Premature births (before 37 weeks) often result in low birth weight babies (less than 2,500g, 5.8 pounds). 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.

**PHI PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE:**

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

**KEY FINDING**

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

**Across the Nation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Montgomery¹</th>
<th>Ohio²</th>
<th>United States³</th>
<th>HP 2020 Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preterm Births</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Birth Weight</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Ohio Birth Certificates, Ohio Department of Health, 2017
²National Vital Statistics System (NVSS), CDC, 2017
³National Vital Statistics System (NVSS), CDC, 2017