Where Have All the Workers Gone? An Inquiry into the Decline of the U.S. Labor Force Participation Rate

ERRATUM The article (Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, Fall 2017) contains an error in the post-estimation calculations concerning Table 13 and 14, which inadvertently computed the logarithm of the 3.5 fold increase in opioid prescriptions per capita from 1999 to 2016 using a log of base 10 instead of the natural log. The correct calculation should have used 1.25 log points instead of 0.55 log points. Thus, the sentence on page 49 should have read, "Multiplying 1.25 by the coefficient on the interaction between opioids and the second period (–0.011) suggests that the increase in opioid prescriptions could perhaps account for a 1.4 percentage point decline in male labor force participation, which is 43 percent of the observed decline during this period." I thank John Moran of Penn State University for finding the error and bringing it to my attention.