

SMOKING AND PREGNANCY

Quick Facts

- About three in 10 (32%) of women in Alberta smoked during their last pregnancy, according to the 2000/2001 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS).¹
- Women who smoke during their pregnancy are much more likely to deliver a low-birth-weight baby.²⁻⁴
- Low-birth-weight babies are at increased risk of severe health problems and neonatal (newborn) death.^{5,6}
- Maternal smoking also increases the risks of miscarriage, stillbirth and death of the newborn within the first few weeks of life.⁶⁻⁸
- In Alberta, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) is 1.4 to 4.4 times more common among babies whose mothers smoke during pregnancy.⁹
- Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) after birth is associated with increased incidence of SIDS.¹⁰
- Growing evidence suggests that maternal smoking during pregnancy may be associated with deficits in intellectual ability, behavioural problems, and physical malformation among children of those women.¹¹⁻¹⁶
- Between 50 and 70% of pregnant women who smoke continue to smoke during their pregnancy.¹⁷⁻¹⁹