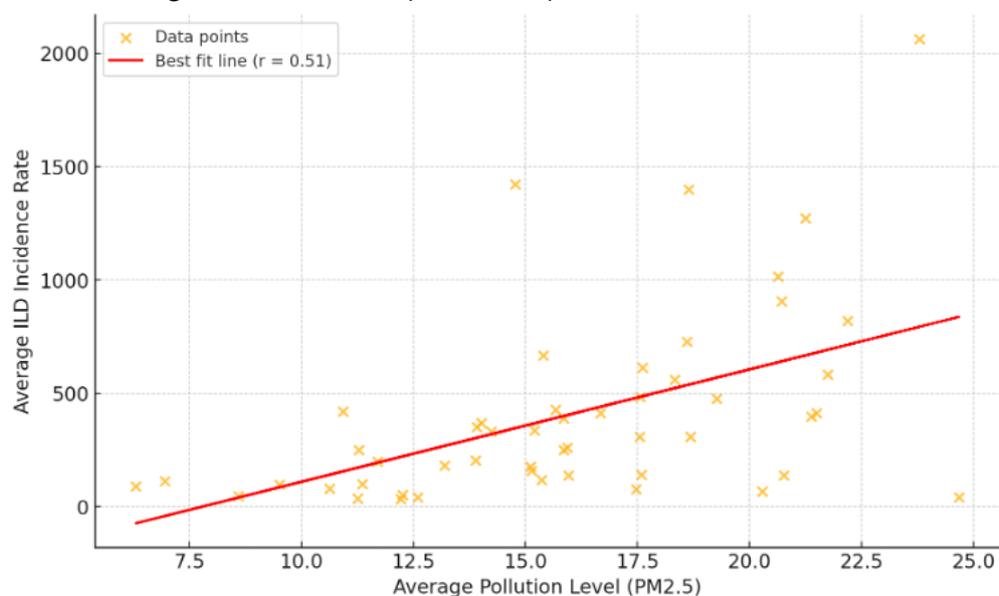


Supplementary Figure 2: Scatter plot showing correlation between particulate matter levels and interstitial lung disease incidence (1990–2021).



The association between air pollution exposure and ILD incidence was evaluated using aggregated state-level data. Each data point represents a state in the USA, with values averaged over the study period. Air pollution exposure was assessed using EPA-based particulate and gaseous measures and Summary Exposure Values, while ILD incidence reflects state level age standardised rates. Regression lines depict population level associations across states. Population-weighted regression was used to account for differences in state population size.

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency; ILD: interstitial lung disease; PM_{2.5}: particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 µm or less.