



**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

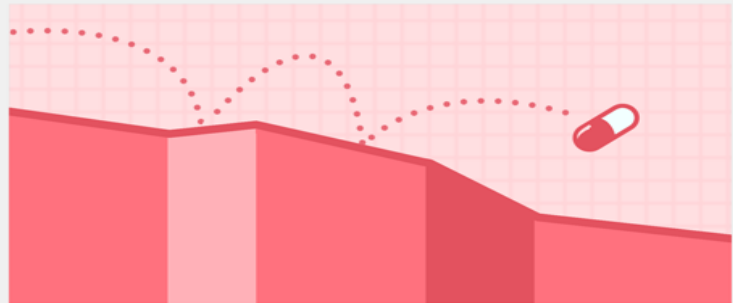
## 12.1 BIL

**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.**

