

Here's a **summary** of the report titled "**\$122 Billion: The Growing, Annual Cost of the Infant-Toddler Child Care Crisis**" by ReadyNation and the Council for a Strong America:

Key Findings

- The **annual economic cost** of the infant-toddler child care crisis in the U.S. has **more than doubled** since 2018, rising from **\$57 billion** to **\$122 billion**.
 - This cost is distributed among:
 - **Families:** \$78 billion in lost earnings and job search expenses.
 - **Businesses:** \$23 billion in lost productivity and increased hiring costs.
 - **Taxpayers:** \$21 billion in lost tax revenue.
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The Crisis Explained

- **Access:** 51% of Americans live in a “child care desert” with insufficient licensed care.
 - **Affordability:** Infant care costs more than public college tuition in 34 states.
 - **Quality:** High staff turnover and low wages reduce care quality and consistency.
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Impact on Working Parents

- Nearly **three-quarters** of parents report challenges accessing child care.
 - Over **half** struggle to find care that is affordable or high quality.
 - Consequences include:
 - 64% late for work or leaving early
 - 58% missed full days of work
 - 26% quit a job
 - 23% were fired
 - 41% turned down job offers or training
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Impact on Employers

- Reduced employee productivity and increased turnover.
 - Higher costs for recruitment and training.
 - Lower morale and potential loss of clients or product quality.
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Impact on Taxpayers

- Lower income and sales tax revenues due to reduced parental earnings.
 - Long-term economic drag from diminished workforce development.
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COVID-19 Exacerbation

- Since 2018, negative impacts have significantly worsened:
 - Firings and pay cuts due to child care issues have nearly tripled.
 - Job quits and demotions have doubled.
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State-Level Impact

- The report includes a state-by-state breakdown of the economic burden.
 - Example: California (\$17B), Texas (\$11.4B), New York (\$9.8B)
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Recommendations

- **Federal and state policymakers** must invest in:
 - Expanding access to high-quality, affordable child care.
 - Supporting child care providers and workforce.
 - **Businesses** can help by offering on-site care, subsidies, and advocacy.
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Would you like a visual summary (e.g., infographic or slide deck) or a version tailored for a specific audience like policymakers, educators, or business leaders?