Risks From Smoking During Pregnancy

Smoking can cause problems for a woman trying to become pregnant or who is already pregnant, and for her baby before and after birth.

Effects on Mothers

- **Difficulty getting pregnant**
- Placenta separates from the womb too early, causing bleeding
- Placenta covers the cervix, causing complications
- Water breaks too early
- Pregnancy occurs outside of the womb

Smoking cigarettes causes these health effects.

Smoking can cause these health effects, but more studies are needed to be sure.

Effects on Babies

- Baby born too small
- **Baby born too early**
- **Sudden Infant Death Syndrome**
- Fetal death
- Infant death
- Miscarriage
- Certain birth defects, such as:
  - Cleft lip/palate
  - Clubfoot
  - Gastrochisis
  - Some heart defects
  - Cryptorchidism

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention