

The Fellow will have an opportunity to work on a broad array of MCH epidemiology projects. Projects include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assist with the development and implementation of the Missouri Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), a population-based survey of postpartum women on their behaviors and other health risk factors before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. Analyze the PRAMS data on pregnancy risk factors in Missouri.
- Conduct research on labor dystocia and its risk factors. A manuscript, which defines labor dystocia and estimates its prevalence, has received very positive comments from the reviewers for the *Am J Obstet Gynecol*, and is expected to be accepted for publication in this prestigious journal. The publication of this paper will open up an entirely new area of important research on maternal health. The Fellow can work on projects in this area.
- Use the linked birth and hospital discharge data to examine maternal morbidities resulting in pregnancy-associated hospitalizations.
- Perform the Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) analysis for Missouri. The PPOR approach investigates gaps in fetoinfant mortality between different populations, and identifies intervention opportunities for further reduction of fetal and infant deaths.
- Monitor maternal mortality to identify factors that contribute to the continuing racial disparity, and to develop effective strategies to prevent maternal mortality in Missouri. This will include an assessment of the current surveillance system as well as investigations to better understand contributing factors to maternal mortality.
- Evaluate the relationship between oral health and pregnancy outcomes. Early studies indicated that pregnant women who have periodontitis were several times more likely to have low birthweight or pre-term infants. There is a need to better understand this relationship and the impact it has on pregnancy outcomes in Missouri.
- Analyze the relationship between improved maternal and child health outcomes and quality of life. Analyses will focus on infant and maternal mortality, pregnancy outcomes, adolescent pregnancy, unintentional injury, access to health care, and violence against women.

Opportunities for terrorism preparedness and response training are available.

Assignment Location: Jefferson City, MO

Primary Mentor:	Bao-Ping, Zhu, MD, MS (EIS '96) State Epidemiologist; Chief, Office of Epidemiology (July 2003-present)
Advanced Degrees:	MD, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences/Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China (1990) MS (Biostat), University of Massachusetts School of Public Health (1993)
Secondary Mentor:	Pamela K. Xaverius, PhD, MA Public Health Epidemiologist (November 2002-present)
Advanced Degrees:	PhD, University of Kansas, Lawrence (2001) MA, University of Kansas, Lawrence (1997)