

(Continued)

for only a small percentage of the variance as a group. Furthermore, the overall model accounted for only just over 5% of the variance in infant birth weight. However, because birth weight is a significant predictor of future health outcomes, this may be an important finding. Individual variable parameters are presented in Table 10.5d. The final model was used to create predicted values for each racial group across a range of zMOMWT (−3 to +3 in increments of 0.5) and is presented graphically in Figure 10.2.

Generally, as you can see in Figure 10.2, there was a trend for mothers who gained more weight during the pregnancy to give birth to children who were heavier. However, there were differences across the racial groups in the shape of that relationship. For White and Asian/Pacific Islander mothers, there was a general increasing cubic trend with a slightly steeper slope for the latter group. Native American/Alaskan mothers also had a clear cubic curve, but of a more dramatic and different nature than the prior two groups. Finally, the relationship for African American/Black mothers was mostly linear in nature.