Presence of drugs and drug abuse

According to this 2013 study from The Global State of Harm Reduction

- Often times, sex work interacts with drug use as it provides a means of getting money to buy hard drugs
- Some pimps or clients require sex workers to do drugs with them as a part of their services

According to information provided by the Oaks treatment center

- Many young people are lured into sex work by pimps and clients offering opioids

According to a 2016 AP article

- Traffickers and pimps take advantage of women who are battling addiction
- “(Traffickers) learn that it’s very lucrative to sell a girl,” said Lisa Goldblatt Grace, director and co-founder of My Life My Choice, a Boston nonprofit focused on combating the commercial sexual exploitation of adolescents. “Drugs you can only sell once; a girl you can sell over and over again.”
- A man in Lowell, MA was giving an addicted woman fentanyl in exchange for sexual services
- Traffickers have even parked outside methadone clinics in Massachusetts and lured women with promises of drugs, food and housing to hotels
- Drug addictions can also develop as coping mechanisms for women who are trafficked or who feel trapped by commercial sex
- “Demand for commercial sex, primarily from men, fuels sex trafficking, said Michael Shively, senior associate at ABT Associates, a private, nonpartisan research organization in Cambridge.”

According to information provided by Prof. Catharine MacKinnon, Trafficking, Prostitution, and Inequality.

- Sex workers often turn to drugs as a means of escaping from/cop ing with the horrors of trafficking and forced sex

According to 2018 NBC News article

- Covers the story of one West Virginia woman who began trading sex for drugs
- “While some women in West Virginia choose sex work, others are victims of sex trafficking, forced into prostitution against their will. Sex trafficking “is a crime of opportunity, and the pivot point for that opportunity is opioid addiction,” said Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Cogar.”
- “’Pimps often hold out [the] promise of drugs in return for women engaging in prostitution,’ he said. ‘We think that’s fueling a lot of the demand and supply.’”
- “There was a guy I met up with at a motel and we did some stuff and I passed out,” Beth said. “I woke up 45 minutes later and he had taken me to some trailer out in the
country. He took my phone and chained me up. I had to drug him to get the chains off and get away.”