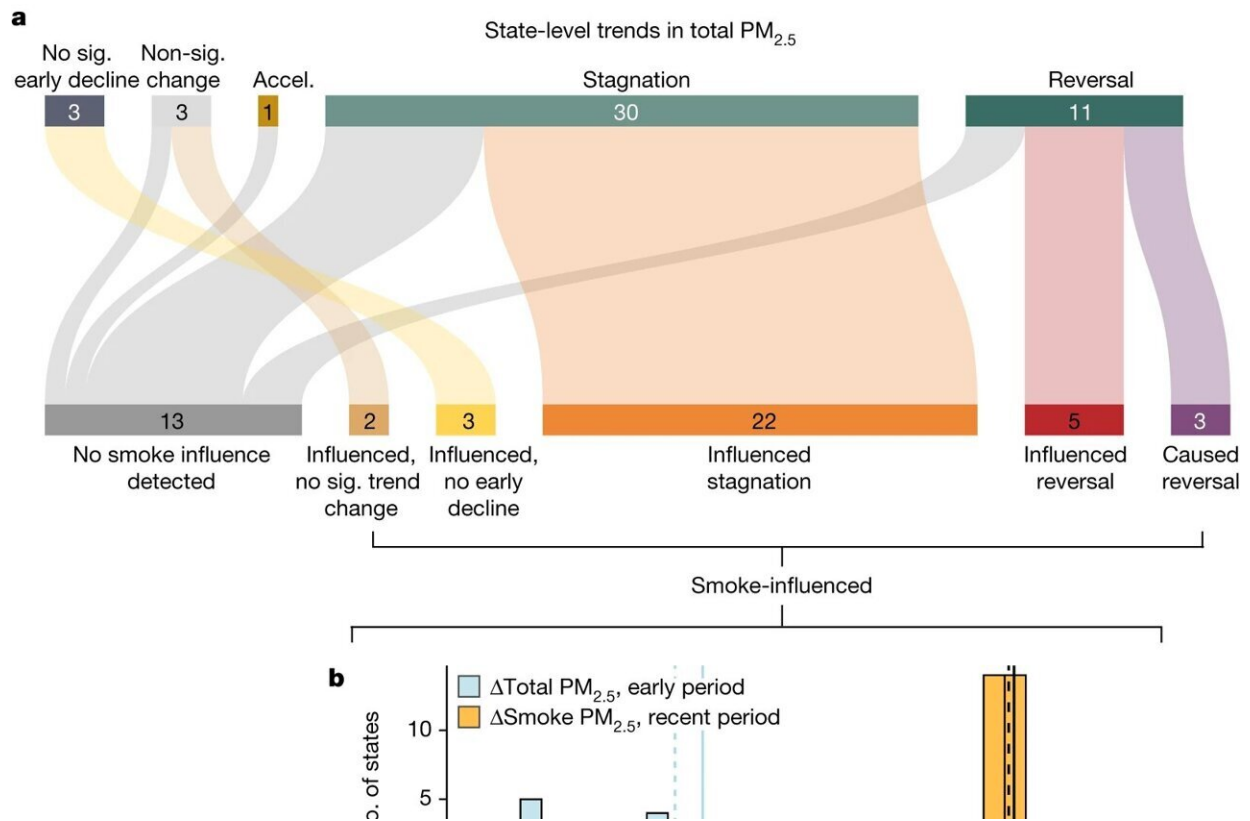


# Examining how much wildfire smoke influences air quality trends

September 20 2023, by Josie Garthwaite



Improvements in total PM<sub>2.5</sub> have slowed or reversed in most states, and smoke is a significant influence in most. **a**, Classification of states by trend in annual average total PM<sub>2.5</sub> in the early (2000 to roughly 2016) versus the recent period (roughly 2016 to 2022); non-declining are states where early-period PM<sub>2.5</sub> is not declining (‘no sig. early decline’) or where trends in early and recent periods are not statistically different (‘non-sig. change’). ‘Stagnation’ includes states where declines are slower (*P*

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