

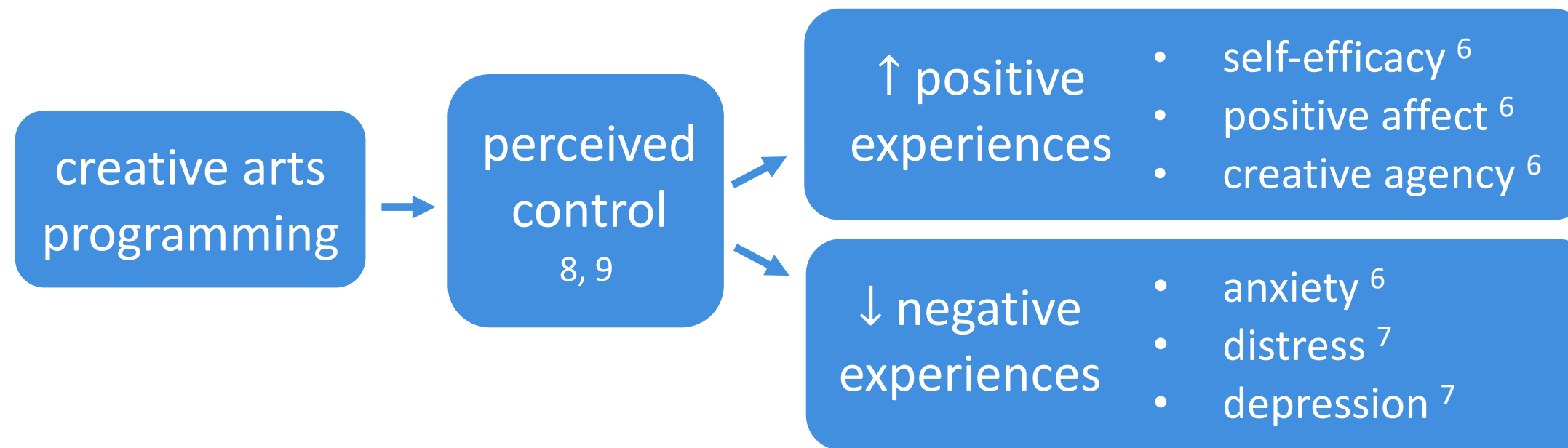
Background

Context & Gap:

- Our Space, Inc. is a non-profit that brings art programming to families with children with serious illness in the Boston area
- Focuses on **healing powers of art and human connection**
- Current gap: Our Space **lacks the impact data that makes grant applications competitive**

Literature review:

- diagnosis of pediatric illness is a **low-control situation**¹ that **challenges one's sense of personal control**²
 - all family members** experience this loss of control
 - resulting impact on psychosocial well-being includes high levels of **stress** and **anxiety**^{3,4,5}
- creative arts programming** has been found to positively impact the psychosocial well-being of adult patients^{6,7}



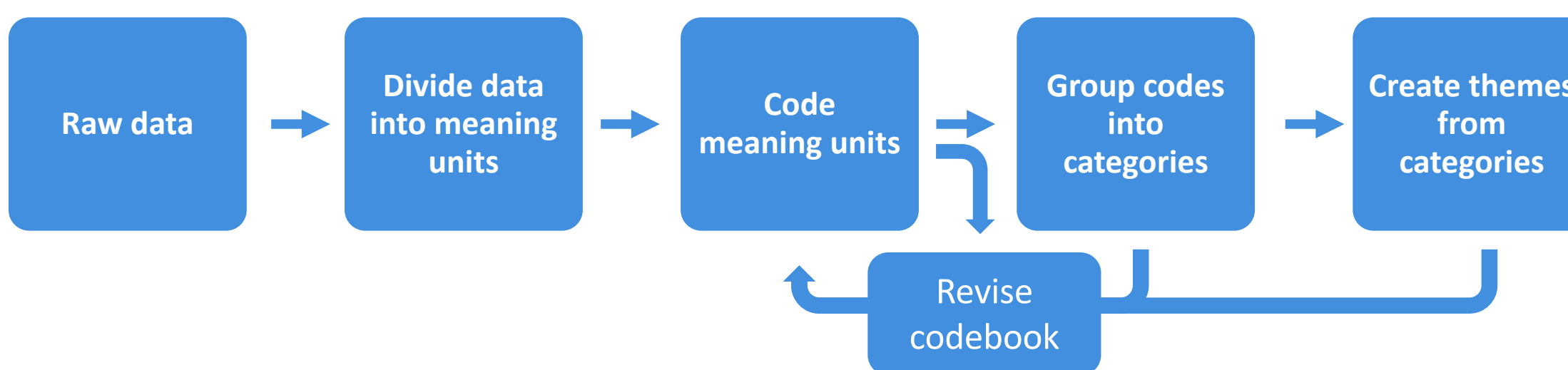
- yet there is **limited research on the impact of creative arts programming for pediatric patients or their families**

Purpose & Aims

- employ interviews to qualitatively explore the impact of creative arts programming on the psychosocial well-being of families with children with serious illness
- produce data illustrating impact of Our Space programming

Methods

- helped run in-person and virtual Our Space events
- semi-structured interviews conducted over Zoom with 6 previous Our Space participants (5 parents, 1 child)
- participant demographics collected via survey
 - 3 female: 3 male | ages: 16-59 | all identify as White
- Zoom transcripts edited for accuracy against recording
- interview contents coded in iterative process of qualitative content analysis, with use of Nvivo^{10,11}



Results

Research question #1 ("Context"):

How does diagnosis and treatment of serious illness impact the psychosocial well-being of families with children with serious illness?

Research question #2 ("Impact"):

How does Our Space impact the psychosocial well-being of families with children with serious illness?

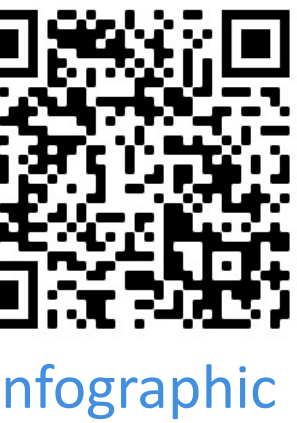


Strengths & Limitations

- Strengths:** coded data twice and cross-checked, annotated audit trail of analysis, kept data organized
- Limitations:** small sample size, convenience sample where many participants have long-lasting relationships with Our Space, only 1 coder (triangulation not possible)

Conclusion

- Our Space impacts well-being in a way that begins to address common experiences that negatively affect well-being of families
 - connection in time of isolation, choice during loss of control, opportunity to escape stressors, and supporting siblings when the attention is focused on child with serious illness
- results suggest arts programming can address unmet psychosocial needs of children with serious illness, as well as their family
- project produced critical Impact data for Our Space
 - results shared via infographic and written report
 - data will strengthen future grant applications
 - grant funding would provide the stability critical to sustaining and expanding programming (number of visits, different locations)



Infographic

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Contacts & Acknowledgments



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