



Infographic

The Labor Consequences of the Opioid Crisis

BEN GITIS | MARCH 27, 2018



THE LABOR CONSEQUENCES OF THE OPIOID CRISIS

The U.S. economy depends on **prime-age workers**. Yet, their labor force participation rate is falling, and over the past two decades the growth of opioid dependency has been a major contributing factor.



919,400

prime-age individuals were not in the labor force due to opioids

In 2015

Between 1999 - 2015

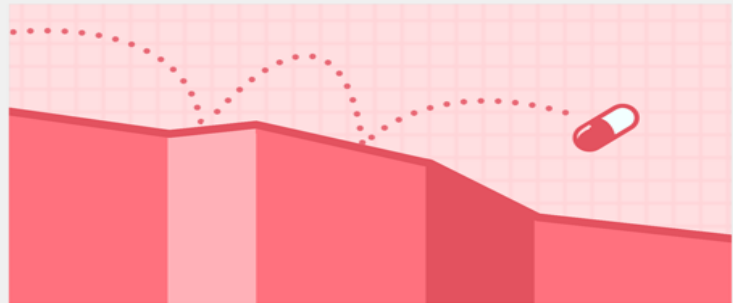
12.1 BIL

work hours were lost in labor force participation due to opioids driving workers out of the labor force



\$702.1 BIL

in real output was lost due to this drop in labor force participation



10%

Lost growth: With these workers, the economy would have grown 0.2 percentage points (or 10% faster) per year



As policymakers consider ways to grow the economy and boost the labor supply, **addressing the opioid epidemic should be part of the solution.**

