

## Smoking and Pregnancy

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### Description:

*Australian data indicates that approximately 20 per cent of women smoke during pregnancy, although this rate appears to be declining. A woman who smokes while pregnant is at increased risk of experiencing a wide range of problems including ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage and premature labour.*

*Women who smoke are up to three times more likely to give birth to a low weight baby compared to non-smokers. Low birth weight babies are more vulnerable to infection and other health problems, such as breathing difficulties.*

*The more cigarettes smoked during pregnancy, the greater the risk of complications. Smoking during pregnancy can impair a child's health for years to come. Health effects may include, decreased lung function, higher incidence of asthma, increased risk of developing behavioural problems, such as antisocial behaviour.*

### Harmful Effects in Pregnancy