

Injury

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Bureau of Injury Prevention (BIP) is responsible for conducting ongoing surveillance and developing, implementing, and evaluating injury prevention programs locally and statewide. The BIP actively supports local injury prevention programming through: staff training, provision of data for community health assessment and priority injury selection, distribution of material for implementing prevention activities, and implementing and evaluating injury prevention projects on the state and local level. The BIP will provide an excellent opportunity for the Fellow to learn the practice of injury epidemiology. The Fellow will be involved in data surveillance and analysis and the programmatic activities involved in the day to day running of a successful injury prevention bureau within a large state health department.

The BIP maintains an injury surveillance system to describe the causes of injury in “at-risk” populations in NYS. The system relies on three primary data sources to identify injury-related hospitalizations and deaths using external cause of injury codes (E-codes) and clinical diagnoses codes (ICD-9-CM, ICD-10). These data sources include: the NYS Hospital Discharge Data System (Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System or SPARCS), the NYS Vital Statistics Death File (VS), and the NYS Multiple Cause-of-Death File (MCD). Each year, all of the approximately 130,000 hospitalizations and 6,900 deaths due to injury are captured by these surveillance systems. In addition to these well defined data sets, in January 2005 all NYS emergency departments began reporting patient data to the NYSDOH. This new data system will be a rich source of information, and will give the BIP a more complete picture of the injury problem. These data systems offer the Fellow excellent opportunities for analysis.

There are several programs within the BIP that offer potential areas of exciting research for the fellow. The BIP is funded by the CDC in the Integrated Core Injury Prevention and Control Program (ICIPCP). The ICIPCP works to build infrastructure to sustain injury prevention initiatives statewide and develop a five year State Injury Prevention Strategic Plan. The BIP has established NYSDOH internal and external workgroups to assist in the development of the State Injury Prevention Strategic Plan. In addition, an annual NYS Injury Data Report will be developed and disseminated. This data report will provide an in-depth analysis of the NYS injury problem. Some of the injuries that will be a focus of this report are: falls, particularly among older adults, child maltreatment, fire and burn injuries, motor vehicle traffic injuries, traumatic brain injuries, homicide and suicide. The BIP is also in its eighth year of funding from the CDC to conduct a statewide smoke alarm installation and fire safety education project. As part of the project evaluation, the Bureau collects behavioral and outcome (injury) data from smoke alarm recipients. To date, more than 400 self-reported responses have been received and analyzed and another 1,000 are expected within the next year. The BIP also houses the NYS Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES). This National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) funded project matches individual records from the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles Police Accident Reports to the NYS Department of Health Hospital Discharge database (SPARCS), and emergency medical services database (Pre-Hospital Care Reports or PCR). These linked databases create a full picture that describes what occurs before, during, and after a crash and are critical to accurately determining the effectiveness of highway safety and injury control initiatives. There are also many other data sets not housed within the BIP but will

be available to the Fellow as potential research areas. These sources of data include: the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and data from the NYS regional poison control centers.

In addition to the epidemiological projects, the Fellow will be involved in programmatic activities within the bureau. Additional BIP projects available to the Fellow include the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) funded program. This program deals with a variety of traffic related issues such as: child passenger safety, drowsy driving, pedestrian safety, and bicycle and other non-motorized transportation safety. The BIP also has a Shaken Baby Syndrome program and is involved in the New York Loves Safe Babies project. New York Loves Safe Babies is a collaborative effort among of state and local agencies that conduct safety and wellness programs for children.

The NYS Department of Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness & Response to Bioterrorism participates in the BIP internal injury prevention workgroup as part of the ICIPCP. The Fellow will be offered the opportunity to work within this partnership.

Assignment Location: Albany, NY

Primary Mentor: Motao Zhu, PhD, MD, MS
Research Scientist, Project Director of the Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System

Advanced Degree: PhD, State University of New York at Albany (Present)
MS, State University of New York at Albany (2003)
MD, Beijing Medical University (1997)

Secondary Mentor: Michael Bauer, MS, PhD Candidate
Research Scientist II

Advanced Degree: PhD Candidate, University of Albany (May 2007)
MS, University of Albany (1998)