8. Tobacco Use During Pregnancy

Tobacco use among mothers during pregnancy is dropping. In 1996, 18 percent of births were to women who reported smoking at least one cigarette during her pregnancy. By 2002, that figure had fallen to 16 percent. The table below (8-1) shows the percent decline between 1996 and 2002 in maternal cigarette use by age, marital status, race and ethnicity, education, and trimester that prenatal care started. There is a sharper decrease, for example, among black women (29%) than among white women (9%). Also while women in their thirties were smoking at a much lower rate in 2002 compared to 1996, women in their teens and early twenties did not reduce their cigarette smoking as dramatically.

***Table 8-1*. Number & Percent of Births to Mothers Who Smoked During Pregnancy By Maternal Characteristics, Pennsylvania Residents, 1996 and 2002 and Percent Change**

	1996		2002		1996 - 2002
Maternal Characteristic	**#Births**	**% Smokers**	**# Births**	**% Smokers**	**Percent Change**
Age					
<20	3,741	24.2	3,065	23.9	-1
20-24	7,622	25.3	7,633	24.8	-2
25-29	7,081	17.1	5,080	13.9	-19
30-34	5,189	13.6	3,736	10.1	-26
35-39	2,411	14.3	1,848	10.6	-26
40+	346	12.3	418	11.4	-7
Marital Status					
Married	10,902	11.2	8,060	8.8	-21
Unmarried	15,447	32.7	13,720	29.5	-10
Race/Ethnicity					
Asian	82	2.6	85	2.0	-23
Black	4,117	20.4	2,777	14.5	-29
Hispanic	922	13.9	949	11.2	-19
American Indian	60	28.4	46	13.7	-52
Other	97	13.4	353	15.5	16
White	22,035	18.3	18,519	16.5	-9
Highest Grade Achieved					
0 - 11	7,255	32.9	6,009	29.4	-11
12	13,272	24.3	10,345	22.7	-7
13 - 15	3,979	13.5	3,613	13.1	-3
16 or more	1,885	4.9	1,813	4.1	-16

Prenatal Care Begun					
1st Trimester	19,606	16.4	16,122	14.7	-11
2nd Trimester	4,336	25.0	3,242	20.8	-17
3rd Trimester	1,040	28.0	696	20.1	-28
No Prenatal Care	677	47.4	356	34.7	-27
Total	26,390	18.2	21,780	15.8	-13

Source: Certificate of Live Birth, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research, Division of Statistical Support, 1996-2002.
Notes: Total counts of births exclude those who are either unknown in smoking status, or unknown in the category listed. Hispanics can be of any race. Percents may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.
* Percent change is change on rate per 100.

Births to women who report smoking during pregnancy have a greater likelihood of being born at low birth weight. Low birth weight here is defined as a baby weighing less than 2500 grams (5 pounds and 9 ounces). Table 8-2 shows that in 2002, approximately 13 percent of live births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy were under 2500 grams compared to seven percent to mothers who did not report smoking during pregnancy.

***Table 8-2*. Percentage Low Birth Weight by Smoking Status of Mother**
Pennsylvania Residents, 1996 - 2002

Year	% Low Birth Weight Births to Mothers Who Reported Smoking During Pregnancy	% Low Birth Weight Births to Mothers Who Did Not Report Smoking During Pregnancy
1996	12.4	6.4
1997	12.3	6.5
1998	11.8	6.7
1999	12.2	6.9
2000	11.8	6.8
2001	12.0	7.0
2002	12.6	7.2

Source: Certificate of Live Birth, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research, Division of Statistical Support, 1996-2002.