



PROJECT BABY

Statistics from 2000-2001 (October – May)

- **In the course of 88 shifts, volunteers saw 685 women at Boston Medical Center.** Support, information, and referral services were provided for women who indicated concerns with issues ranging from housing to childcare to carseats. Project Baby has been successful in reaching more and more new mothers as it establishes itself in the Newborn Nursery—volunteers completed 50% more shifts and saw 50% more women during 2000-2001 compared to 1999-2000.
- Complimentary Polaroid photos of nearly **400** newborn babies were given to families.
- Finding housing and carseats were the concerns most often voiced by new mothers.
 - Volunteers discussed **housing** options with 110 mothers. Most of these women were living in cramped or inadequate housing conditions and some faced more serious problems such as impending homelessness.
 - Nearly 110 families were provided information on how to obtain a free or inexpensive **carseat**.
- Sixty mothers were given referrals to agencies where they could obtain inexpensive **food** to feed their families.
- Volunteers assisted nearly fifty women in finding affordable **childcare** for their newborn baby and other children.
- During the winter months, thirty families were instructed on how to receive **fuel, heating and utilities assistance**.
- **Health insurance** questions were answered for over twenty-five families. Many of these questions concerned signing the newborn child onto the health plan.
- Approximately seventy-five women were provided information on baby-specific issues such as **breastfeeding** and obtaining a **birth certificate**.
- Fifty mothers were helped to navigate complicated **immigration** or **cash assistance** (including welfare) systems. Often immigration status came into play in other areas such as welfare, employment or childcare.
- Volunteers provided a smaller number of families with information on wide-ranging topics including employment, education, home needs and programs for teenage mothers.