

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:

- Perform the Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) analysis. The PPOR approach investigates gaps in fetο-infant mortality between different communities, 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.
- Assist in the development and implementation of a Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), a population-based surveillance system designed to monitor maternal behaviors before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. The purpose of PRAMS is to improve the health of mothers and infants, and to reduce adverse MCH outcomes such as low birth weight, infant mortality, and maternal illnesses.
- Evaluate the relationship between oral health and pregnancy outcomes. Early studies indicated that pregnant women who have periodontitis were several time more likely to have low birthweight or pre-term infants. We 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 bioterrorism preparedness and response training are available at the Department.

Assignment Location: Jefferson City, MO

Primary Mentor: Bao-Ping, Zhu, MD, MS
State Epidemiologist/Chief, Office of Epidemiology (July 2003-present)

Advanced Degrees: MD, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences/Peking Union Medical
College, Beijing (1990)
MS, 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)