

Life Windows in Poland



Let me introduce myself 😊



ARCHIDIECEZJI
ŁÓDZKIEJ

Caritas is Love

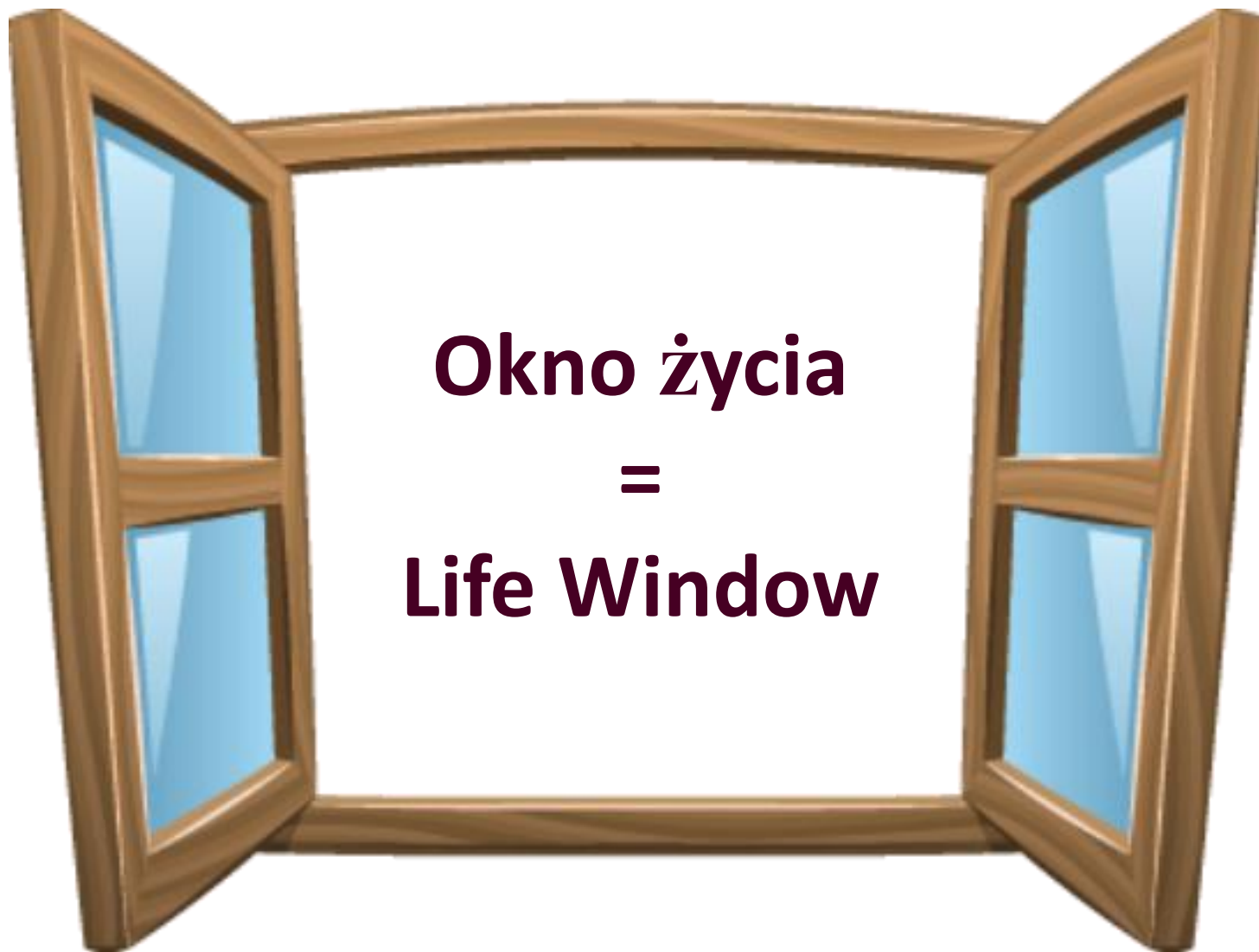




Life Window under an umbrella of **Caritas** in Poland



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ŁÓDZKIEJ



Okno życia
=
Life Window



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**First Life Window in Poland
was opened on 19th of March 2006
in Cracow**



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ŁÓDZKIEJ**

First Life Window in Poland

was opened as a tribute
to **Pope John Paul II**, who was Polish and
died a year before.

He was the great life defender.



Why the Life Windows have been created in Poland?

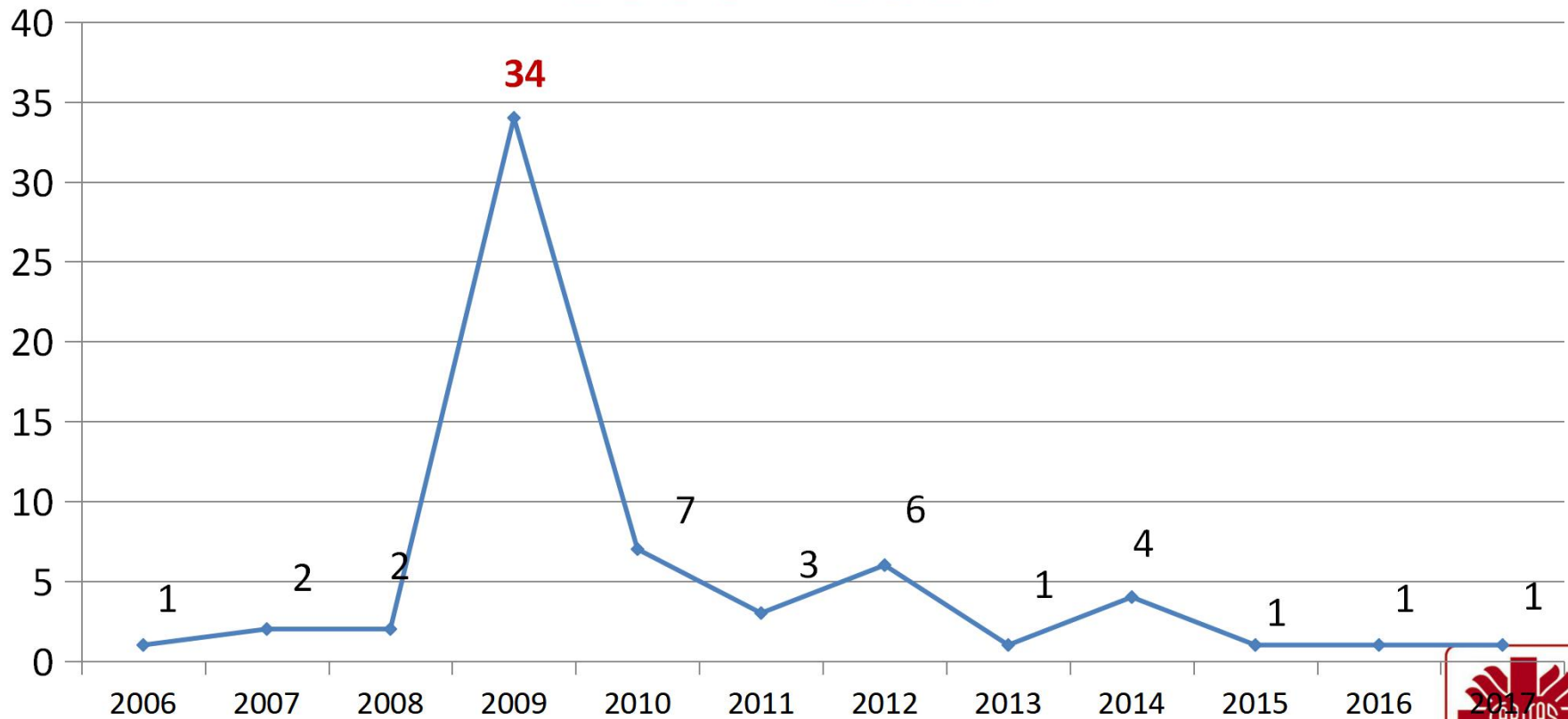
- Life Windows save children's life
 - life as the highest value
 - safe place instead of rubbish tip etc.
 - mother/parents anonymity
- Life Windows prevent artificial abortions



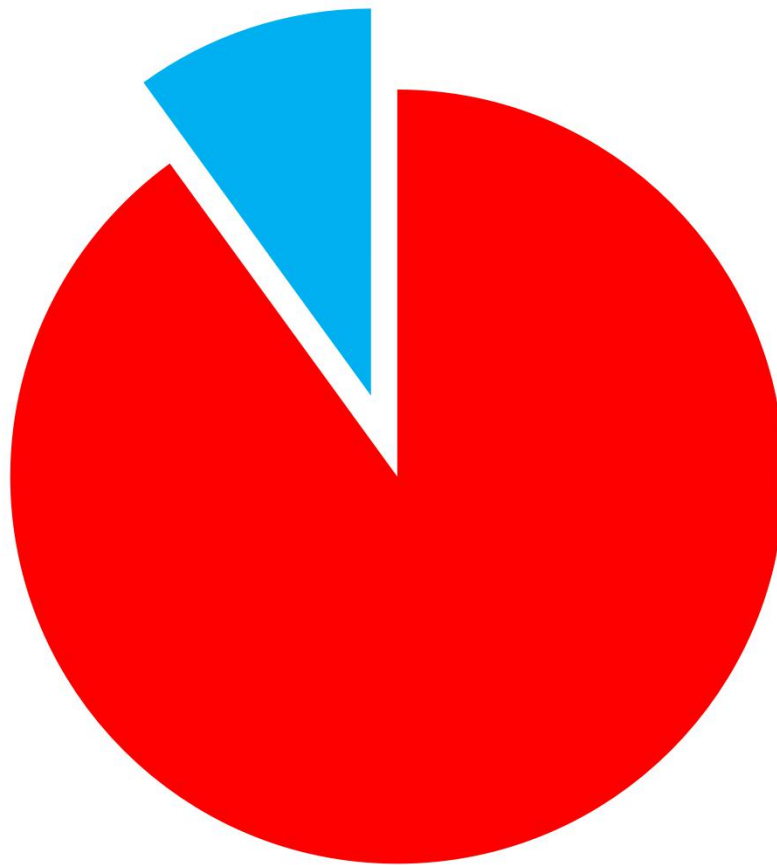
60 Life Windows in Poland in 55 cities



Life Windows in Poland 2006 - 2017



Life Windows in Poland - who is in charge?

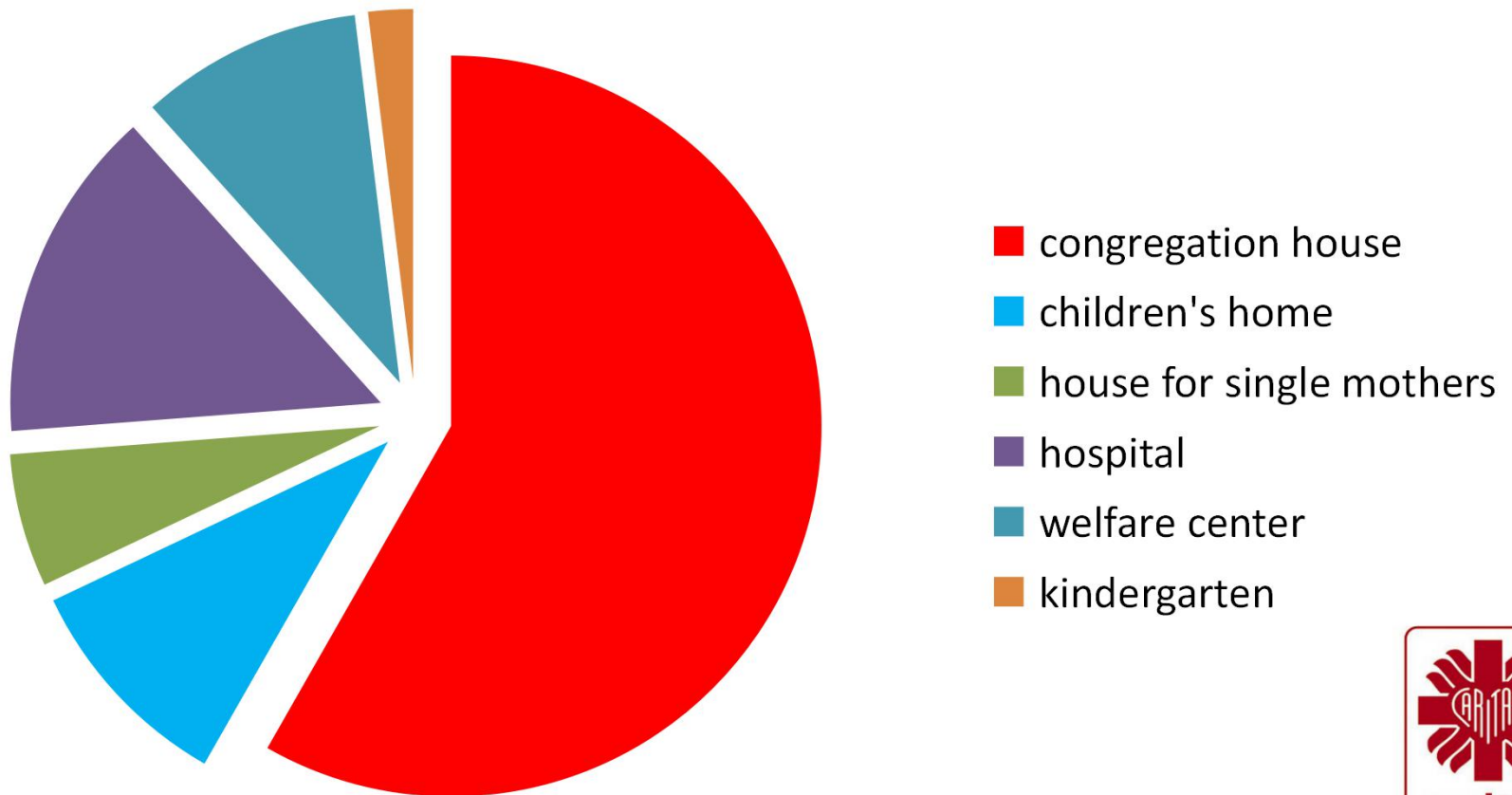


■ Caritas

■ Others: private person, the city council, local hospital etc.



Life Windows in Poland - where are they opened?





140 children **in Life Windows** **in Poland** **2006 - 2017**

Cracow – 18

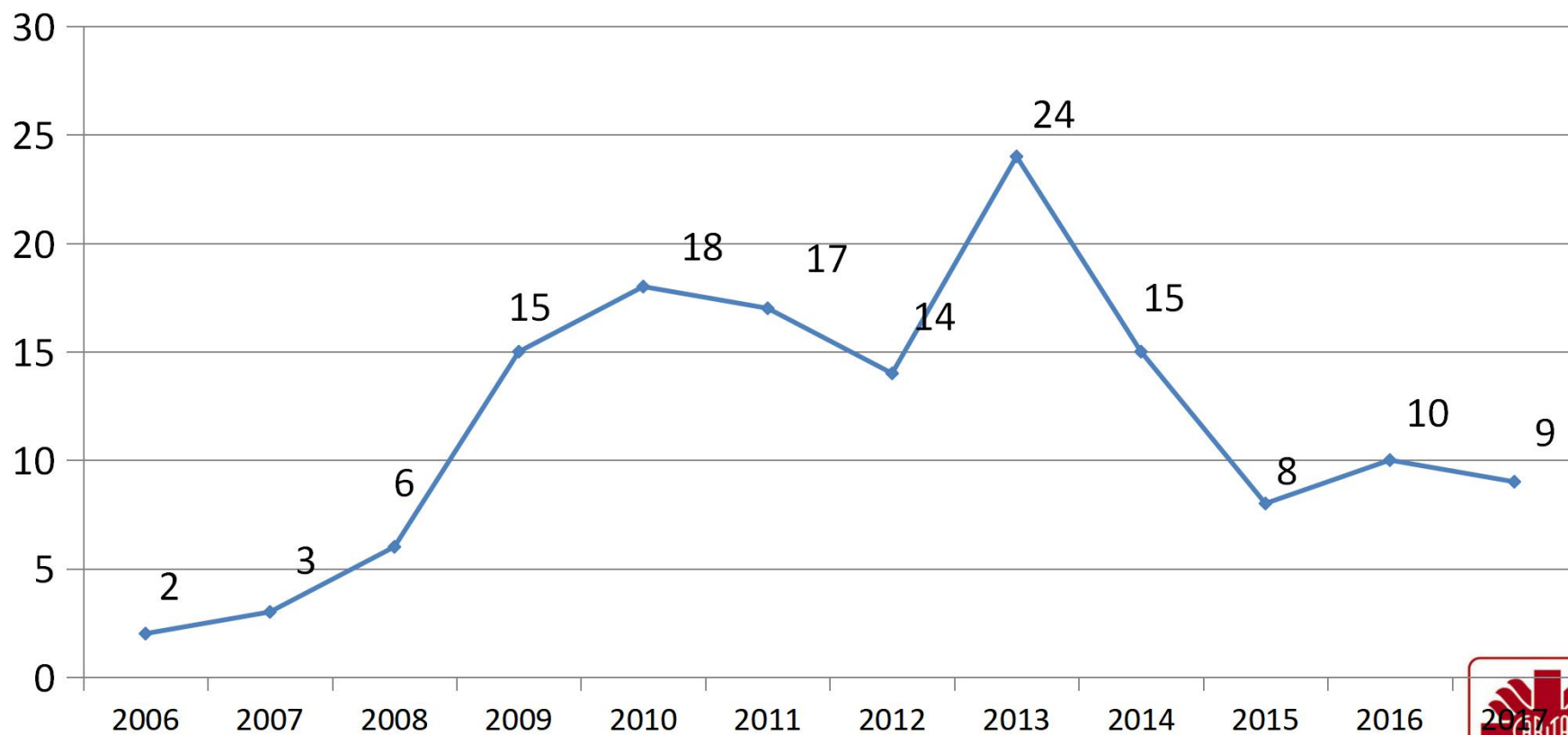
Warsaw – 17

Archdiocese of Łódź – 8



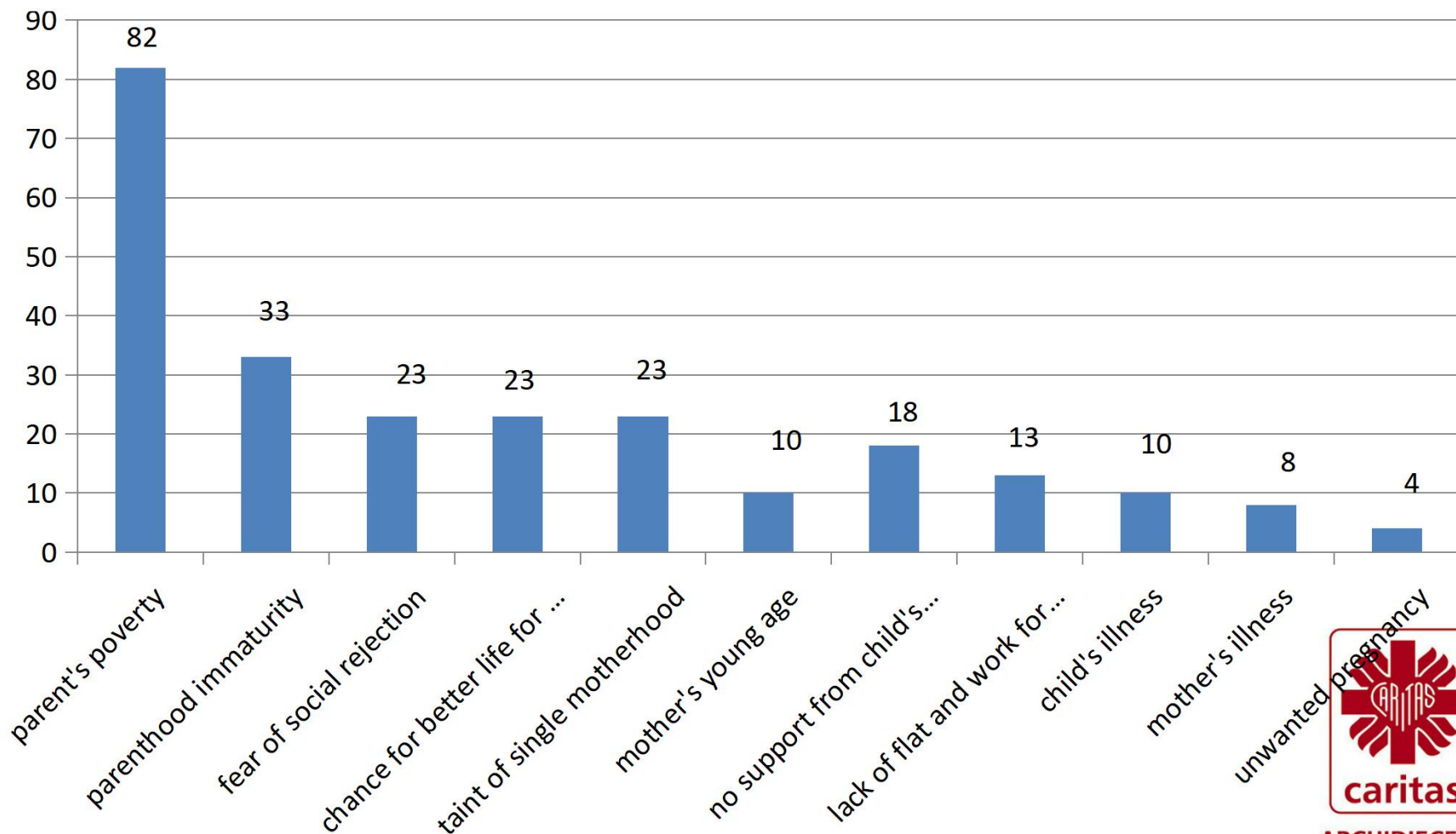
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Children in Life Windows in Poland 2006 - 2017



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Why children are left in Life Windows in Poland (multiple answers)



Baby in Life Window - how does it work?

1. When the window is opened, the alarm in the building (house or hospital) sounds. The electronic system sends SMS to recommended mobile number as well.
2. The person on the duty comes to the window within a minute, takes the child out of the sling/basket, checks the child's condition and calls an ambulance and police.
3. An ambulance takes baby to the hospital.
4. The hospital informs adoption centre
5. The adoption centre asks The Family Court to appoint a guardian for the child and to name the child.



Baby in Life Window - how does it work?

6. The Family Court appoints a guardian for the child – a foster family and names the child. The procedure is fast – sometimes even one or two days.
7. The adoption centre appoint the adoptive family
8. If nothing stands in the way the adoptive procedure lasts for maximum 2 weeks.
9. Children left in Life Window are usually under one year old (most of them are the newborn) – it is easier to find the adoptive family very quickly.



How our Life Windows look like?



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ŁÓDZKIEJ**

Childcare system in Poland

(selected issues)

- 380.000 babies are born every year in Poland
- 1.000 abortions a year are performed
- Approximately 10 cases of infanticide a year
- the number of child abandonment cases a year is decreasing (appr. 15 a year)



Childcare system in Poland

(selected issues)

- There is 100.000 orphans in Poland (most of them are the social ones)
- 66.000 are in the foster families
- rest of them – in orphanages or family orphanages.



Childcare system in Poland

(selected issues)

- Second level of local government administration is responsible for adoption in Poland
 - only 100 of 400 of them have the adoption centre
- There is appr. 3500 children adopted every year
- Average adoption process lasts 2 years



Life Windows in Poland

- problem points

- When parents know that they can leave their baby in Life Window, it can increase the number of parents who do not fulfil their basic obligation to raise their children
- It can promote isolated childbirth which is dangerous to mothers and children
- Some say it may violate a child's right to know its origins
- Mother can't check on her child and change her decision



Life Windows in Poland

- hopes for the future

- Life Windows save children's life – it is a social opinion of many people in Poland
- It is a real way to prevent abandonment or deaths of children
- There is positive social feedback more often than negative one
- Media are interested in Life Windows – when the new one is being opened and when a child is found in it.



Life Windows in Poland - are the needed?

He who saves but one life...
saves the entire world



ARCHIDIECEZJI
ŁÓDZKIEJ

Thank you for your attention



**ARCHIDIECEZJI
ŁÓDZKIEJ**