

#### The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

SPECIAL ARTICLE

#### Air Pollution and Mortality at the Intersection of Race and Social Class

Kevin P. Josey, Ph.D., Scott W. Delaney, Sc.D., J.D., Xiao Wu, Ph.D., Rachel C. Nethery, Ph.D., Priyanka DeSouza, Ph.D., Danielle Braun, Ph.D., and Francesca Dominici, Ph.D.

#### ABSTRACT

#### BACKGROUND

From the Departments of Biostatistics (K.P.J., R.C.N., D.B., F.D.) and Environmental Health (S.W.D.), Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston; the Department of Biostatistics, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York (X.W.); and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Colorado Denver, Denver (P.D.). Dr. Dominici can be reached at fdominic@hsph.harvard.edu or at the Department of Biostatistics, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, 655 Huntington Ave., Bldg. 2, 4th Flr., Boston, MA 02115.

Drs. Josey and Delaney and Drs. Braun and Dominici contributed equally to this article.

This article was published on March 24, 2023, at NEJM.org.

N Engl J Med 2023;388:1396-404. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMsa2300523 Copyright © 2023 Massachusetts Medical Society. Black Americans are exposed to higher annual levels of air pollution containing fine particulate matter (particles with an aerodynamic diameter of  $\leq 2.5 \ \mu m \ [PM_{2.5}]$ ) than White Americans and may be more susceptible to its health effects. Low-income Americans may also be more susceptible to PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution than high-income Americans. Because information is lacking on exposure–response curves for PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure and mortality among marginalized subpopulations categorized according to both race and socioeconomic position, the Environmental Protection Agency lacks important evidence to inform its regulatory rulemaking for PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards.

#### METHODS

We analyzed 623 million person-years of Medicare data from 73 million persons 65 years of age or older from 2000 through 2016 to estimate associations between annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure and mortality in subpopulations defined simultaneously by racial identity (Black vs. White) and income level (Medicaid eligible vs. ineligible).

#### RESULTS

Lower PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure was associated with lower mortality in the full population, but marginalized subpopulations appeared to benefit more as PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels decreased. For example, the hazard ratio associated with decreasing PM<sub>2.5</sub> from 12  $\mu$ g per cubic meter to 8  $\mu$ g per cubic meter for the White higher-income subpopulation was 0.963 (95% confidence interval [CI], 0.955 to 0.970), whereas equivalent hazard



- 1. Recap Mar 11 goodness-of-fit tests
- 2. Introduction to causal inference
- 3. Project guidelines:

if you are not sure how to fit your paper into the guidelines contact me office hour: Tuesday 3-4; Monday 7-8 email: nancym.reid@utoronto.ca

#### Recap: multinomial goodness of fit statistics



## **Recap: Smooth goodness-of-fit statistics**

$$K_{n} = \sup_{t} |\widehat{F_{n}}(t) - F_{Q}(t)| \stackrel{d}{\rightarrow} K, \qquad pr(K > x) = 2 \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{j+1} \exp(-2j^{2}x^{2})$$

$$W_{n}^{2} = \int \{\widehat{F_{n}}(t) - F_{O}(t)\}^{2} dF_{O}(t) \stackrel{d}{\rightarrow} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{Z_{j}^{2}}{j^{2}\pi^{2}} \qquad \text{if } f_{O}: f = f_{O}(j, 0)$$

$$A_{n}^{2} = \int \frac{\{\widehat{F_{n}}(t) - F_{O}(t)\}^{2}}{F_{O}(t)\{1 - F_{O}(t)\}} dF_{O}(t) \stackrel{d}{\rightarrow} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{Z_{j}^{2}}{j(j+1)} \qquad \text{if } f_{O}: f = f_{O}(j, 0)$$

$$M : f_{O}(X - \mu) \qquad uses f_{n}$$

$$Mathematical Statistics II \qquad March 18 2025 \qquad f_{O}(X - \mu) = 0$$

## This just in



# Topic Introduction

- Assess how well a model H0 describes the data
- No alternative model H1 specified, if it was, likelihood ratio L(data | H1)/ L(data | H0) would provide optimal test (Neyman-Pearson)

Goodness-of-Fit tests via Machine Learning

• Standard GOF tests in HEP:  $\chi^2$  (most frequent), Kolgomorov- Smirnov (seldomly), others..

Difficulties arise for multi-dimensional distributions

Machine Learning offers various possibilities Todays topic!

link

## This just in



Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Statistical Methodology Series B

*J. R. Statist. Soc.* B (2020) **82**, *Part* 3, *pp.* 773–795

## Goodness-of-fit testing in high dimensional generalized linear models

Jana Janková and Rajen D. Shah,

University of Cambridge, UK

Peter Bühlmann

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich, Switzerland

and Richard J. Samworth

University of Cambridge, UK

Mathematical Statistics eviced August 2019 Revised March 2020]

Cumment. We propose a family of tests to assess the goodness of fit of a high dimensional

## This just in

#### 2. Methodology: generalized residual prediction tests

As mentioned in Section 1.1, our generalized residual prediction (GRP) testing methodology relies on an initial fit of the form

$$\hat{\beta} := \underset{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho(Y_i, x_i^{\mathrm{T}} \beta) + \lambda \|\beta\|_1 \right\}.$$

In what follows, we refer to  $\hat{\beta}$  as the GLM lasso, though it is not essential that the loss function  $\rho$ :  $\mathcal{Y} \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  is the negative log-likelihood that is obtained from a GLM, and indeed this definition incorporates penalized quasi-likelihood estimators, among others. Our general framework for goodness-of-fit testing will also assume that we have available an auxiliary data set  $(X_A, Y_A) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_A \times p} \times \mathcal{Y}^{n_A}$  independent of (X, Y). In the rest of the paper, we take  $n_A = n$  for simplicity, although this is not needed for our procedures. Consider the Pearson-type residuals

$$R_i = \frac{Y_i - \mu(x_i^{\mathrm{T}}\hat{\beta})}{\sqrt{V\{\mu(x_i^{\mathrm{T}}\tilde{\beta})\}}}, \qquad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Here  $\tilde{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^p$  is an additional estimate of  $\beta_0$  that may be computed by using the auxiliary data set, or in certain circumstances may be taken as  $\hat{\beta}$  itself: we discuss these two cases in the following sections. Given the vector R of residuals, the basic form of our test statistic is  $w^T R$ ; here  $w \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is a direction that is typically derived by using the auxiliary data set. We describe in detail the construction of such a w n Section 2.1, where the goal is general goodness-of-fit testing.

A further modification of the method can enable us to use multiple directions w to test simultaneously for different departures from the null or to aggregate over different directions derived by using flexible regression methods with different tuning parameters. Given a set  $W \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  of direction vectors w, our proposed test statistic then takes the form

Mathematical Statistics II March 18 2025

 $\sup_{w\in W} w^{\mathrm{T}} R.$ 

7

The Annals of Statistics 2022, Vol. 50, No. 5, 2514–2544 https://doi.org/10.1214/22-AOS2187 © Institute of Mathematical Statistics, 2022

#### TESTING GOODNESS-OF-FIT AND CONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE WITH APPROXIMATE CO-SUFFICIENT SAMPLING

BY RINA FOYGEL BARBER<sup>1,a</sup> AND LUCAS JANSON<sup>2,b</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Statistics, University of Chicago, <sup>a</sup>rina@uchicago.edu <sup>2</sup>Department of Statistics, Harvard University, <sup>b</sup>ljanson@fas.harvard.edu

Goodness-of-fit (GoF) testing is ubiquitous in statistics, with direct ties to model selection, confidence interval construction, conditional independence testing, and multiple testing, just to name a few applications. While testing the GoF of a simple (point) null hypothesis provides an analyst great flexibility in the choice of test statistic while still ensuring validity, most GoF tests for composite null hypotheses are far more constrained, as the test statistic must have a tractable distribution over the entire null model space. A notable exception is *co-sufficient sampling* (CSS): resampling the data conditional on Ma sufficient statistic for the null model guarantees valid GoF testing using any test statistic the analyst chooses. But CSS testing requires the null model to

Mathematical Statistics II



randomization; confounding; observational studies; experiments;
 "correlation is not causation", Simpson's 'paradox'

• counterfactuals; average treatment effect; conditional average treatment effect; ...

• graphical models; directed acyclic graphs; causal graphs; Markov assumptions...

• The Book



## Confounding variables

|       | Men        |          |          | Women      |          |          |
|-------|------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|
|       | Number of  | Number   | Percent  | Number of  | Number   | Percent  |
| Major | applicants | admitted | admitted | applicants | admitted | admitted |
| А     | 825        | 512      | 62       | 108        | 89       | 82       |
| В     | 560        | 353      | 63       | 25         | 17       | 68       |
| С     | 325        | 120      | 37       | 593        | 202      | 34       |
| D     | 417        | 138      | 33       | 375        | 131      | 35       |
| E     | 191        | 53       | 28       | 393        | 94       | 24       |
| F     | 373        | 22       | 6        | 341        | 24       | 7        |
| Total | 2691       | 1198     | 44       | 1835       | 557      | 30       |
|       |            |          |          |            |          |          |

data(UCBAdmissions)

#### ... Confounding variables



## ... Confounding variables

| race of   | death penalty | death penalty |            |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| defendant | imposed       | not imposed   | percentage |
| white     | 19            | 141           | ٦ 11.88%   |
| black     | 17            | 149           | 10.24%     |

#### ... Confounding variables

| race of   | death penalty | death penalty |            |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| defendant | imposed       | not imposed   | percentage |
| white     | 19            | 141           | 11.88%     |
| black     | 17            | 149           | 10.24%     |

Simpson's peradox

race of victim conformation

|              | race of   | death penalty | death penalty |            |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| white victim | defendant | imposed       | not imposed   | percentage |
|              | white     | 19            | 132           | 12.58% 🗲   |
|              | black     | 11            | 52            | 17.46% <   |
|              | -         |               |               |            |
|              |           |               |               |            |
|              | race of   | death penalty | death penalty |            |
| black victim | defendant | imposed       | not imposed   | percentage |
|              | white     | 0             | 9             | 0% 5       |
|              | black     | 6             | 97            | 5.83%      |
|              |           | ~             |               |            |

Radelet 1981

258

#### 6 · Stochastic Models

| Age (years) | Smokers      | Non-smokers  |         |       | Table 6.8 Twenty-year<br>survival and smoking<br>status for 1314 women |
|-------------|--------------|--|---------|-------|--|
| Overall     | 139/582 (24) | 230/732 (31)   |         |       | (Appleton et al., 1996).<br>The smoker and<br>non-smoker columns       |
| 18-24       | 2/55 (4)     | 1/62 (2)   |         |       | contain number dead/tot  |
| 25-34       | 3/124 (2)    | 5/157 (3)  |         |       | ( <i>it</i> dead).   |
| 35-44       | 14/109 (13)  | 7/121 (6)  |         |       |  |
| 45-54       | 27/130 (21)  | 12/78 (15)   |         |       |  |
| 55-64       | 51/115 (44)  | 40/121 (33)  | age     | is a  | Conformer  |
| 65-74       | 29/36 (81)   | 101/129 (78)   | 0       |       | U ·  |
| 75+         | 13/13 (100)  | 64/64 (100)  | ( -     | 1-41  |  |
|             |              |  | suck of | deall |  |
|             |              | (\$)   |         | (Y)   |  |
|             |              | $\mathbf{x}$   | /       | ~     |  |
|             |              | de la companya de la comp |         |       |  |
| 25          |              | ale (X)  |         |       |  |

0

#### **Causality and Counterfactuals**



## **Causality and Counterfactuals**

- A binary treatment indicator
- Y binary outcome
- "A causes Y" to be distinguished from "A is associated with Y"



AoS uses X for tmt

could be continuous

## Counterfactual: Examples



AoS Ch.16; HR Ch.1



#### Potential outcomes Y<sup>o</sup>, Y<sup>1</sup>

Y = AY' + (I - A)Y'

= Ay(1) + (1-A) Y(0)

|            |                | ٢٥               | obsid |                  |         |
|------------|----------------|------------------|-------|------------------|---------|
| Table 2.1  | 4              | $\frac{\Psi}{V}$ | V0    | $\mathbf{V}^{1}$ | -       |
|            | A              | Y                | Y     | Y 1              |         |
| Rheia      | 5.0            | 0                | 0     | ?                | e cons. |
| Kronos     | 0              | 1                | 1     | ?                |         |
| Demeter    | ) 0            | 0                | 0     | ?                |         |
| Hades      | $C_0$          | 0                | 0     | ?                |         |
| Hestia     | $\Gamma^1$     | 0                | ?     | 0                |         |
| Poseidon   | 1              | 0                | ?     | 0                |         |
| Hera       | 1              | 0                | ?     | 0                |         |
| Zeus       | 1              | 1                | ?     | 1                |         |
| Artemis    | <b>C</b> 0     | 1                | 1     | ?                |         |
| Apollo     | 0              | 1                | 1     | ?                |         |
| Leto       | L <sub>0</sub> | 0                | 0     | ?                |         |
| Ares       | $\bigcap 1$    | 1                | ?     | 1                |         |
| Athena     | 1              | 1                | ?     | 1                |         |
| Hephaestus | 1              | 1                | ?     | 1                |         |
| Aphrodite  | 1              | 1                | ?     | 1                |         |
| Cyclope    | 1              | 1                | ?     | 1                |         |
| Persephone | 1              | 1                | ?     | 1                |         |
| Hermes     | 1              | 0                | ?     | 0                |         |
| Hebe       | 1              | 0                | ?     | 0                |         |
| Dionysus   | 61             | 0                | ?     | 0                |         |

#### **Causal Effect and Association**

#### AoS HR Ch.1

#### Potential outcomes

| Table 1.1              | 1       |                |               |
|------------------------|---------|----------------|---------------|
| Y                      | a=0 (Y  | ra=1           |               |
| Rheia                  | 0       | 1              | $\varphi =$   |
|                        | 1.      | 0              | •             |
| Demeter                | 0       | 0              | -1211         |
| Hades                  | 0       | 0              | $E/\lambda$ - |
| Hestia                 | 0       | 0              | - ( -         |
| Poseidon               | 1.      | 0              |               |
| Hera                   | 0       | 0              | 10            |
| Zeus                   | 0       | 1-             | -             |
| Artemis                | 1-      | 1-             | 20            |
| Apollo                 | 1       | 0              |               |
| Leto                   | 0       | 1 -            |               |
| Ares                   | 1•      | 1-             | =0            |
| Athena                 | 1•      | 1 -            | $\smile$      |
| Hephaestus             | 0       | 1-             |               |
| Aphrodite              | 0       | 1-             |               |
| Cyclope                | 0       | 1-             |               |
| Persephone             | 1•      | 1-             |               |
| Hermes                 | 1.      | 0              |               |
| Hebe                   | 1       | 0              |               |
| Matheninations Statist | iles II | <b>Q</b> March | 18 2025       |

= cansale effect - Y°'

070

Observed outcomes date



+6 = : 13  $E \forall [A=1]$ = 3 = E(YARO) 7 7 - 13 -37 X =

16

#### **Causal treatment effect**

AoS Eq. (16.2)

risk difference; ratio; odds

 $\theta = E(Y(1)) - E(Y(0))$ also called "ATE" and "ACE": average treatment/causal effect

& = O in general

 $\alpha = E(Y | A = 1) - E(Y | A = 0)$  this can be estimated from the data

If A is is independent of (Y(0), Y(1)), then  $\theta = \alpha$ Thus assigned, then  $A \perp (Y(0), Y(1))$   $(s:d_{i})$  (x) (x) (x)

Example 16.2



#### Potential outcomes

Table 1.1

|            | Y <sup>a=0</sup> | $Y^{a=1}$ |
|------------|------------------|-----------|
| Rheia      | 0                | 1         |
| Kronos     | 1                | 0         |
| Demeter    | 0                | 0         |
| Hades      | 0                | 0         |
| Hestia     | 0                | 0         |
| Poseidon   | 1                | 0         |
| Hera       | 0                | 0         |
| Zeus       | 0                | 1         |
| Artemis    | 1                | 1         |
| Apollo     | 1                | 0         |
| Leto       | 0                | 1         |
| Ares       | 1                | 1         |
| Athena     | 1                | 1         |
| Hephaestus | 0                | 1         |
| Aphrodite  | 0                | 1         |
| Cyclope    | 0                | 1         |
| Persephone | 1                | 1         |
| Hermes     | 1                | 0         |
| Hebe       | 1                | 0         |
| 1Dionysus  | 1                | 0         |

#### **Observed outcomes**

| Table 1.2  |   |   |
|------------|---|---|
|            | A | Y |
| Rheia      | 0 | 0 |
| Kronos     | 0 | 1 |
| Demeter    | 0 | 0 |
| Hades      | 0 | 0 |
| Hestia     | 1 | 0 |
| Poseidon   | 1 | 0 |
| Hera       | 1 | 0 |
| Zeus       | 1 | 1 |
| Artemis    | 0 | 1 |
| Apollo     | 0 | 1 |
| Leto       | 0 | 0 |
| Ares       | 1 | 1 |
| Athena     | 1 | 1 |
| Hephaestus | 1 | 1 |
| Aphrodite  | 1 | 1 |
| Cyclope    | 1 | 1 |
| Persephone | 1 | 1 |
| Hermes     | 1 | 0 |
| Hebe       | 1 | 0 |
| Dionysus   | 1 | 0 |

Mathematical Statistics II

March

- 1. A well-understood evidence-based mechanism, or set of mechanisms, that links a cause to its effect
- 2. two phenomena are linked by a stable association, whose direction is established and which cannot be explained by mutual dependence on some other allowable variable
- 3. observed association may be linked to causal effect via counterfactuals if  $(Y(0), Y(1)) \perp A$  not usually testable

#### Conditional and marginal effects

• typically have additional explanatory variables (covariates) X AoS uses Z; HR use L • causal effect of treatment when X = x $\theta(\mathbf{X}) = \mathrm{E}(\underline{Y(1)} \mid \underline{X} = \underline{X}) - \mathrm{E}(\underline{Y(0)} \mid \underline{X} = \underline{X})$ not estra- marginal causal effect  $\theta = \mathrm{E}_{X} \{ \mathrm{E}(Y(1) \mid X) - \mathrm{E}(Y(0) \mid X) \}$  association function E(Y | A = 1, X = x) - E(Y | A = 0, X = x)r(x)f(x, A=1) - r(x, A=0) marginal association  $E_X\{r(X)\}$ 

Example

HR Ch<sub>2</sub>

|                |  | ſ   | E(Y)A=(,L=0) - E(Y A=0,L=0)  |
|----------------|--|---|--|
|                | Table 2.2<br>Rheia<br>Kronos             | $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$                                 | $\theta_{L=0} = \alpha_{L=0} = \frac{24}{4} \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4} = 0$   |
| 8              | Demeter<br>Hades<br>Hestia<br>Poseidon   | $\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$ | assoc <sup>=</sup>   |
| (              | Hera<br>Zeus<br>Artemis<br>Apollo        | $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$                                 | $\eta_{L=1} = q_{L=1} = \frac{6}{9} - \frac{2}{3} = 0$ R   |
|                | Leto<br>Ares<br>Athena<br>Hephaestus     | $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$                                 | ALYL   |
|                | Aphrodite<br>Cyclope                     | $\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{array}$                              | $\Lambda$ and $\Lambda$ as $L = 1$ critical condition  |
|                | Persephone<br>Hermes<br>Hebe<br>Dionvsus | $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$                                 | $\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \\ \hline \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ $ |
| Mathematical S | Statistics II M                          | Aarch 18 2025   | Frot O Z & averged over L (n+bc) 2   |

#### No unmeasured confounding

- in observational studies treatment is not randomly assigned  $\implies \theta(x) \neq r(x)$
- No unmeasured confounding:

can learn about Y(a) even if  $A \neq a$  by using observed Y for 'similar' people from A = a group

 $\{\underbrace{\mathsf{Y}(a); a \in \mathcal{A}\} \perp \mathsf{A} \mid \mathsf{X}}_{\blacksquare} \mid \mathsf{X}$ 

E[Y(1)] - E[Y(0)] under the assumption of no unmeasured confounding, causal effect of the marginal causal effect effect of that (a=1)  $(= E(Y(a)) = \int E(Y \mid A = a, X = x) dF_X(x)$  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 A + \beta_2 X$ can be estimated by the association function  $= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \hat{r}(a, X_i) = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 a + \hat{\beta}_2 \bar{X}_n$ maginal & estid by  $\widehat{E}(Y(a))$ causal effect TEA) = Bot Bat Ble causal reg function  $\equiv$  adjusted treatment effect Mathematical Statistics II March 18 2025 23



**Figure 9.2** Simulated results from experiments to compare the effect of a treatment *T* on a response *Y* that varies with a covariate *X*. The lines show the mean response for T = 0 (solid) and T = 1 (dots). Left: the effect of *T* is confounded with dependence on *X*. Right: the experiment is balanced, with random allocation of *T* dependent on *X*.

#### **Effect of confounding**





"Bradford-Hill guidelines" Evidence that an observed association is causal is strengthened if:

- the association is strong
- the association is found consistently
- the association is specific to the outcome studied
- the observation of a potential cause occurs earlier in time than the outcome
- there is a dose-response relationship
  - there is subject-matter theory that makes a causal effect plausible
  - the association is based on a suitable natural experiment

over a number of independent studies

see also AoS §16.3

#### Simpson's paradox revisited

#### AoS 16.4



## Estimation of causal effects

#### **Linbo Wang**



weather conditions

- assume no unmeasured confounding
- want to estimate
  - $E(Y(1) \mid X) E(Y(0) \mid X)$ causal regression function
- or possibly  $E_X \{ E(Y(1) | X) E(Y(0) | X) \}$ marginal effect of A
- regression model

E(Y

$$|X,A) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 A + \beta_2 X$$

or something more complex

$$E(Y \mid X, A) = f(X, A)$$

#### Estimation of marginal causal effects

• estimand average causal effect or average treatment effect (ATE)

$$\mathbf{Q} = E\{\mathbf{Y}(1)\} - E\{\mathbf{Y}(0)\}$$

estimand: something we estimate



Version 1.

## Estimation of marginal causal effects

#### Linbo Wang



#### **Directed graphs and randomization**



#### **DAGs and confounders**



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

SPECIAL ARTICLE

## Air Pollution and Mortality at the Intersection of Race and Social Class

Kevin P. Josey, Ph.D., Scott W. Delaney, Sc.D., J.D., Xiao Wu, Ph.D., Rachel C. Nethery, Ph.D., Priyanka DeSouza, Ph.D., Danielle Braun, Ph.D., and Francesca Dominici, Ph.D.

#### ABSTRACT

#### BACKGROUND

From the Departments of Biostatistics (K.P.J., R.C.N., D.B., F.D.) and Environmental Health (S.W.D.), Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston; the Department of Biostatistics, Mailman Mathematical School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York (X.W.); and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning Black Americans are exposed to higher annual levels of air pollution containing fine particulate matter (particles with an aerodynamic diameter of  $\leq 2.5 \ \mu m \ [PM_{2.5}]$ ) than White Americans and may be more susceptible to its health effects. Low-income Americans may also be more susceptible to PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution than high-income Americans. Because information is lacking on exposure–response curves 33 for PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure and mortality among marginalized subpopulations categorized