Among all participants, Caucasian women (63%) were more likely than American Indian women (52%) to report drinking. However, those who reported prenatal drinking, American Indian women were more likely to engage in binge drinking (41%).

Alcohol use among American Indian and Caucasian women declined across pregnancy.

Risk factors for drinking among Caucasian women were older age and higher income.

The sole risk factor for drinking among American Indian women was the number of physical relocations, which is often associated with financial stress and lack of social support.

Purpose
This study explored differences in patterns of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and the social and economic factors contributing to mothers’ tendency to drink.

Method:
All study participants lived in the Northern Plains and identified as American Indian (N = 2,124) or Caucasian (N = 2,753). Women self-reported their drinking during an in-person interview.

Results
- Among all participants, Caucasian women (63%) were more likely than American Indian women (52%) to report drinking. However, those who reported prenatal drinking, American Indian women were more likely to engage in binge drinking (41%).
- Alcohol use among American Indian and Caucasian women declined across pregnancy.
- Risk factors for drinking among Caucasian women were older age and higher income.
- The sole risk factor for drinking among American Indian women was the number of physical relocations, which is often associated with financial stress and lack of social support.

Implications of Findings
- Continue to provide education on abstaining from drinking during pregnancy to all women.
- To reduce the stress that likely triggers the need to relocate among American Indian families (the sole risk factor for drinking within this group), more programs are needed to support families’ financial, housing, and social well-being.