

The legalization of medical marijuana in Arkansas and many other states is allowing researchers to study the impact of the drug on everything from crime to the economy. This week on Talk Business and Politics, Rhet Smith, professor of economics at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock said his research project focused on whether or not access to medical marijuana contributed to a rise in use of other drugs.

NEWS20 0:20 “...a gateway drug.”

Smith pointed out that the details of his research may yield different results for different types of opioids or for different demographic groups. He plans to do more studies of the relationship between medical marijuana and crime.

Arkansas voters may have a say in whether or not recreational marijuana becomes legal in the state. University of Arkansas at Little Rock Professor of Economics, Rhet Smith, has been researching the impact of medical marijuana, using data from the over 30 states that have legalized it. On Talk Business and Politics this week, Smith said the trends in other states could happen in Arkansas.

NEWS21 0:17 “...regulations, I think.”

Voters in the state approved the legalization of medical marijuana in 2016. Signatures are being collected for a ballot proposal to legalize recreational marijuana in next year’s general election.