

Purity Culture And Its Effects On Women

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Purity what?

- Stemmed from the 1980s
 - Current movement. Idea has been around longer
- Started from Evangelical circles
 - Spread to secular culture
- Objective: keep teens and young adults abstinent before marriage

Research Method

- Mix of both academic and contemporary sources
- Primary and secondary
 - Emphasis on personal accounts from women within the movement

How Has Purity Culture Affected Women?

Effects on Men v. Women

- Men
 - Pressure to lose virginity
 - Taught to see women as temptations
 - It is their “nature”
- Women
 - Expectation to be chaste
 - Labels like “slut”
 - Expectation to account for men’s actions
 - Robert Aaron Long



(Carpenter 2001)

(Wagner 2021)

Effects on Women of Color

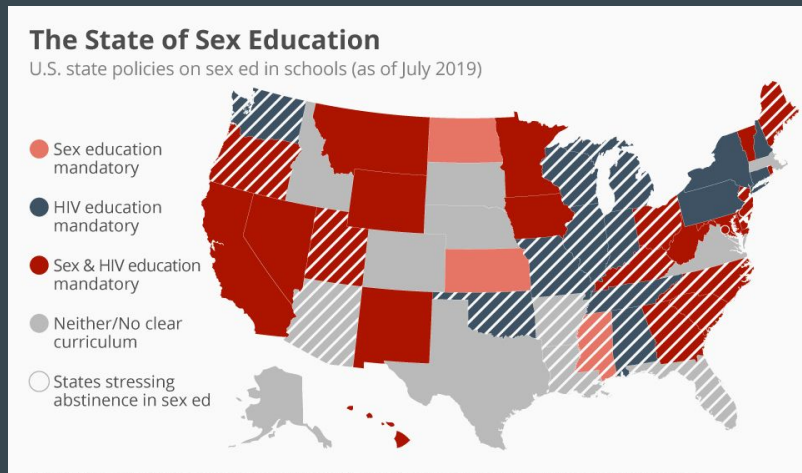
- The Virgin Mary
 - Often depicted as white
 - Perfect pure women is white
- Considered inherently more sexual
- Asian women hypersexualized



(Ngue 2021)

Sex Ed

- 30 states require sex ed in public schools
 - Only 22 require accurate information
- Many teach abstinence-only education
 - Shown not to be effective
- Example of purity culture influence



(State policies on Sex
Education 2020)

(Columbia University 2017)

Effects on Women's Self Esteem

- Not limited to religious circles
- Women are not “eligible” for marriage if their not virgins
- Media
 - Boys depicted as “players”
 - Girls depicted as “sluts” or “easy”
- Victim blaming
 - Victims ashamed of being “used” by aggressors

(Valenti 2009)

(Gish 2018)

Conclusion

- Purity culture as a way to control women's sexuality
- Unintentional promotion of violence toward women
- Leads society to shame women
 - Women shame themselves
- Teaches women that their value is tied to their body

Thank You

For more information,

Contact Fbeast165@gmail.com

Or follow QR code for full essay.



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