



# *The Facts about Marijuana*

Although many women believe that marijuana is relatively safe to use in pregnancy, this is **NOT** true. In fact, women who are pregnant, thinking about becoming pregnant, or are breastfeeding should be instructed to stop marijuana use.

## Facts for women using marijuana:

- Carcinogenic toxins in tobacco smoke are often much higher in marijuana
- Women using marijuana are more likely to experience intimate partner violence

## Facts for babies of pregnant women using marijuana:

- ✓ Increased risk of birth defects such as anencephaly, gastroschisis, and heart defects when used during the first month of pregnancy.
- ✓ Significant risk of stillbirth is noted after 24 weeks of pregnancy.
- ✓ Born with smaller birth weight, smaller birth length, and smaller head circumference.
- ✓ Risk Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) when mom used during and after pregnancy.
- ✓ When breastfeeding, levels of THC can remain for long periods of time. This results in similar problems like those seen with high levels of marijuana use in pregnancy.
- ✓ Can have interrupted brain development resulting in impaired thought processes.
- ✓ Score lower on visual tests such as problem solving, vision-motor coordination, and vision analysis.
- ✓ Score lower on I.Q. tests.
- ✓ Have decreased attention span and behavior problems.
- ✓ Have poorer reading and spelling scores with lower teacher-perceived school performance.
- ✓ Further risks possible from any known or unknown substances laced in marijuana.