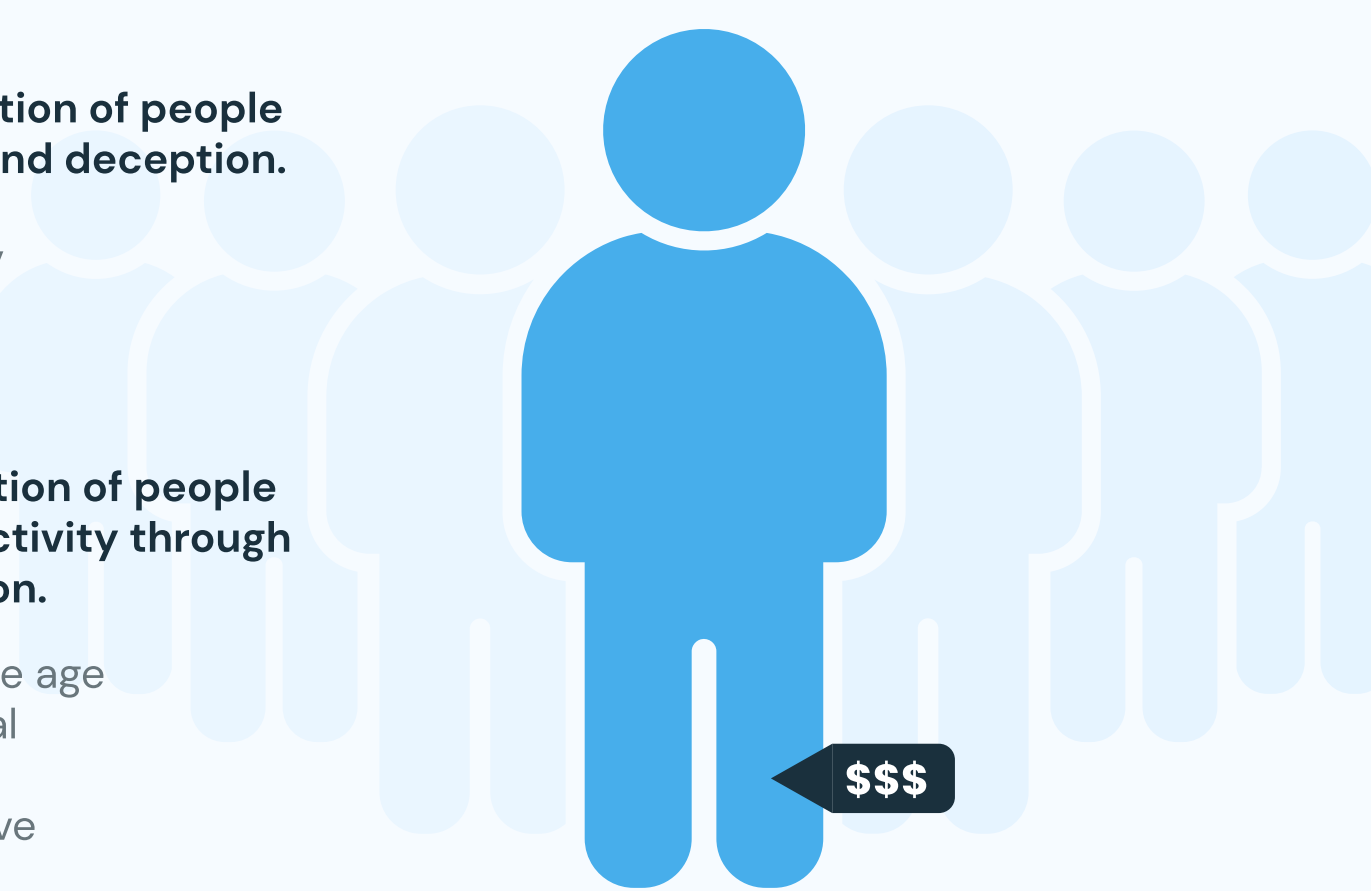


TRAFFICKING AND SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT FRAUD

WHAT IS HUMAN AND SEXUAL TRAFFICKING?

- ▶ **Human Trafficking is the exploitation of people through force, coercion, threat, and deception.**
- ▶ Abuses can include debt bondage, deprivation of liberty, and lack of control over freedom and labor.
- ▶ **Sexual Trafficking is the exploitation of people engaged in commercial sexual activity through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.**
- ▶ If the trafficked person is under the age of consent, that commercial sexual activity may still be deemed sex trafficking even if it does not involve force, fraud, or coercion.



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF SUBSTANCES IN TRAFFICKING?

- ▶ For years, traffickers have used substances to recruit and control victims of human and sexual trafficking.
- ▶ Substances, and addictions to certain substances, make a person more vulnerable to being trafficked.
- ▶ Substances can be initiated and manipulated by the trafficker as a means of coercion and control.
- ▶ Substances can also be used and initiated by the survivor as a means of coping with the traumas of trafficking, leading some traffickers to recruit directly from detox and treatment facilities.



WHAT IS THE NEXUS BETWEEN TRAFFICKING AND THE TREATMENT LANDSCAPE?

- ▶ People that use substances can be especially vulnerable to trauma and victimization by human traffickers.
- ▶ Fraudulent treatment centers and recovery residences promote themselves as all-inclusive wellness experience, but instead are nothing more than facilities for exploitation and sex trafficking. Many of the victims of these fraudulent centers are sold into sex trafficking networks.
- ▶ People experiencing substance use disorder can be lured from state to state around the country in a search for treatment.
- ▶ These centers entangle those with substance use disorder in a vicious cycle of predatory scams and violent abuse.
- ▶ Fraudulent recovery centers can lead to those seeking treatment for their substance use disorder hopping from recovery residence to recovery residence, paying thousands of dollars and potentially paying with their freedom and sometimes their life.



HOW DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORK?



- ▶ Traffickers will approach individuals using substances on the street, in AA and NA meetings, at out-patient detox clinics seeking to lure victims with tales of an easy way to receive free housing and make money at detox inpatient facilities.

“BENEFITS” CAN INCLUDE

- ▶ Not having to pay rent, if they actively recruit from patient groups.
- ▶ Groceries and other types of gifts cards.
- ▶ Continuing to use substances while living in the recovery residences.
- ▶ No curfew, and constant contact with friends even being allowed to visit and stay over (contrary to the rules that are found at recovery residences that meet national standards).
- ▶ Direct payments through an agreement that the resident will not pass drug tests so the facility can continue to bill to the insurance companies.



WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF REAL WORLD CASES?



- ▶ **Individuals with substance use seeking recovery have been exploited in addiction treatment situations for sex trafficking and forced labor.**
- ▶ **An owner of recovery residences was convicted of sex trafficking individuals in their facilities.**
- ▶ Patients were forced into sex work and kept complacent with substances forced upon them.
- ▶ Substances would then be withheld if they would not comply with his sexual trafficking and recruitment scheme.
- ▶ The withholding of substances could cause withdrawal, which causes extreme pain and suffering, and in some instances can even be fatal.
- ▶ **Traffickers have also targeted people with substance use disorder who were in court-mandated recovery residences.**
- ▶ These patients were forced to work in dangerous jobs.