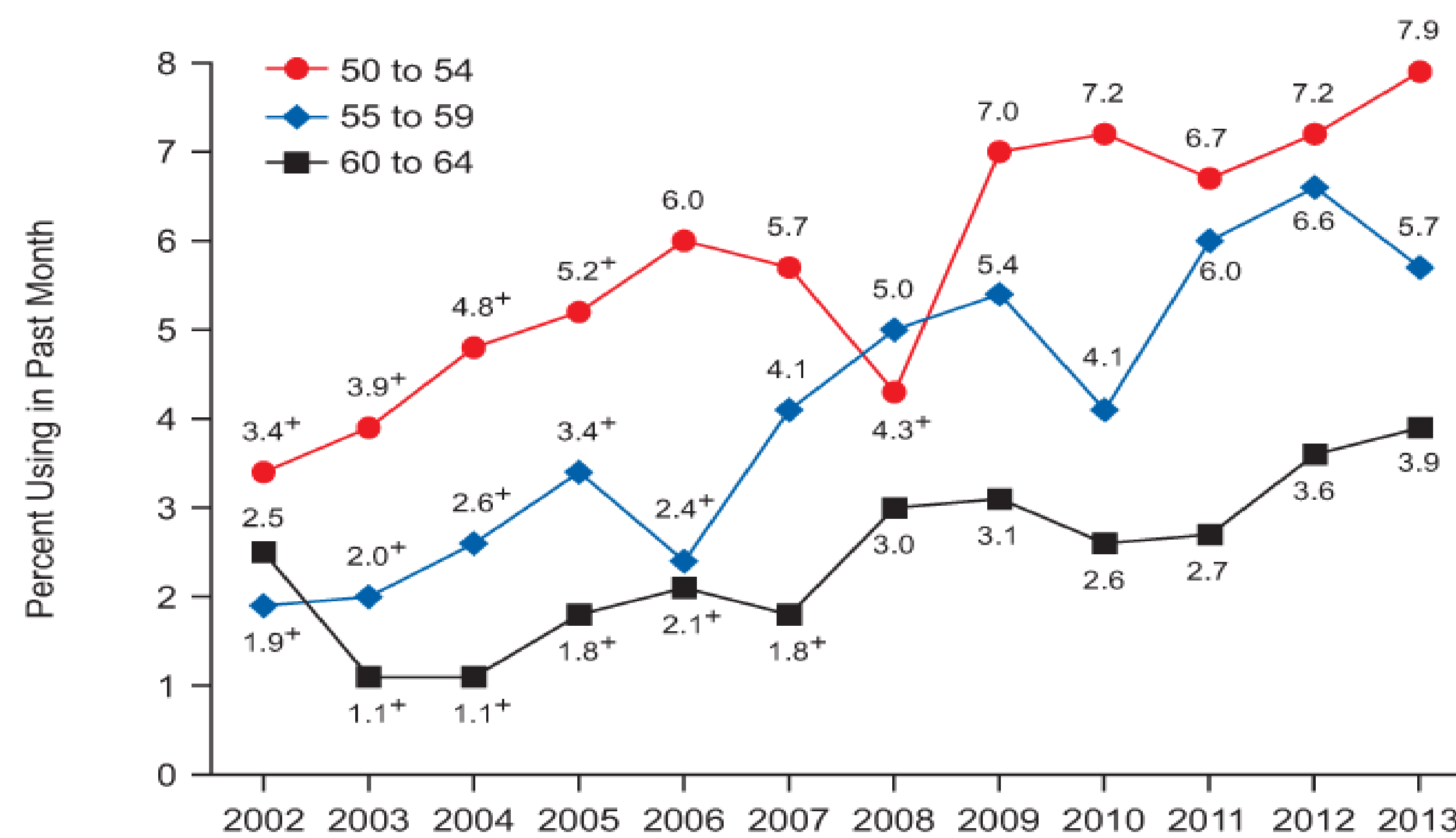


BACKGROUND

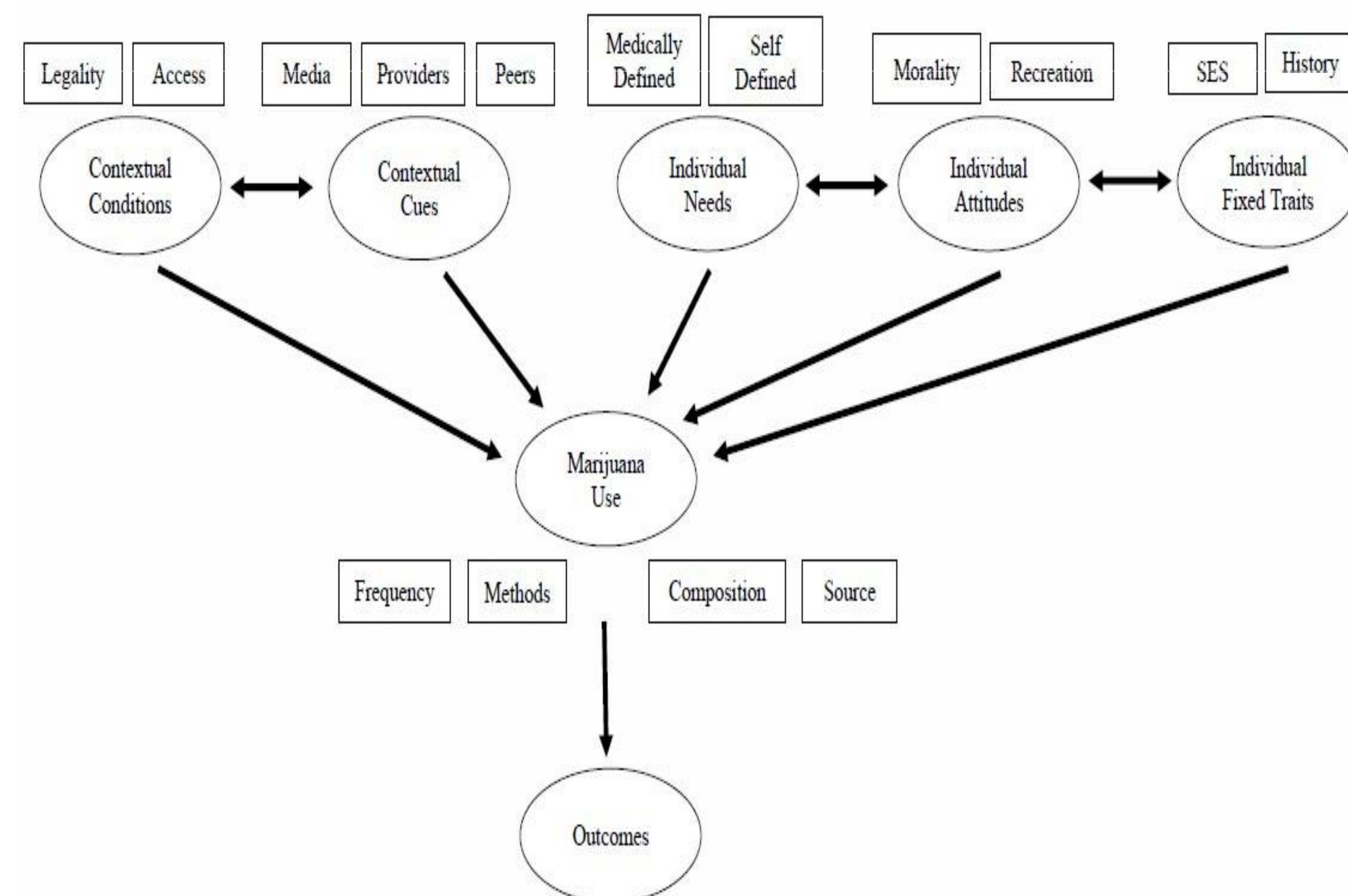
Cannabis use among persons over 50 has grown in the last decade, more than all other age groups. (NSDUH).



KNOWLEDGE GAPS

- Cannabis use among older adults, **particularly medical cannabis**, not been documented fully.
- The antecedents of cannabis use, **particularly medical cannabis**, have not been identified
- The outcomes of cannabis use, particularly medical cannabis, have not been defined.

THEORETICAL MODEL



METHOD

We conducted 8 focus groups in four Midwestern states with a total of 134 persons over the age of 60.

Two states operated medical cannabis programs, the other two did not.

	Full Sample	Cannabis Users	Cannabis Non-Users
Sample Size	134	49 (37%)	85 (64%)
Age (years)	71	64	74
Female	68%	51%	75%
Race			
White	86%	79%	91%
Black	8%	11%	5%
Hispanic	4%	7%	3%
Need Medicaid	18%	26%	14%
Health Status			
Excellent	13%	7%	16%
Very Good	44%	39%	49%
Fair	37%	45%	29%
Poor	8%	14%	6%
Education			
Less Than HS	6%	0%	6%
HS graduate	23%	17%	25%
Some College	36%	38%	37%
Cig. Graduate	18%	14%	22%
Post Graduate	20%	31%	15%
Marital Status			
Married	42%	52%	38%
Single & Never	11%	11%	12%
Divorced/Separated	23%	33%	18%
Widowed	26%	4%	35%

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS

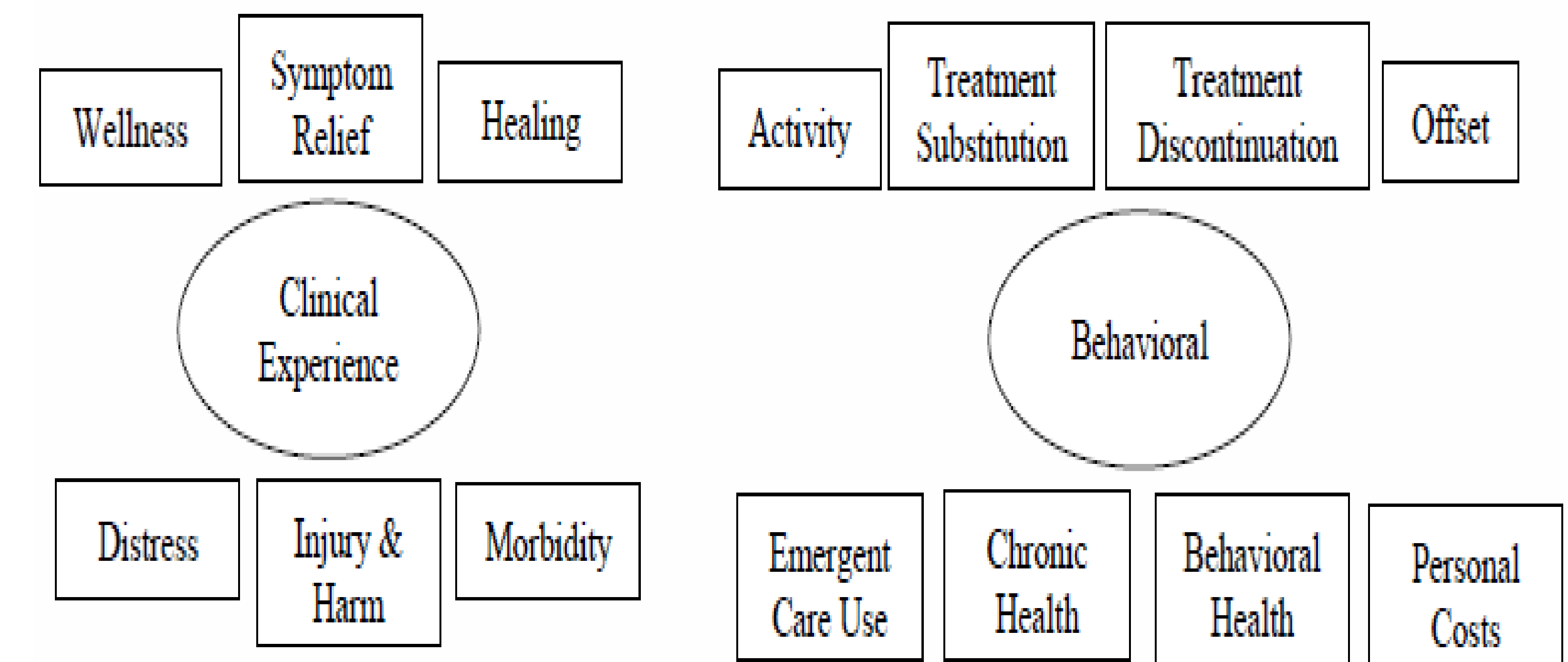
- What are the outcomes, both positive and negative of using cannabis for **recreational** purposes?
- What are the outcomes, both positive and negative, of using cannabis for **medical** purposes?
- What are outcomes other people may experience?

RESULTS

- Cannabis users are generally younger, male and on Medicaid as compared to non-users
- Among whites, a larger proportion are non-users; among non-whites, a larger proportion are users
- Among those who self-report excellent health, a larger proportion are non-users
- The association between use and education is mixed:
- Cannabis users are more likely to be married
- Cannabis non-users are more likely to be widowed .

OUTCOMES OF CANNABIS USE

- Individuals endorsed a range of clinical, self-reported outcomes
- Individuals identified a number of behavioral outcomes, including medical and financial



DISCUSSION

- We are moving to develop survey questions that can be fielded among a representative sample
- Project funded by the state of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment