

BIOSKETCH

Teresita E. Ladrillo DMD, MPH

Education:

Dental Public Health Residency (2002)
University of Texas- Houston, Dental Branch

Master of Public Health (2000)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
School of Public Health

Doctor of Dental Medicine (1979)
University of the Philippines

Summary of Experience:

Dr. Teresita Ladrillo is the current Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Oral Health at the City of Houston Health Department. She is in charge of one of the safety net dental clinics run by the City of Houston. She is Incident Commander directing Project Saving Smiles, a collaborative, three- pronged primary preventive oral health strategy spearheaded by the City's Health Department. The project targets second graders in schools where 50% or more of the students are on the Free or Reduced Lunch program. She has been an Adjunct Faculty at the University of Texas(UT) School of Dentistry in Houston since 2008.

Dr. Ladrillo has over 30 years of experience serving underserved populations. She spent about 10 years providing clinical care for refugee populations in countries such as Thailand and Pakistan as well as well as running public health programs targeting children in primary schools and pregnant and lactating mothers in Maternal Child Health clinics. She was involved in the redevelopment of the School of Dentistry in the then war torn country of Cambodia. Dr. Ladrillo also took part in planning for the dental workforce and dental services in the country that were included in the Cambodia National Oral Health Plan.

During her residency in dental public health at the UT Dental Branch- Houston, she was involved in the first Dental Needs Assessment in Texas Region 6. The findings showed very high prevalence of caries among pre-kindergardens and second graders in Harris county. Her residency research project on the use of Emergency Rooms for pediatric dental care was published in the Journal of American Dental Association in 2006.

Having worked in areas where the dental needs are great and the resources are scarce, Dr. Ladrillo is a strong proponent of prevention and early intervention in public health practice.