

**TABLE 13.5** Sample Items from the Illinois Rape Myths Scale

Instructions to participants: Read each items and indicate your level of agreement by circling a number to the left of each item.								
Subscale	Item	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		not at all agree			very much agree			
She Wanted It	Although most women wouldn't admit it, they generally find being physically forced into sex a real "turn-on."	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Many women secretly desire to be raped.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
She Asked for It	If a woman is raped while she is drunk, she is at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of control.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	A woman who dresses in skimpy clothes should not be surprised if a man tries to force her to have sex.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
He Didn't Mean To	Men don't usually intend to force sex on a woman, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rape happens when a man's sex drive gets out of control.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Not Rape	If a woman doesn't physically fight back, you can't really say that it was rape.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	If the rapist doesn't have a weapon, you really can't call it a rape.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rape Is a Trivial Event	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.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Women tend to exaggerate how much rape affects them.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
She Lied	A lot of women lead a man on and then they cry rape.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at men.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Deviant Event	Men from nice middle-class homes almost never rape.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	It is usually only women who dress suggestively that are raped.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rape is unlikely to happen in the woman's own familiar neighborhood.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Source: Payne, Lonsway, and Fitzgerald (1998).

person, a belief in a just world can lead us to assume that the person played at least some role in bringing the event about, thereby protecting ourselves from the belief that the same event could befall us. Perhaps women who endorse items on the Rape Myths scale do so as a means of reducing their own perceived vulnerability to this often random act of violence.