

Child health studies following the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes: A bibliometric analysis of nursing research

2023 Kahramanmaraş depremleri sonrası çocuk sağlığı çalışmaları: Hemşirelik araştırmalarının bibliyometrik analizi

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ABSTRACT

Aim: Earthquakes are among the most destructive natural disasters. Children, whose cognitive and emotional development is ongoing, are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of such disasters. Pediatric nurses have important duties and responsibilities in the aftermath of disasters. This bibliometric study aims to comprehensively map scientific research in the field of pediatric nursing following the earthquakes that occurred on February 6, 2023.

Method: Searches were conducted using the Web of Science and Scopus databases between February 2023 and June 2026. R Studio (Bibliometrix) software was used for data analysis. The primary types of analysis applied in the data analysis were collaboration analysis, word cloud, and co-word analysis.

Results: A total of 35 research articles that met the inclusion criteria were included in the study. It was determined that the articles included in the study received a total of 1,279 citations, with an average of 3.17 citations per article. The thematic structure analysis revealed that core themes such as “earthquake, children, and post-traumatic stress disorder” were predominant in this field. However, it was determined that the terms “disaster nursing” and “nursing” were less prominent themes.

Conclusion: These results indicate that research in this field focuses on the mental health issues and traumas experienced by children and adolescents following an earthquake. Furthermore, the fact that the terms “disaster nursing” and “nursing” emerged as less prominent themes highlights that disaster nursing is underrepresented in the literature and underscores the urgent need for scientific research in this area.

Keywords: Bibliometric analysis; child health; disaster; Kahramanmaraş earthquakes; nursing studies

ÖZ

Amaç: Depremler, en yıkıcı doğal afetler arasında yer almaktadır. Bilişsel ve duygusal gelişimi devam eden çocuklar, bu tür afetlerin olumsuz etkilerine karşı özellikle savunmasızdır. Afetlerin ardından pediatri hemşirelerine önemli görev ve sorumluluklar düşmektedir.

Bu bibliyometrik çalışma, 6 Şubat 2023 tarihinde meydana gelen depremlerin ardından pediatrik hemşirelik alanındaki bilimsel araştırmaları kapsamlı bir şekilde haritalandırmayı amaçlamaktadır.

Yöntem: Aramalar, Şubat 2023 ile Haziran 2026 tarihleri arasında Web of Science ve Scopus veritabanları kullanılarak gerçekleştirilmiştir. Veri analizi için R Studio (Bibliometrix) yazılımı kullanılmıştır. Veri analizinde uygulanan başlıca analiz türleri, iş birliği analizi, kelime bulutu ve eş-kelime analizidir.

Bulgular: Dahil etme kriterlerini karşılayan toplam 35 araştırma makalesi çalışmaya dahil edilmiştir. Çalışmaya dahil edilen makalelerin toplam 1.279 atıf aldığı ve makale başına ortalama 3,17 atıf düştüğü tespit edildi. Tematik yapı analizi, bu alanda “deprem, çocuklar ve travma sonrası stres bozukluğu” gibi temel temaların baskın olduğunu ortaya koydu. Bununla birlikte, “afet hemşireliği” ve “hemşirelik” terimlerinin daha az öne çıkan temalar olduğu belirlendi.

Sonuç: Bu sonuçlar, bu alandaki araştırmaların deprem sonrasında çocuk ve ergenlerin yaşadığı ruh sağlığı sorunları ve travmalara odaklandığını göstermektedir. Ayrıca, “afet hemşireliği” ve “hemşirelik” terimlerinin daha az öne çıkan temalar olarak ortaya çıkmaktadığını, gelecekteki çalışmaların, pediatri ve afet hemşireliği alanlarının kesiştiği noktada bu eksiklikleri gidermeye yönelik kanıta dayalı uygulamalardan oluşması tavsiye edilir.

Ahtar Kelimeler: Afet; bibliyometrik analiz; çocuk sağlığı; hemşirelik çalışmaları; Kahramanmaraş depremleri

Introduction

Earthquakes are among the most destructive natural disasters worldwide, causing significant loss of life, injury, and long-term social, economic, and health problems (Olk, Osmani & Klug, 2025). The 7.7 Mw earthquake that struck Kahramanmaraş on 6 February 2023 and the 7.6 Mw earthquake that followed approximately nine hours later created one of the most severe humanitarian disasters of modern times (Mercan,

Annak, Erdoğan & Yıldız Emre, 2025). The earthquakes caused severe structural and social devastation in 11 surrounding provinces and profoundly disrupted the lives of 16.43% of the country's population (Özarslan, Günay & Çelik, 2025). Earthquakes are unexpected disasters that typically result in loss of life, loss of family and friends, and severe physical disabilities among survivors. They also lead to significant material damage, restricted access to basic resources and social services, population displacement, and major disruption to communities' normal functioning (Özyurt et al., 2025; Tunç, Çelik & Kaçmaz, 2026). Due to their ongoing cognitive and emotional maturation processes, children are considered one of the most vulnerable groups in the face of disasters, as they are ill-equipped to cope with the challenges arising from traumatic events compared to adults (Bozkurt Karalı & Özkan, 2025; Suna Dağ, Zengin, Yayan & Suna, 2026; Tunç et al., 2026). After an earthquake, children can experience a variety of physical, psychological and social issues (Başkale & Solmaz, 2024; Çelik, Guler & Çolak, 2026). Physical health issues include extremity injuries, amputation-related disabilities, crush syndrome, infections and dehydration, all of which can negatively impact health (Basaran, Sariyildiz, Olmez, Kundakci & Bicer, 2024). Traumatic experiences also pose a threat to the mental health of earthquake survivors (Olk et al., 2025). Psychologically, serious problems such as post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, difficulty concentrating, behavioural issues, nightmares and depression may develop. In particular, the loss of family members and friends places an emotional burden on individuals, and the absence of a protective role for children who have lost their parents can seriously jeopardise their survival (Şevketoğlu, 2024). Disruptions to daily routines, displacement from familiar surroundings, interruptions to education, housing issues, struggles with infectious diseases and increased vulnerability to child abuse are among the social problems encountered in the aftermath of an earthquake (Çelik et al., 2026; Tunç et al., 2026).

Bibliometric analysis is a rigorous analytical method that aims to map scientific publications on a given topic by quantitatively evaluating them to reveal development trends and support citation relationships with quantitative parameters (Song, Long & Wu, 2025). This method is important for measuring the growth momentum of a research field, improving its current state and guiding future research (Passas, 2024). Examining data obtained from databases such as Web of Science allows research trends, citation networks, and thematic clusters in the literature to be comprehensively visualised, and research areas that have not been sufficiently explored can be identified (Süer, Ergüder, Demir & Balas, 2025).

Following the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, child health studies addressing the scale of the disaster—including children's fears, sleep problems, basic needs, and outbreaks (Gülistan Çakar & Demir 2026; Özarslan et al. 2025); pediatric trauma studies examining physical disabilities and severe injuries caused by limb injuries (Basaran et al. 2024); studies addressing mental health and rehabilitation, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and social support systems (Arslanli, Duru, Bak & Pulat, 2024; Cömertoğlu Arslan, 2025; Düken, 2024); and disaster nursing studies (Suna Dağ et al. 2025b; Topal, Caka, Erdogan & Aytemiz, 2025) have contributed significantly to the body of research in this field. In the wake of the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, it is evident that scientific studies on child health have rapidly diversified to address various health issues and research areas. However, despite the increase in the number of scientific publications in the literature, it has been determined that bibliometric evaluations systematically analyzing this body of knowledge are insufficient. For this reason, bibliometric analysis is important for systematically and comprehensively evaluating the body of scientific knowledge that has emerged in the field of child health following the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes; for identifying the areas where the literature is concentrated and the collaborations among countries and researchers; for determining research trends and existing knowledge gaps and for guiding future research priorities. The aim of this study is to examine the trends, thematic patterns, influential publications, and citation networks of scientific publications in the field of pediatric nursing following the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes using bibliometric analysis methods, and to offer recommendations that will shed light on future research within a general framework.

Methods

Research Type

This study is a bibliometric analysis conducted to comprehensively map the scientific research carried out in the field of pediatric nursing following the earthquakes that occurred on February 6, 2023.

Data Collection and Bibliometric Analysis

The Web of Science (WoS) Core Collection database was selected as the data source for the study, and the search was conducted in June 2026. The WoS indexes searched during this process were SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, AHCI, and ESCI. When developing the search strategy, MeSH terms were used to capture all variations of relevant concepts. The MeSH terms were adapted to the Web of Science infrastructure and used as free-text terms. The search was conducted using the “Topic” parameter, which covers the title, abstract, and keyword fields of the articles. Boolean operators were used in the search process. The following Boolean operators were used: “TS=(“pediatric nursing” OR “child nursing”) AND TS=(“child*” OR “infant*” OR “pediatric” OR “neonatal” OR “adolescent*”) AND TS=(“earthquake*” OR “disaster*” OR “seismic*” OR “post-disaster*”) AND TS=(“Kahramanmaraş” OR “Turkey” OR “Türkiye”)” were used. Specific inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied to clarify the methodological scope of the study. In this context, while it was not mandatory for the studies included in the analysis to involve a pediatric population, they were required to have been conducted in the field of pediatric nursing and to include outcomes related to child health. Studies included in the research must examine the February 6, 2023, Kahramanmaraş earthquakes and must have been conducted in the context of the earthquake. While the author team must include individuals working in the field of nursing, the content examined must be directly related to pediatric nursing processes. Regarding publication type, only original research articles were accepted. No language restrictions were applied; publications in all languages found in the database were included in the evaluation. To ensure methodological transparency, the article selection process was designed in accordance with the PRISMA flowchart. Accordingly, records obtained from the database search were evaluated based on scope, eligibility, and format criteria before being included in the study. The included research articles were reported using the PRISMA flowchart. The search period was set as 2023–2026. However, no studies meeting the research criteria were found within the 2023 timeframe. During the data cleaning phase, spelling variations in authors’ names, different spellings of institutional names, and variations in journal titles were manually screened and standardized to prevent data contamination. An initial search via WOS identified a total of 256 articles, and following the screening process, 35 articles that met the study’s scope were included in the analysis. Statistical and visual analyses of the obtained data were performed using the Bibliometrix package—which runs on version 4.6 of the R programming language—and Biblioshiny, the package’s interface. During network mapping and structural analyses, the Louvain clustering algorithm was chosen to enable more meaningful differentiation of clusters; for data normalization, the Association Strength method—which most accurately reflects the strength of relationships was applied, and visualization settings were determined accordingly. The study examined annual trends in scientific output, author productivity and citation dynamics, distributions by journal and institution, keyword co-occurrence networks, thematic maps, treemap visualizations, word clouds, co-author and institutional collaboration networks, and journal productivity based on Bradford’s Law, Reference Publication Year Spectroscopy, three-field relational graphs, and general data quality assessments were conducted.

Variable	Description	Missing Count	Missing %	Range	Status
AB	Abstract	0	0.00	0-1000	Excellent
CI	Institution	0	0.00	0-1000	Excellent
AU	Author	0	0.00	0-1000	Excellent
OR	ORCID iD	0	0.00	0-1000	Excellent
RP	Corresponding Author	0	0.00	0-1000	Excellent
DI	DOI	0	0.00	0-1000	Excellent
DT	Document Type	0	0.00	0-1000	Excellent
JO	Journal	0	0.00	0-1000	Excellent
LA	Language	0	0.00	0-1000	Excellent
PY	Publication Year	0	0.00	0-1000	Excellent
TI	Title	0	0.00	0-1000	Excellent
TC	Total Citation	0	0.00	0-1000	Excellent
KE	Keywords	1	0.00	0-1000	Good
KP	Keywords Plus	6	17.14	0-1000	Acceptable
SC	Source Categories	25	100.00	0-1000	Completely missing

Figure 1. Data quality analysis

The Dunn sensory profile is used to Prior to the analysis, the robustness of the dataset was assessed using missing data analysis. Figure 1 shows that the missing data rate was determined to be 0% for all the basic bibliometric fields, including “abstract”, “author”, “institution”, “DOI”, “publication type”, “journal”, “publication year”, “keywords”, “title”, and “total citations”. These fields were assessed as having excellent quality status. The “Keywords Plus” field was found to be acceptable with a missing data rate of 6%. However, the “Scientific Category” fields were classified as “Completely Missing” with a missing data rate of 100%. It is believed that this situation stems from the Web of Science (WoS) database system, but it is not considered to have affected the findings. The overall data quality was deemed sufficient to ensure the reliable execution of the analysis procedures.

Results

In line with the scope of this study, although the search period was specified as 2023–2026, no studies meeting the inclusion criteria were found for 2023; therefore, a total of 35 research articles published in 25 different journals between 2024 and 2026 were examined. The average age of the articles was calculated as 1.03 years. The studies, which cited a total of 1,279 references, had an average of 3.17 citations per article. A total of 105 different keywords were identified in the studies. A total of 100 different authors contributed to the field, with an average of 3.86 authors per article.

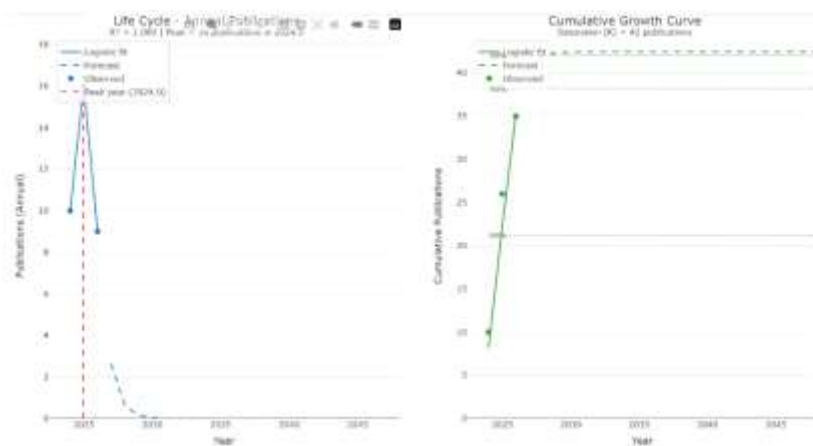


Figure 2. Life Cycle

The life cycle of the relevant field was examined using cumulative growth curve modelling and logistic analysis. The graph showing the annual number of publications indicates that this field reached its publication peak in 2024 with 16 publications. Based on analysis of the cumulative growth curve model, it is estimated that the upward trend in publication output will decline over time, coming to an end around 2030. The saturation level predicted by the logistic analysis was determined to be approximately 42 publications.

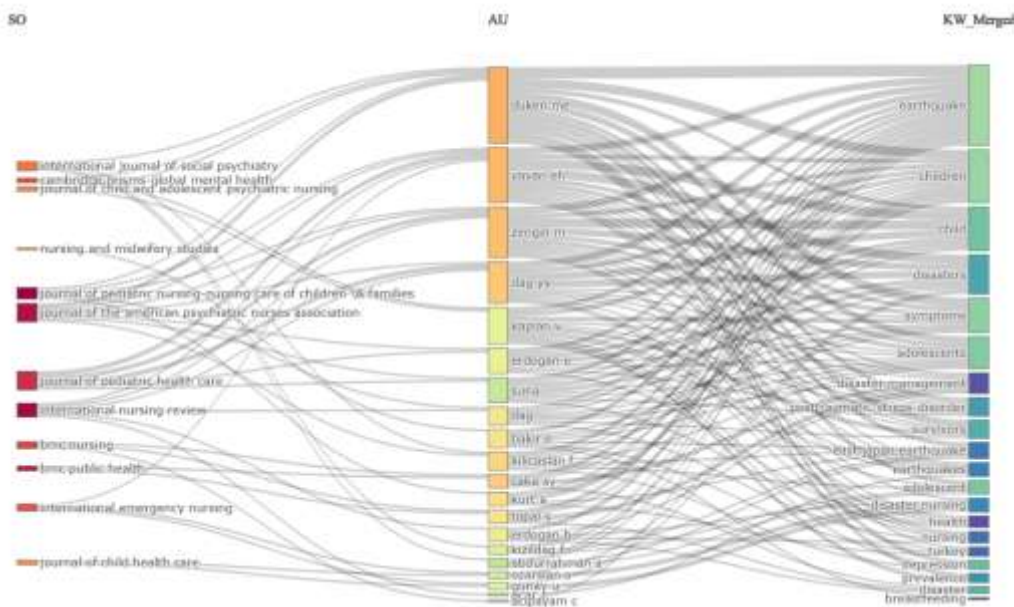


Figure 3. Three-Area Graph

Upon examining Figure 3, it is determined that the most productive authors in this field are “DUKEN ME,” “YAYAN EH,” “ZENGİN M,” and “DAĞ YS.” These authors’ articles have been published in nursing and psychiatry-focused journals such as the “International Journal of Social Psychiatry,” the “Journal of Pediatric Nursing,” and the “Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.” An analysis of the keywords used in the articles reveals that “earthquake,” “children,” “disasters,” and “posttraumatic stress disorder” are the most frequently used terms.

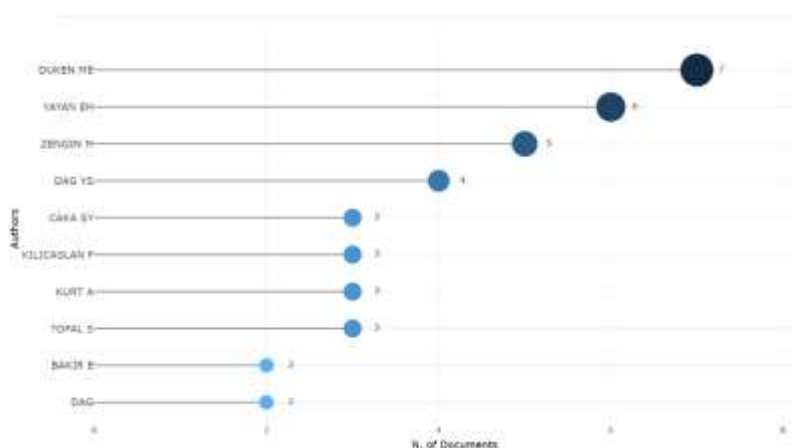


Figure 4. Most Prolific Authors

Figure 4 shows the authors who have published the most articles. DUKEN ME ranks first with 7 articles. YAYAN EH ranks second with 6 articles. The list continues with ZENGİN M and DAĞ YS. It can be said that this core group of authors has made decisive contributions to the development of the field and are leading researchers in the field.

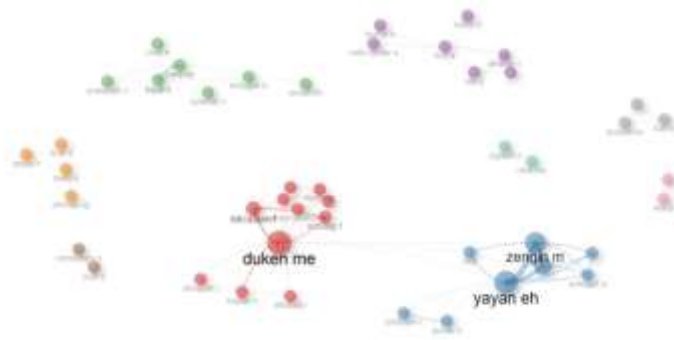


Figure 5. Author co-authorship network analysis

This figure presents an author co-authorship network analysis illustrating the collaborations among researchers publishing in this field. Upon examining the network structure, strong co-authorship ties are observed among the researchers “YAYAN EH,” “ZENGİN M,” and “DAĞ YS” in the blue cluster. In the red cluster, a co-authorship network centered around “DUKEN ME” is evident.

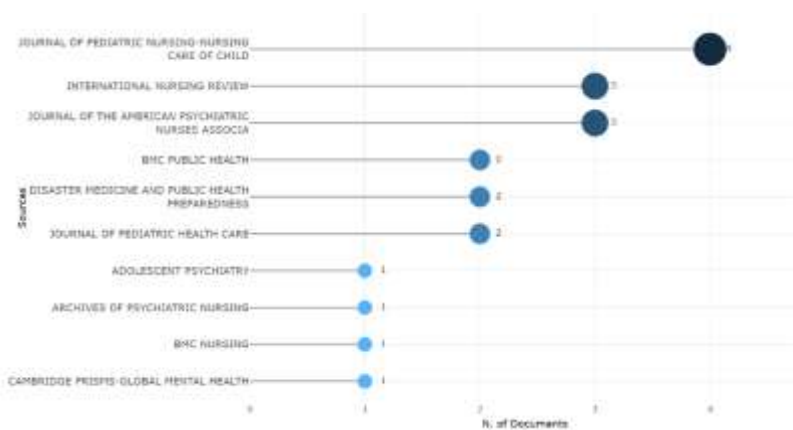


Figure 6. Journals with the most publications

According to Figure 6, the journals with the most publications in this field were the “Journal of Pediatric Nursing” (4 articles), the “International Nursing Review” (3 articles), and the “Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association” (3 articles).

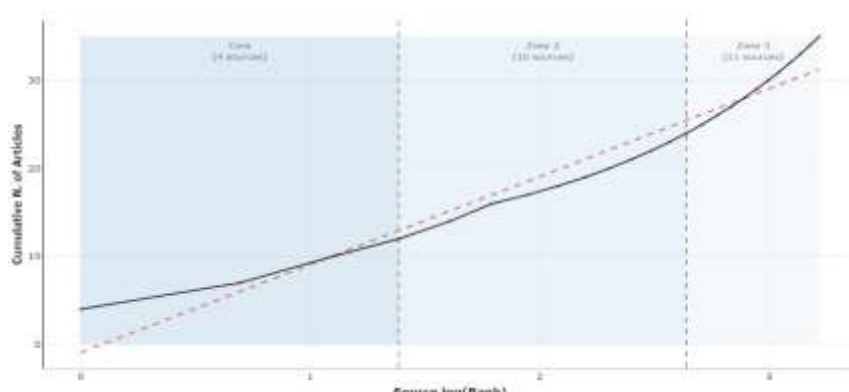


Figure 7. Application of Bradford's law

Figure 7 shows the Bradford's Law curve. According to the analysis results, it was determined that the relevant articles were published in three main regions: the Core region, consisting of 4 core journals; Zone 2, comprising 10 journals that support this region; and Zone 3, comprising 11 journals where publications occur less frequently. The alignment between the growth line and the distribution line in the graph demonstrates that

the bibliometric data examined is consistent with Bradford's Law and exhibits a balanced distribution of sources.



Figure 8. Scientific output by country

The world map presented in Figure 8 shows the geographic distribution of scientific output in this field. Turkey, indicated in dark blue, stands out as the country with the highest number of publications. Among the countries marked in light blue are the United States and Kazakhstan. This table demonstrates that publication output is centered in Turkey.

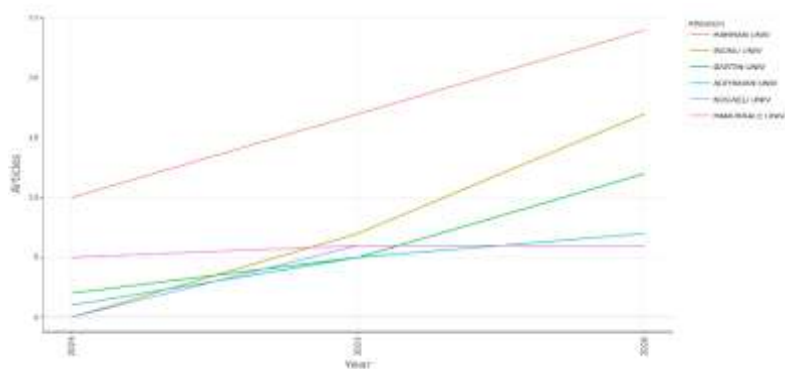


Figure 9. Most productive institutions

Figure 9 shows the ranking of the institutions that have produced the most articles. Harran University ranks first in this category. İnönü University ranks second with 17 articles, and Bartın University ranks third with 12 articles.



Figure 10. Keyword treemap visualization

Figure 10 lists the most frequently used keywords. “Earthquake” ranks first with 23 occurrences. “Children” ranks second with 18 occurrences. The word “symptoms” ranks third with 9 occurrences. At the same time, the treemap visualization displays this distribution in proportion to the area of each segment. This

map reveals that the term “earthquake” (12%) is followed by “children” (8%) and “symptoms” (5%) in terms of the area they occupy.



Figure 11. Words cloud

A keyword co-occurrence network analysis was conducted to determine the structural relationships and themes of the articles examined. In the network structure, node sizes represent the frequency of occurrence of the words, while the thickness of the lines between them indicates the strength of the connections.

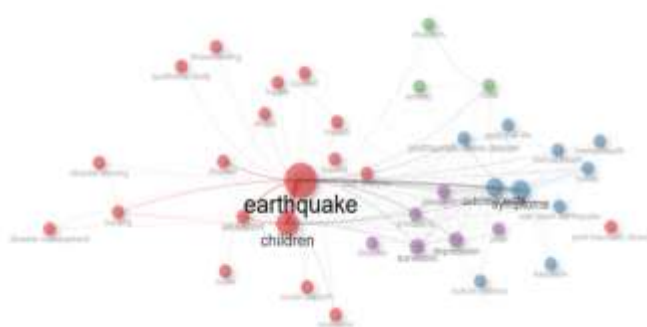


Figure 12. Keyword co-occurrence network

The analysis reveals that the concepts of “earthquake” and “children” occupy central positions. In this red-colored cluster, terms such as disaster, nursing, social support, and psychological resilience stand out. In the other, non-central clusters, concepts such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and symptoms appear to be concentrated. This analysis highlights the frequency of studies in this field examining the levels of mental health symptoms among adolescents and children following an earthquake.

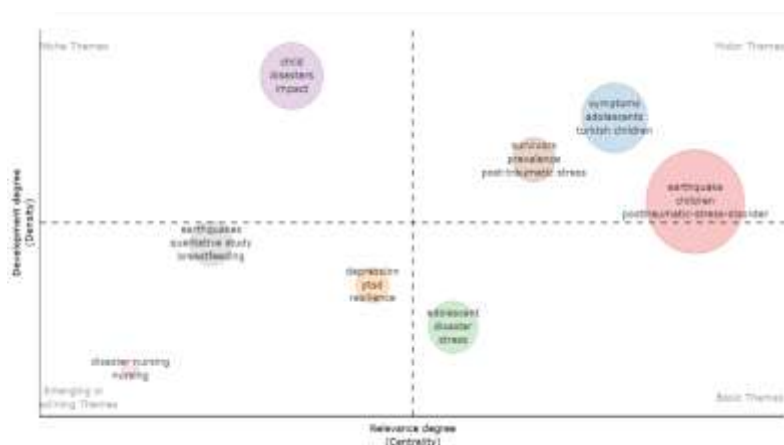


Figure 13. Thematic map

A thematic map analysis was conducted in Figure 13 to reveal the thematic structure of the study area. According to the analysis, the clusters “symptoms, adolescents, Turkish children” and “survivors, prevalence,

post-traumatic stress” are among the Motor Themes developmental themes located in the upper-right region. The field’s strongest concepts the “earthquake, children, post-traumatic stress disorder” cluster—are found at the intersection of motor and core themes. Meanwhile, the “adolescent, disaster, stress” cluster is located within the Core Themes. The clusters “child, disasters, impact” in the upper-left region are classified as Niche Themes. The clusters “disaster nursing, nursing” and “depression, PTSD, resilience” in the lower-left region represent Emerging or Fading Themes. Based on this map, it is evident that the relevant field is increasingly centered around post-earthquake mental health and trauma in children and adolescents.

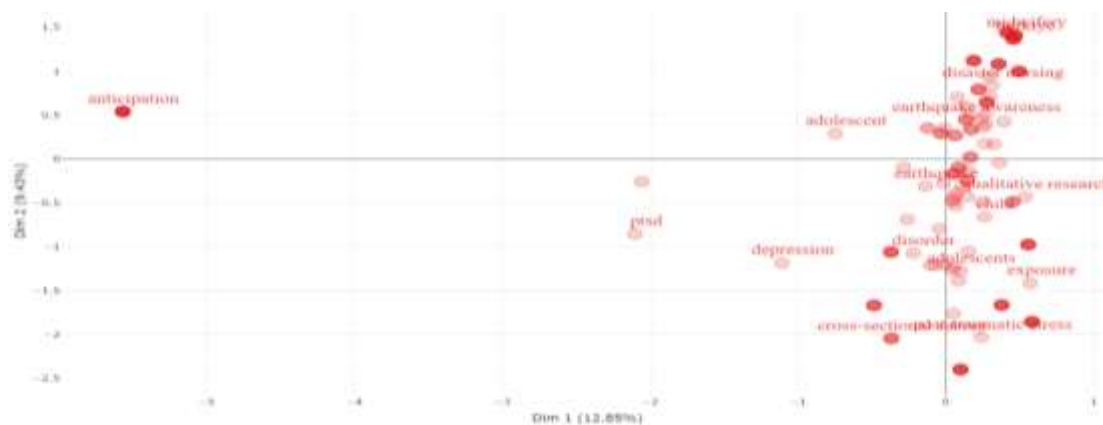


Figure 14. Text analysis

The text analysis identified the clustering density of the examined terms on the map and the key concepts. Terms focusing on post-earthquake psychology such as “midwifery,” “Turkey,” “disaster nursing,” “earthquake,” “child,” “adolescents,” “exposure,” “depression,” “disorder,” and “post-traumatic stress” were densely clustered.

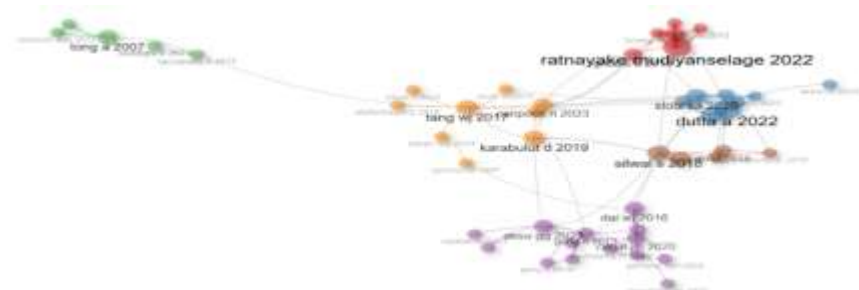


Figure 15. Co-citation network

The co-citation network in Figure 15 visualizes publications that are co-cited and the relationships between them. Node sizes represent citation density, while colors represent clusters. Overall, the map highlights the central publications that are important to the field’s development and the network of interactions that has formed around them.

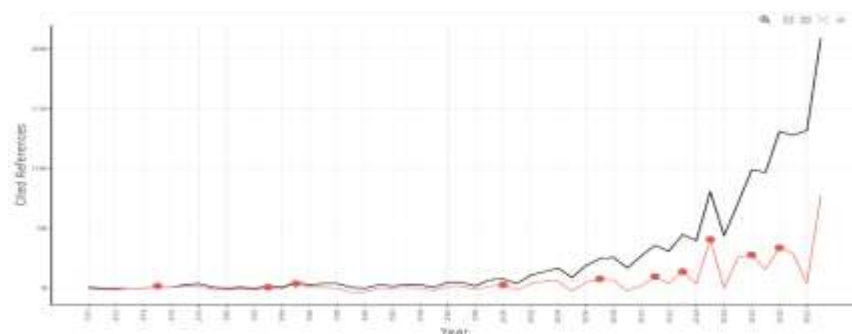


Figure 16. Analysis of the historical distribution of cited sources

The historical distribution of cited sources was analyzed to determine the historical development processes of the field under study. An examination of the graph reveals that the number of citations remained low from the 1970s through the 2000s. A gradual increase in the number of cited sources beginning in the 2000s is noteworthy.

Discussion

This bibliometric analysis provides a comprehensive overview of scientific research published in the field of paediatric nursing in the aftermath of the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes of 6 February 2023. It covers the period from 2023 to 2026, including the start and end years, and examines various aspects such as annual scientific output, author productivity, citation patterns, journal and institutional distributions, a keyword co-occurrence network, thematic maps, treemap visualisations, word clouds, collaboration networks, applications of Bradford's law, reference publication year spectroscopy, three-field graphs and data quality assessment analyses. Additionally, it identifies emerging research areas.

Following the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, there has been a significant rise in studies examining the physical, psychological and social impacts of the disaster on children, one of the most vulnerable groups affected by its adverse effects (Düken, 2024; Suna Dağ et al., 2025b). This increase demonstrates the intensive efforts of researchers in the directly affected region to highlight threats to children's health.

In life cycle analysis, the peak in publication numbers in 2024 can be considered a normal response to the urgency of documenting the effects of the disaster, reflecting the sudden increase in publications observed after the disaster. While a relative slowdown in publication numbers is observed after 2024, this should not be interpreted as a true decrease in scientific output, especially since 2026 is not yet complete. This finding needs to be re-evaluated when data for the entire year is available. The relative slowdown in publication numbers after 2024 is related to the normalization of research interest in the acute effects of the disaster over time; however, it suggests a need for care model studies, rehabilitation studies, and prospective research requiring long-term follow-up. An analysis of the historical distribution of cited sources reveals a gradual increase in citations beginning in the 2000s, with the highest number concentrated in 2023 and subsequent years. The number of publications is a key indicator when assessing scientific progress in a given field of research (Passas, 2024). When scientific output is examined by country, Turkey emerges as the nation with the largest volume of publications. The earthquake's epicentre being in Turkey can be linked to this country's dominant role in developing this publication output (Özarslan et al., 2025).

At the institutional level, Harran University was identified as the institution making the greatest contribution, both nationally and internationally, through publications addressing the profound impacts of the Kahramanmaraş earthquake. This was followed by İnönü University and Bartın University, respectively. Possible reasons for this finding may include the higher level of scientific output in this field by universities located in or around the disaster area; the field experience they have gained through their direct or indirect exposure to the earthquake; their access to research populations, and their high level of awareness of the region's health and social needs (Düken, 2024; Özarslan et al., 2025; Kurt et al., 2026; Suna Dağ et al., 2026).

A review of the literature addressing the effects of the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes on children reveals, through bibliometric analysis, that scientific output has been concentrated among a specific group of researchers. This suggests that these researchers have played an active role in ongoing research on children's health and the effects of disasters on children following the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes. Furthermore, it was found that collaborative research is common in the relevant literature. Additionally, most of the analysed articles were written by more than one author. In addition, the majority of the analysed articles were written by multiple authors. The existence of strong collaborative ties among researchers supports knowledge sharing and scientific productivity, indicating a positive outlook for conducting more comprehensive, multicentre studies in the future. The analysis revealed that the Journal of Pediatric Nursing, International Nursing Review and Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association are the journals with the highest number of

publications examining the effects of earthquakes on children. This demonstrates that these journals contribute to the visibility of scientific research in the fields of paediatric and nursing research, and post-disaster child health. Examining the word cloud in the keyword analysis revealed the expected prominence of the term 'earthquake', given the core focus of the analysis. However, this was followed by the keywords 'children', 'symptoms', and 'adolescent'. This suggests that, as in the existing literature, the primary focus of the studies is on symptoms observed in children and adolescents affected by the earthquake (Başkale & Solmaz, 2024; Ceylan, 2024). Furthermore, the high frequency of terms such as 'depression', 'post-traumatic stress disorder', 'stress', 'mental health', and 'resilience' suggests that the psychological effects of earthquakes have been studied more extensively than their physical and social effects. This finding appears to be consistent with literature reporting a consistent link between exposure to traumatic events and an increased risk of developing psychological health problems (Cömertoğlu Arslan, 2025; Elmaoğlu, Celik & Cigdem, 2026).

The results of the bibliometric analysis show that, following the earthquake, studies primarily focused on children's mental health. However, the breakdown of protective mechanisms during the post-earthquake period, such as the weakening of support systems, housing problems and the loss of parents, may pose risks regarding child neglect and abuse (Dutta et al., 2022). Accordingly, child neglect and abuse are considered areas that require further investigation in future studies. Furthermore, future research should address care-model-based intervention studies, the disaster experiences of children with chronic illnesses and their families, and the development of earthquake education programmes for children.

In the thematic map analysis, the field's strongest concepts — the 'earthquake, children, post-traumatic stress disorder' cluster — are located at the intersection of core and driving themes. This indicates that these concepts lie at the centre of the research field and represent a fundamental topic guiding current research. Another driving theme in the field, such as the concepts “symptoms, adolescents, Turkish children” and “survivors, prevalence, post-traumatic stress”, indicates that mental health symptoms resulting from earthquakes in children and adolescents have been intensively addressed and studied (Koçak, Kiliç & Kaplan Serin, 2024; Elmaoğlu et al., 2026). In contrast, the inclusion of the concepts 'disaster nursing, nursing' in a declining or emerging theme suggests that disaster nursing is underrepresented in the literature (Suna Dağ et al., 2025a; Topal et al., 2025), indicating a need for future scientific research in this area.

Limitations

This study has some limitations. Firstly, the use of only the Web of Science database and the exclusion of other databases may have resulted in the exclusion of some publications on the subject from the analysis, thus limiting the extent to which the findings represent the literature as a whole. Secondly, the relatively limited number of publications included in the analysis ($n = 35$) may have restricted the generalizability of the identified publication and collaboration patterns. Furthermore, the relatively short time since the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes may have led to an insufficient accumulation of scientific publications and citations related to the subject. It should be considered that the findings regarding citation analysis may have been affected by possible citation bias, especially since publications need time to receive citations. Finally, given that the literature on the effects of the disaster on children is still developing, it should be considered that current research trends, publication patterns and citation indicators may change in the future with the publication of new studies and increased citations for existing publications.

Conclusion

This study has shown that, following the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, the literature has primarily focused on the mental health of children and adolescents and on trauma symptoms; in contrast, themes related to disaster nursing have received relatively less attention in the analyzed literature. This situation highlights the need for more nursing research to ensure the comprehensive assessment of children during disaster periods.

It is recommended that future studies consist of evidence-based practices that address these gaps at the intersection of pediatrics and disaster nursing.

Importance for clinical practice

The findings of this study provide an overview of the field with regard to the visualisation of post-earthquake interventions for children and adolescents. The weakness of disaster nursing in this area emphasises the need to develop evidence-based disaster care guidelines for paediatric nurses working with paediatric patients. Organising continuing education programmes for nurses in clinical settings would have a positive impact on child health outcomes in the event of future disasters.

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Ethics Committee Approval: As the study was conducted by compiling existing literature, separate ethics committee approval was not obtained.

Informed Consent: As this study is based on the bibliometric analysis of publications obtained from publicly available databases (Web of Science), it does not require ethics committee approval or informed consent.

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