



# Publication Status of Postgraduate Theses Completed in Ankara University's Health Sciences Institute (1984-2023): A Biometric Study

Ankara Üniversitesi Sağlık Bilimleri Enstitüsü'nde Tamamlanan Lisansüstü Tezlerin Yayın Durumu (1984-2023): Biyometrik Bir Çalışma

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## ABSTRACT

**Aim:** This study determined the publication status and index type of the journals in which the postgraduate theses were published in the Ankara University Institute of Health Sciences between 1984 and 2023.

**Material and Method:** The study was prepared using a bibliometric, retrospective and descriptive design. The data were analyzed using performance analysis, and descriptive statistics were used to calculate the number and percentage distributions of the data.

**Results:** The study determined that 3783 graduate theses (39.2% master's theses and 60.7% doctoral theses) were prepared at Ankara University's Institute of Health Sciences. 25.2% of master's theses and 34.26% of doctoral theses were published, resulting in a total publication rate of 29.8% for graduate theses. Of the publications from master's and doctoral theses, 59.6% were published in international indexes, 22% in national indexes, 16.7% in citation indexes, and 1.5% in national refereed journals.

**Conclusion:** The study revealed that the publication rate of postgraduate theses conducted in the health sciences institute of the relevant university was not high. In this context, the factors affecting the conversion of postgraduate theses into publications should be investigated, and solutions should be produced. Additionally, institutional arrangements should be established to ensure the publication of theses, and effective policies should be implemented to support this process.

**Key words:** bibliometrics; doctoral thesis; master's thesis; publication

## ÖZET

**Amaç:** Bu çalışma 1984-2023 yılları arasında, Ankara Üniversitesi Sağlık Bilimleri Enstitüsü'nde yürütülen lisansüstü tezlerin yayın olma durumları ve yayımlandıkları dergilerin endeks türünü belirlemek amacıyla yapıldı.

**Materyal ve Metot:** Çalışma bibliyometrik, retrospektif ve tanımlayıcı desende yürütüldü. Verilerinin analizinde performans analizi yönteminden yararlanıldı. Tanımlayıcı istatistiklerden yararlanılarak verilerin sayı ve yüzde dağılımları hesaplandı.

**Bulgular:** Araştırma sonucunda, Ankara Üniversitesi Sağlık Bilimleri Enstitüsü'nde toplam 3783 lisansüstü tez yürütüldüğü (%39,2'si yüksek lisans tezi, %60,7'si doktora tezi) belirlenmiştir. Yüksek lisans tezlerinin %25,2'si, doktora tezlerinin %34,26'sı yayımlanmıştır. Bu doğrultuda lisansüstü tezlerinin toplam yayımlanma oranı %30,7'dir. Yüksek lisans ve doktora tezlerinden üretilen yayınların %59,6'sı uluslararası endekste, %22'si ulusal endekste, %16,7'si atıf endeksinde, %1,5'i ulusal hakemli dergilerde yayımlanmıştır.

**Sonuç:** Çalışma sonucunda, ilgili üniversitenin sağlık bilimleri enstitüsünde yürütülmüş olan lisansüstü tezlerin yayımlanma oranlarının yüksek olmadığı ortaya konmuştur. Bu kapsamda, lisansüstü tezlerin yayına dönüşmesini etkileyen faktörler araştırılmalı ve çözümler üretilmelidir. Ayrıca, tezlerin yayımlanmasını sağlayacak kurumsal düzenlemeler yapılmalı ve etkili politikalar geliştirilmelidir.

**Anahtar kelimeler:** bibliyometrik; doktora tezi; yüksek lisans tezi; yayın

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## Introduction

The ability of a society to be economically, politically and culturally effective is closely tied to the efficient functioning of its educational institutions. Universities play a crucial role in addressing these needs. Postgraduate education is essential for promoting scientific research and equipping students with the knowledge and skills to evaluate evidence and apply it effectively and critically. It also provides opportunities for those who wish to deepen their professional knowledge. The academic research productivity of postgraduate students is assessed as a measure of universities' ability to prepare the next generation of health scientists<sup>1</sup>. Producing knowledge disseminated through master's and doctoral dissertations contributes to scientific research and practice and prepares qualified and productive master's and doctoral students. Although the higher education system in Türkiye has been offering graduate-level education since 1982, these programs have a long history worldwide<sup>2</sup>.

Universities need specific standards to meet changing conditions, expectations and competition. Research universities with high research capacity and significant contributions to science and technology hold a critical place in this context, thanks to their expertise, skilled human resources and knowledge transfer activities<sup>3</sup>. International cooperation and recognition in research are important characteristics of research universities. The performance of these universities is ranked according to various indicators, including the number and rate of publications, the number of citations, the number of national or international awards, the number of patents and the amount of project funding. As expectations from research universities have increased in recent years, many countries have introduced structural regulations and established comprehensive support programs to meet these expectations.

Since 2016, some universities in Türkiye that meet the required criteria have been selected as research universities. These universities collaborate with research universities in various countries to develop specific solutions and create the desired value<sup>4</sup>. International evaluation of research and higher education ensures quality and relies on globally accepted standards for greater assurance. These expectations also apply to doctoral (PhD) programs. Although the PhD is an international degree, the content of these programs is not specified. For this purpose, an international organization called ORPHEUS (Organisation of PhD in Biomedicine and Health Sciences European System) was established in 2005 with the participation of 21 European countries to develop basic standards and

good research practices in doctoral education. The first ORPHEUS membership in Türkiye started in 2007 and many universities are at the membership stage. It is known that some of the goals being developed in Europe and enabling our country to reach these ORPHEUS standards will be possible through "research"<sup>5</sup>.

The publication performance of universities measures their strength and effectiveness in research activities. In recent years, several criteria have been used to determine the quality of universities. Quantitative evaluation of articles obtained from theses and dissertations, based on specific criteria, is a crucial method for assessing the current state of knowledge in a particular field. The analysis of postgraduate thesis studies provides data on various literature characteristics, allowing a more concrete recognition of the characteristics of the research areas<sup>6</sup>. Although there has been an increase in the productivity of scientific studies by researchers completing graduate programs in our country, the target has not yet been reached<sup>7</sup>. This national and international mission prioritizes academic publication performance, ranking universities according to their quality. Bibliometric studies are widely used to measure and compare the impact and importance of researchers, articles and various journals<sup>8</sup>. Bibliometric studies use statistics to assess research productivity, quality and the overall structure of a discipline<sup>9-11</sup>. It is seen that various bibliometric studies have been conducted on postgraduate theses in our country. However, upon examining the literature, no study has been found on the publication status of postgraduate theses accepted by the Institute of Health Sciences in Türkiye. For this reason, a bibliometric analysis was conducted in this study to provide information about the diversity, publication status and index types of the journals in which theses prepared within the scope of master's and doctoral theses at Ankara University Institute of Health Sciences between 1984 and 2023 were published.

Given these developments, it is essential to evaluate the academic output of universities, particularly in terms of the publication rates and visibility of postgraduate research. Analyzing the extent to which master's and doctoral theses are published, as well as the platforms on which they are made available, provides valuable insights into the quality and impact of academic training. Such evaluations not only help benchmark institutional performance but also identify areas for improvement and the need for supportive policies that foster greater research dissemination.

## Objective

This study determined the publication status of postgraduate theses conducted at Ankara University Institute of Health Sciences between 1984 and 2023, as well as the index type of the journals in which they were published.

### Research questions

1. What is the publication rate of graduate theses conducted at the Ankara University Institute of Health Sciences?
2. In which indexes are the journals in which graduate theses are published indexed?

## Material and Method

### Study Design and Participants

This study employed a bibliometric, retrospective and descriptive design. The study population consisted of the postgraduate theses conducted at Ankara University Institute of Health Sciences between 1984 and 2023. Ankara University Institute of Health Sciences was established in 1982 under the Rectorate of Ankara University. The Faculties of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Sports Sciences, Health Sciences, Nursing and Interdisciplinary Departments carry out postgraduate education and training activities. In this context, to determine the population, a list of theses conducted between 1984 and 2023 (3889 theses) was received from the institute via email. Of the 3889 theses, 106 were excluded from the study because they were graduation projects from the master's program that did not require a thesis. Then, the information obtained from the theses was classified by thesis type and department and the publication status of the theses in the Thesis Center of the Council of Higher Education was checked. It was determined that 3783 theses were conducted at the Ankara University Institute of Health Sciences.

### Data Collection

The data were collected and evaluated from June 1 to November 30, 2023. The publication status of theses was evaluated in four groups: Citation Index, International Index, National Index and National Refereed Journals. Within the scope of the Citation Index, publications published in journals indexed by Science Citation Index (SCI), Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-exp), Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) and Art and Humanities Index (A&HCI) were considered. Publications in international journals

outside these citation indexes were defined as being in an "international index". Publications published in national journals indexed by Ulakbim TR Index and Turkish Citation Index were considered national indexes<sup>12</sup>. Publications published in peer-reviewed national journals that were not indexed in any index were grouped as peer-reviewed journals. In this context, the ISI-Web of Science (WoS) collection, comprising four leading indices (SSCI, SCI-EXP, AHCI, and ESCI), was initially searched to evaluate the citation index status of the thesis. Medline, PubMed, Embase, Science Direct, Ovid and Ebscohost databases were also utilized. Google Scholar and ULAKBIM Turkish Medical Directory were used to identify publications in other indexes.

The databases were searched using the Turkish/English title of the thesis, the author's name, surname and first initial, the advisor's surname and first initial and the thesis keywords. In cases where the thesis could not be found, the author's or consultant's CV was accessed using the Academic Data Management System (AVESIS) and the publication status of the thesis was examined. Since the publication status of theses may change during the scanning period, the data were updated by scanning again between December 1 and 31, 2023.

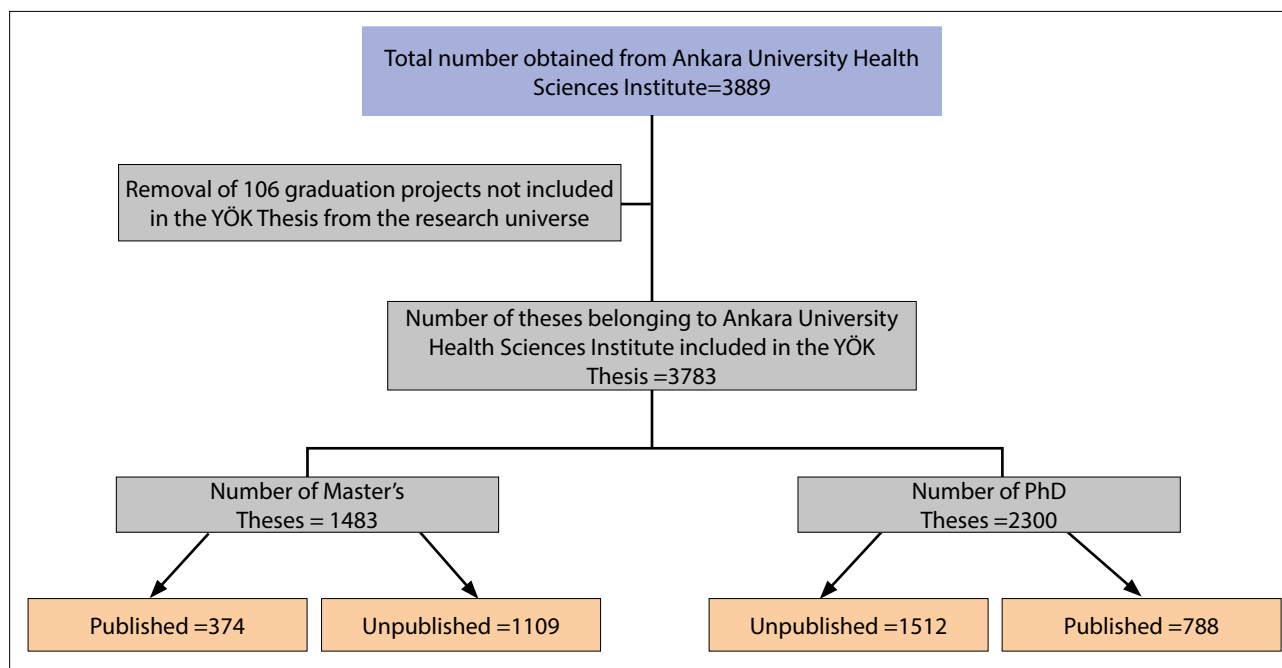
As a result of the scans made in this context, a total of 1162 published graduate theses were analyzed. The data obtained from the scans, thesis year, thesis type, department, article name, journal name, publication year, number of publications, publication type (national publication, international publication), and index type (national index, international index, citation index, refereed journal) were determined and recorded.

### Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

This study included articles from theses, in any publication stage (such as publication stage, early view), and produced in either Turkish or English. Articles published in books, conference proceedings and languages other than Turkish/English were not included (Fig. 1).

### Ethical Aspects of the Research

In this study, postgraduate theses in the Thesis Center of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK-Thesis), which is open to public access, and publications obtained from these theses were included in the sample and conducted retrospectively. For this reason, permission was not obtained from the ethics committee. However, the data obtained from the theses included in the study were presented without including the identities of the authors or advisors.



**Figure 1.** Publication status of theses conducted at Ankara University Postgraduate School of Health Science.

### Data Analysis

The research data was analyzed using performance analysis, a bibliometric method that examines the contribution of research components to a particular field<sup>13</sup>. In this context, information about the theses was recorded and analyzed using the IBM Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) program for Windows version 22.0. Data analysis used descriptive statistics, and number and percentage distributions were calculated.

### Results

As a result of the research, it was determined that there was a total of 3783 theses in the main branches of the Ankara University Institute of Health Sciences. Of these theses, 39.2% were master's theses ( $n=1483$ ) and 60.7% were doctoral theses ( $n=2300$ ). The total publication rate of master's and doctoral theses is 30.7% ( $1162/3783$ ). 25.2% ( $374/1483$ ) of master's theses and 34.26% ( $788/2300$ ) of doctoral theses were published (Table 1). Descriptive information is given in Table 2.

When the publication status of master's and doctoral theses, categorized by the main branches of science, was examined, 9.38% ( $109/1162$ ) of the published theses belonged to the Department of Forensic Sciences (Table 3). Of the publications from master's and doctoral theses, 59.6% were published in international

**Table 2.** Thesis related baseline characteristics

Characteristics	MSc	PhD	Total
	n	n	n
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	549	1148	1696
Female	934	1152	2082
Total	1483	2300	3783
<b>Academic title</b>			
Prof.	1157	2170	3327
Assoc. Prof.	286	113	399
Assist. Prof.	40	17	57
Total	1483	2300	3783
<b>Number_of_advisor</b>			
Couple counseling	12	9	21
<b>Number of publications obtained from the thesis</b>			
Single publication	322	648	970
2 publications	44	93	137
3 and above publications	8	47	55
Total	374	788	1162
Unpublished	1109	1512	2621

**Table 1.** Distribution of postgraduate theses conducted in the departments of the Ankara University Institute of Health Sciences according to their publication status

Publication status of theses	Master theses		Doctoral theses		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Published theses	374	25.2	788	34.26	1162	30.7
Unpublished theses	1109	74.78	1512	65.7	2621	69.28
Total	1483	100	2300	100	3783	100

**Table 3.** Distribution of the publication status of graduate theses conducted at Ankara University Postgraduate School of Health Sciences according to their main branches of science

	MASTER'S THESES		DOCTORAL THESES		TOTAL	
	Total number of theses (n)	Number of published thesis (n)	Total number of theses (n)	Number of published thesis (n)	Total number of theses (n)	Number of published thesis (n)
<b>MAIN SCIENCE</b>						
Forensic Science	227	53	115	56	342	109
Biophysics	2	1	2	1	4	2
Biochemistry	23	6	24	7	47	13
Public Health	2	1	0	0	2	1
Physiology	2	1	3	1	5	2
Public Health Nursing	5	2	0	0	5	2
Nursing	34	7	17	8	51	15
Histology-Embryology	1	0	2	1	3	1
Anatomy	0	0	3	1	3	1
Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine	11	1	0	0	11	1
Hepatology	2	1	0	0	2	1
Medical Biology	4	2	0	0	4	2
Medical Education and Informatics	2	1	0	0	2	1
History of Medicine and Ethics	3	0	2	1	5	1
Internal Medicine	6	1	1	0	7	1
Forensic Pharmacy	1	1	0	0	1	1
Oral, Dental, and Maxillofacial Radiology	0	0	12	7	12	7
Oral, Dental, Maxillofacial Diseases and Surgery	0	0	119	32	119	32
Analytical Chemistry	56	34	34	25	90	59
Physical Education and Sports	11	5	68	12	79	17
Nutrition and Dietetics	56	15	20	6	76	21
Pharmacognosy	66	7	31	8	97	15
Biostatistics	5	2	13	4	18	6
Pharmacology	39	8	33	10	72	18
Child Development	45	11	21	11	66	22
Dental Diseases and Treatment	1	0	57	18	58	18
Fertilization and Artificial Insemination	7	1	45	2	52	3
Pharmacy Management	20	6	24	8	44	14
Endodontics	0	0	45	17	45	17
Pharmaceutical Botany	11	6	21	16	32	22
Pharmaceutical Chemistry	69	33	39	23	108	56
Pharmaceutical Microbiology	37	14	23	11	60	25
Pharmaceutical Technology	83	39	43	28	126	67
Pharmaceutical Toxicology	56	11	27	7	83	18
Child Health and Diseases	17	4	0	0	17	4
Food, Metabolism, and Clinical Nutrition	13	3	0	0	13	3
Vision, Artificial Vision, and Rehabilitation of Low Vision	6	4	0	0	6	4
Animal Nutrition and Nutritional Diseases	8	0	70	0	78	0
Animal Health Economics and Management	11	1	43	19	54	20
Ear, Nose, Throat Diseases	21	4	0	0	21	4
Orthodontics	0	0	107	34	107	34
Pedodontics	2	0	76	39	78	39
Periodontology	0	0	92	32	92	32
Prosthodontics	0	0	136	60	136	60
Health Management	11	1	0	0	11	1
Neurosciences	0	0	2	1	2	1
Social Service	76	28	30	10	106	38
Physical Education and Sports	28	9	33	3	61	12
Coaching Education	72	3	2	2	74	5
Sport Management	58	29	4	3	62	32
Medical Pharmacology	0	0	1	0	1	0
Veterinary Anatomy	3	1	1	1	4	2
Veterinary Biostatistics	9	0	20	6	29	6
Veterinary Biochemistry	20	2	44	15	64	17
Veterinary Surgery	51	0	60	0	111	0
Veterinary Obstetrics and Gynecology	16	0	88	0	104	0
Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology	28	1	91	31	119	32
Veterinary Physiology	12	2	47	21	59	23
Veterinary Genetics	3	0	8	7	11	7
Veterinary Food Hygiene and Technology	69	0	65	0	134	0
Veterinary Histology-Embryology	0	0	28	0	28	0
Veterinary Internal Medicine	8	0	58	0	66	0
Veterinary Microbiology	22	5	74	29	96	34
Veterinary Parasitology	8	0	57	33	65	33
Veterinary Pathology	1	0	38	26	39	26
Veterinary Virology	8	2	70	23	78	25
Veterinary Medicine Animal Husbandry	11	5	93	62	104	67
History of Veterinary Medicine and Deontology	2	0	17	9	19	9
Clinical Pharmacy	0	0	1	1	1	1
Social Psychiatry	2	0	0	0	2	0
Total	1483	374	2300	788	3783	1162
Percentile (%)	100	25.2	100	34.26	100	30.7

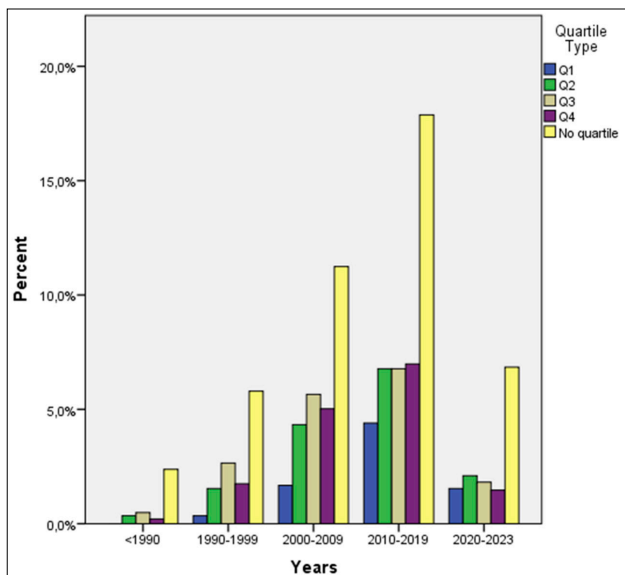


Figure 2. Distribution of published theses according to journal quartile and years.

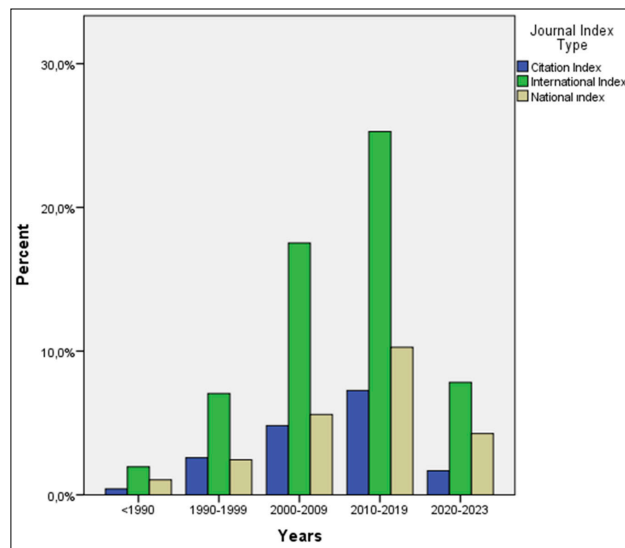


Figure 3. Distribution of published theses according to journal index types and years.

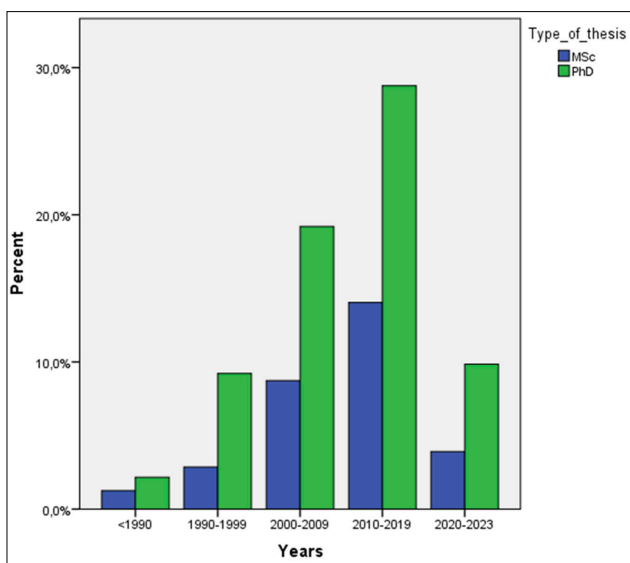


Figure 4. Distribution of published thesis types by year.

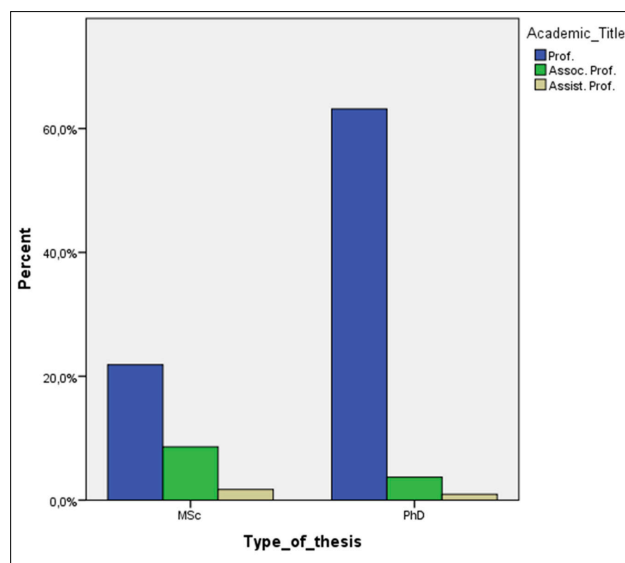


Figure 5. Distribution of academic titles according to thesis types by year.

Table 4. Distribution of publications from master's and doctoral theses according to the type of journal index in which they were published

Journal index type	Master theses		Doctoral theses		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Citation index	68	15.4	172	17.35	240	16.7
International index	257	58.27	597	60.24	854	59.6
National index	113	25.6	203	20.48	316	22.06
National refereed journals	3	0.68	19	1.9	22	1.5
Total	441*	100	991*	100	1432*	100

\*Some theses produced more than one publication

indexes, 22% in national indexes, 16.7% in citation indexes, and 1.5% in national refereed journals (Table 4, Figs 2, 3, 4). When the publication status of theses was examined according to the academic titles of the advisors, it was determined that the publication percentages of advisors with the title of professor were higher than those of others. Advisors with the title of professor had 254 (25.7%) publications from master's theses and 734 (74.3%) publications from doctoral theses (Fig. 5).

## Discussion

The primary result obtained in the research is that one-fourth of the master's theses and one-third of the doctoral theses in the main branches of the Ankara University Institute of Health Sciences have been published. In total, approximately one third of the theses (30.7%) were converted into publications. Karaca et al. (2020) found that the conversion rate of health sciences master's and doctoral theses into publications was 40.5% and 57.1%, respectively. Approximately half of the theses were published<sup>14</sup>.

In this study, data were collected from participants, whereas in our research, data were obtained by searching databases. At the same time, as stated by the authors in this study, journal articles, books, patents, and oral and poster presentations were also considered as forms of publication. In our study, only articles published in journals were considered as publications. It is believed that the discrepancy in research results is due to methodological differences between the two studies.

Sipahi et al. (2012) examined the rate of publication of public health master's and doctoral theses and found that 29.9% of the theses were published in national and international refereed journals<sup>15</sup>. In the study by Yilmaz et al. (2017), the publication rate of nursing master's and doctoral theses was found to be 14.4% and 7.7%, respectively<sup>16</sup>. Çürük et al. (2021) determined that 40.9% of internal medicine nursing master's theses were published<sup>17</sup>. Kinikoğlu et al. (2020) found that 34% of master's theses on animal rat experiments were published in PubMed-indexed journals<sup>18</sup>.

When the publication status of theses in other disciplines was examined, it was found that the publication rate of medical sciences master's theses in refereed journals ranged from 11.4% to 39.1%<sup>19-24</sup>. In the United States, which has the highest rate of scientific

publications worldwide, only 25.6% of doctoral dissertations in psychology are converted into publications<sup>25</sup>. In a study analyzing social work theses, the rate of publication of theses was found to be 28.8%<sup>26</sup>.

When the results obtained in our study and those of similar studies are evaluated, it becomes apparent that the rate of thesis publication in health sciences and other scientific fields is not at the desired level. Theses are important to graduate education because they require intensive, long-term, and qualified work<sup>15,22</sup>. One of their primary purposes is to contribute to the scientific literature<sup>27</sup>. Indeed, health sciences master's and doctoral theses make significant contributions to the scientific knowledge base and development in the health sciences<sup>28</sup>. It is emphasized that doctoral theses are indispensable in producing new scientific knowledge<sup>29</sup>. However, the way for theses to contribute to the scientific literature is to turn them into articles and publish them in refereed journals<sup>14,30,31</sup>. Turning theses into publications increases the scientific value of the thesis and makes the results more accessible<sup>20,23</sup>. Therefore, the low publication rate of health sciences theses limits their potential contribution to the development of health sciences.

The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors<sup>32</sup> states that one of the roles and responsibilities of authors is to take responsibility for all aspects of the work they have completed and to publish the work they have approved. Accordingly, when master's and doctoral theses are not published, it can be considered that the thesis author has not completed the research process. It also states that authors have ethical obligations to publish their work and disseminate their research findings through publication<sup>33</sup>. For this reason, transforming theses into publications is also important in terms of author responsibilities.

The result is that the publication rates of master's and doctoral theses obtained in our research are not at the desired level, possibly due to many factors. Studies have found that the primary reasons for not publishing theses are lack of time and workload<sup>14,30,31</sup>. Inadequate supervisor guidance and support, negative postgraduate education experiences, difficulty in revising a long document and submitting it to a journal, lack of knowledge and experience in writing articles, search for alternative careers, failure to publish negative and non-significant results, lack of interest and motivation of the thesis author, and family problems were cited as other reasons<sup>25,30,31</sup>.

Küpeli et al. (2022) found a significant relationship between the thesis author's career in academia and the publication of his/her thesis. Another study reported that the incentive and motivation to publish a thesis are low when pursuing a non-academic career<sup>21</sup>. Accordingly, the low publication rate of health sciences theses may be due to the fact that some thesis authors continue their professional lives in health centers whose primary purpose is not research but the provision of healthcare services. Horta and Li (2023) stated that the decision to produce publications from the thesis is greatly influenced by the decision whether to continue in academia or not, and that the publication profile is a determining factor in academic placement and promotion at the center of doctoral students' intention to publish their thesis<sup>29</sup>. Our study found that the rate of publication of health sciences doctoral theses was higher than that of master's theses. Similar results were obtained in other studies analyzing health sciences theses<sup>14,30</sup>.

In our country, the academic promotion criteria published by the Council of Higher Education are the most important motivation for increasing the number of publications and international publications<sup>24</sup>. The Council of Higher Education sets publication criteria for academic appointments and promotions through Regulations<sup>34</sup>. In addition to these regulations, the Regulation on Academic Incentive Allowance (2018) encourages increasing the quantity and quality of university publications<sup>35</sup>.

Most recently, qualified publications are also required for the opening and execution of graduate education programs<sup>36</sup>. These criteria, introduced by law for academic appointments, promotions and rewards, have prioritized publishing with high scientific value. For this reason, it is believed that one of the most significant factors influencing the conversion of theses into publications is the academic career plan, and that doctoral graduates are more likely to publish as a result.

In some institutions, publication of at least one article from the doctoral thesis is a graduation requirement. In contrast, in some institutions, in addition to publication, the journal's impact factor in which the article is published must be above a certain level. The Organisation of PhD in Biomedicine and Health Sciences European System (ORPHEUS), as an organisation dedicated to developing quality standards and good practices in doctoral education, has published "articles produced from doctoral theses published or accepted for publication in internationally recognized

peer-reviewed journals" as one of its basic quality standards<sup>37</sup>. It is a requirement that doctoral dissertations are published in academic institutions that are members of the organization and have received the ORPHEUS Assessment Certificate.

Our research determined that most publications produced from master's and doctoral theses were indexed in international indexes, followed by national indexes and then citation indexes. When evaluated by year, progress was observed in publishing articles derived from theses in indexed and quartile journals (Figs 1 and 2). Karaca et al. (2020) found that publications produced from health sciences theses were mainly published in international indexes<sup>14</sup>. Yilmaz et al. (2017) found that 30.7% of the publications produced from nursing theses were published in nationally indexed journals, 29.4% in internationally indexed journals, and 15.8% in citation indexes<sup>16</sup>. Çürük et al. (2021) found that 31.4% of internal medicine nursing master's theses were published in journals with a citation index<sup>17</sup>.

When the journals in which articles produced from theses are published are analyzed in terms of medical sciences, a study determined that 68.9% of the articles produced from theses were published in national journals and 13.3% were published in PubMed-indexed journals<sup>22</sup>. In another study, it was found that 20.4% of the publications were indexed in the citation index, 21.4% in international journals, and in a separate study, 26.8% of the publications were in Scopus-indexed journals<sup>19</sup>.

Publication of theses in indexed journals confirms the validity of the thesis and increases its quality and scientific value<sup>20,22,30,38</sup>.

The quartiles of the journals in which the articles are published have gained importance in scoring associate professorship application requirements, amended in 2023<sup>39</sup>. Journal indexes and quartiles are crucial in evaluating the impact and quality of publications in the scientific literature. For this reason, the increase in the number of articles produced from theses and dissertations published in journals with high indexes and quartiles is a positive development.

## Conclusion

This study, conducted to determine the publication status of health sciences master's and doctoral theses, found that the rate of publication of theses by converting them into scientific articles was low. The publication of health sciences theses is of great importance in terms of the

benefits it provides to the graduate, the department, and the institution, as well as its contribution to the advancement of health sciences and the health professions.

The criteria for qualified publications in academic placement, promotion, and rewards will be effective for thesis advisors and thesis authors who continue their academic careers by converting their theses into publications. Graduate students who will continue their careers outside academia should be supported by advisors and institutions to publish their theses within the scope of the academic and professional benefits of publishing theses, as well as the responsibilities of authors. Factors affecting the conversion of graduate theses into publications should be investigated, and solutions should be found. Additionally, institutional arrangements to ensure the publication of theses should be strengthened and effective policies should be implemented.

### *Limitations of the Study*

The study's results include evaluations of publications produced from the graduate theses of only one institute. Therefore, they can only be generalized to post-graduate theses conducted in the fields covered by the Institute of Health Sciences.

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