

# Jewish (religious) population in Croatia

According to the census data  
1880-2011

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## Jewish religious population in Croatia according census data

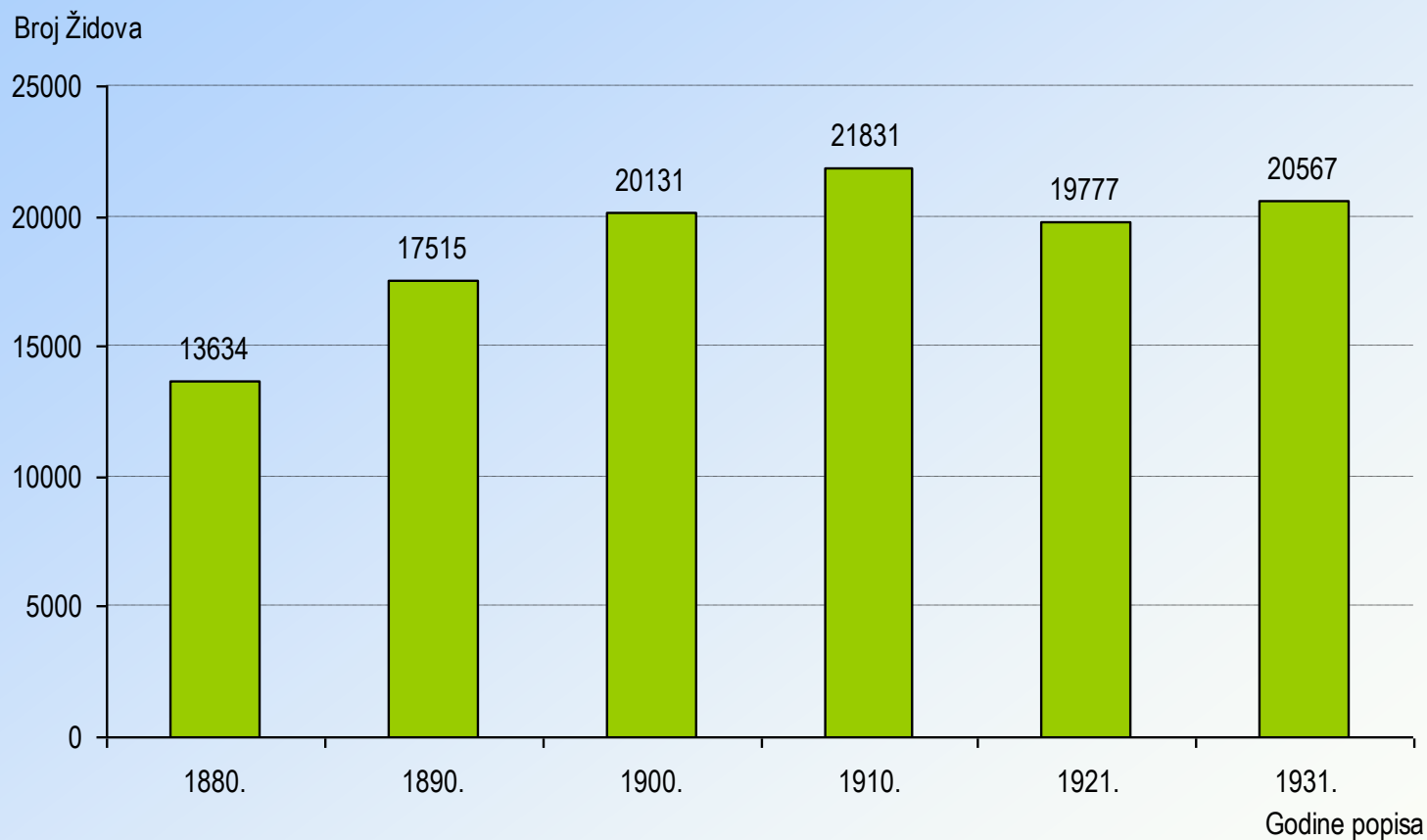
Project „Jewish (religious) population in Croatia” is continuation of our previous research on Jewish population in Croatia. In proposed project we will focus on census data in which Jews has been registered with two possibilities - by nationality and by religion.

- We collect and review available census data, publications and data about Jewish population in Croatia, demography, communal organization, suffering in Holocaust and migration after war. We search for numbers of Jews in communities, in list of victims and survivors, list of emigrated and immigrated persons and results of surveys
- We visited Central Statistical office and other institutions and asked for edited and non edited census data about Jewish religious population.
- Special attention was given to the census data after World War II, because during the communistic time question about religion was not asked or was not further elaborated.
- We investigated data in 12 censuses: in years 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1948, 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011. We found data about religion in censuses from years 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1921, 1931, 1953, 1991, 2001 and 2011.

## Number of Jews in Croatia according nationality and religion in censuses 1880 - 2011

Year	Total population In Croatia	Jews	
		By nationality	By religion
1880.	2 506 228	-	13 634
1890.	2 854 558	-	17 515
1900.	3 161 456	-	20 131
1910.	3 460 584	-	21 831
1921.	3 443 375	-	19 777
1931.	3 785 455	-	20 567
1948.	3 779 858	-	-
1953.	3 936 022	413	1 011
1961.	4 159 696	406	-
1971.	4 426 221	2 845	-
1981.	4 601 469	316	-
1991.	4 784 265	600	633
2001.	4 437 460	576	495
2011.	4 284 889	509	536

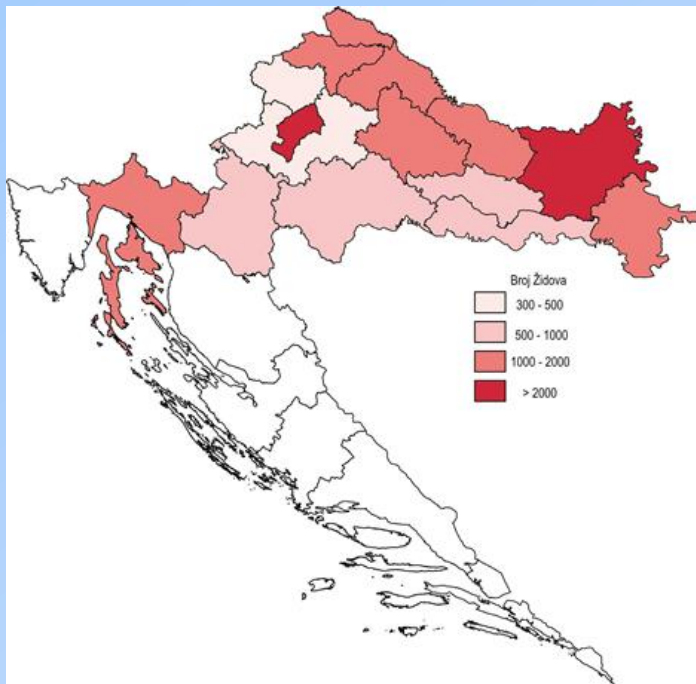
## Number of Jews in the censuses 1880 - 1931 (before WW. II), when they can declare (only) religion



# Censuses from years 1880,1890,1900 and 1910

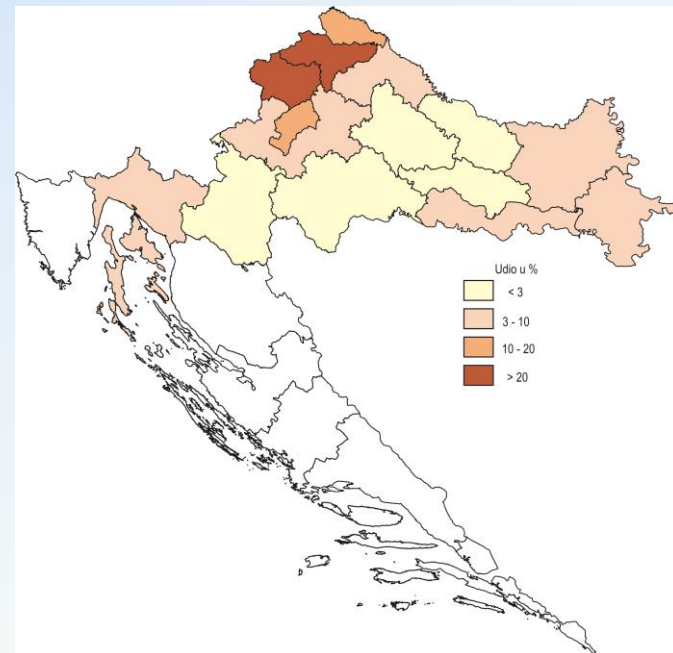
## Status of Jews before I. World War

- In year 1860 Jews have permission to own property and land which they cultivated
- On February 1906 new Law on the regulation of “ Israelite communities”
- Affiliation to a Jewish community was obligatory and only one Jewish commune was allowed to exist in one settlement.
- Jews are recorded only according to religion on the territory of Croatia and Slavonia,
- In this censuses Jews has been registered as “Israely”
- Jews in Dalmatia are not included.
- .Number of Jews increased because this was period of Jewish settlement in Croatia
- Jewish population grow in towns
- Jews came mainly from central Europe (Burgenland) after “tolerant law” issued by the emperor Joseph II on end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century
- Some refugee Jews from East Europe (Poland, Russia, and Romania) come to Croatia

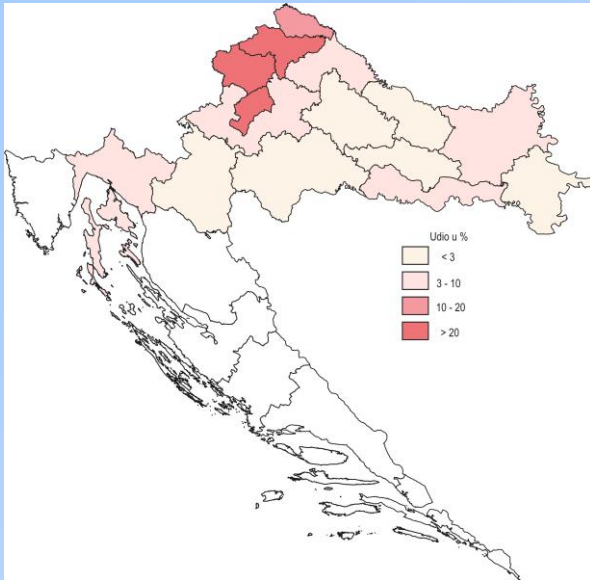


Number of Jews in Croatia, (census 1900) by counties. They are mostly concentrated in northern part of the country, Zagreb and in the east part Slavonia, Osijek

The share of Jews in total number of national minorities in 1900 census by counties





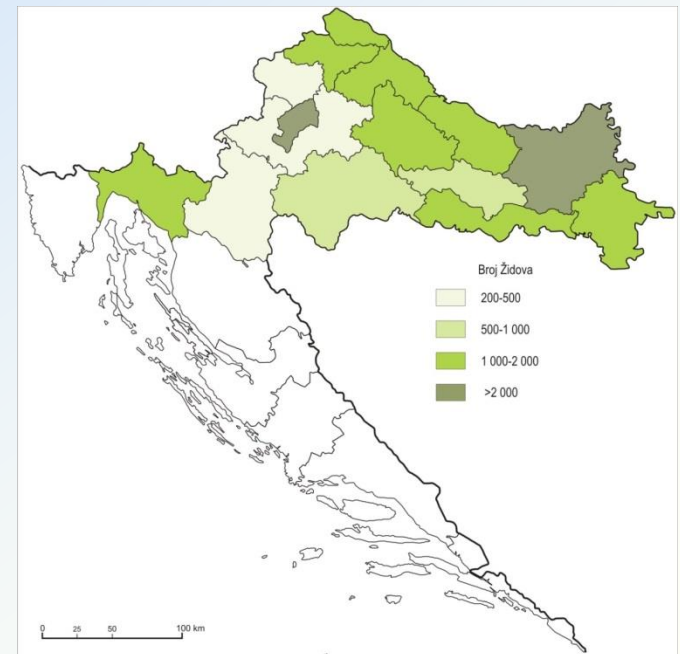


The share of Jews in total number of national minorities in 1910 census by counties

Number of Jews in 1910 census, by counties

When we compared censuses in 1900 and 1910 years, we can see increase almost all national minorities in Croatia.

Number of Jews increased for 7,8%, or 1700.



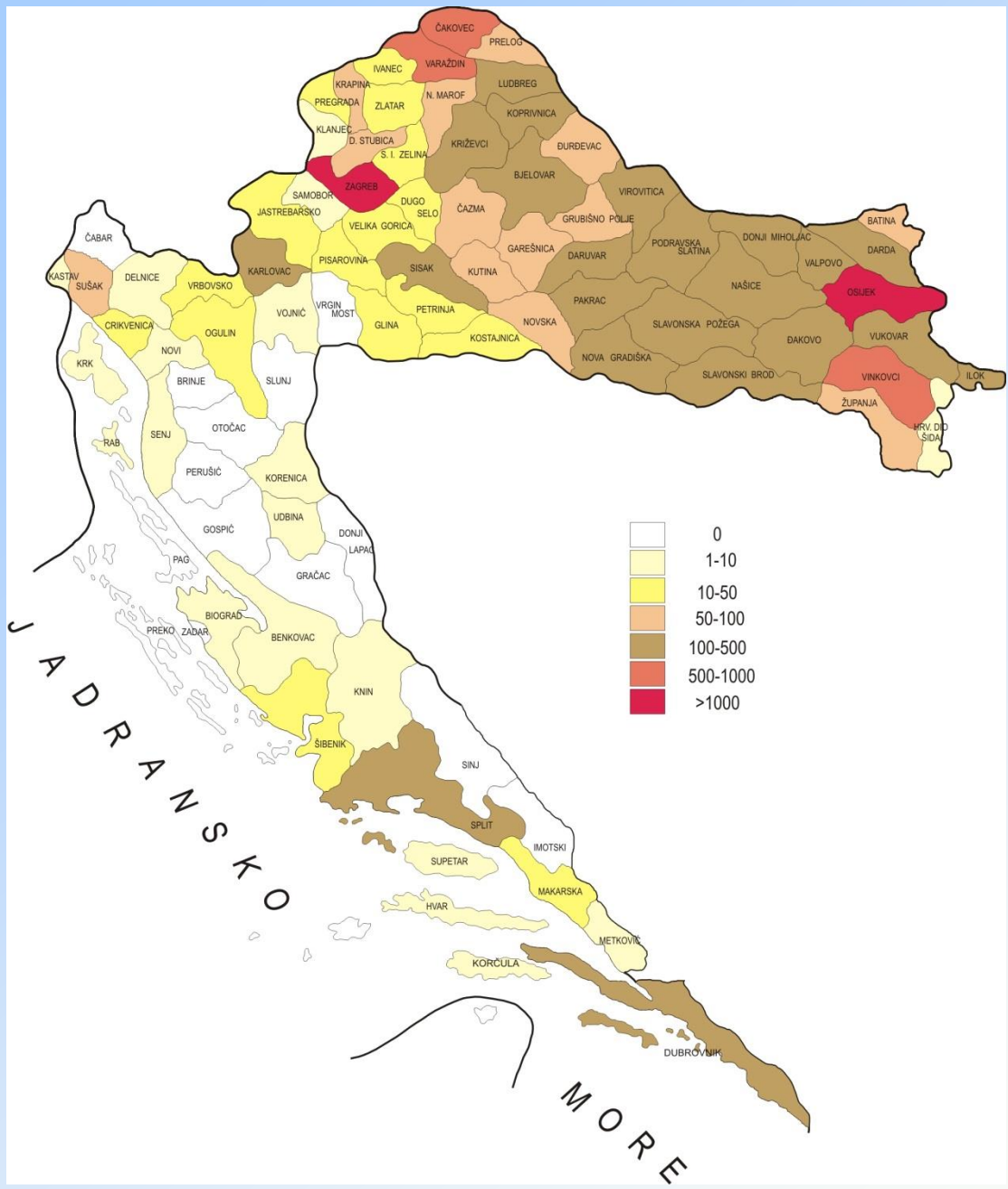
## Censuses between two World Wars, in years 1921 and 1931

- Jews has been recorded, in that censuses, only according “religion”, there was no question about “nationality”
- There was new territorial and political division in new country SHS (Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes), later Yugoslavia. Jews can be recorded in censuses only on the level of districts, communes and towns
- New rules and new Law on „Jewish religious communities” was proclaimed in 1929
- In Croatia in 1931 census (last census before WW II) 21 505 Jews were registered, but in the eve of the War (1940) there were 25 000 Jews (including refugees).

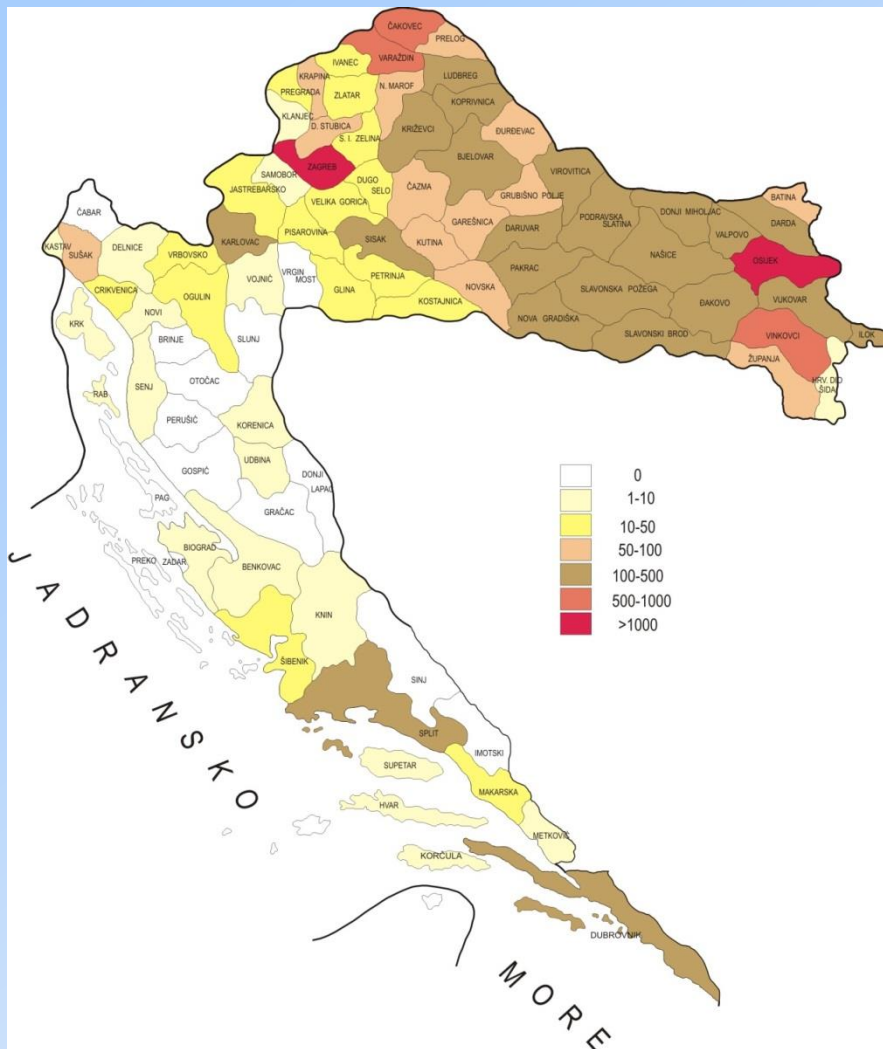
### Number of Jews in Croatia according to 1921 and 1931 censuses (according religion)

Year of census	1921.	1931.	diference 1931 / 1921
No of Jews	19 777	20 567	790





Number of Jews in Croatia  
According to 1921 census



When we compared censuses in years 1921 and 1931, we found great differences in the distribution of Jewish population which concentrated in towns, probably because of better possibilities for children education and economical prosperity

On the periphery of country population of Jews diminished; we have in 1931 census less Jews in 49 counties and in some counties Jews even disappeared.

Number of Jews in Croatia  
In 1931 census

## **Jews in Croatia during Holocaust, in World War II**

Destiny of Jews in Croatia was similar as destiny of all European Jews in the countries occupied by Germany or under their influence. On April 10, 1941 a new Nazi state under name NDH was established and covered the territory of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Racial Law was immediately implemented and concentration camps were opened in Croatia or Jews were deported to other Nazi camps (Auschwitz). About 80% of the Croatian Jews were killed in the Holocaust. In camps ended refugees from other countries, Jews from Bosnia and Herzegovina and most of the Croatian Jews

In year 1940 there were about 25 000 Jews in Croatia and only about 5 500 of them survived . According some research it was estimated that 6 600 to 7 700 NDH Jews lost their lives in German and other concentration camp and about 13 000 Jews in camps on the territory of NDH. The Jewish Community in Zagreb were closed on the first day of NDH. Later was reopen on another location and with another task (to supply camps). All “leadership“ were imprisoned and mostly killed.

Not only were about 80% of Croatian Jews killed in the Holocaust, but also all Jewish communities has been destroyed and the Jewish way of life almost disappeared. Jews participated in NOB (7% of Jewish population). 2 897 Jewish partisan NOB warrior (720 killed) and 1595 in NOP antifascist movement In Croatia 1737 Jews participated in NOB (325 killed).

We found „Central record of Jewish Badges“ in year 1941, made by Nazi register for Jews in Zagreb with 8 598 names.



# Commemoration in camp Jasenovac in Croatia in which most Jews has been killed



## Censuses After Second War II (1948,1953,1961)

We analyzed censuses in 1948,1953,1961,1971,1981,1991,2001 and last census in 2011. In these censuses Jews can be registered according to Jewish nationality and in some according religion.

- In the first census in year 1948 ,after World War II, 6,538 Jews are registered as “others” nationalities, while at that time Jewish communities numbered 11,934 members.
- 
- Census of the year 1953 offered the possibility to declare by nationality and by religion. For Jews results was not given according to settlement places. At that time in Yugoslavia were 2,307 Jews according nationality and 2,563 according religion.
- In census 1953 in Croatia there were 1,011 Jews according to religion (Moses faith) and 413 according to Jewish nationality. Jews of “Moses faith” declare their nationality: 61, 2% as Croat, 4,3% as “Yugoslav” and 27,5” as “other non-Slavic” nationality.
- In census of the year 1961 we can find data for 406 Jews according to nationality (not religion). Data are only on the level of all country Croatia (not settlement).

## Number of Jews in the censuses after WW.II

	1953.	1961.	1981.	1991.	2001.	2011.
According religion	1011	-	-	633	495	536
According nationality	413	406	316	600	576	509



## Aliya to Israel

- When we research censuses after WW II , we must take in consideration big emigration to Israel, Aliya, between 1948 and 1952 , when 7,739 Jews from Yugoslavia, migrate to Israel.
- The departures in Israel were permanent migration from the outset.
- Jews who migrate were forced to renounce their citizenship and all ownership in Croatia.
- Jews took all their children in Israel (also those born in the post-war „baby boom”) and part of elderly family members remained in Croatia.

## Censuses in year 1971,1981 and 1991

In census in the year 1971 only nationality has been registered in settlements. Data about Jews, who were registered in 717 places and in unusual number (2,845) cannot be taken as a real. Jews are registered in the places where they have never lived before. Mistakes are also founded in reports in other census results.

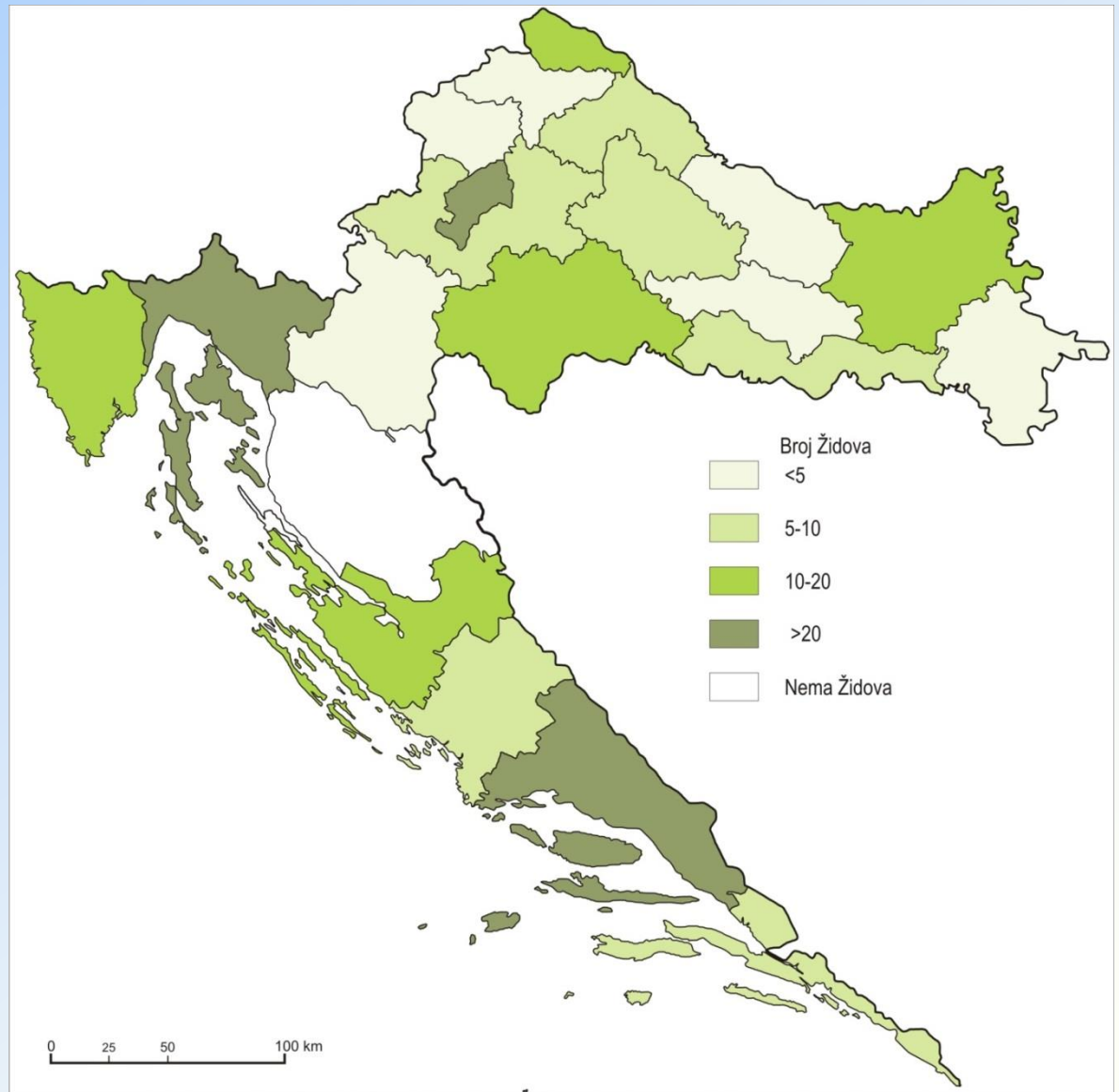
In the census of the year 1981 data has been recorded according to nationality, in settlements. Only 316 Jews lived in 37 settlements.

In censuses of the year 1991, 2001 and 2011 Jews has been registered according to nationality and according religion.

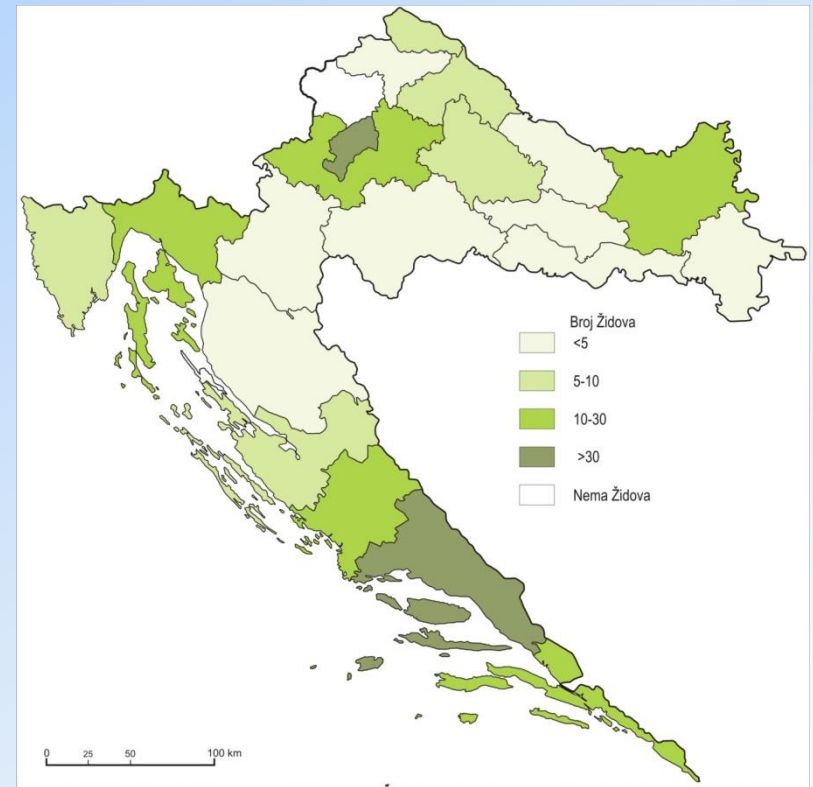
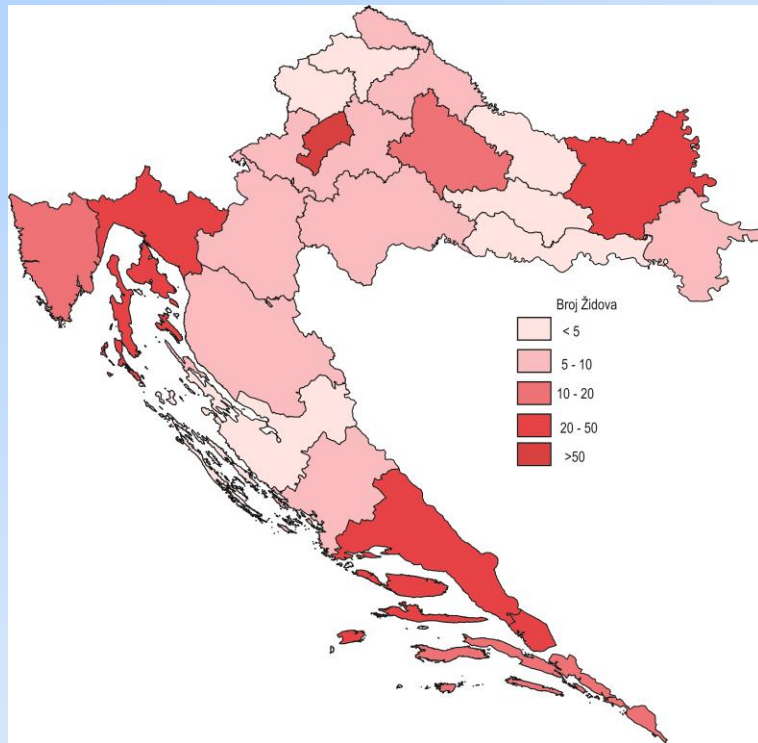
In the year 1991 Jews are registered on the level of settlements. Jews lived in 53 places mostly in the town (41) and only in 10 villages.

In 1991 census, 633 Jews were registered according to nationality and 600 according to religion..

Number of Jews (religion)  
by counties  
in census 1991



Number of Jews in Croatia (religion)  
by counties according census 2001



Number of Jews in Croatia (by nationality)  
in counties from census 2001

## Censuses in 2001 and 2011

In censuses in the years 2001 and 2011 Jews were not registered in settlements but only in towns, counties and districts.

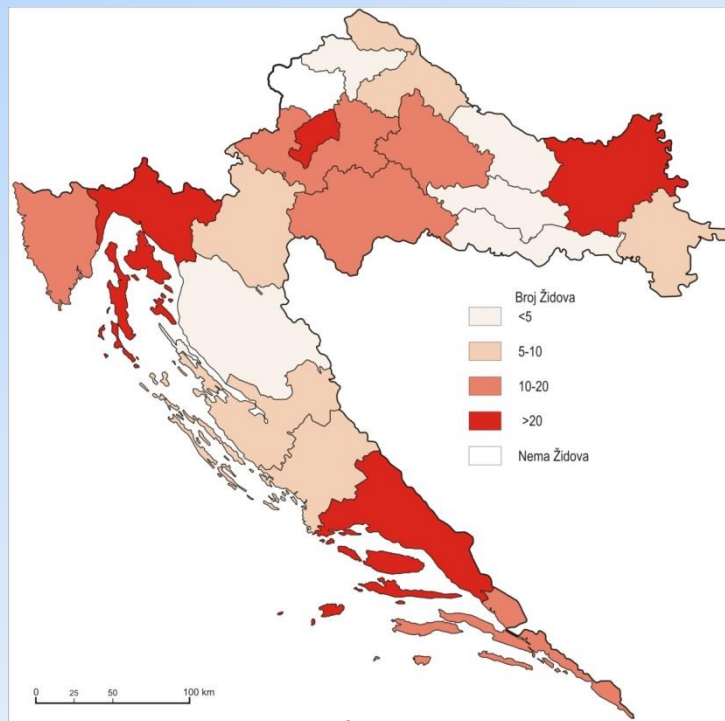
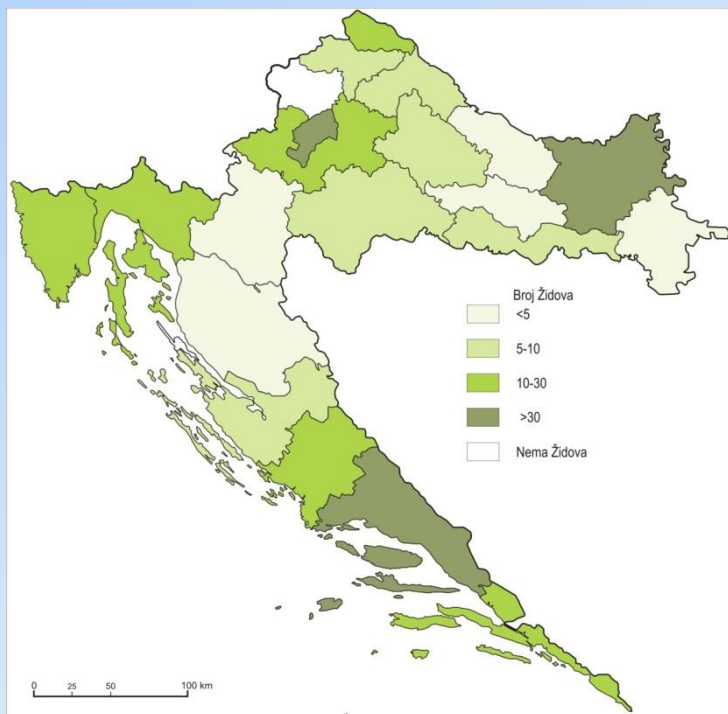
In this censuses data about nationality and religion has not been taken in places with less than 100 inhabitants and for nationality with less than 10 members.

This regulation has special consequences for Jewish population which was decimated in Holocaust and in many places today live only one or two Jewish families.

In 2001 there were 576 Jews registered according nationality and 495 according to religion. They lived in 47 towns.

In census 2011 was registered 509 Jews according to nationality and 511 according to religion. They lived in 57 towns, only 18 in villages.

## Number of Jews by counties according nationality in census 2011



## Number of Jews in Croatia according religion by counties, in 2011 census



## Comments

In our research special interests are focused on data about identity of the Jews who declared themselves as religious Jews in the censuses in 1953 and 2011.

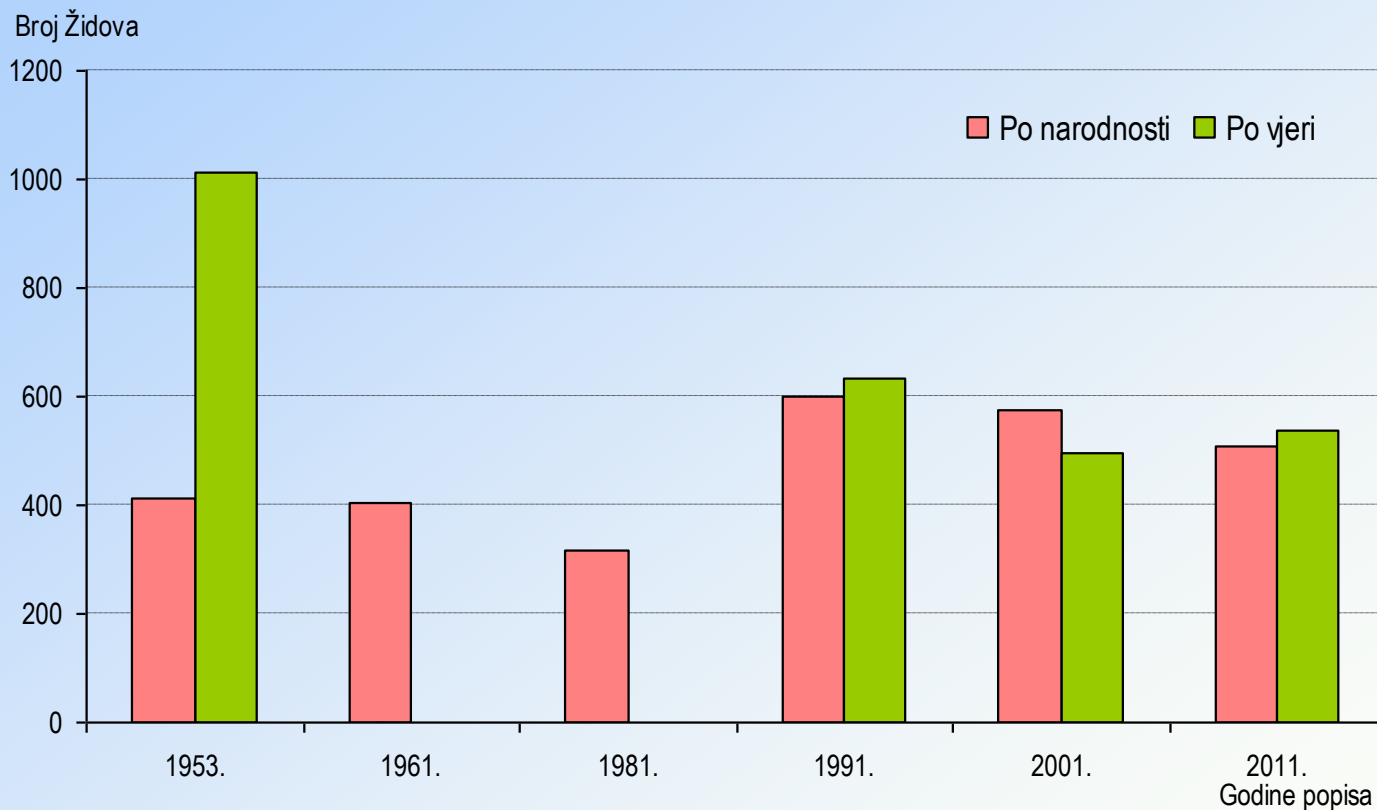
In 1953 census we found that 61,2 % religious Jews who declares themselves as “Croatian nationality” and only as 27,5 as Jew.

In census in year 2011 was 50:50% “religious” and “national” Jews.

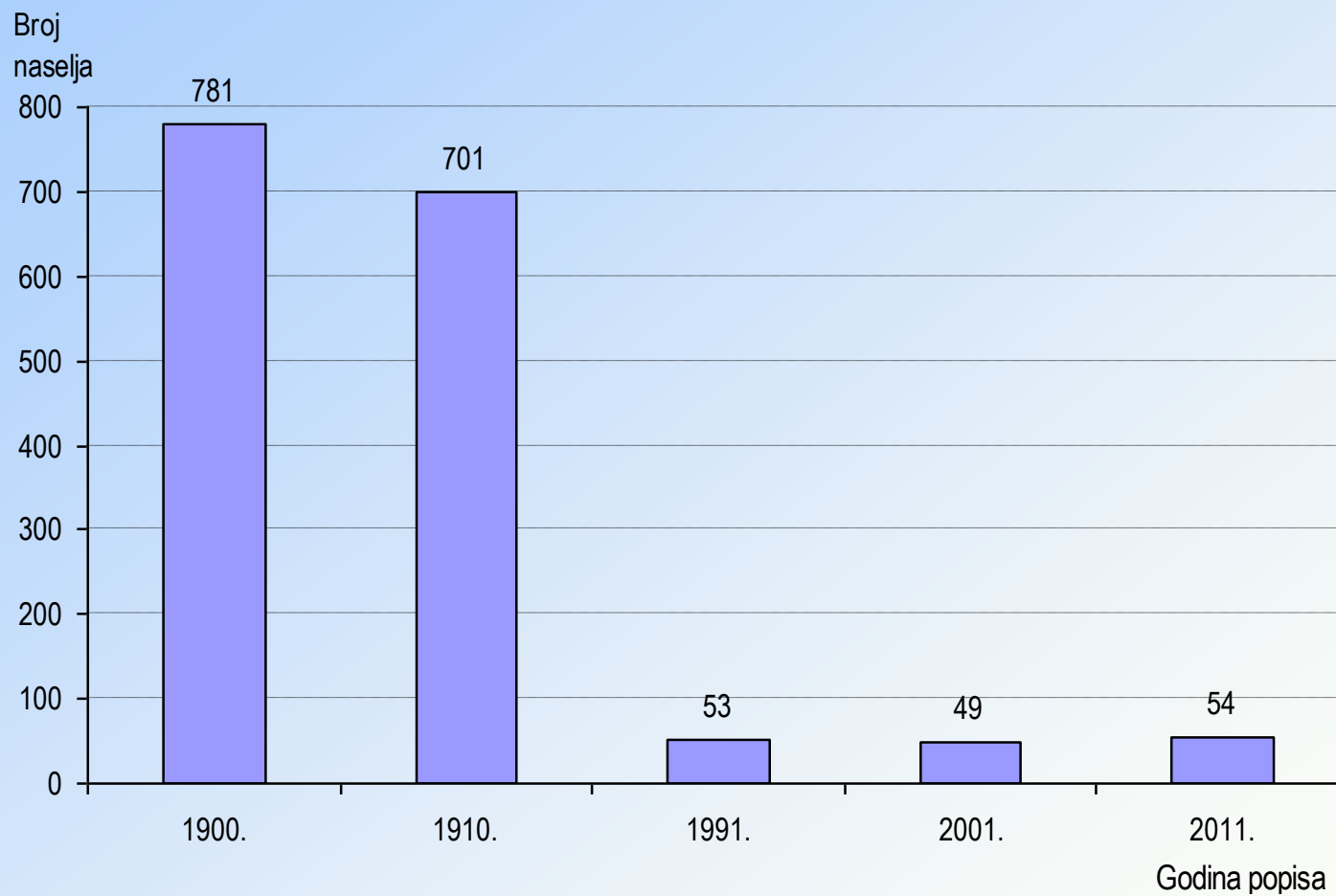
We presume that differences depends on:

- political situation in country,
- mortality in old survivor's population,
- high number of mixed marriages,
- lower participation of Jews in censuses (because of experience in Holocaust and anti-Semitism).

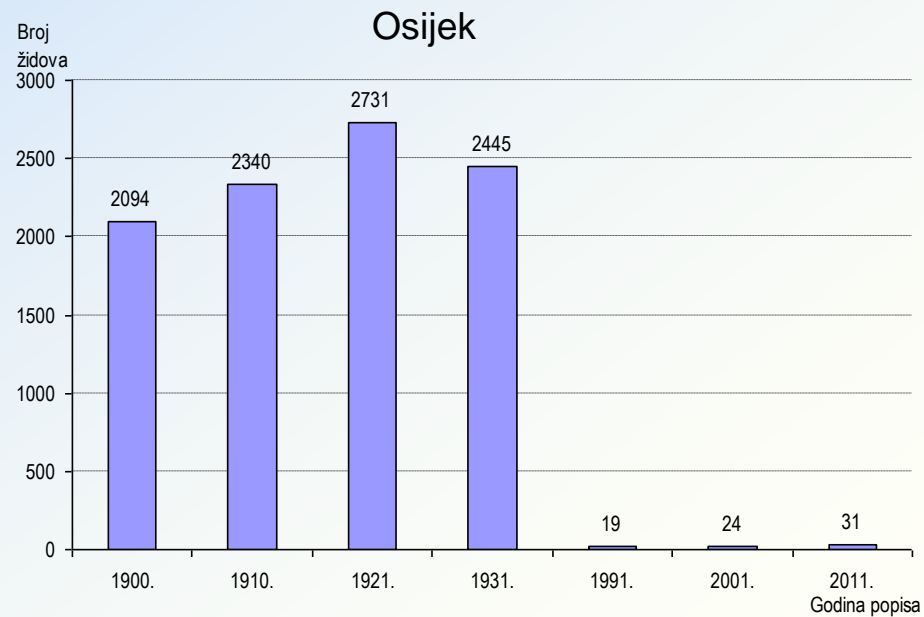
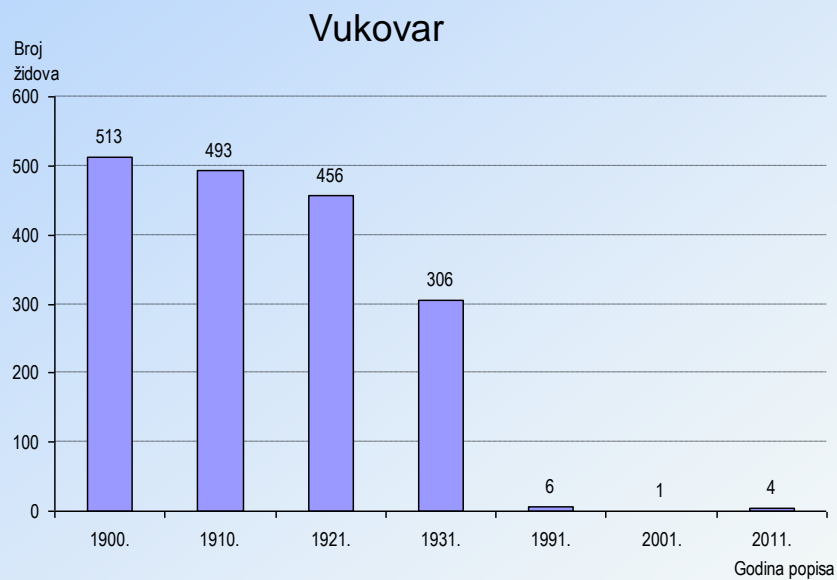
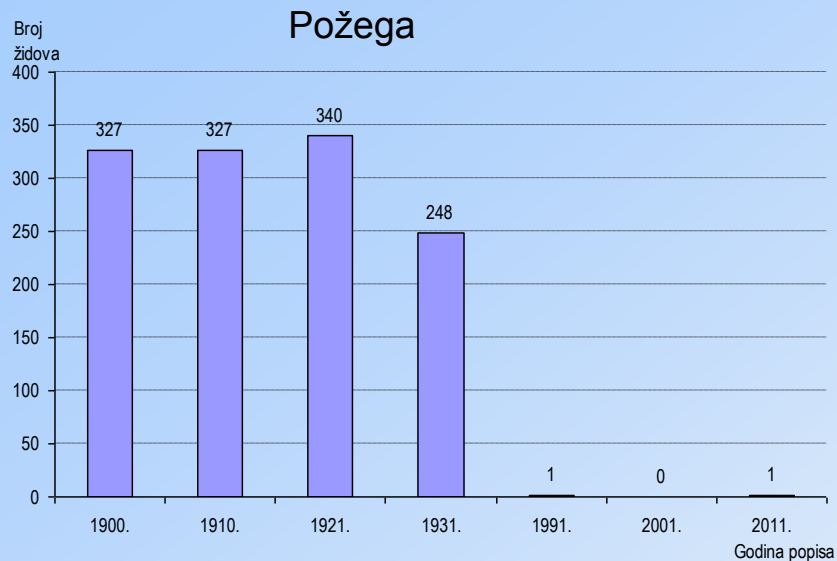
# Number of Jews in Croatia in censuses 1953, 1961, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 according nationality (red) and according religion (green)



## Number of cities where Jews lived according to censuses in years 1900, 1910, 1991, 2001 and 2011

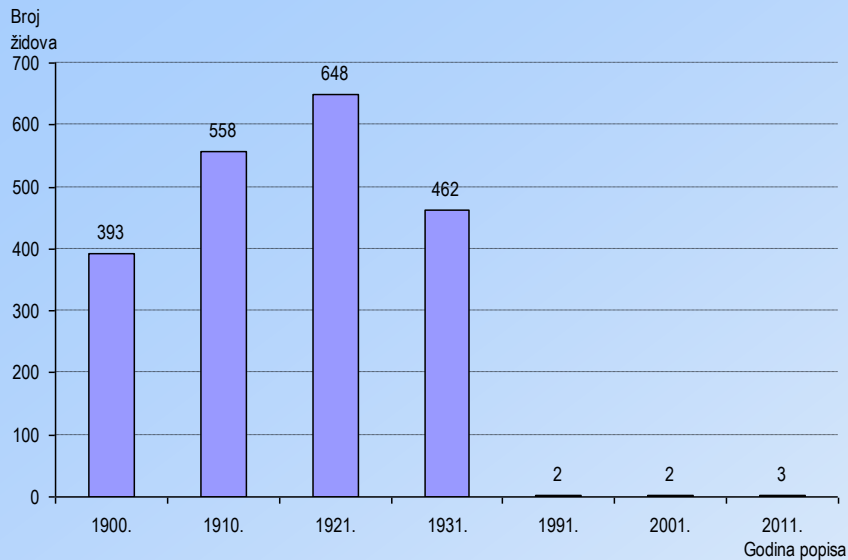


# Number of Jews according to censuses in year 1900, 1910, 1921, 1931, 1991, 2001 and 2011

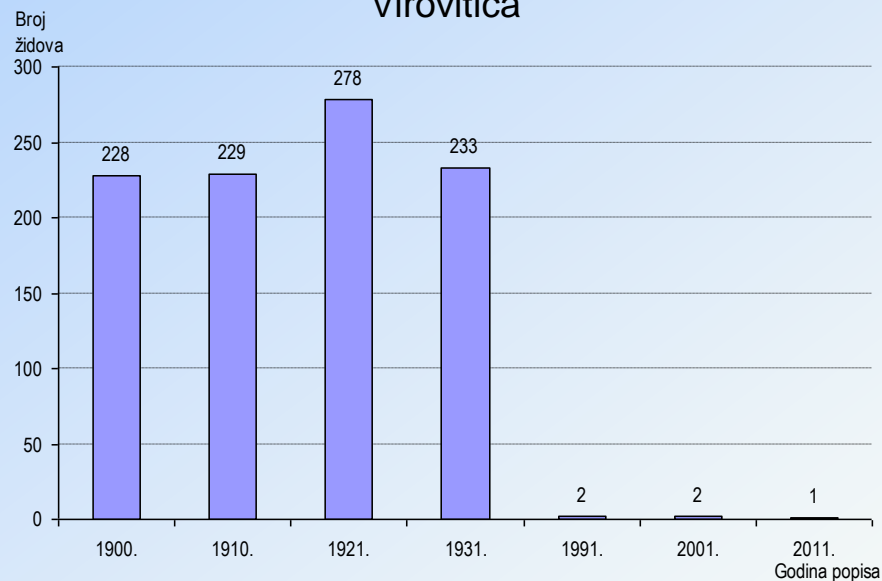


# Number of Jews according to censuses in year 1900, 1910, 1921, 1931, 1991, 2001 and 2011

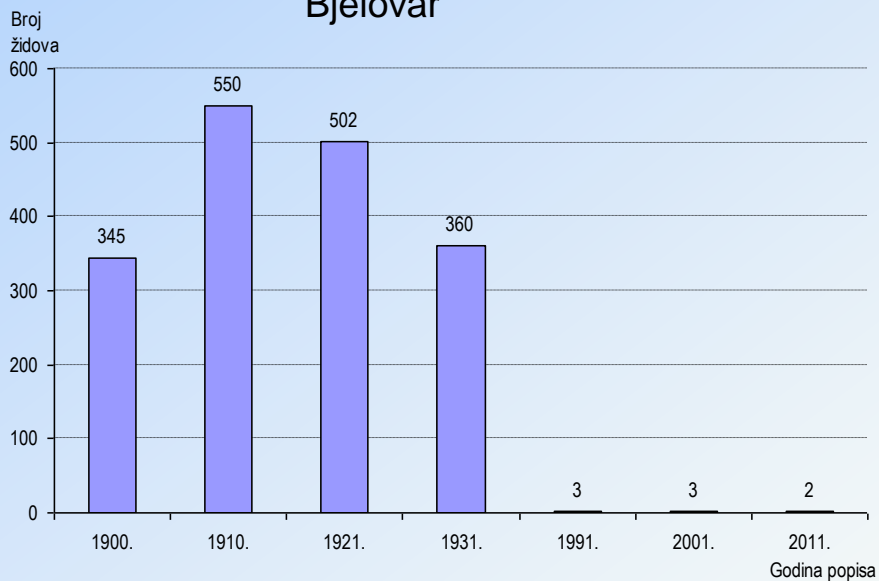
## Slavonski Brod



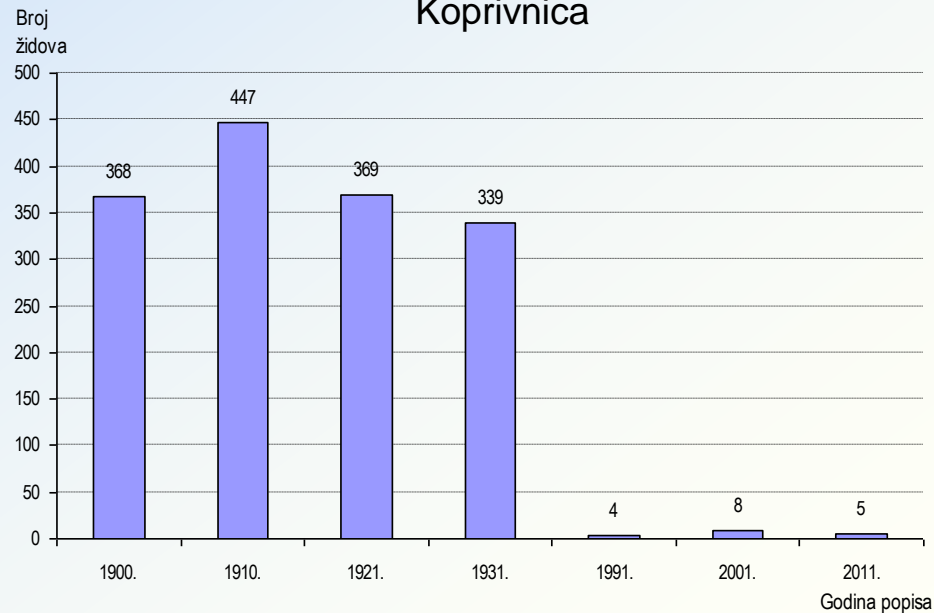
## Virovitica



## Bjelovar

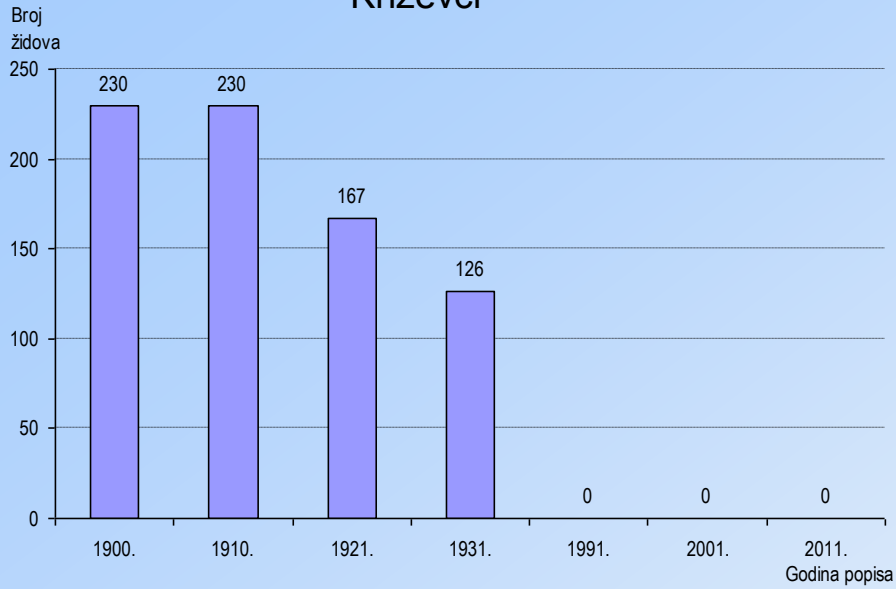


## Koprivnica

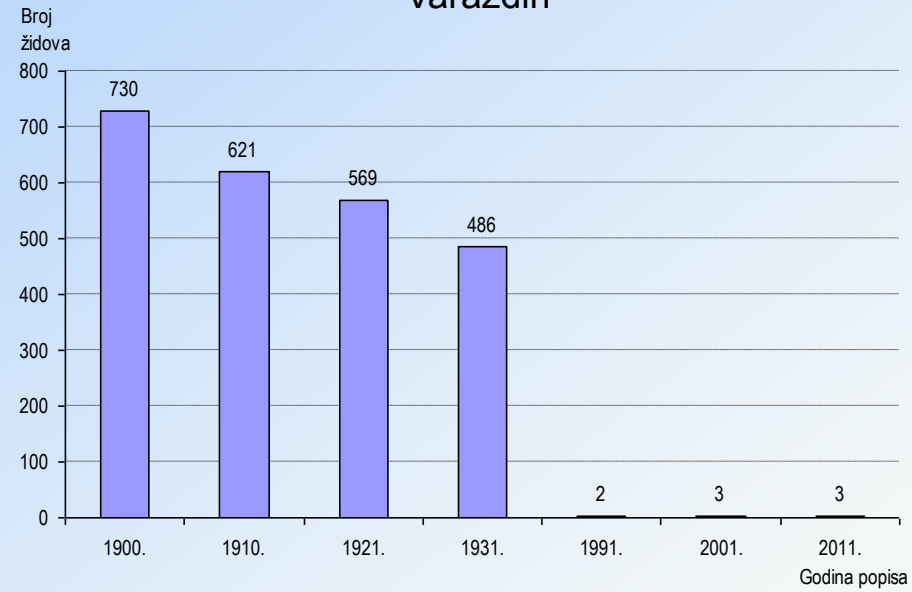


# Number of Jews according to censuses in year 1900, 1910, 1921, 1931, 1991, 2001 and 2011

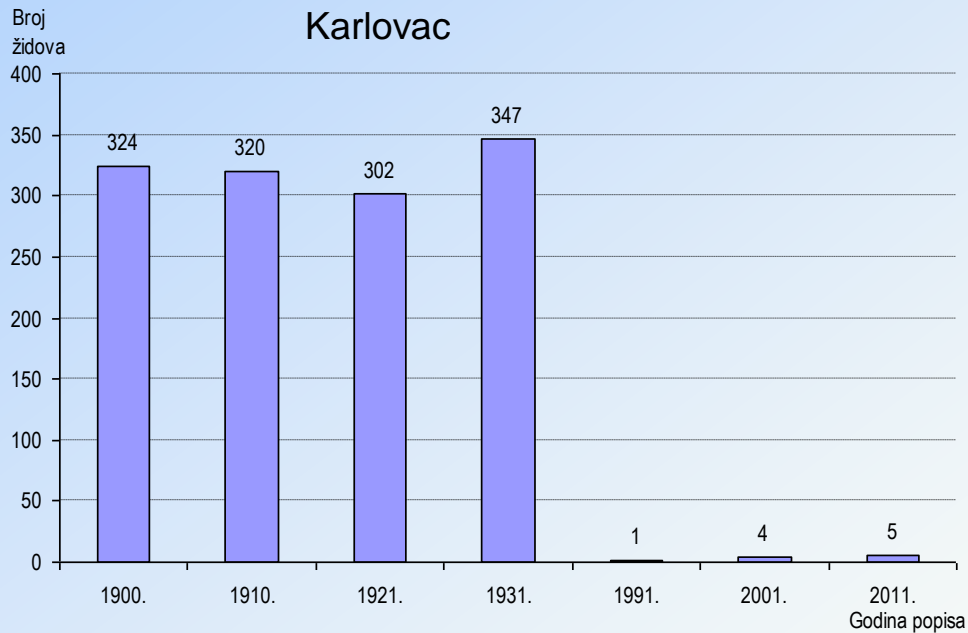
## Križevci



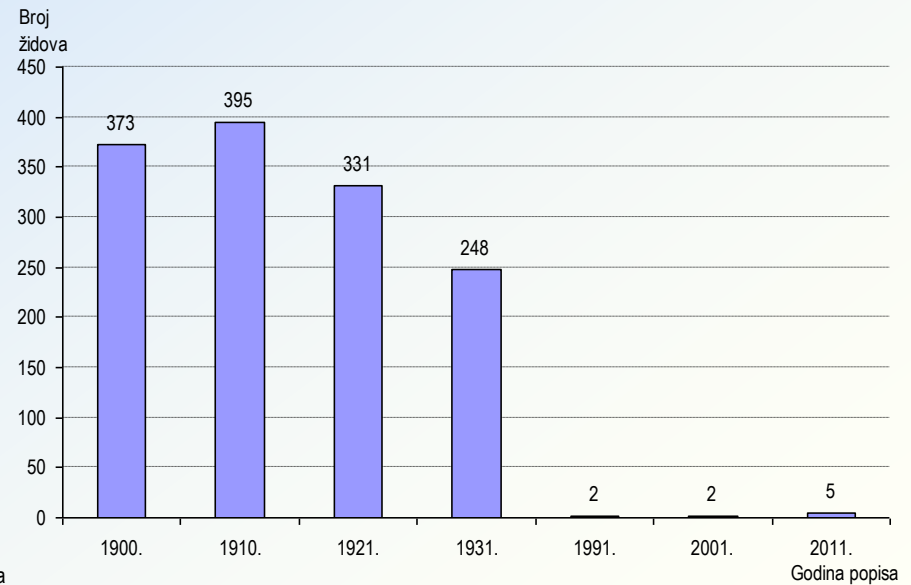
## Varaždin



## Karlovac



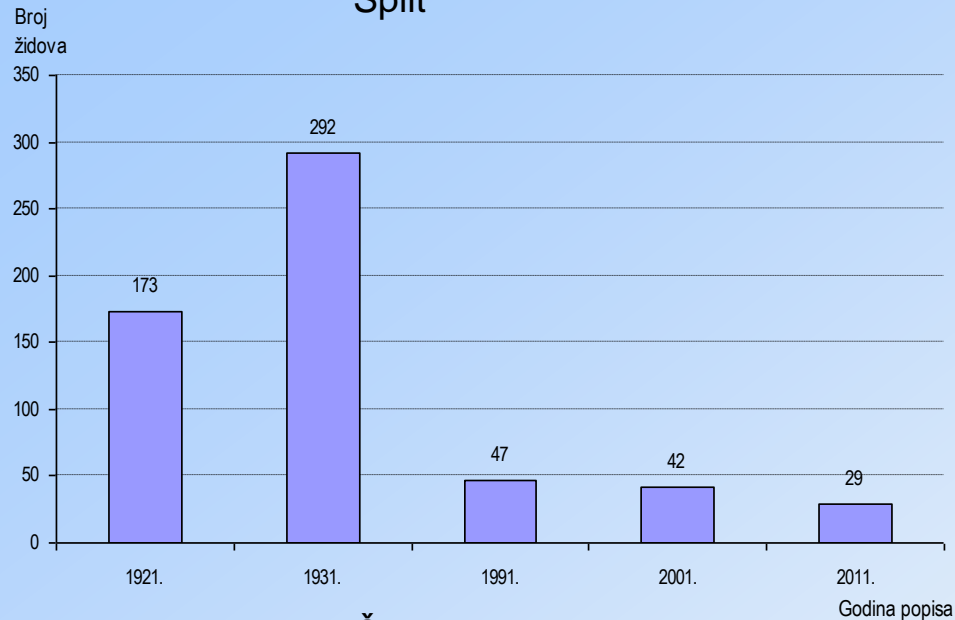
## Varaždin



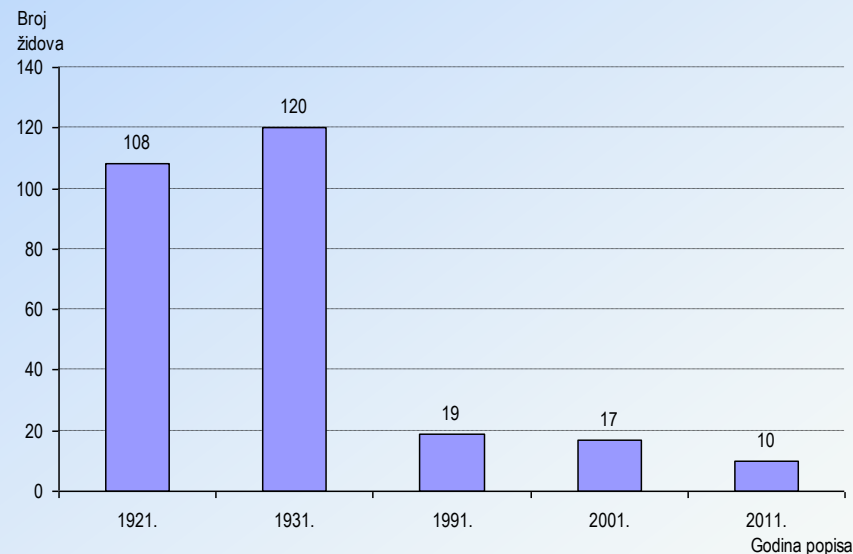


# Number of Jews according to censuses in year 1900, 1910, 1921, 1931, 1991, 2001 and 2011

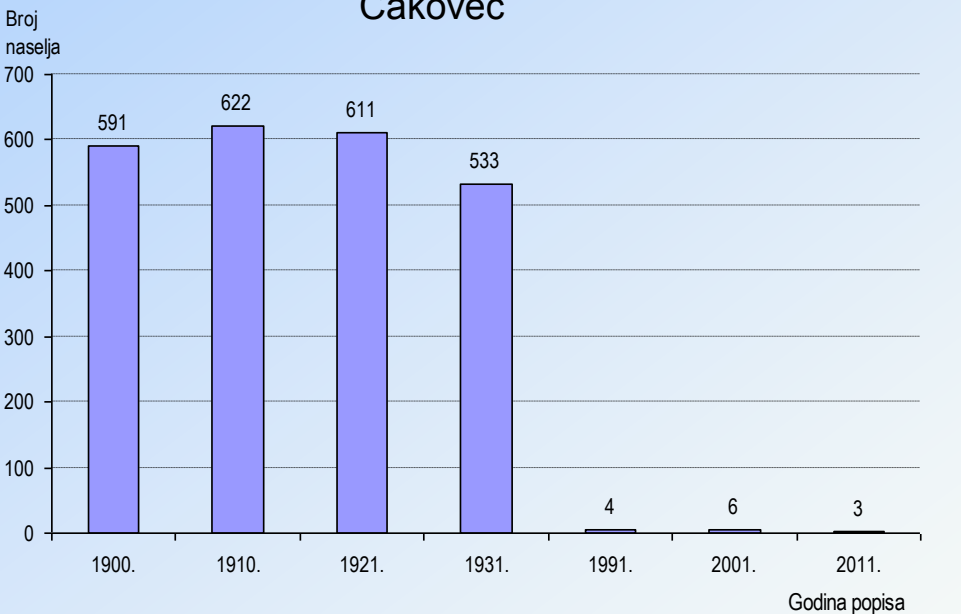
## Split



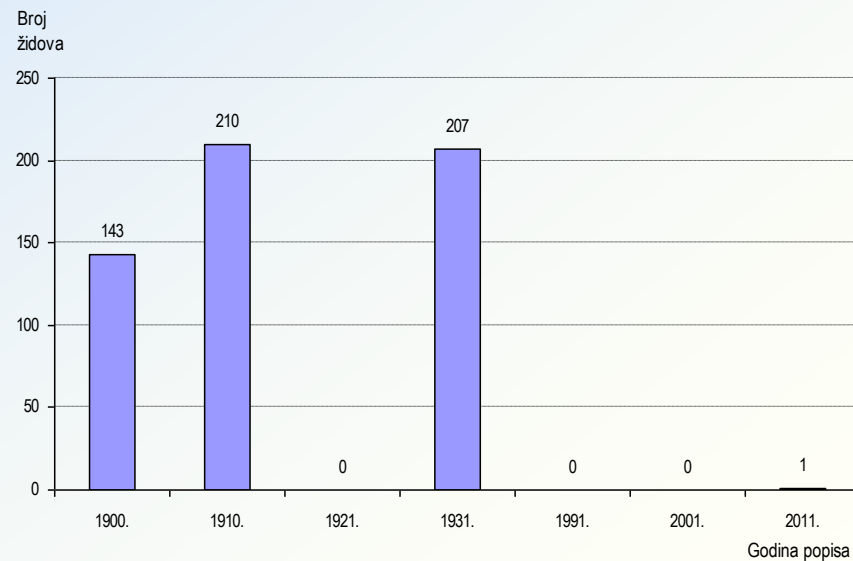
## Dubrovnik



## Čakovec

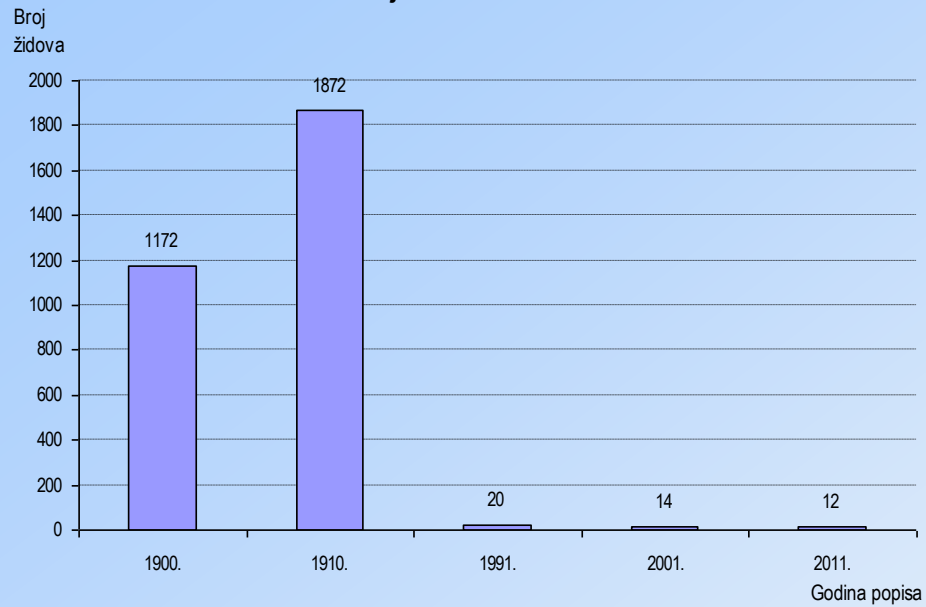


## Nova Gradiška

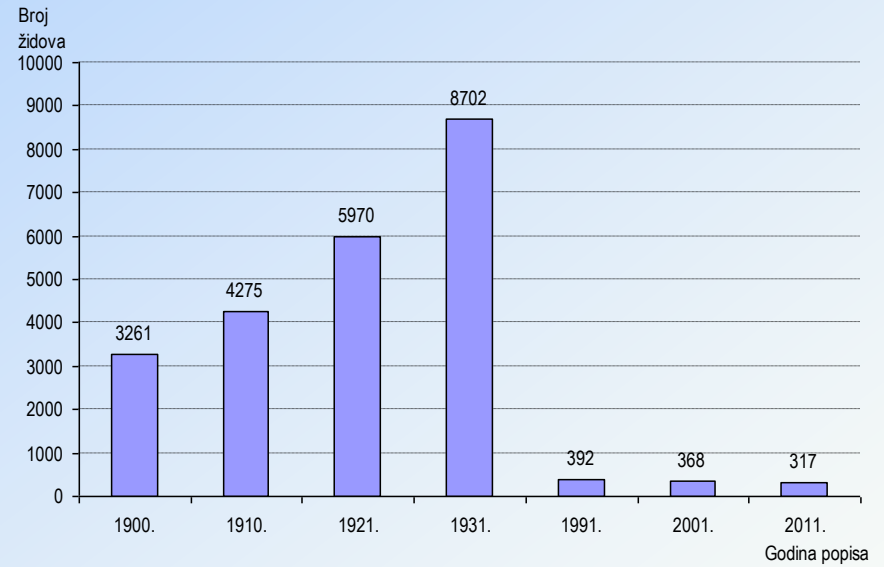


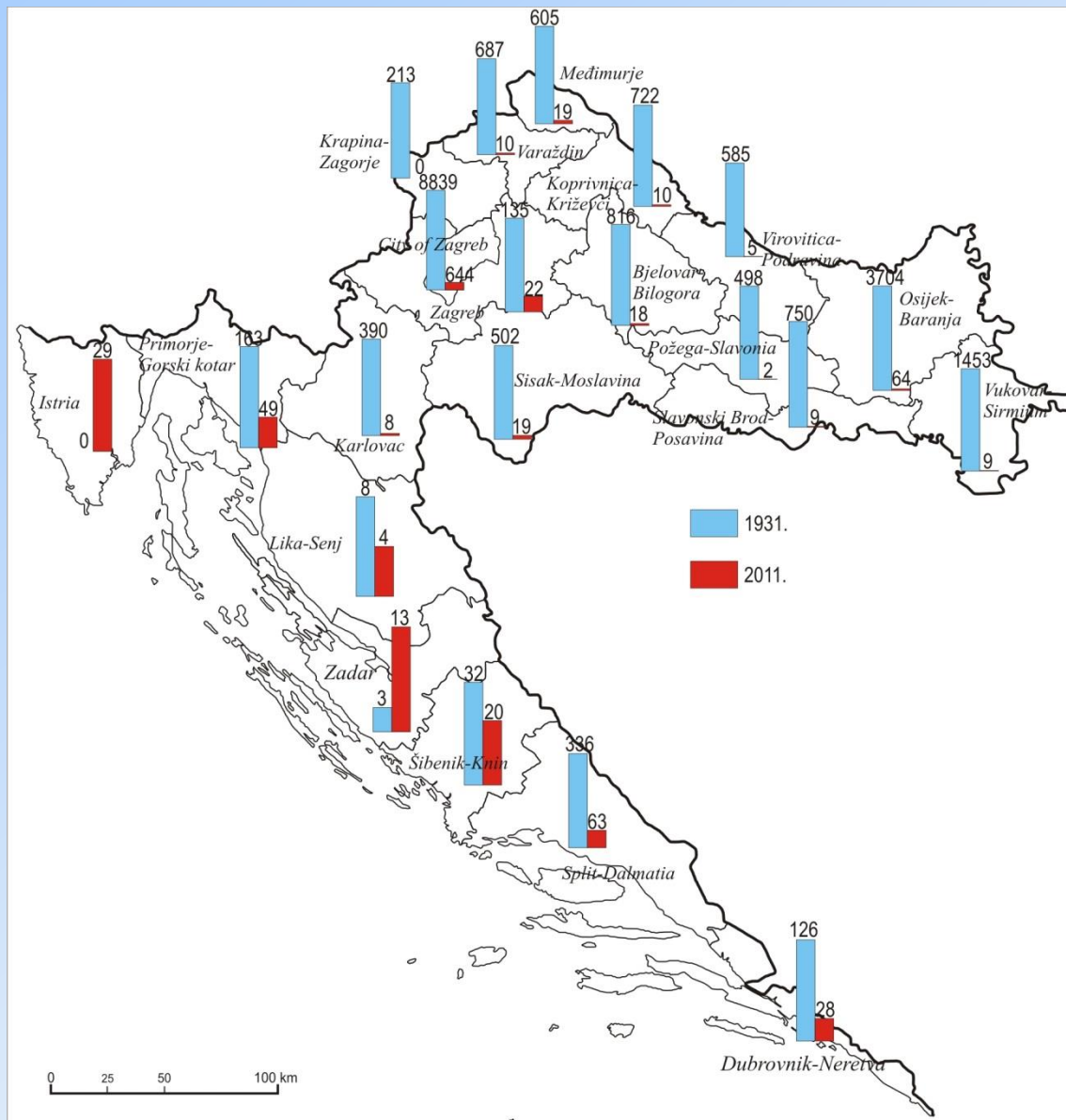
# Number of Jews according to censuses in year 1900, 1910, 1921, 1931, 1991, 2001 and 2011

## Rijeka



## Zagreb





Number of Jews in Croatian districts in 1931 and 2011

# Research in Jewish communities

Research in Jewish communities have great importance because they offer additional data to census data and contribute to the knowledge about the Jewish population.

We collected data from the previous social and demographic analysis in all Jewish communities in ex-Yugoslavia and Croatia taken in years 1957 and 1971.

We compared data with the research taken by Research and documentation center (CENDO) and other institutions.

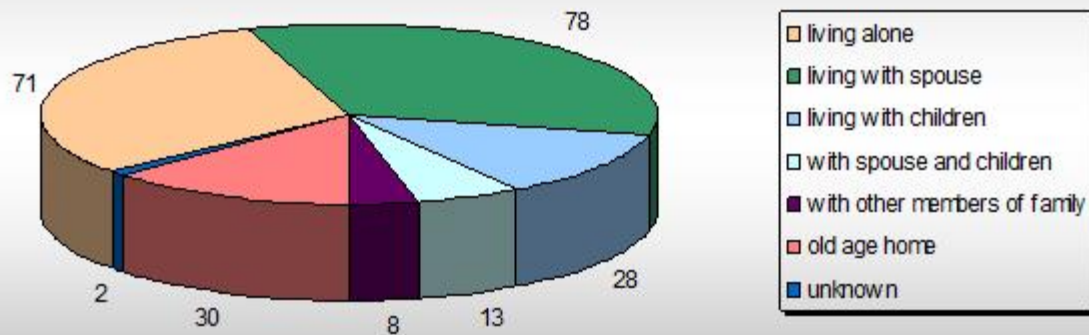
## Research about Jewish households in Yugoslavia (1971)

Number of members in Household	Number of Households	% of the total number of households
1 single	643	21,5
2 members	777	30,2
3 members	586	22,9
4 members	415	16,2
5 members	101	3,9
6 members	28	1,1
7 and more members	12	0,6

Research in Jewish community Zagreb in 2005 year  
Household structure in Jewish community in Zagreb

	Households	percentage
One member	223	32%
Two members	168	24%
Three and more members	299	43%
Community Zagreb (according available data)	690	100%

Households structure





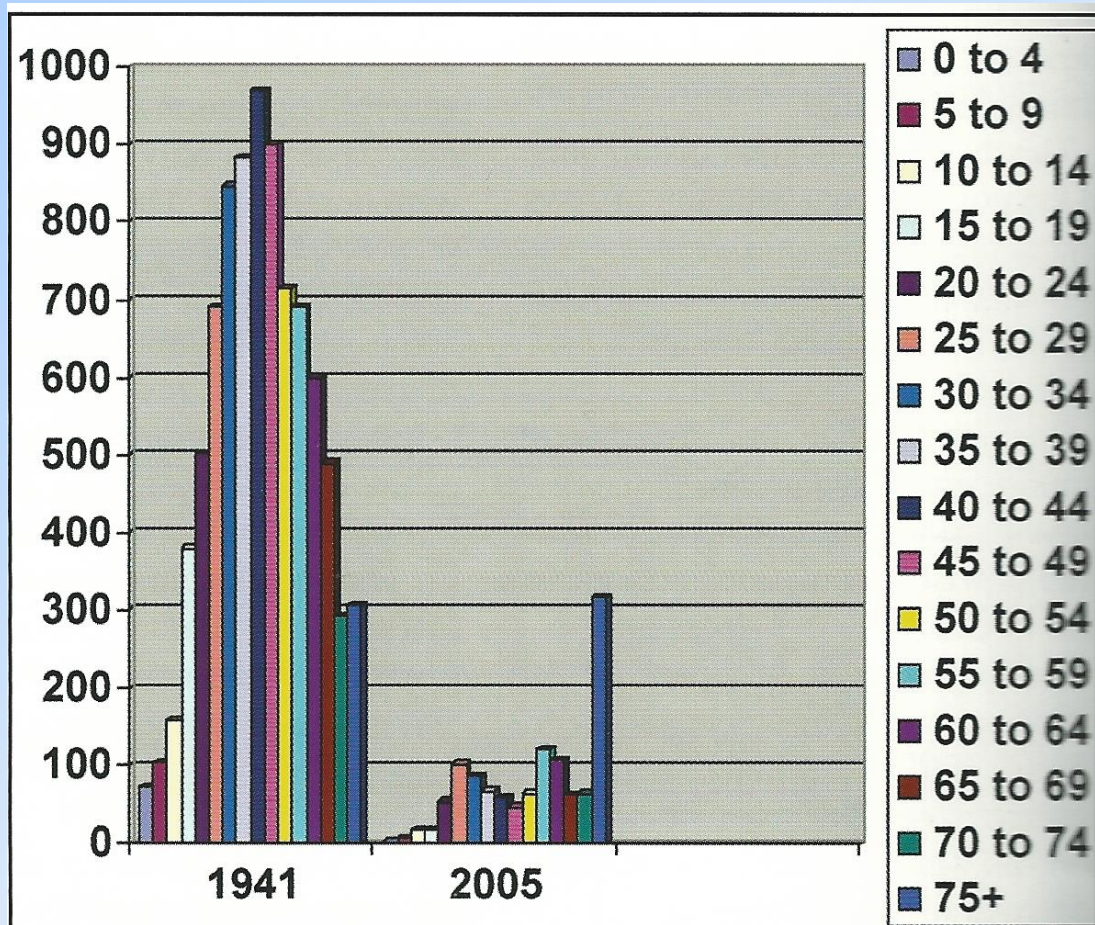
## Holocaust survivors

- Number of Holocaust survivors has been estimated on 1,100.000 in year 1945 and about 50% of them lived in Israel.
- Number of survivors who today live in Croatia can be estimated from our databases. In several research we can follow changes in survivors population and high mortality in last time.
- Registration of survivors taken in 1998/1999, when they received so called „Swiss fund”, can be used as a „starting measure” in research about survivors.
- In Croatia has been registered in „Swiss fund” about 900 survivors who lived in 60 settlements, most of them in Zagreb (643), Osijek(46), Split (49), Rijeka (34) and Dubrovnik (12)...
- They survived Holocaust mostly as a hidden children or as a refugee in Italian zone and in NOB (National Liberation War).

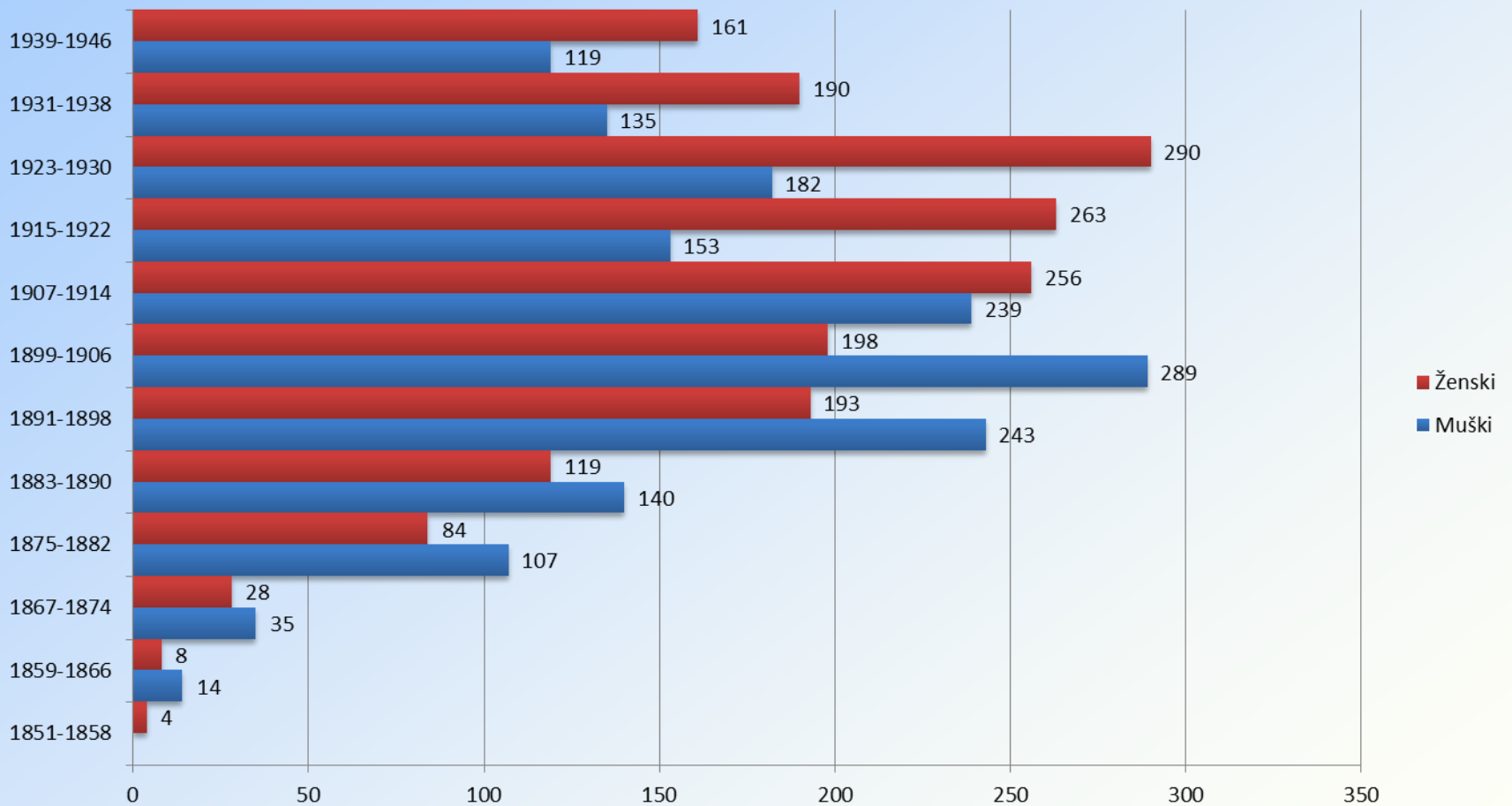
## Holocaust survivors - „Swiss fund” 1999 distribution by age

1999			
Year of birth	Ages	Number of persons	%
1945-1940	52-57	125	14,55%
1939-1932	58-62	118	13,74%
1931-1926	63-67	102	11,87%
1925-1920	68-72	136	15,83%
1919-1914	73-77	173	20,14%
1913-1908	78-82	97	11,29%
1907-1902	83-87	67	7,80%
1901-1896	88-92	29	3,38%
1895-	+ 93	12	1,40%
		859	

# Age structure of members in Zagreb Community in year 1941 and 2005



# Holocaust survivors in Croatia by age and sex structure (from new data base)



# Conclusions

**Our findings confirm our assumption that the official data (censuses) significantly underreported the number of Jews in Croatia with important consequences for the Jewish community in Croatia.**

Number and share of one national minority in global population (according census data about ethnic or national denomination) determine their participation in the local and governmental authorities and structures, possibility for schooling, learning mother language, support for journals and publications, cultural societies and manifestations, amount of financial and other support for activities, restitution question, protection.

In our research special attention was given to the censuses after WW. II in which data about religion has not been always taken, or was not further analyzed.

Methodology in the censuses differs each one from another and can be influenced by political situation in country.

Results in census data also depends of the willing of Jews to declare their Jewish nationality or religion (consequence of Holocaust experience and growing anti-Semitism).

In Croatia person who declares in census that he is „Jew by religion,” has not been recognized by governmental institutions, recognized are only persons who declares themselves as „Jews by nationality (ethnicity)”

For last censuses there are new decisions that ”when in one settlement is less than 100 inhabitants”, or „when there are less than 10 persons of certain nationality or religion” , census data are not counted.

This have negative consequences on Jewish population who are dispersed in about 60 places in Croatia, in which sometimes lives only one or two families.

In some cases we can obtain only cumulative data about the number of persons who declared that are Jews by religion, according new law about protection of personal data (EU).