



# The Staggering Costs of Long Island's Opioid Crisis

We know the human toll that opioid addiction has taken on Long Island. Now, for the first time, we can see the economic impact this epidemic has had.

Everybody pays one way or another for the opioid crisis: as a taxpayer, consumer, or business.



**\$16.6 billion**

The total estimated damage to the Long Island economy in 2016 and 2017 by the opioid crisis.

The extent of the losses has been remarkably high: 4.5 percent of Long Island's gross domestic product (GDP) of \$182.5 billion in 2017. The opioid crises caused Long Island an estimated 8.2 billion in economic damage in 2017, slightly down from the \$8.4 billion in 2016.



**\$22.4 million**

Total daily damage to the Long Island economy by opioid addiction and overdose deaths in 2017.



**\$6.9 billion**

Cost each year of economy-wide economic losses of opioid overdose deaths on Long Island in both 2016 and 2017.



**\$200 million**

The private sector had a total of \$200 million in productivity losses in 2017.



**\$1.4 billion**

Cost each year of nonfatal opioid addiction in both 2016 and 2017.

# Adding Up the Economic Costs

- In 2017 Nassau and Suffolk Counties experienced 617 overdose deaths caused by opioids, the highest on record.
- The increase in opioid overdose deaths on Long Island and throughout the state during 2017 was overwhelmingly driven by the introduction of inexpensive yet highly potent synthetic opiates such as fentanyl.
- Suffolk: private health care cost \$117 million; lost productivity cost \$136 million;
- Nassau: private health care cost \$55 million; lost productivity cost \$64 million.
- In 2017 and 2016 the economic cost of opioid overdose deaths on Long Island was estimated at around \$6.9 billion in each year while the costs associated with nonfatal opioid addiction totaled \$1.4 billion for each year.
- Losses associated with overdose deaths accounted for 83 percent of the total economic damages caused by the opioid epidemic on Long Island.



The total private sector damage is large. As a whole, Long Island suffered \$172 million of drug-related private healthcare costs and \$200 million of productivity losses in 2017.

According to a recent survey, nearly one in four New Yorkers reports having a family member, friend or acquaintance who has died from an opioid overdose. We must work together to solve this problem and we all have a role - at home, at work, in the community, and in the state. While funding is always a concern, Long Island cannot afford the cost of inaction.