Premature births (before 37 weeks) often result in low birth weight babies (less than 2,500g, 5lbs, 8oz). These babies can suffer from serious medical conditions because their bodies have not fully developed. Sometimes these problems are too severe, and the baby is unable to survive. These conditions can also lead to developmental delays and learning disabilities as the baby matures.

- **Women who smoke during pregnancy are nearly twice as likely to have a low birth weight baby compared to women who do not smoke.**

- **Women with less than a high school degree are more likely to have a preterm or low birth weight birth compared to women with a high school degree or more.**

- **Black women are twice as likely to have a low birth weight baby compared to White women, and nearly 2 times more likely compared to Hispanic women.**

- **Overall, the percent of babies born prematurely has not changed since 2013.**

- **Black women are more likely to have a preterm birth compared to White and Hispanic women.**

- **Women with less than a high school degree are more likely to have a preterm or low birth weight birth compared to women with a high school degree or more.**