

Effects of Pregnancy Smoking

Did you know that if you smoke during pregnancy you and your baby have a significantly increased risk of experiencing the following?

Pregnancy and at Birth

- Spontaneous abortion/miscarriage
- Premature rupture of membranes
- Intrauterine growth restriction
- Preterm delivery*
- Low birth weight*
- Reduced head and chest circumference
- Reduced birth length
- Admission to the neonatal intensive care unit*

Childhood

- SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome)*
- Increased irritability
- Growth restriction
- Asthma*
- Increased susceptibility to colds and other respiratory infections
- Chronic ear infections
- Cleft lip/cleft palate
- Attention deficit disorder (ADD/ADHD)
- Learning problems
- Delayed language development
- Decreased IQ
- Poor auditory perception
- Behavior problems
- Childhood cancers
- Initiation of smoking*

Adolescence and Adulthood

- Criminal behavior, especially violent offenses
- Substance use and dependence
- Smoking and nicotine addiction
- Depression
- Infertility

* Pregnancy smoking is the *strongest* predictor of these outcomes.

