightly agree; **6** = Somewhat agree; **7** = Very much agree

Items	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. If a woman is raped while she is drunk, she is at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of control.							
2. Although most women wouldn't admit it, they generally find being physically forced into sex a real "turn-on".							
3. When men rape, it is because of their strong desire for sex.							
4. If a woman is willing to "make out" with a guy, then it's no big deal if he goes a little further and has sex.							
5. Women who are caught having an illicit affair sometimes claim that it was rape.							
6. Newspapers should not release the name of a rape victim to the public.							
7. Many so-called rape victims are actually women who had sex and "changed their minds" afterwards.							
8. Many women secretly desire to be raped.							
9. Rape mainly occurs on the "bad" side of town.							
10. Usually, it is only women who do things like hang out in bars and sleep around that are raped.							
11. Most rapists are not caught by the police.							
12. If a woman doesn't physically fight back, you can't really say that it was rape.							
13. Men from nice middle-class homes almost never rape.							

Items	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14. Rape isn't as big a problem as some feminists would like people to think.							
15. When women go around wearing low-cut tops or short skirts, they're just asking for trouble.							
16. Rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at men.							
17. A rape probably didn't happen if the woman has no bruises or marks.							
18. Many women find being forced to have sex very arousing.							
19. If a woman goes home with a man she doesn't know, it is her own fault if she is raped.							
20. Rapists are usually sexually frustrated individuals.							
21. All women should have access to self-defense classes.							
22. It is usually only women who dress suggestively that are raped.							
23. Some women prefer to have sex forced on them so they don't have to feel guilty about it.							
24. If the rapist doesn't have a weapon, you really can't call it a rape.							
25. When a woman is a sexual tease, eventually she is going to get into trouble.							
26. Being raped isn't as bad as being mugged and beaten.							
27. Rape is unlikely to happen in the woman's own familiar neighborhood.							
28. In reality, women are almost never raped by their boyfriends.							
29. Women tend to exaggerate how much rape affects them.							
30. When a man is very sexually aroused, he may not even realize that the woman is resisting.							
31. A lot of women lead a man on and then they cry rape.							
32. (FI-4*) It is preferable that a female police officer conduct the questioning when a woman reports a rape.							
33. A lot of times, women who claim they were raped just have emotional problems.							

Items	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
34. If a woman doesn't physically resist sex—even when protesting verbally—it really can't be considered rape.							
35. Rape almost never happens in the woman's own home.							
36. A woman who "teases" men deserves anything that might happen.							
37. When women are raped, it's often because the way they said "no" was ambiguous.							
38. If a woman isn't a virgin, then it shouldn't be a big deal if her date forces her to have sex.							
39. Men don't usually intend to force sex on a woman, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away.							
40. This society should devote more effort to preventing rape.							
41. A woman who dresses in skimpy clothes should not be surprised if a man tries to force her to have sex.							
42. Rape happens when a man's sex drive gets out of control.							
43. A woman who goes to the home or apartment of a man on the first date is implying that she wants to have sex.							
44. Many women actually enjoy sex after the guy uses a little force.							
45. If a woman claims to have been raped but has no bruises or scrapes, she probably shouldn't be taken too seriously.							

Subscale	Items
1 = She asked for it (SA)	1, 15, 19, 25, 36, 37, 41, 43
2 = It wasn't really rape (NR)	12, 17, 24, 34, 45
3 = He didn't mean to (MT)	3, 20, 30, 39, 42
4 = She wanted it (WI)	2, 8, 18, 23, 44
5 = She lied (LI)	5, 7, 16, 31, 33

Subscale	Items
6 = Rape is a trivial event (TE)	4, 14, 26, 29, 38
7 = Rape is a deviant event (DE)	9, 10, 13, 22, 27, 28, 35
Filler items	6, 11, 21, 32, 40

Sum up the items listed above to get the total score for each subscale. Note that the “Filler items” are not counted towards the total scale value. To get the total score, sum the score for all seven subscales.

Subscale	She asked for it (SA)	It wasn't really rape (NR)	He didn't mean to (MT)	She wanted it (WI)	She lied (LI)	Rape is a trivial event (TE)	Rape is a deviant event (DE)
Subscale score							
Total score							

References

- Lonsway, K. (1999). *Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (IRMA)* [Database record]. APA PsycTests.
- Payne, D. L., Lonsway, K. A., & Fitzgerald, L. F. (1999). Rape myth acceptance: Exploration of its structure and its measurement using the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale. *Journal of Research in Personality, 33*(1), 27-68.