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Bibliometric Analysis of Research Trends in Child-Friendly Cities in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT: The Child-Friendly City Policy is presented as a concrete way for the government to address children's rights that have been taken away. However, implementing the realization of a Child-Friendly City is still a big task due to the high number of cases of violations of children's rights. Therefore, research on Child-Friendly Cities remains urgent to support the government's efforts to realize Child-Friendly Cities. This research aims to map scientific journals from the Google Scholar database using the keywords "Child Friendly Cities in Indonesia" for the period 2017 to 2026. The analysis found 32 articles relevant to the three main terms studied, which are frequently researched, and one term with minimal research related to Child-Friendly Cities in Indonesia. The results are displayed using Network Visualization, Overlay Visualization, and Density Visualization. This will serve as a reference for future research on Child-Friendly Cities.

KEYWORDS: Child-Friendly City, Children's Rights, Bibliometric Analysis

INTRODUCTION

State research background, objectives, significant literature context, research gaps or questions. Children's rights are inherent rights and must be fulfilled and protected by all family members, those around them, and the government to guarantee the realization of human rights (Supeni et al., 2021). The international community has recognized that children's rights are important to be fulfilled by governments appropriately and protected from various discrimination and exploitation, as stated in the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (UN CEDAW) and the Convention on Children or the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), which were established by the UN General Assembly in 1989.

In Indonesia, children's rights are declared human rights and are recognized and protected by law. This is stated in Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights, which states that every child has the right to receive protection from parents, family, society, and the state (Herring, 2023). This was confirmed again by Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, which was later updated by Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 35 of 2014.

Violence is any action against a child that causes physical, psychological, or sexual suffering or misery and/or makes him/her neglectful, including threats to do something, coercion, or illegal withdrawal of freedom (Surya et al., 2023; Herring, 2023). Even more especially, sexual violence against children is increasingly rampant and continues to grow rapidly every year, becoming a fear in society. Concerns about meeting needs and guaranteeing children's physical and psychological rights are central issues that must be addressed jointly, periodically, and continuously.

Cases of violations of children's rights, especially child violence, are one of the backgrounds for the emergence of the Child-Friendly City (Kota Layak Anak/KLA) policy. In Indonesia, the Child-Friendly City is a Regency/City model that guarantees the rights of every child as a city citizen. Child-Friendly City implementation focuses on several indicators, namely establishing children's forums, child-friendly information facilities, counseling institute spaces for parents, child-friendly schools, and special services for children with protection needs (Lee, 2019). However, in reality, the implementation of the Child-Friendly City cannot be said to be running well and smoothly; this is often caused by internal and external inhibiting factors in its implementation, including meeting the minimum budget, lack of socialization to the community, the quality of implementing resources within it, and supporting facilities, which are not optimal yet (Lukman et al., 2018).

This research aims to map research trends related to Child-Friendly Cities and analyze the attention of academics and non-academics in researching and reviewing this matter, so the indicators needed to support the implementation of Child-Friendly Cities in Indonesia can be identified. This is caused by the gap in meeting children's needs in the implementation of the Child-Friendly City, which is not directly proportional to cases of violence and discrimination against children in Indonesia. Therefore, further review of Child-Friendly City implementation is needed to address negative issues related to fulfilling children's rights.

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LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Foundation

The concept of Child-Friendly Cities (CFC) is grounded in the international recognition of children's rights, particularly as articulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and related human rights frameworks (UN CEDAW, CRC; Council of Europe, 2024). These conventions emphasize states' and societies' obligation to ensure children's rights to protection, participation, development, and non-discrimination (Supeni et al., 2021; Herring, 2023). The child-friendly city framework seeks to operationalize these principles at the local level, creating urban environments that foster children's well-being, safety, and participation (Lee, 2019; Standish et al., 2021).

In Indonesia, several laws establish the legal foundation for children's rights, including Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights and Law Number 23 of 2022 (amended by Law Number 35 of 2014) on Child Protection. These regulations mandate comprehensive protection for children in all spheres, reinforcing the state's responsibility to prevent violence, exploitation, and neglect (Herring, 2023; Surya et al., 2023).

Empirical Advances and Current Research Landscape

In recent decades, scholarly interest in CFCs has grown, focusing on policy implementation, community participation, and the effectiveness of local interventions (Kipuw, 2018; Roza & Arliman, 2018; Ibo & Lorensius, 2023). Studies have explored children's forums, educational reforms, safe public spaces, and collaborative governance as key components of CFC initiatives (Lee, 2019; Nurhasanah et al., 2020; Pabia et al., 2022; Yuliani et al., 2022). Research also highlights the roles of local governments and cross-sectoral collaboration in overcoming obstacles to effective CFC policy realization (Lukman et al., 2018; Pabia et al., 2022).

Notably, research by Fajar Apriani and colleagues has provided nuanced insights into the implementation of CFC and child protection at the local level in Samarinda. Lukman et al. (2018) analyzed the implementation of the Mayor's Decree designating Samarinda Ulu as a Child-Friendly District, emphasizing the importance of government commitment, intersectoral coordination, and public awareness. Nurhasanah et al. (2020) examined the process and challenges of appointing Samarinda Ilir as a Child-Friendly District, highlighting both achievements and obstacles such as limited resources and infrastructure gaps. Collectively, these studies offer a comprehensive perspective on the multifaceted efforts and persistent challenges in advancing child-friendly environments and policies at both the policy and grassroots levels in Indonesia.

Several works have employed bibliometric and network analysis to map the evolution and focus of CFC research. For example, Al Husaeni & Nandiyanto (2022) and Hakim (2020) demonstrated how bibliometric tools can reveal thematic clusters, research gaps, and emerging trends within a field. These methodologies are increasingly applied to child rights and urban studies to provide a systematic overview of knowledge development and to identify underexplored topics.

Despite these advances, significant gaps persist. Many studies emphasize the persistent challenges in translating legal frameworks into practice, citing limited budgets, insufficient socialization, resource constraints, and uneven community engagement as barriers to program success (Lukman et al., 2018; Nurhayati et al., 2018). Moreover, research in Indonesia often focuses on descriptive case studies of individual cities or programs, with relatively few comparative or longitudinal analyses (Roza & Arliman, 2018; Widjajanti & Ristianti, 2020).

Identified Gaps and Contributions of This Manuscript

The existing literature on CFCs in Indonesia has made important strides in documenting legal frameworks, program models, and implementation challenges. However, comprehensive, data-driven overviews that systematically map research trends, dominant themes, and collaboration networks across the national context are lacking. Few studies have quantified publication trends, keyword dynamics, and author relationships using bibliometric techniques in this specific policy domain (Al Husaeni & Nandiyanto, 2022).

This manuscript addresses these gaps by conducting a bibliometric analysis of research trends on Child-Friendly Cities in Indonesia for the period 2017–2026. By visualizing publication trends, dominant keywords, and collaboration patterns, the study provides a novel synthesis of the academic landscape, highlighting both advances and areas for further research. This approach not only deepens understanding of CFC scholarship but also offers actionable insights to guide future policy, research, and implementation efforts to promote children's rights at the city level in Indonesia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Describe research design, data sources, sampling, procedures, and analytical methods clearly

This study uses descriptive research and bibliometric analysis to map research trends in scientific journals obtained from the Google Scholar database related to Child-Friendly Cities in Indonesia. This research aims to analyze and describe emerging research trends to guide future research. The data source is publication documents from 2017 to 2026 that contain the "Kota Layak Anak" keyword, which are then imported into Publish or Perish (PoP) to extract scientific work metadata. The results in PoP are then accumulated in a Research Information Systems (RIS) format database in Mendeley software and analyzed using VOSviewer software. VOSviewer is software used to process metadata and to visualize bibliometric networks (Hakim, 2020). The method flow is shown in Figure 1.

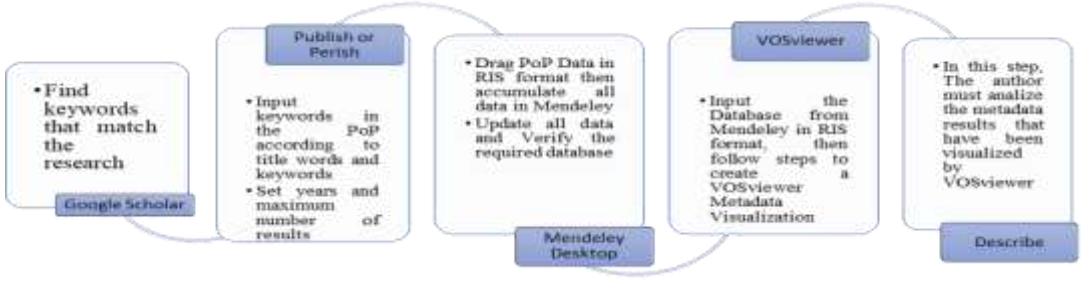


Figure 1. Systematic Process of Creating Research Trends Using Bibliometric Metadata
Source: researcher (2025).

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data analysis outcomes are described as follows.

1. Publication Trend by Year

   Based on Google Scholar search results obtained using Publish or Perish (PoP) software for the three search terms, Table 1 presents the findings.

Table 1: Keywords Search Results on PoP and Mendeley

Keywords/Title Words	Maximum Result Papers	Year	PoP Search Results	Mendeley Checklist	
Kota Layak Anak	500	2017 until 2026	494	Post Double Check	Relevance Check
Kota Layak Anak Indonesia			14		
Child-Friendly City Indonesia			19		
KLA Indonesia			2		
TOTAL			529	493	471

Source: processed from various references.

After conducting a PoP search using four keywords, we obtained 529 articles. Next, we reviewed the database using Mendeley software to analyze the data and verify it as needed. After checking relevance in Mendeley, 493 items passed the double check. Of the 493 items, only 471 were relevant based on both the research title and the required keywords.

Based on the distribution of trends over the years, 2017 had 44 articles; the trend fluctuated greatly from 2017 to 2026, as shown in Figure 2, and rose in 2024 to 75 significant articles. However, the trend then declined from 2025 to 2026, when the data were taken in July 2026.

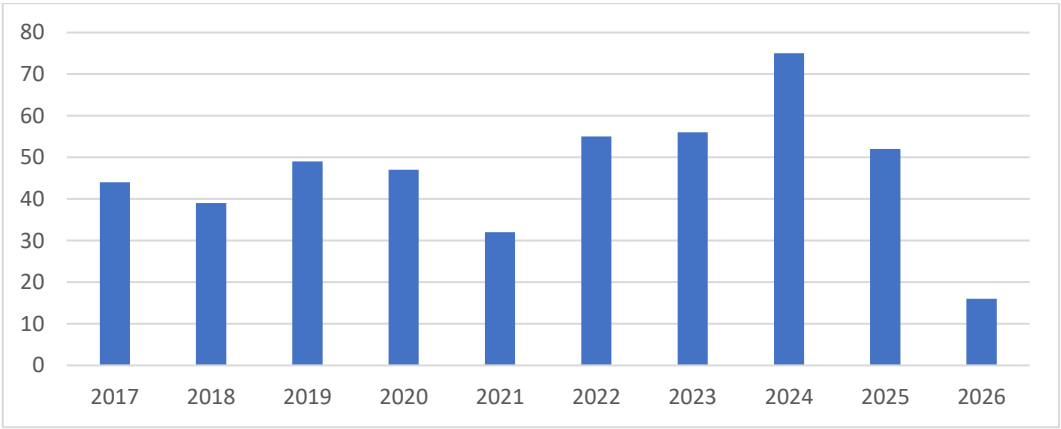


Figure 2. Publication of Child-Friendly City's Trend by Year
Source: researcher (2025).

2. Publication Venue

The database results included 291 publisher names related to the terms used. Of the 291 publishers, one publisher has 12 publications (eprints.untirta.ac.id); the other journals have one published article each (see Figure 3).

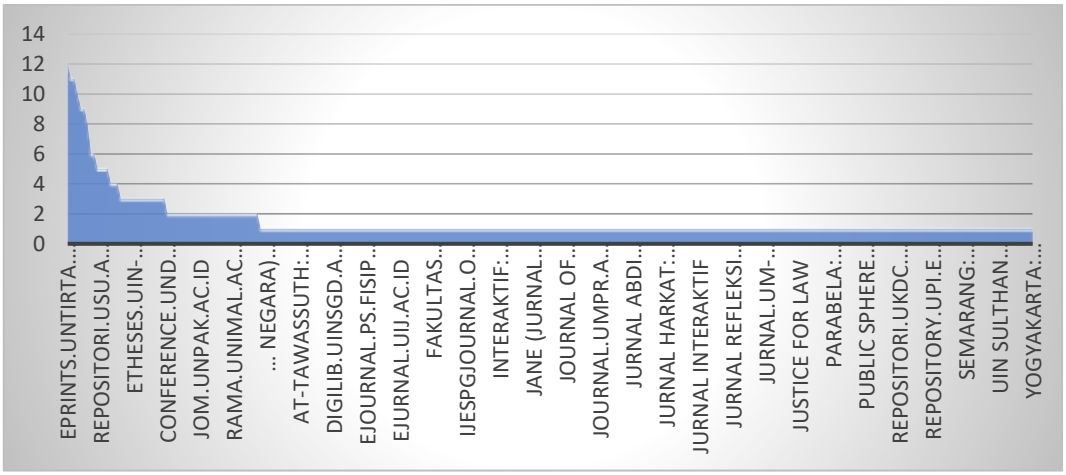


Figure 3. Publication Venue of the Child-Friendly City's Research
Source: research result (2026).

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3. Intensity of Authors by Document and Connection

If we look at author intensity by document, we can see the distribution by number of documents and by link strength (see Tables 2 and 3). Link strength here is the level of publication with two keywords appearing simultaneously, determined by the top ten links.

Table 2: Search Result Authors by Documents

No	Name	Document	Total Link Strength
1	Apriani, F.	3	5
2	Duadji, N.	3	2
3	Listyaningsih, L.	3	4
4	Mahendra, G. K.	3	1
5	Miranda, E.	3	6
6	Putri, R. A.	3	5
7	Ruliyansyah, D.	3	6
8	Wulanningrum, S. D.	3	1
9	Aisyi, A. L. R.	2	0
10	Arifin, S.	2	2

Source: processed from various references.

Overall, the data show 739 authors with varying numbers of document appearances in Table 2, including those with three documents and others with two. Furthermore, Table 3 shows the strongest connections between documents and authors: among the ten authors, two have a total link strength of six, two others have a total link strength of five, and each of the remaining authors has a link strength of four.

Table 3: Search Result Authors by Total Link Strength

No	Name	Document	Total Link Strength
1	Miranda, E.	3	6
2	Ruliyansyah, D.	3	6
3	Apriani, F.	3	5
4	Putri, R. A.	3	5
5	Himawati, I. P.	2	4
6	Jumanah, J.	2	4
7	Kase, P.	2	4
8	Lino, M. M.	2	4
9	Listyaningsih, L.	3	4
10	Rasyid, A.	2	4

Source: research results (2026).

To assess writing intensity by publication year, the metadata analysis used VOSviewer software, which visualizes the map using bibliographic data with Network Visualization, Overlay Visualization, and Density Visualization displays. The bibliographic mapping data uses a maximum of 25 authors per document, with a minimum of 1. The analysis yielded around 739 authors, with a similar number meeting the threshold (see Figure 4).

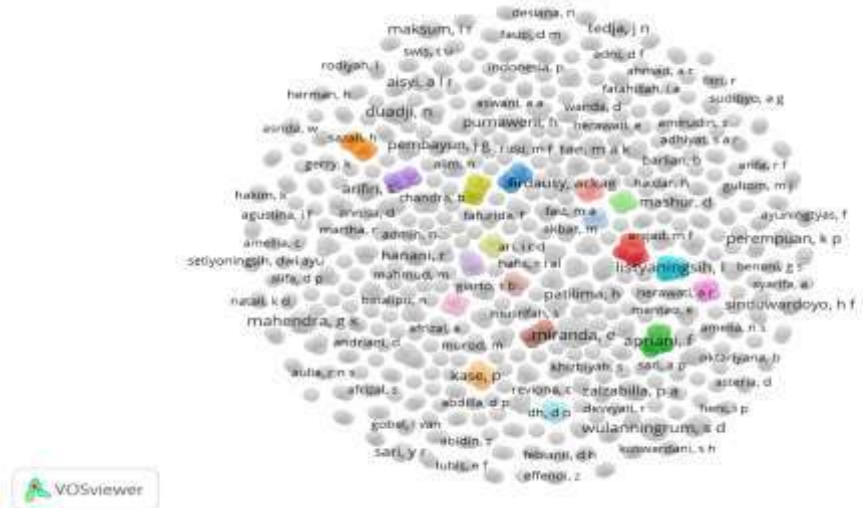


Figure 4. Network Visualization Author by Document and Connection
Source: research result (2026).

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Figure 4 shows 739 items, 429 clusters, and 412 links, with a total link strength of 419 from 2017 to 2026; Cluster 1 (red) shows the highest consistency. Each cluster will have a different color identity based on its intensity of appearance.

4. Dominant Keywords

At the metadata stage, keywords are generated from 471 verified articles and then used in VOSviewer with a minimum of 1. The results show 10 keywords that meet the threshold determined by consistent linkage of seven items. Of the dominant keywords, two have the highest occurrence, with a total link strength of 16 and 25 connected links, divided into three clusters (see Table 4).

Table 4: Clusters Dominant Keywords

Cluster	Dominant Keywords			
1	Child-Friendly Parks	Green Open Space	RTH	Community Meeting Facility
2	Child Service Park	Green Open Space Intensification	Keyword: Policy Implementation	
3	Child-Friendly City	Commitment	Institutional Capacity	

Source: processed from various references.

Overlay Visualization from metadata output to dominant keywords seen in Figure 5.



Figure 5. Overlay Visualization Dominant Keywords
Source: researcher (2026).

5. Dominant Titles

The next stage of analysis examines the dominance of the title and abstract fields. With a minimum occurrence threshold of 5 out of 2,410 terms, 62 meet the threshold. For each of the 62 terms, a relevance score will be calculated. Based on this score, the most relevant terms will be selected- the default choice is to select the 60% most relevant terms. Therefore, 37 terms will be selected. Table 5 provides an overview of the 10 words frequently used in articles.

Table 5: Words That Often Appear in Articles Based on Occurrences

Term	Occurances	Relevance Score
Layak Anak	459	1.774
Kebijakan Kota Layak Anak	54	18.538
Indonesia	44	0.0705
Child	33	0.1783
Program Kota	33	23.438
Child Friendly City	32	0.1563
City	26	0.1911
Policy	22	0.1373
Right	21	0.1606
Kota Depok	17	24.328

Source: research results (2026).

This analysis found 31 items grouped into four (4) clusters, with 181 links and a total link strength of 1547, as shown in the Network Visualization in Figure 6.

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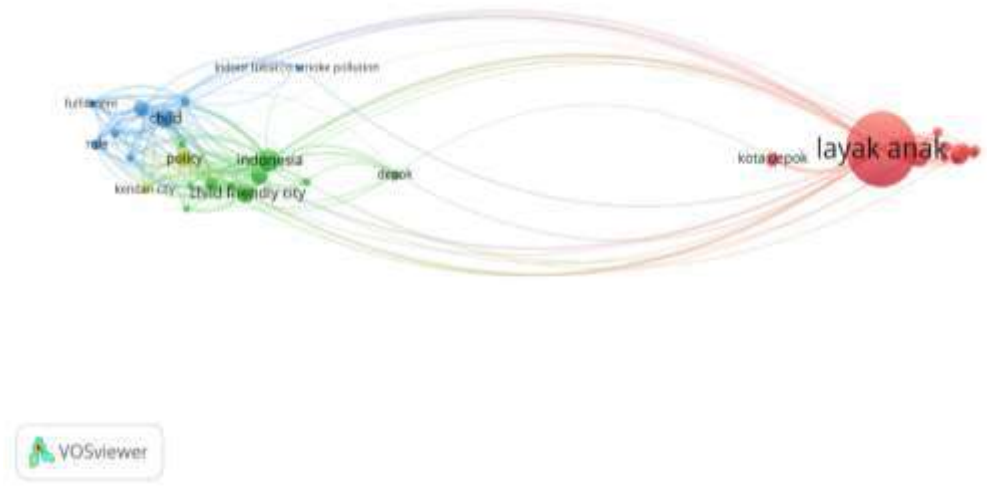
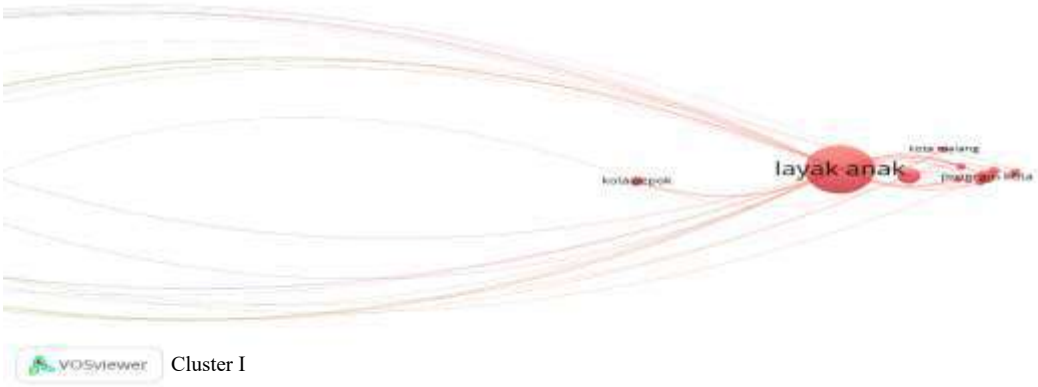


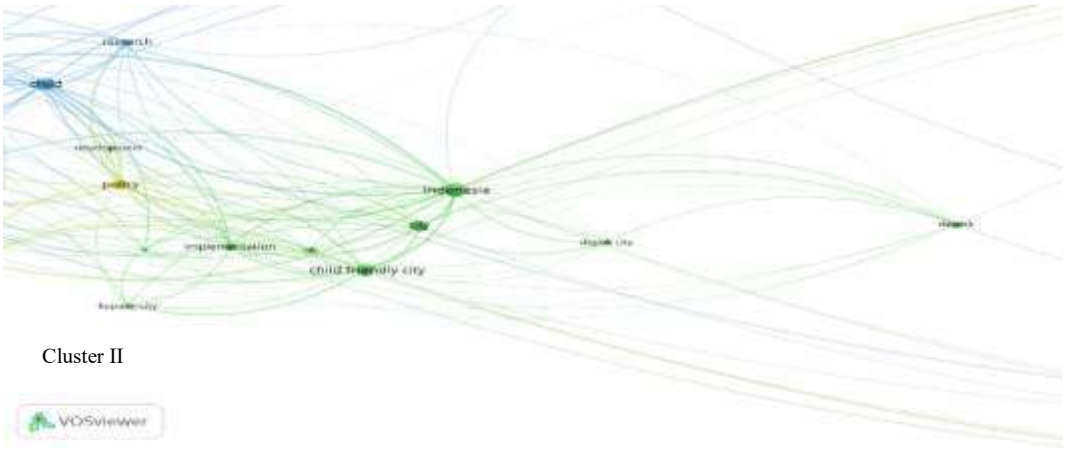
Figure 6. Network Visualization of Dominant Titles of Child-Friendly Cities in Indonesia Based on VOSviewer Software Metadata
Source: research results (2026).

The visualization above shows several differences in qualifications, divided into clusters and differentiated by the color of the lines (links) in each connection. Cluster I is marked with a red line and contains 11 item titles: kebijakan kota layak anak; kota Depok; kota Kendari; kota Makassar; kota Malang; kota Serang; kota Surakarta; kota Yogyakarta; layak anak; program kota; and about kota layak anak. Cluster II includes 10 item titles in green: CFC; child friendly city; child friendly city policy; city; Depok; Depok city; development; implementation; Indonesia; and Kupang city. Cluster III, marked by a blue line, shows 8 item titles: child; forum; fulfillment; indoor tobacco smoke pollution; local government; research; right; and role. Cluster 4, marked by a yellow line, covers 2 item titles: Kendari city and policy. Each cluster is visualized in Figure 7.



Cluster I

Figure 7. Network Visualization Cluster I of Child-Friendly Cities Based on VOSviewer Software Metadata
Source: research results (2026).



Cluster II

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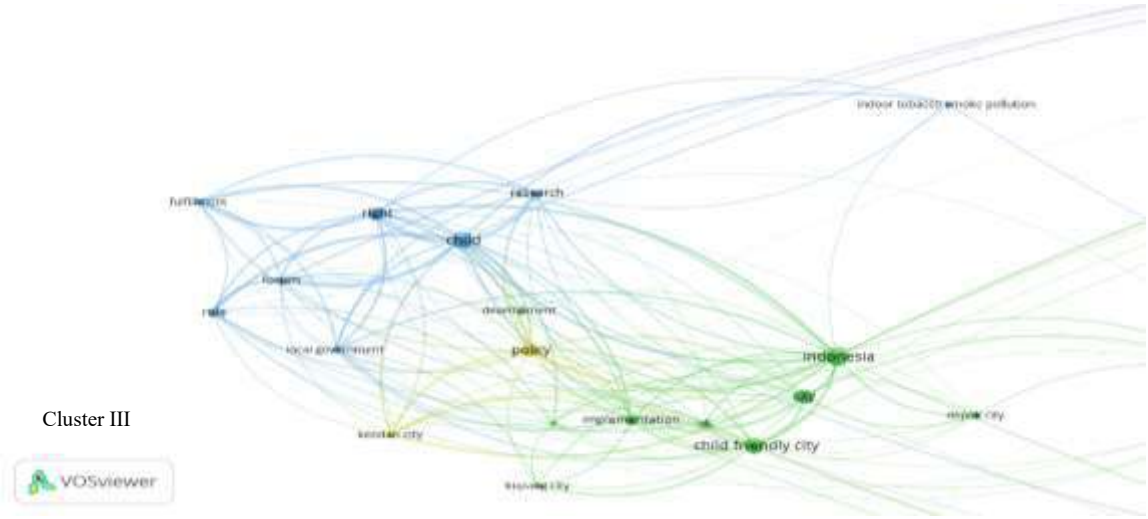


Figure 8. Network Visualization Clusters II and III of Child-Friendly Cities Based on VOSviewer Software Metadata Source: research results (2026).

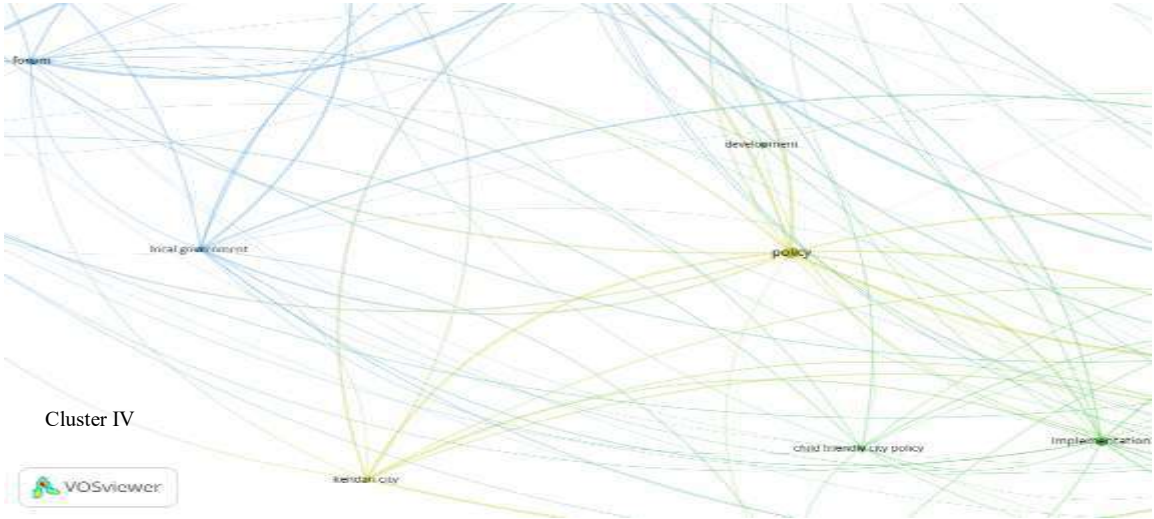


Figure 9. Network Visualization Clusters IV of Child-Friendly Cities Based on VOSviewer Software Metadata Source: research results (2026).

The relationship among article titles is displayed based on their clusters. Dominant titles are colored according to their clusters, indicated by differences in circle size. Circle size indicates a positive correlation between title dominance and title and abstract frequency. The more frequently a dominant title appears, the larger its identity size (Al Husaeni & Nandiyanto, 2022). The visualization in Figure 6 above more clearly illustrates the relationships among titles with interconnected and integrated dominance. The most dominant studies are Layak Anak, Program Kota, Child Friendly City, Indonesia, Child, and Policy.

After completing the first stage by visualizing the cluster map, the next stage is to conduct research history metadata analysis via Overlay Visualization in VOSviewer. Figure 10 displays the Child-Friendly City trend period in Indonesia from 2017 to 2026, with colors indicating differences by year. For example, the keyword “fulfillment,” shown predominantly in blue, indicates that the research was conducted in 2019. Next, “Layak Anak”, marked in green, shows that this research was predominantly conducted in 2021. Another example is “child friendly city”, which is also mostly green, indicating the research was conducted in 2022.

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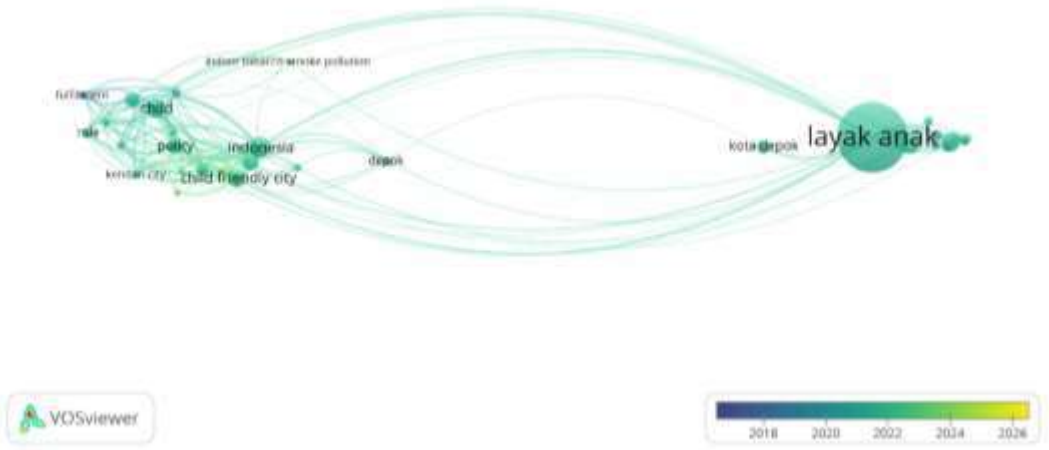


Figure 10. Overlay Visualization of Child-Friendly Cities Based on VOSviewer Software Metadata
Source: research results (2026).

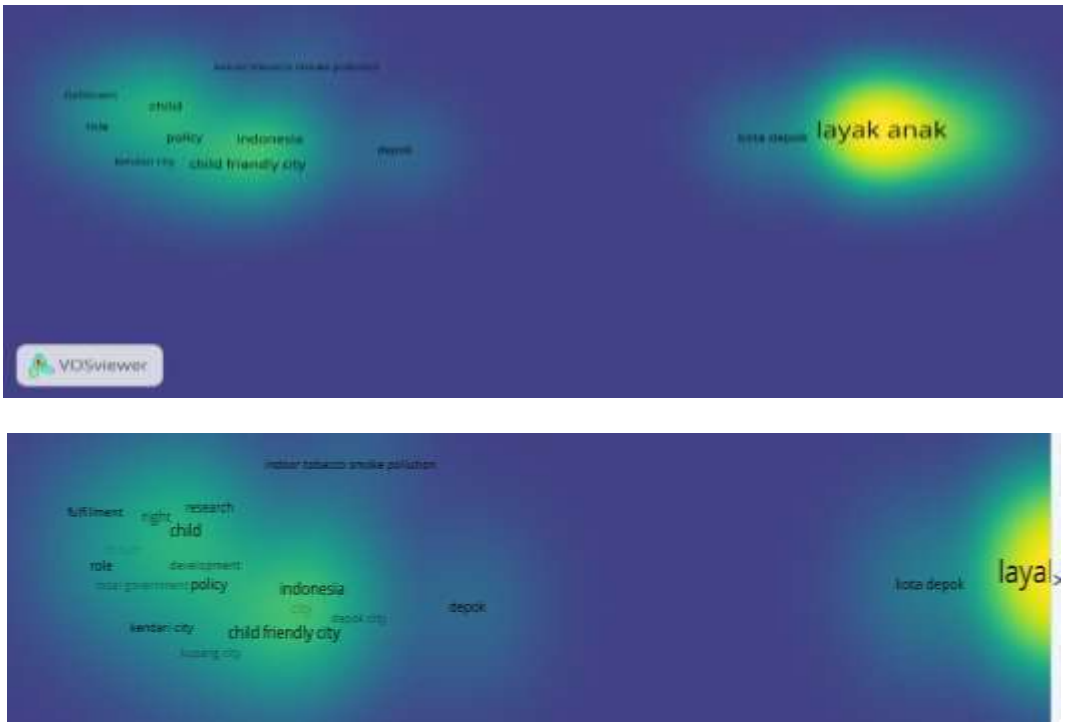


Figure 11. Density Visualization of the Child-Friendly Cities in Indonesia Based on VOSviewer Software Metadata
Source: research results (2026).

The third stage of Density Visualization shows the research most related to Child-Friendly Cities in Indonesia. The Density Visualization shows that most research relates to Child-Friendly Cities in Indonesia. The Density Visualization shows that the most abundant or dominant research topics are Layak Anak, Child-Friendly City, Indonesia, Child, and Policy, while the fewest studies focus on indoor tobacco smoke pollution and local government. Al Husaeni & Nandiyanto (2022) explain that a bright yellow circle indicates a term more frequently used in research. Conversely, if the yellow color fades and blends with the background, it means the number of studies on that term is also minimal.

Children have the same fundamental rights as adults, but because of their age, they require special protection and care (Ortiz-Ospina, in https://ourworldindata.org). As integral family members, children represent the country's future generation (Muharrani et al., 2024). To assume responsibility for the nation's future sustainability and well-being, children must be afforded equal and ample opportunities for optimal growth and development. As a result, giving them special attention and protection is a must to ensure their growth and development. Through Child-Friendly Cities and other child protection and children's rights initiatives, a conducive environment can be cultivated to realize children's rights and the government's responsibilities (Firmansyah, 2021; Greiner et al., 2022; Fariclough, 2021). Furthermore, children are often vulnerable to rights violations (Herring, 2023; Kutsar et al., 2024), and their rights often receive insufficient attention, particularly in their formative years (Muharrani et al., 2024; Anjaswarni et al., 2020). Whatever its nature or extent, violence against children remains a human rights violation (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; Council of Europe). Key children's rights include the right to a safe environment, the right to education, the right to play, and the right to be heard in decisions that affect them. Or, namely, their rights to participate in the public realm (Standish et al.,

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2021). Protecting these rights is crucial for children to have fulfilling childhoods and continue to thrive as adults (Ortiz-Ospina, in https://ourworldindata.org). It will facilitate an environment where children can live, grow, develop, and participate optimally, thereby fostering the realization of high-quality, morally upright, and prosperous Indonesian children (Lahaling, 2021; Zayzda et al., 2019). That's why research on Child-Friendly Cities can be studied and quantified. This will support the successful implementation of Child-Friendly Cities in Indonesia for Indonesian children.

CONCLUSION

The study of research trends related to Child-Friendly Cities in Indonesia, conducted using four keywords in Google Scholar from 2017 to 2026, identified 529 related articles. Of these 529 articles, 471 contained relevant data, with the most research in 2024 at eprints.untirta.ac.id. Other findings show that five major terms are often studied: Layah Anak, Child-Friendly City, Indonesia, Child, and Policy. These findings can serve as reference material for future researchers to focus on studies on terms that have been studied minimally, namely: local government. The study and research trends related to the Child-Friendly City will be very beneficial for implementing the Child-Friendly City in Indonesia and better fulfilling Indonesian children's rights.

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