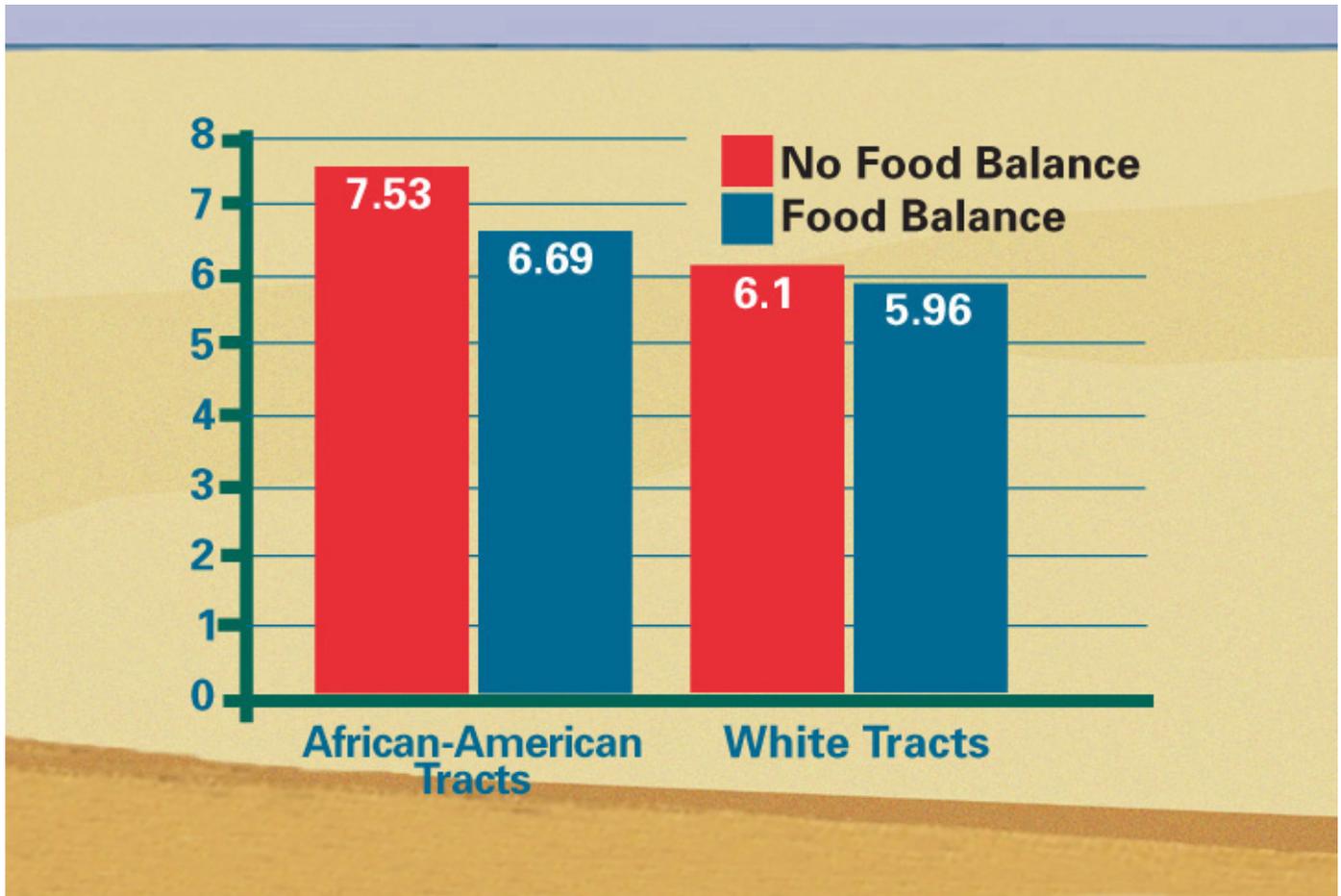


## Chicago Diet Related Deaths by Tract, Race & Food Balance Scores



We analyzed 226 tracts with at least 20 deaths each from diet-related causes per tract for year 2003. Of those 226 tracts, 100 are majority White and 97 are majority African American. Those aggregate numbers were large enough to analyze White and African American tracts further, controlling for race and other influencers, by sorting them by first by race and second by food balance, then splitting them at the median. This resulted in four groupings: two White groups, to compare to each other, and two African American groups, to compare to each other.

The out-of-balance White tract group (with a Food Balance Score of 1.91) has a slightly higher diet-related death rate (6.10 diet-related deaths per thousand) than the in-balance White tract group (which has a Food Balance Score of .96 and 5.96 diet-related deaths per 1,000), even though income and education are slightly more favorable in the out-of-balance group. This is not a huge difference, but it moves in the direction of our theory. The out-of-balance African American tract group (with a very high Food Balance Score of 2.71) has a considerably higher diet-related death rate (7.55 diet-related deaths per thousand) than the more in-balance African American group (which has a Food Balance Score of 1.17 and 6.65 diet-related deaths per 1,000), even though income and education are about the same. This is almost a full percentage point differential; it is a big number. We also see that for the out-of-balance African American group, there is a high proportion of single mothers with children under 18 years of age.

View the full report through a link on our website: [Examining the Impact of Food Deserts on Public Health in Chicago](#)

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