

DARVO-USE Questionnaire (Harsey, Adams-Clark, & Freyd, 2024)

Citation:

- Harsey, S., Adams-Clark, A.A., & Freyd, J. J. (2024). [Associations between defensive victim-blaming responses \(DARVO\), rape myth acceptance, and sexual harassment](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0313642). *PLOS ONE*. e0313642. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0313642>.

A note about this document:

On the following pages are the items used in Harsey & Freyd (2024). These are copied directly from the downloaded survey. Two things to note about the document: (1) they have variable names/labels attached, which participants don't see in the survey; and (2) items for the two conditions (innocent/guilty) are shown, so the items are duplicated starting on page 13 of the document (that's where the guilty condition items begin).

In this section, we are interested in learning more about your experiences with confrontations and accusations. You will be asked to respond to questions about your experience with confrontations or accusations. Please read the following questions carefully. As a reminder, your responses here are confidential.

IN_DARVO_Innocent Almost everyone has the experience at some time in their life of being confronted about or accused of things they did not do. These accusations can be for relatively minor transgressions (like being rude to someone) or more serious harms (like being accused of assaulting or hurting someone).

Think about the **worst or most serious thing** you were accused of doing that **you did not do**. Please briefly describe what you were unfairly confronted about or accused of. Do **not** include identifying information in your description (for example: names, specific places, specific dates).

IN_DARVO_serious How serious was the thing you were accused of doing?

- ☐ Not serious at all (1)
- ☐ Not very serious (2)
- ☐ Somewhat serious (3)
- ☐ Very serious (4)
-

IN_DARVO_WhoConfront Who confronted or accused you in this situation? If multiple people confronted or accused you, choose the person you had the most interactions with to report on.

- ☐ Parent or guardian (1)
 - ☐ Girlfriend, boyfriend, spouse, or other romantic partner (2)
 - ☐ Sibling (3)
 - ☐ Extended family member (e.g., grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins) (4)
 - ☐ Friend, roommate, or acquaintance (5)
 - ☐ Teacher, principal, coach, or school staff member (6)
 - ☐ Police officer or other law enforcement authority (7)
 - ☐ Employer, boss, or coworker (8)
 - ☐ Stranger or unknown person (9)
 - ☐ Not listed: (10) _____
-

IN_DARVO_GendConfr What was the gender of the person who confronted or accused you?

- ☐ Man (1)
 - ☐ Woman (2)
 - ☐ Non-binary / third gender (3)
 - ☐ Not sure (4)
-

IN_DARVO_CloseConfr At the time of the confrontation or accusation, how close were you with the person who confronted or accused you?

- ☐ Stranger or you barely knew the person (1)
 - ☐ You knew the person but they were not very close (2)
 - ☐ A person somewhat close to you (3)
 - ☐ A person very close to you (4)
-

IN_DARVO_FairAcc How accurate or fair was this confrontation or accusation you experienced?

- ☐ Not accurate or fair at all (1)
 - ☐ A grain of truth but not very accurate or fair (2)
 - ☐ Not exactly right but somewhat accurate or fair (3)
 - ☐ Very accurate or fair (4)
-

DARVO_txt2 The following questions are about the things **you** might have said in response to the confrontation or accusation you described above.

Below are a series of statements. **We want to know if you said anything like the statements in response to the confrontation or accusation.** Please rate how similar each statement is to what you said in response to the confrontation or accusation.

IN_DARVO-SF_D1 "Whatever you're saying happened isn't my fault"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_D2 "That never happened"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_D3 "You're remembering it incorrectly"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_A1 "You're just trying to make me look bad"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_A2 "You're acting crazy"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_A3 "You're a liar"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_A4 "You're acting delusional"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_A5 "You need help"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_A6 "No one would believe you if you said anything about it"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_A7 "You're just trying to manipulate me"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_A8 "You regret what you did and now you're blaming me"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_R1 "I can't believe you're trying to make this my fault"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_R2 "I'm the real victim here"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_R3 "You're not being fair to me"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_R4 "I'm the one who suffered the most from it"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_R5 "Why are you punishing me?"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_R6 "You treated me worse than I ever treated you"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_R7 "You should be apologizing to me"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_Apology1 "I wish I had never done that to you"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_Apology2 "You have every right to be upset with me over what happened"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_Apology3 "I regret what I did to you"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_Apology4 "What happened was my fault"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_Apology5 "I shouldn't have done that to you"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

IN_DARVO-SF_Apology6 "I realize what I did was wrong"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
- ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
- ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
- ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
- ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)

End of Block: DARVO_Innocent

Start of Block: DARVO_Guilty

GU_DARVO_txt In this section, we are interested in learning more about your experiences with confrontations and accusations. You will be asked to respond to questions about your experience with confrontations or accusations. Please read the following questions carefully. As a reminder, your responses here are confidential.

GU_DARVO_Guilty Almost everyone has at some time in their life done something that is wrong or hurtful to another person or done things that other people don't like. Sometimes when this happens the individual is confronted by other people about their actions. The actions can be relatively minor

transgressions (like being rude to someone) or more serious harms (like assaulting or hurting someone).

Think about the worst or most serious thing you were accused of doing that you did do. Please briefly describe what you were accused or confronted about. Do **not** include identifying information in your description (for example: names, specific places, specific dates).

GU_DARVO_serious How serious was the thing you were accused of doing?

- ☐ Not serious at all (1)
- ☐ Not very serious (2)
- ☐ Somewhat serious (3)
- ☐ Very serious (4)
-

GU_DARVO_WhoConfr Who confronted or accused you in this situation? If multiple people confronted or accused you, choose the person you had the most interactions with to report on.

- ☐ Parent or guardian (1)
 - ☐ Girlfriend, boyfriend, spouse, or other romantic partner (2)
 - ☐ Sibling (3)
 - ☐ Extended family member (e.g., grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins) (4)
 - ☐ Friend, roommate, or acquaintance (5)
 - ☐ Teacher, principal, coach, or school staff member (6)
 - ☐ Police officer or other law enforcement authority (7)
 - ☐ Employer, boss, or coworker (8)
 - ☐ Stranger or unknown person (9)
 - ☐ Not listed: (10) _____
-

GU_DARVO_Genconfr What was the gender of the person who confronted or accused you?

- ☐ Man (1)
 - ☐ Woman (2)
 - ☐ Non-binary / third gender (3)
 - ☐ Not sure (4)
-

GU_DARVO_CloseConfr At the time of the confrontation or accusation, how close were you with the person who confronted or accused you?

- ☐ Stranger or you barely knew the person (1)
 - ☐ You knew the person but they were not very close (2)
 - ☐ A person somewhat close to you (3)
 - ☐ A person very close to you (4)
-

GU_DARVO_FairAcc How accurate or fair was this confrontation or accusation you experienced?

- ☐ Not accurate or fair at all (1)
 - ☐ A grain of truth but not very accurate or fair (2)
 - ☐ Not exactly right but somewhat accurate or fair (3)
 - ☐ Very accurate or fair (4)
-

DARVO_txt2 The following questions are about the things **you** might have said in response to the confrontation or accusation you described above.

Below are a series of statements. **We want to know if you said anything like the statements in response to the confrontation or accusation.** Please rate how similar each statement is to what you said in response to the confrontation or accusation.

GU_DARVO-SF_D1 "Whatever you're saying happened isn't my fault"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_D2 "That never happened"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_D3 "You're remembering it incorrectly"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_A1 "You're just trying to make me look bad"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_A2 "You're acting crazy"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_A3 "You're a liar"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_A4 "You're acting delusional"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_A5 "You need help"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_A6 "No one would believe you if you said anything about it"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_A7 "You're just trying to manipulate me"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_A8 "You regret what you did and now you're blaming me"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_R1 "I can't believe you're trying to make this my fault"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_R2 "I'm the real victim here"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_R3 "You're not being fair to me"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_R4 "I'm the one who suffered the most from it"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_R5 "Why are you punishing me?"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_R6 "You treated me worse than I ever treated you"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_R7 "You should be apologizing to me"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_Apology1 "I wish I had never done that to you"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_Apology2 "You have every right to be upset with me over what happened"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_Apology3 "I regret what I did to you"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_Apology4 "What happened was my fault"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_Apology5 "I shouldn't have done that to you"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
 - ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
 - ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
 - ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
 - ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)
-

GU_DARVO-SF_Apology6 "I realize what I did was wrong"

- ☐ Your response was not at all like this (1)
- ☐ Your response was somewhat like this (2)
- ☐ Your response was moderately like this (3)
- ☐ Your response was very much like this (4)
- ☐ Your response was almost exactly like this (5)