Early-life risk factors

europeanlung.org/early-life-risk-factors/

There are a number of factors that can occur early in a person’s life that could lead to lung problems later in life. These include not breast feeding, weight gain, a mother’s use of paracetamol during pregnancy, complications during childbirth and indoor and outdoor air quality.

Areas for action

- Women need to be educated about the dangers of smoking during pregnancy
- Education is required for new and future parents about the adverse effects of smoking on babies
- As survival rates of premature babies increases, so does the incidence of infants requiring treatment – more attention needs to be paid to improving care of pre-term infants

In children under 2 years, the risk for lung disease is increased by over 70% if the mother smokes

30-50% of children who develop wheezing as a result of an infection as an infant go on to develop asthma

Parental smoking may account for 20% of all asthma cases in childhood

20% of infants whose mothers smoked during pregnancy are admitted for bronchitis in their first 5 years

Abnormal lung growth is associated with 15-20% of deaths of newborn babies

The lung health of grandparents has an impact on the lung health of their grandchildren