

Past, Present and Future of Baby Boxes in the Republic of Korea

Discovery of our Mission



Ordinary office worker ... Realized our mission while taking care of children with severe handicaps.

Minister Lee Jong-rak and his wife

Minister Lee Jong-rak and his son Lee Eun-man

Start of my Activity



A child left alone in this world...

In 1999, meeting this child led us to start our activity.

Preparation of a Community House



In 2003, we set up a community house in a village on a hill in Seoul.

Our Communal Family



Children abandoned because of their handicaps...
We become their parents and live with them as a family.

A Baby Found in a Cardboard Box



On a cold early morning in May, 2007, a handicapped baby was found abandoned in front of our house. The baby was put inside a cardboard box which originally contained fish.



The First Ever Baby Box in Korea



In December, 2009, the first baby box in the Republic of Korea was installed in our church wall.

- Length 70cm x Height 60cm x Width 40cm
- Fitted with an alarm to inform us of the presence of a baby
- Contains a heating pad to keep the temperature inside warm

The First Baby

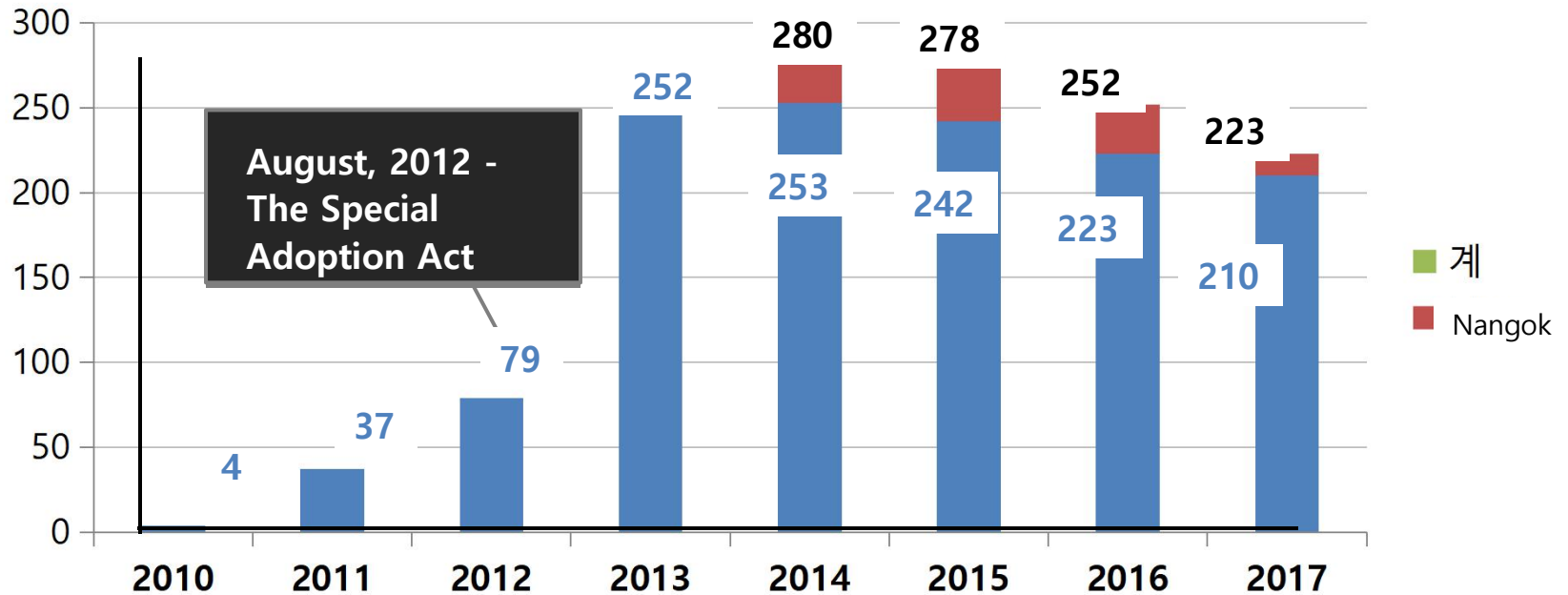


In March, 2010, the first baby was placed in the baby box.

Babies Left in the Baby Box by Year



The number of babies left in our baby box rapidly increased after 2012. The Special Adoption Act enforced in August, 2012 is behind the increase.



Category	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Nangok	4	37	79	252	253	242	223	210	1,300
Gunpo	-	-	-	-	27	36	29	13	105
Total	4	37	79	252	280	278	252	223	1,405

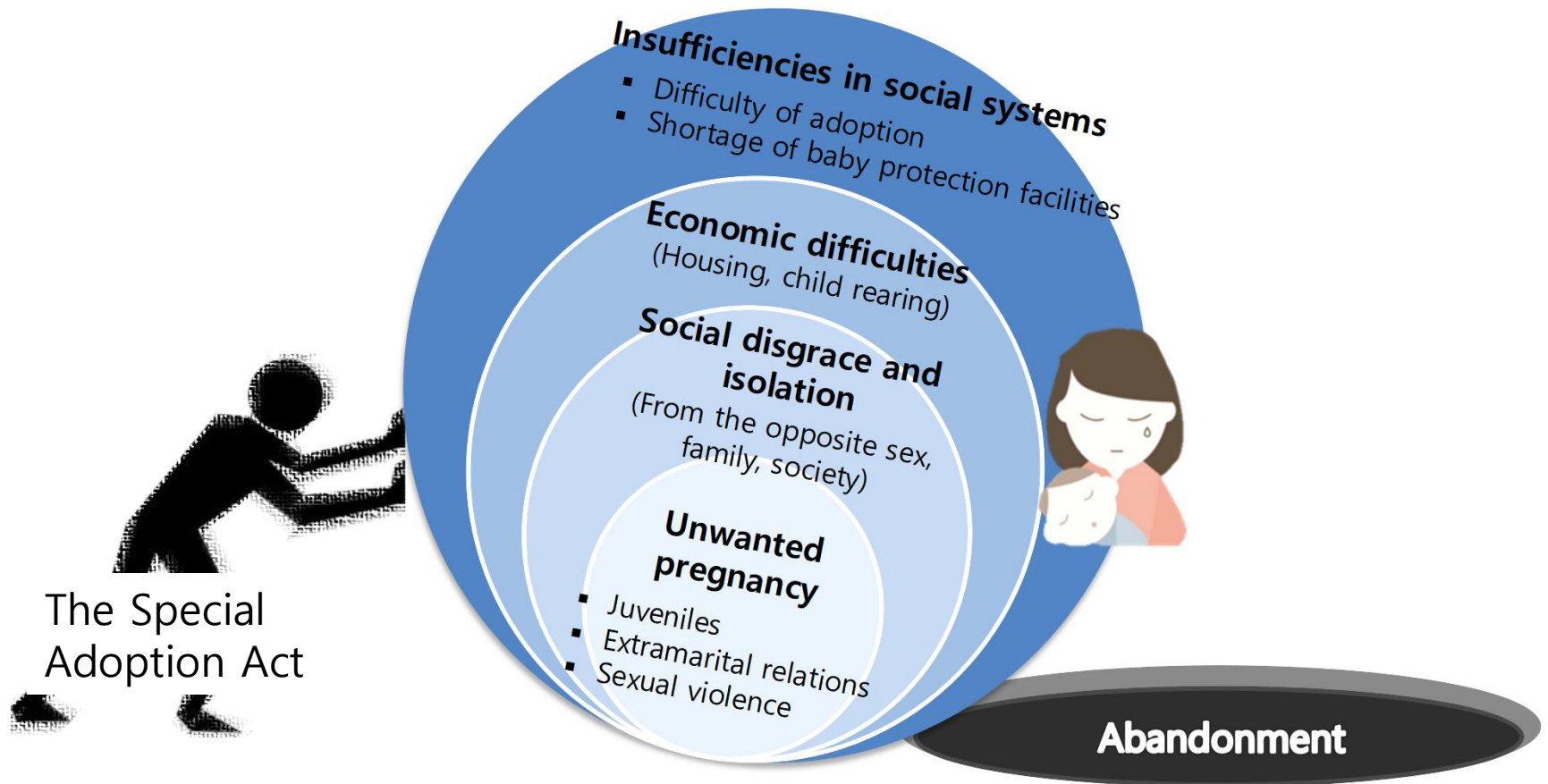
※ In July, 2014, a second baby box was installed in Gunpo, Gyeonggi Province (New Canaan Church)

Factors Related to Baby Abandonment in ROK



- Primary factor: Bad social/economic conditions for single mothers
- Secondary factor: The Special Adoption Act that obligates submission of a birth notification form when adopting a child

Circumstances in which single mothers find themselves

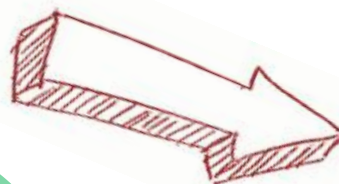
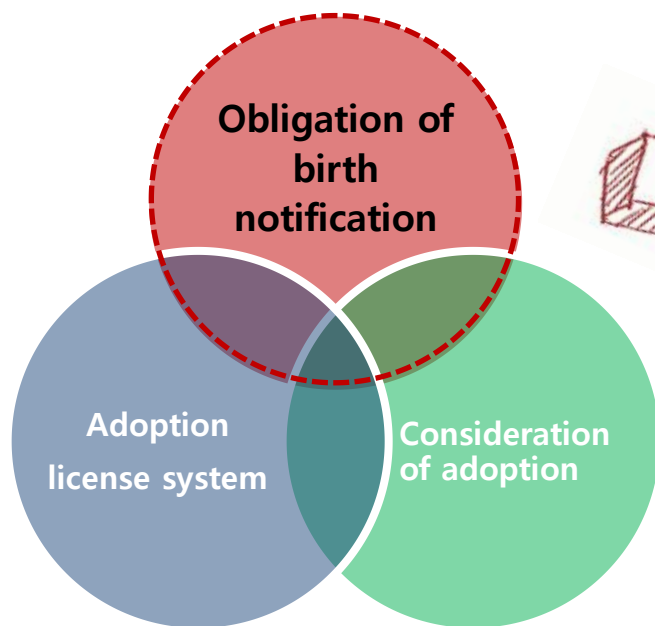


Baby Abortion and the Baby Box

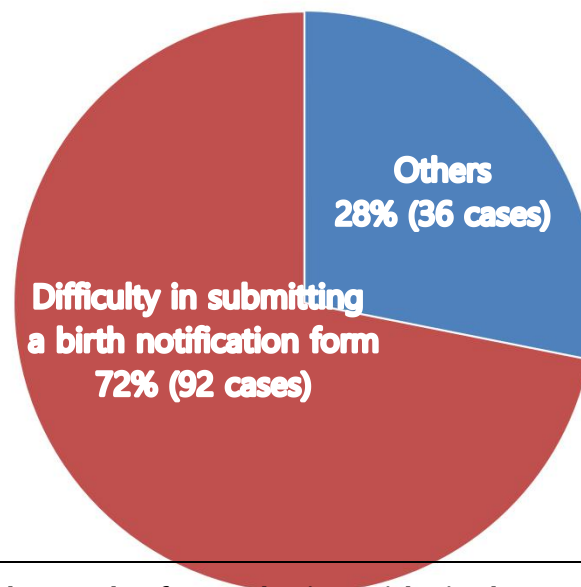


According to single mothers, the main reason that makes them bring their babies to the baby box is the Special Adoption Act, which requires people to submit a birth notification form when adopting a child.

Matters to be discussed as to the Special Adoption Act



Reasons to use the baby box

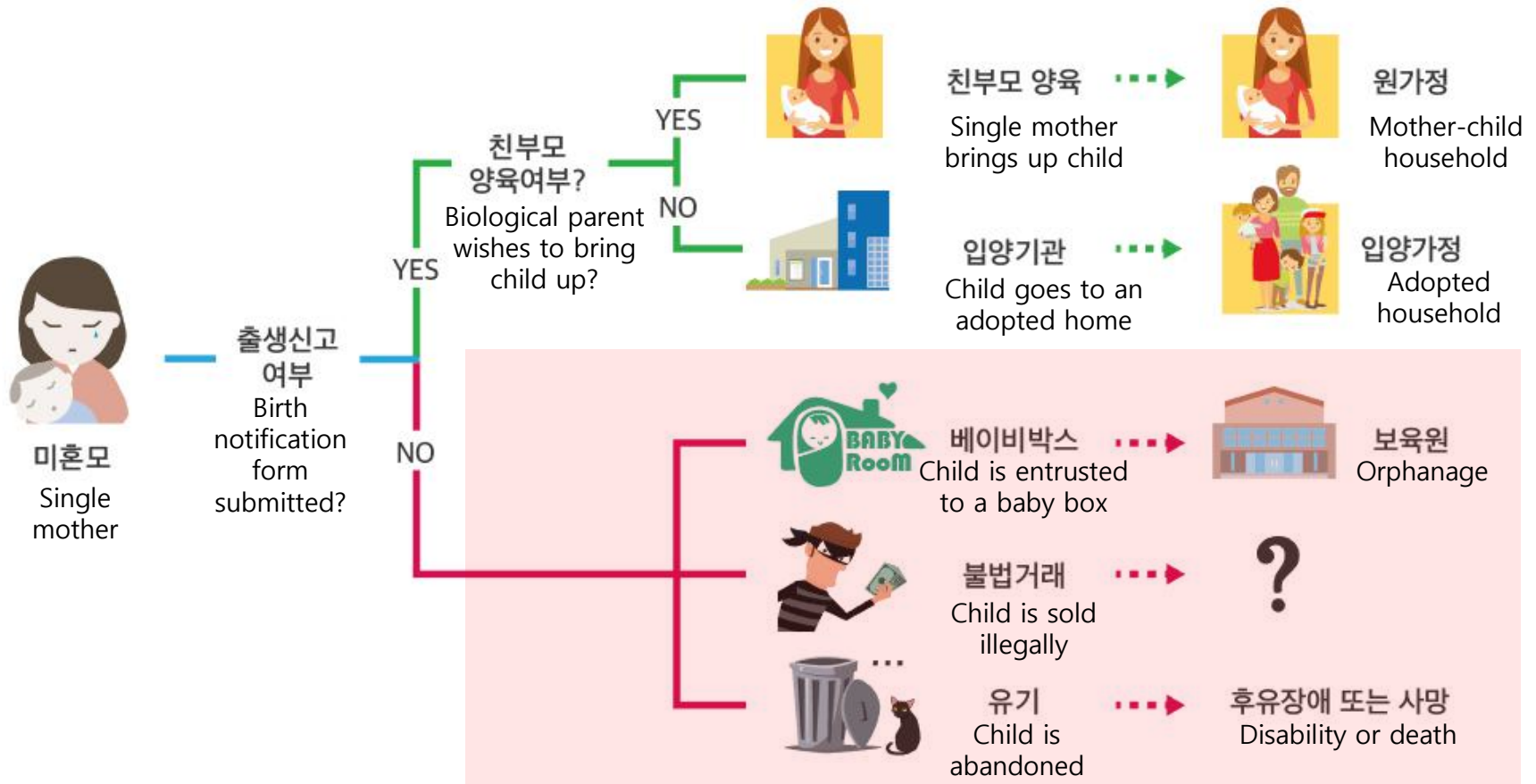


※ The result of consultation with single mothers who visited the baby box from January to September, 2017

Birth Notification and a Child's Future

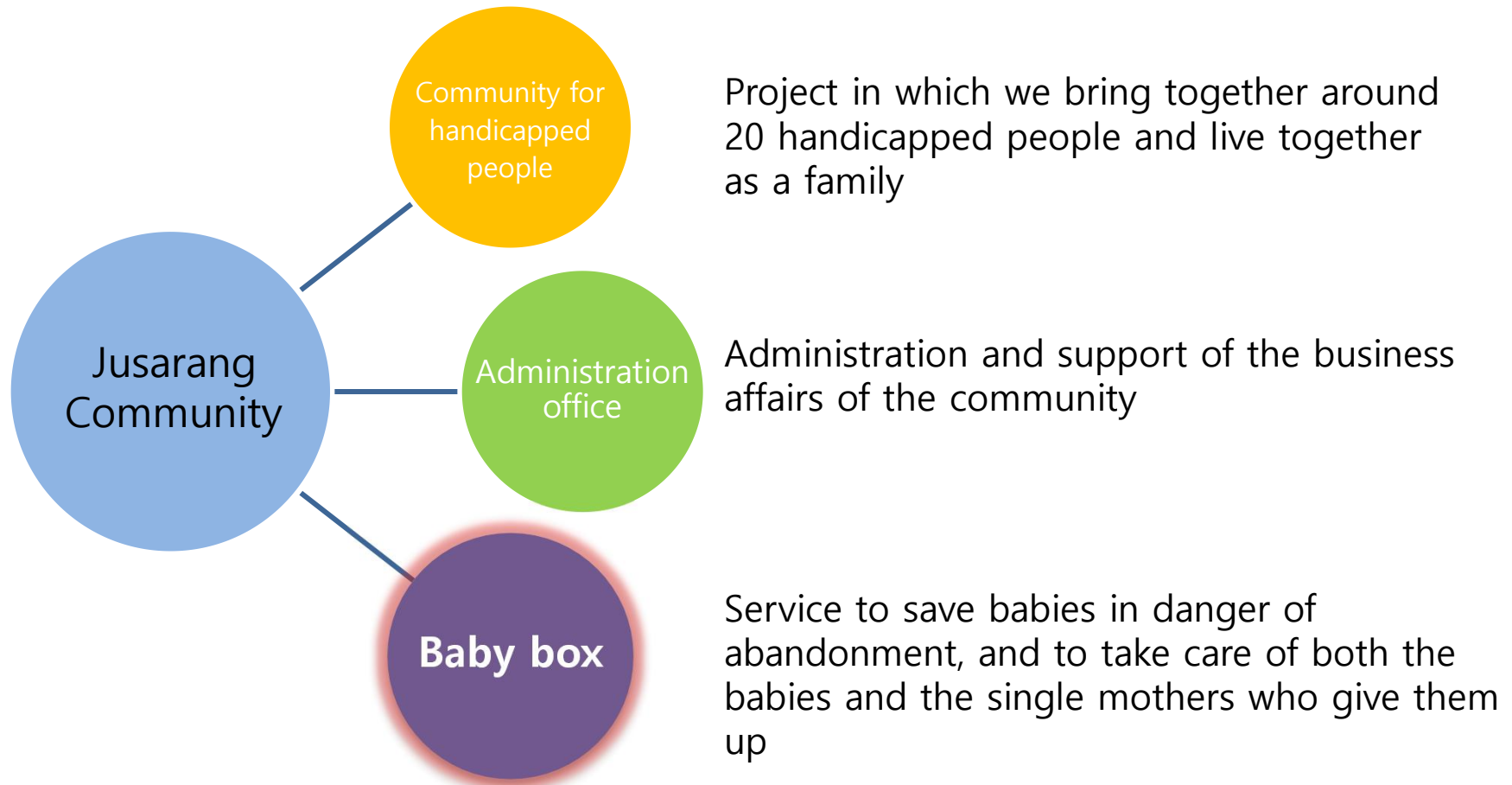


A baby's future will follow distinctly different paths depending on whether or not the baby's biological parents submitted a birth notification form or not. If a birth notification form is not submitted, the baby's future right to life and happiness will be in serious jeopardy.





After enforcement of the Special Adoption Act, we separated our social welfare business from our church so as to adapt to changes brought about thereby, and founded the Jusarang Community, in which we separated our community for handicapped people and our baby protection service so as to strengthen our expertise in both areas.



Running a Baby Room

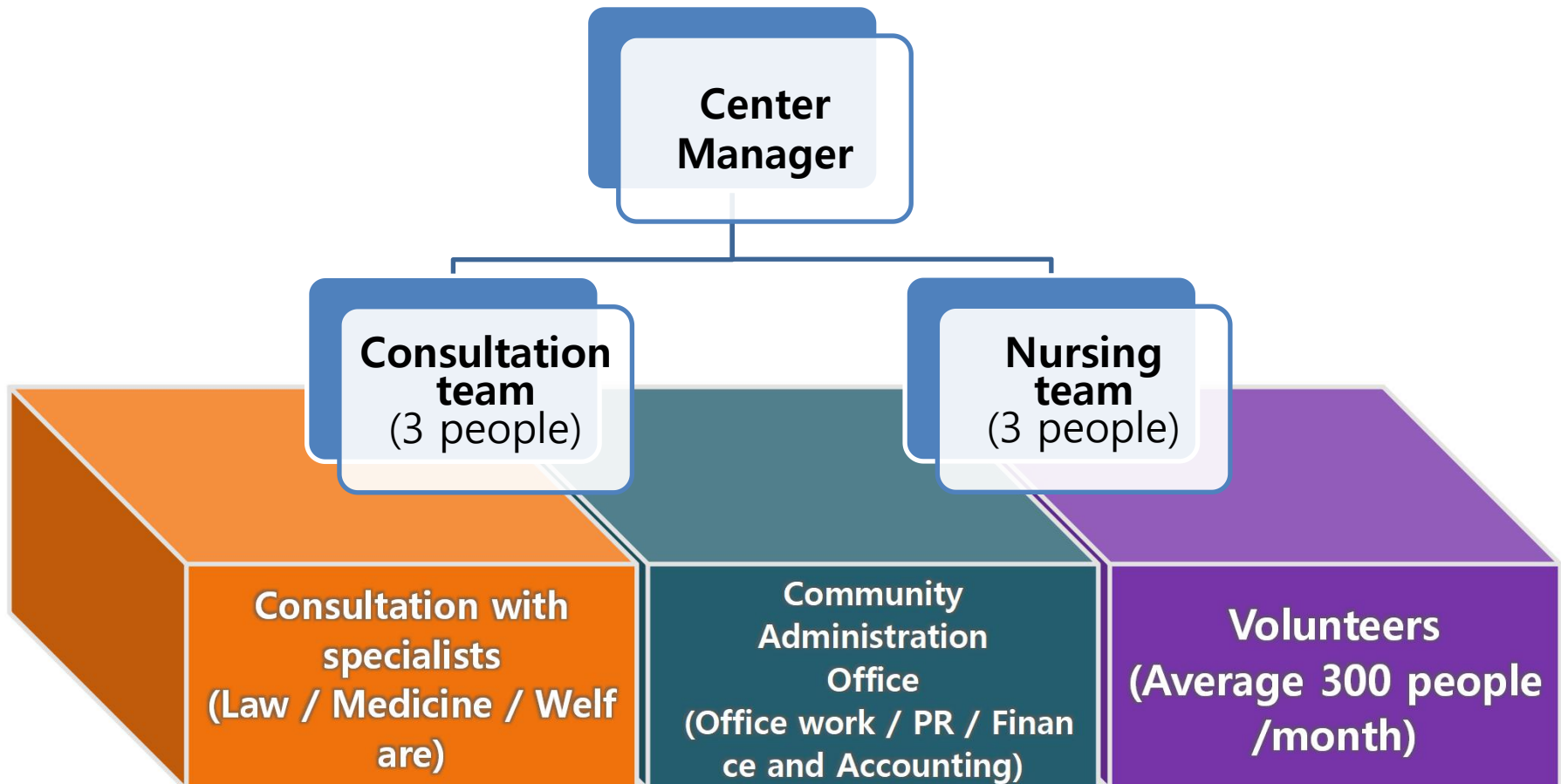


In July, 2015, we renovated our facility and created a baby room, for safer protection of babies and for more active consultation with single mothers. (We are simultaneously running the baby box and the baby room.)

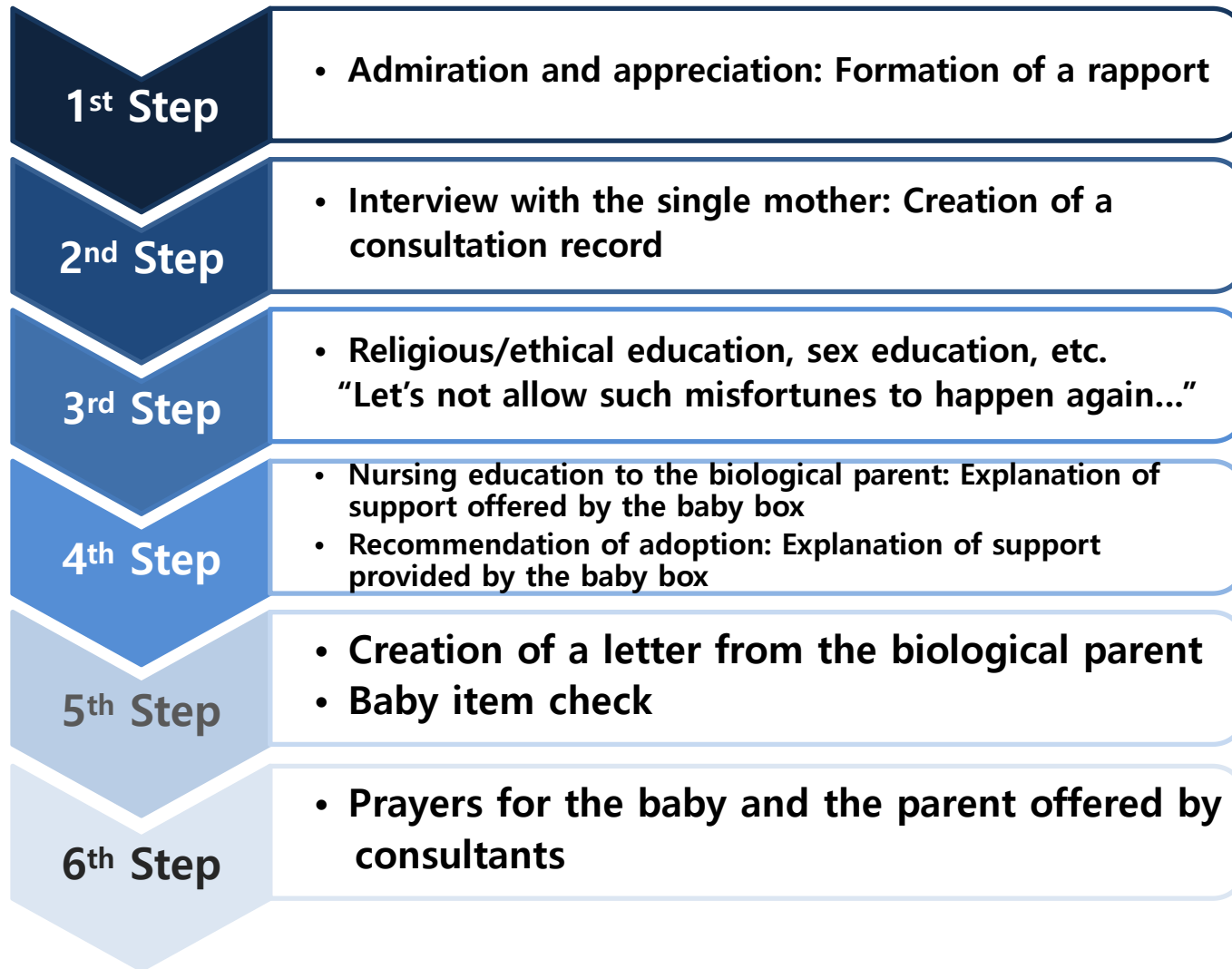
Baby Box Organization



By increasing the number of staff, we have established a support system which offers a 24-hour consultation service and a nursing facility.



The Consultation Process and Details of the Baby Box



Attachment: A Letter from the Parent of the Baby



2018년 11월 05시 19분 삼아 2,3kg

B형간염 2차 접종

이름: [redacted]

[redacted] 는 능력도 없고 그리고 절도 없어서 더이상 너를 감당할 수가 없어
미안해 더이상 너를 케어할 수가 없을 것 같아 내가 건강하게 태어나줬다면 조금이라도 더
달라졌을까 다 내 탓이야 너 가졌을 때 [redacted]
피우고 태우고 안해주고 뱃속에 있는 너 건강만 봐서 내가 그렇게 아픈게 태어났나봐
[redacted] 를 원망하면서 살아서 줬잖은 내가 다 받들게
아프지 말고 건강하게 자라줬으면 좋겠어 너는 그 누구보다 특별 애니까 잘 케어할 수 있을 거다 믿어
사랑해 주지 못해서 미안해

아이가 신경과 분반 기형인 '발작적증후군'로 태어나게 하자 친척들을 찾고
발작적증후군으로 인한 뇌수축으로 뇌척수액을 복부 쪽으로 보내는 수술도 했습니다.
2차성으로 태어나 인큐베이터에 한 달간 있었습니다. 도저히 저 혼자서는
이 아이를 감당할 수가 없을 것 같아 베이비박스를 갖게 되었습니다.
이발작적증후군으로 인해 하신은 매우 상태이고 배변활동이 다른 아이들 보다 힘들다.
통증으로 잠을 자지 못하는 편이라 기저귀를 수시로 확인해야 합니다.
그리고 호파열증이 있어서 해열 주사를 받아야 한다고 합니다.
아이가 더 크면 혼자서 배변하는 것이 힘들어 소변줄을 채고 양치야 한다고 합니다.
자신 아이를 감당할 수가 있습니다. 제발 제 아이를 보살펴주세요 잘 부탁드립니다.
감사합니다

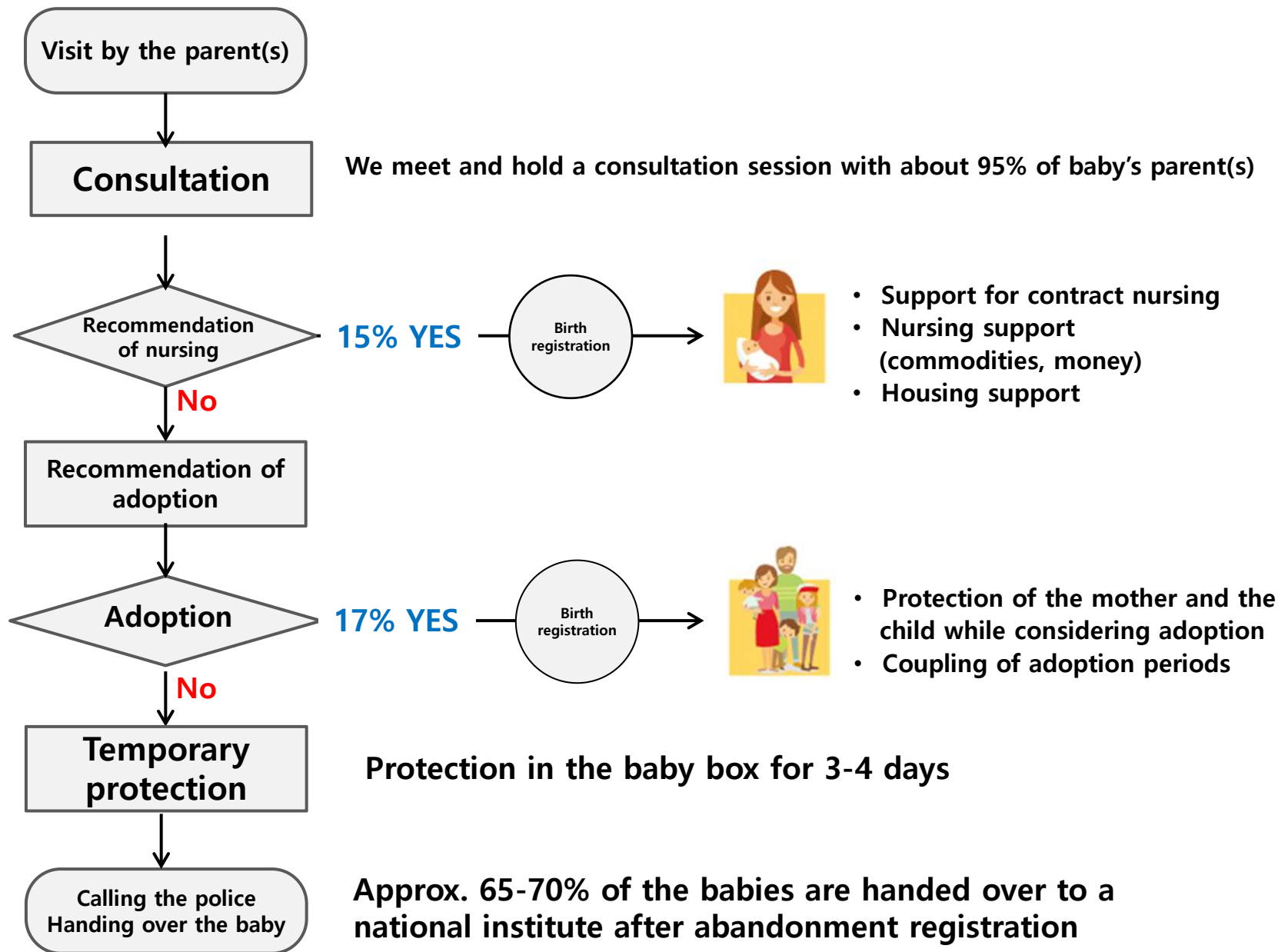
2018년 11월 19일 남자 [redacted]

오후 6시 1분 태어남

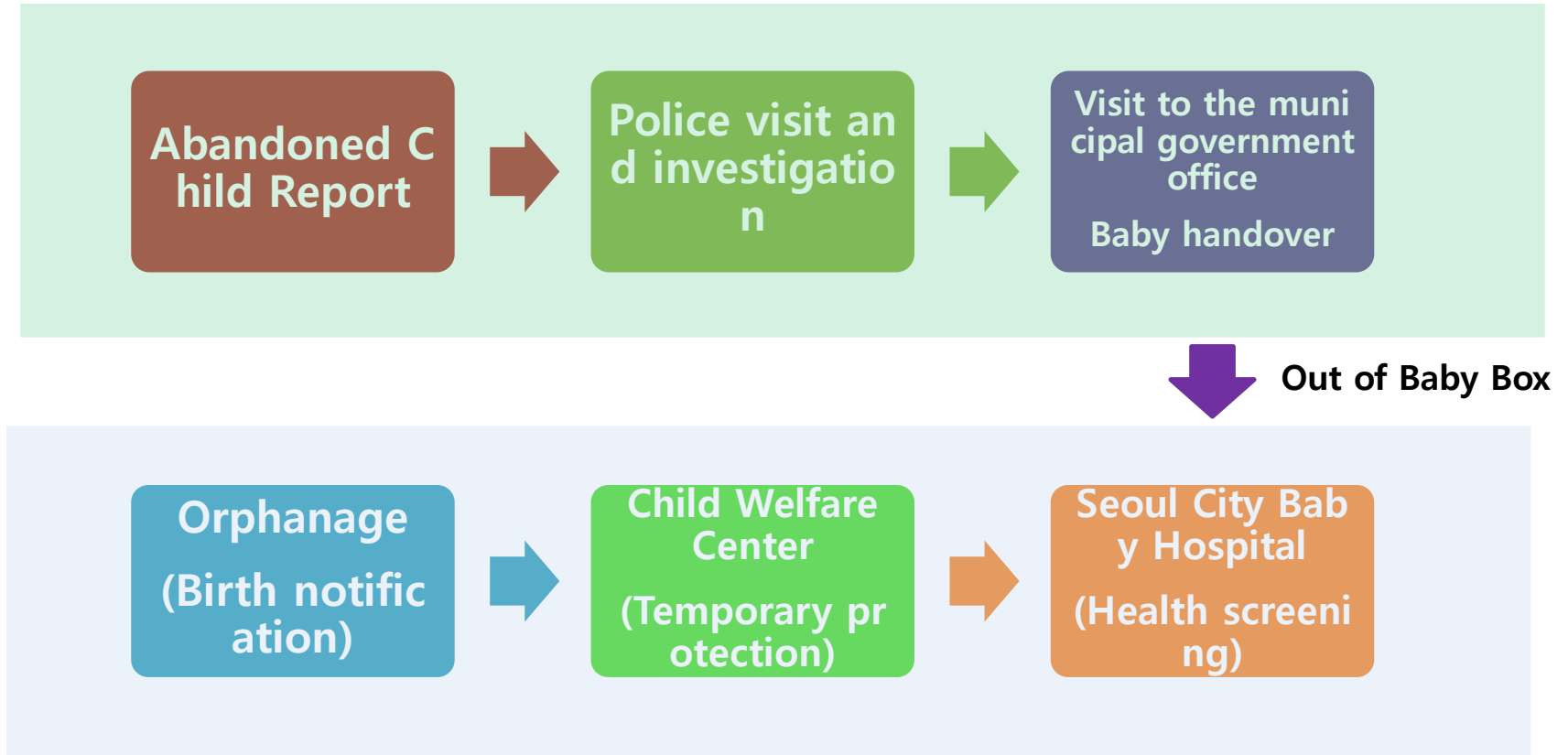
B형간염 1차접종

하민아 엄마가 너를 이렇게 보낼 수 없었던 건 지금 엄마가
너무 많은 죄를 짓고 부끄러운 엄마라서 상황이 어쩔 수 없었어...
너가 커서 이 편지를 보게 된다면 이해는 안하겠지만.. 아허를 해줬으면
좋겠다.. 너가 시골에 있다가 좋은 엄마, 이반을 만나면 엄마는 그걸로
충분해.. 지금은 널 키워주고 뒤 걱정이 없는 상황이라 많이 미안하고
좋은 엄마가 되고 싶었는데 이런 엄마밖에 안되지 미안해..
너가 어릴 거서 잘 지내고 아프지 말고 건강하게만 지냈으면 좋겠어.
엄마 같은 양부님이 아닌 더 좋은 환경이 나온 집으로 가서
남녀없이 함께 살았으면 좋겠다.. 잠시나마 엄마 아들로 태어나서 고맙고
사랑한다는 것만 기억해줬으면 좋겠어.. 미안하다 정말로...
식욕하게 살고 엄마가 진짜 미안하다.. 고맙어...
그럼 안녕...

Baby Box Acceptance Procedure



Treatment of Babies After Calling the Police

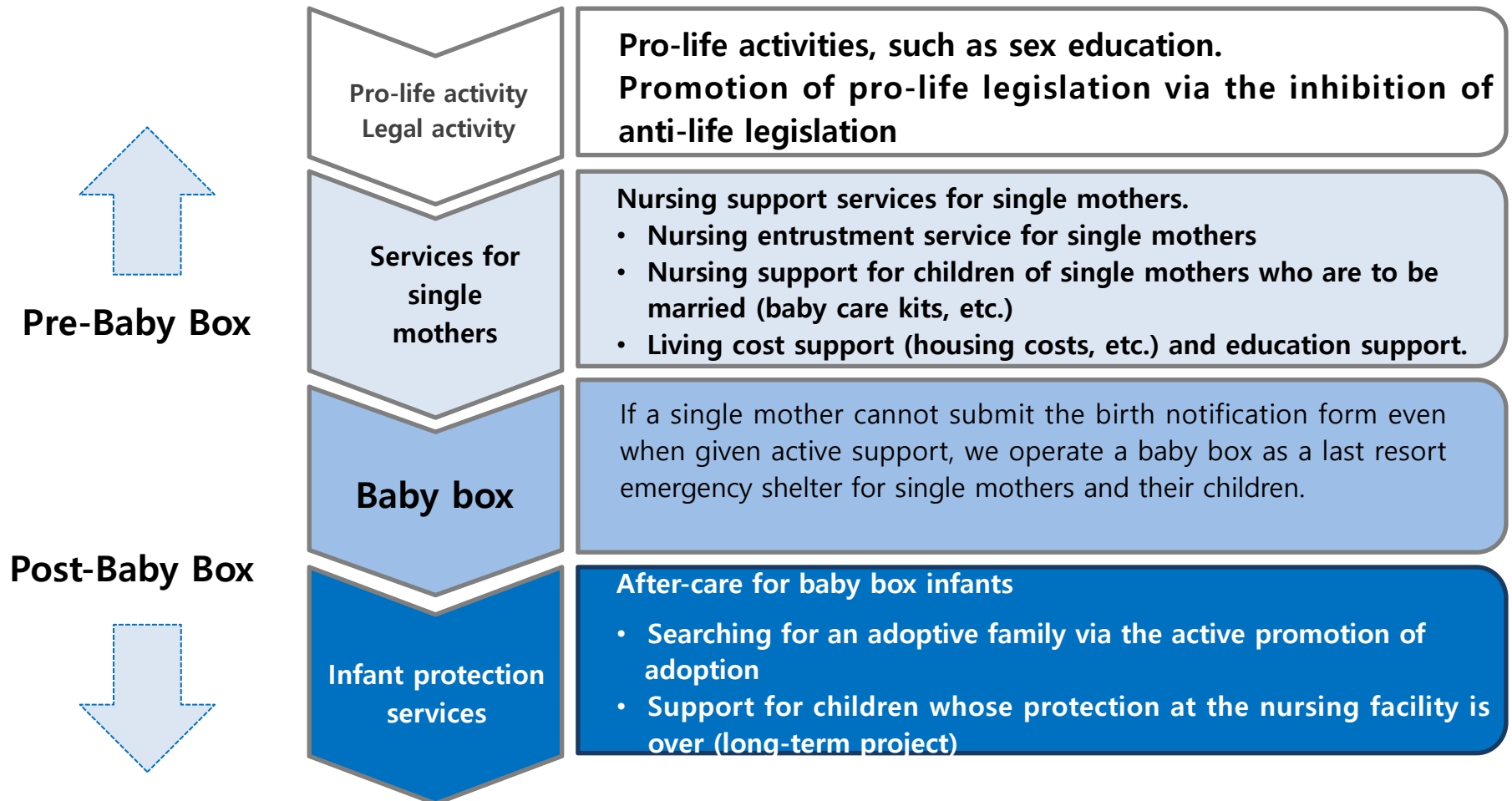


- ※ The orphanage principal is given guardianship of the child and as such will register his/her birth within 6 months of entrance to the nursery.
The child will be protected in the nursing facility until 18 years old unless adopted before that time.

The Role of the Baby Box

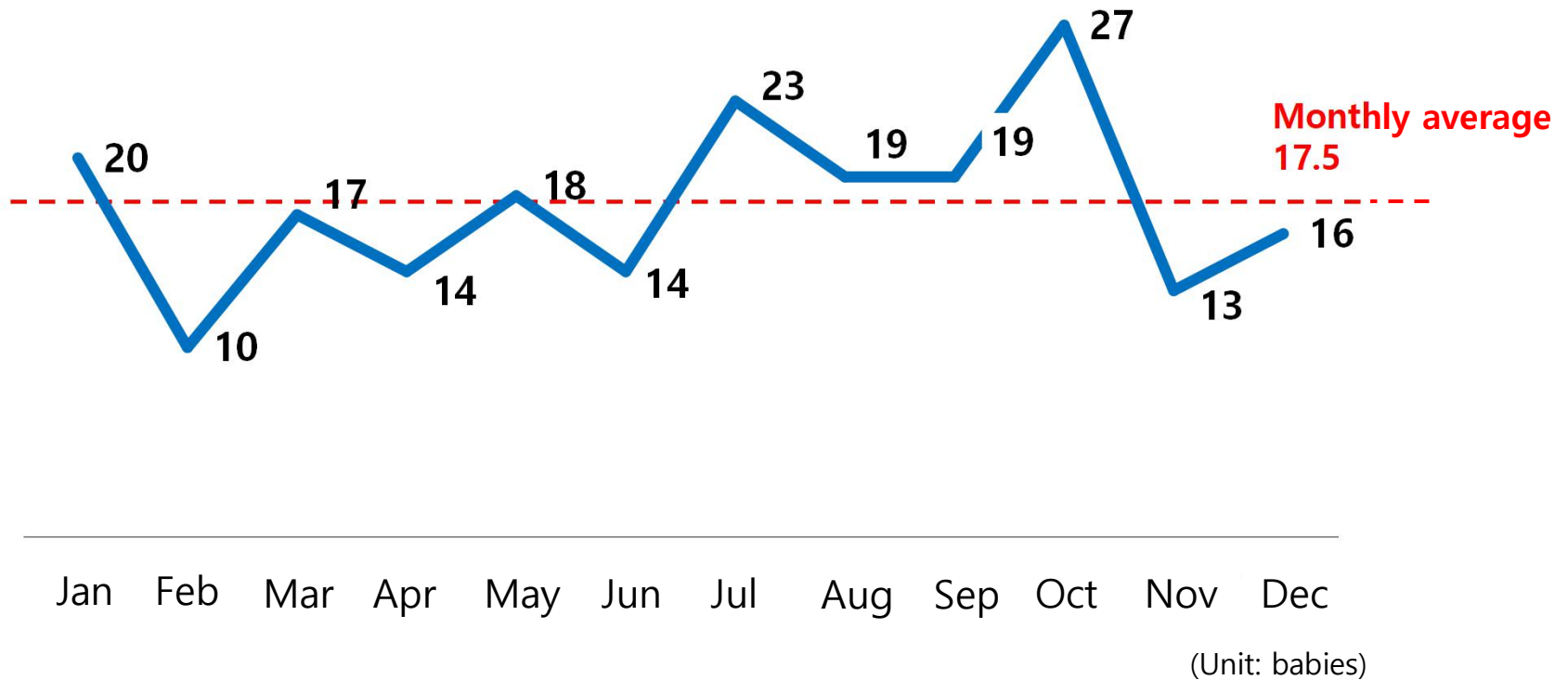


The baby box must be neither the first or best option for single mothers and their children, but a last resort. As such, the baby box provides a range of support services so as to prevent single mothers from having to resort to leaving their babies in our baby box.



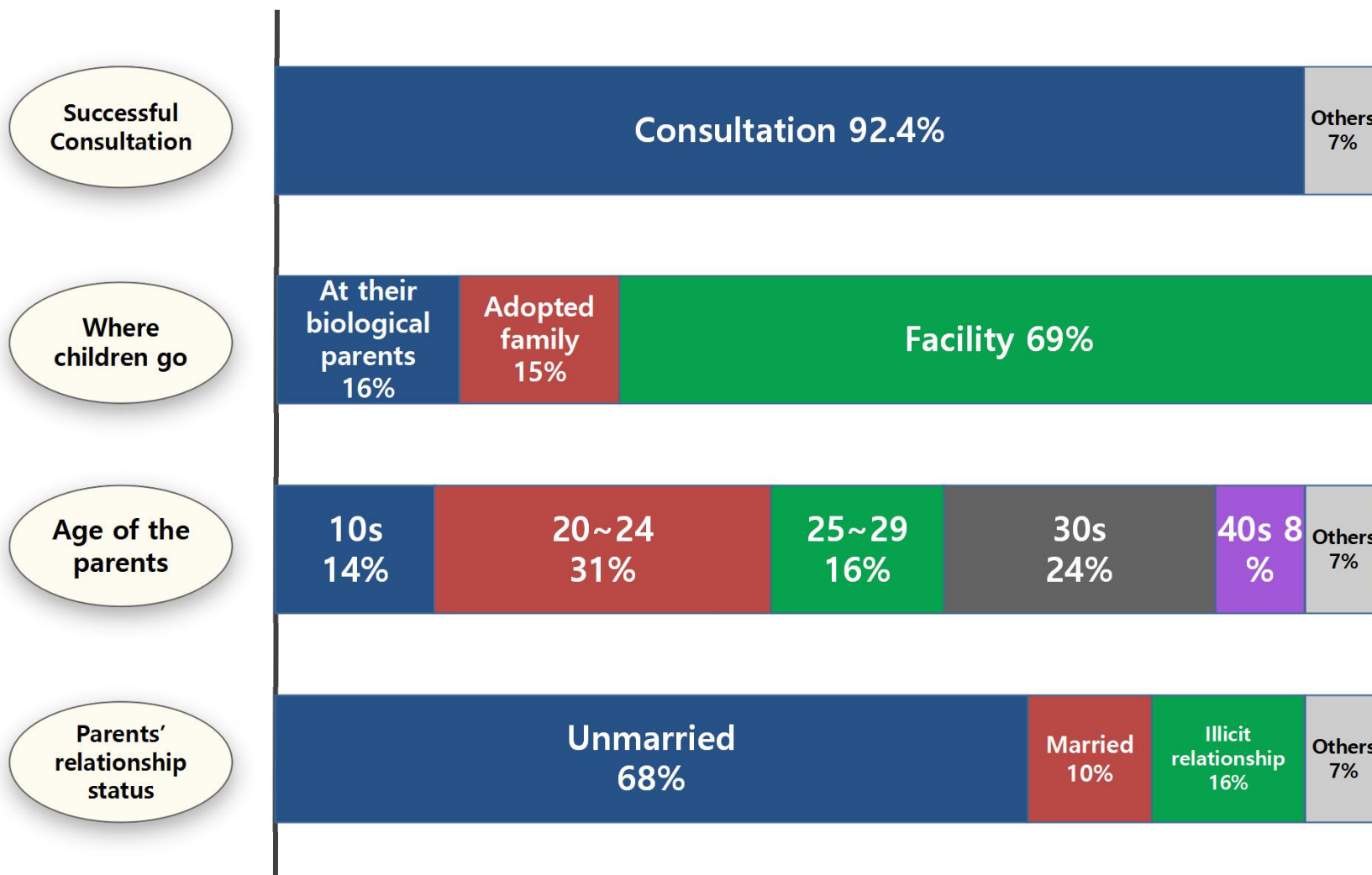


The number of babies left in the baby box by month in 2017





Distribution ratio by category 2017 (210 subjects)





Major business statistics in 2017

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Short-term entrusted protection (up to 6 months)	4	5	9	7	5	5	7	4	4	4	6	5	65
Entrance of single mother family	1	1	4	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	21
Use of free delivery service	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Baby care kit (Nursing goods box)	62	64	62	62	65	65	63	64	64	64	65	62	762
Living cost support (150-250 thousand won)	2	2	6	11	11	12	12	13	13	13	15	17	128

How Society Looks at our Baby Box (Media/Government/General Opinion)



In 2017, the media in the Republic of Korea reported public opinion of baby boxes about 130 times, which had a relatively large impact on national public opinion and the government's attitude.



While the pros and cons had previously been argued, mainstream reports now support baby boxes.

Also, there has been an increase in articles in support of baby box-related legislation (i.e., the anonymous delivery system).



Whereas the government previously took a negative or hostile attitude towards baby boxes, now it is in a relatively neutral position (It admitted that there is no other viable alternative available).

However, it is still against the legalization of the baby box on the grounds that there is no pertinent law therefor.



The majority of people in the Republic of Korea are aware of topics related to baby boxes.

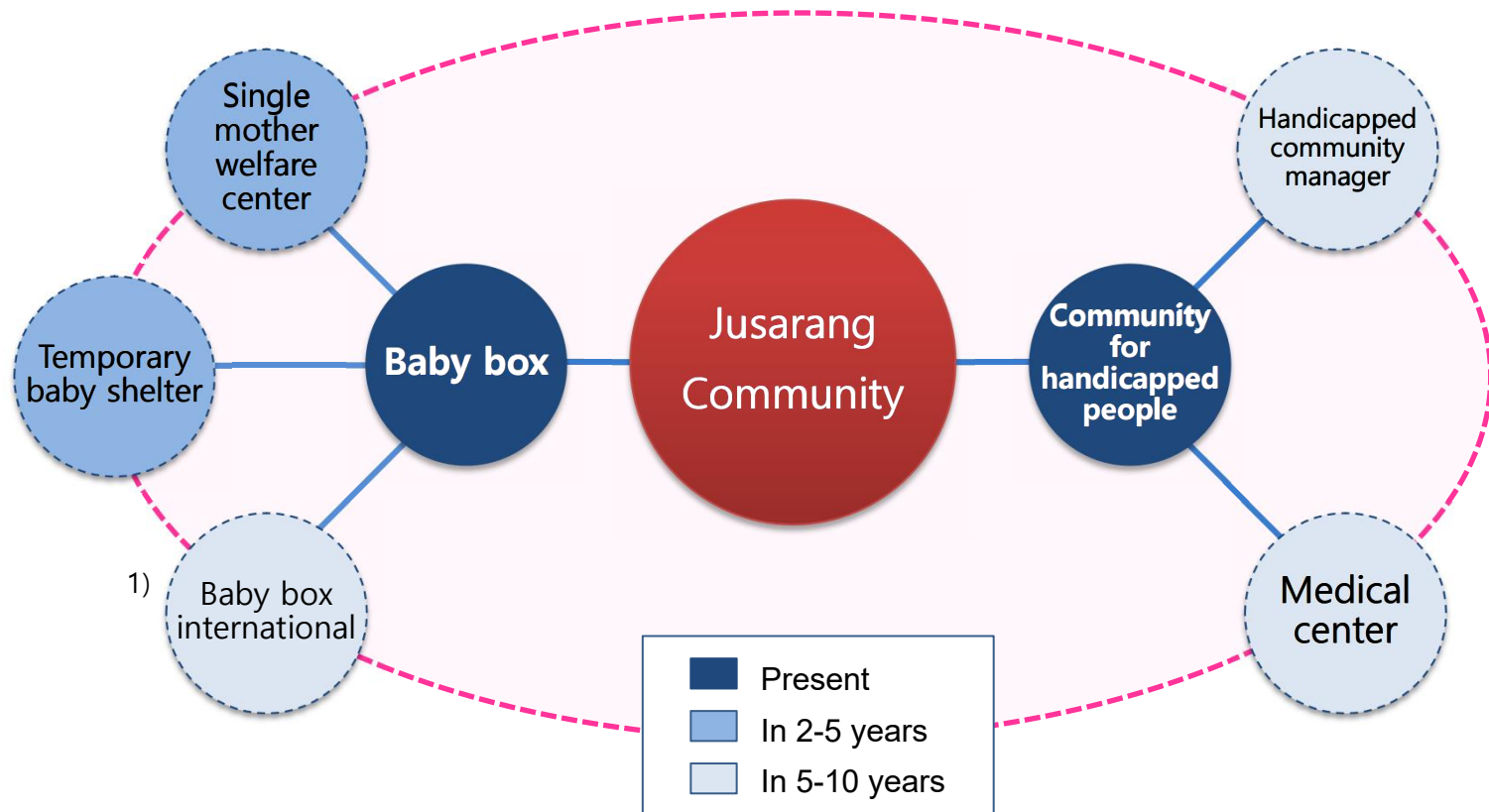
Although some radical citizen's groups are against them, the majority of people support baby boxes.

Future Plan



	Pre-Baby Box Services	Post-Baby Box Services
Basic principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augmentation of single mothers' level of welfare. • Minimization of the number of babies brought to the baby box. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in the level of welfare for children from baby boxes.
Details	<p><u>Single mother welfare center</u> Reinforcing support for the work-life balance of single mothers through a nursing service.</p> <p><u>Legislation activity</u> "Special Anonymous Delivery Act for support for pregnant women" Preventing the "Special Adoption Act" from deteriorating.</p> <p><u>Encouragement of adoption</u> Encouraging adoption at the stage before going to a nursing institute.</p>	<p><u>Establishing and operating an institute to temporary protect babies</u> Offering more care to children left in our baby box. Acting as a base to promote adoption</p> <p><u>Support for children living in our nursing facility</u> Scholarship service as a part of nursing support Support after protection is granted Support for social progress</p>

Vision of the Jusarang Community



1) Management of an international 1-to-1 sponsorship program for children saved by our baby box via the installation of baby boxes overseas