

Safeworks Monthly Report – November 2017: Supervised Consumption Services

Date: December 11, 2017

Background

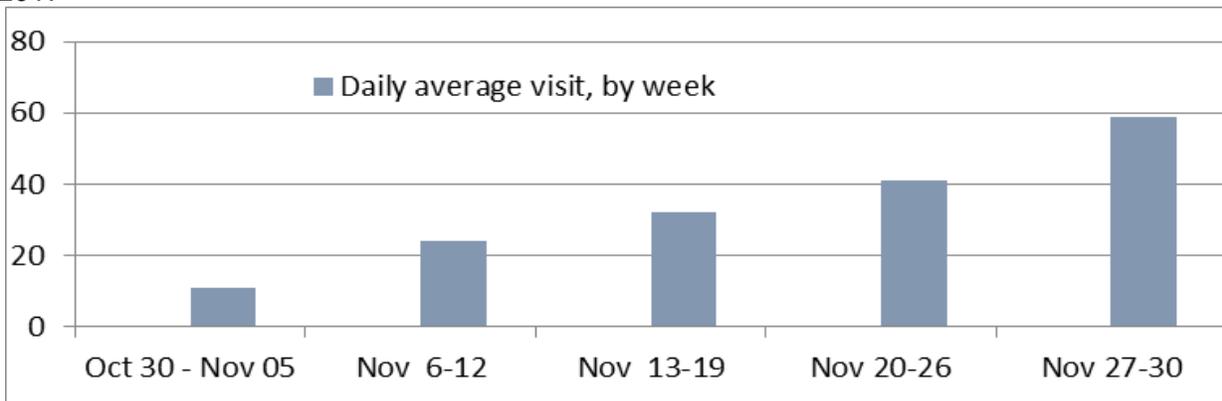
Safeworks Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) launched on October 30, 2017 in a temporary facility with full federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act from Health Canada. The staff team consists of 8 part-time and 9 casual RNs, and 4 part time and 1 casual administrative staff. Direct service providers are supported by the Safeworks Associate Manager, Program Coordinator, and Clinical Nurse Educator.

Service Uptake

From October 30, 2017 to November 30, 2017, Safeworks SCS cared for **224 unique individuals** in **990 visits**.

Uptake of services increased over time. The average number of visits per day has increased from 11 in the first week of operations (October 30 – November 5), to 59 visits per day averaged from November 27 – November 30.

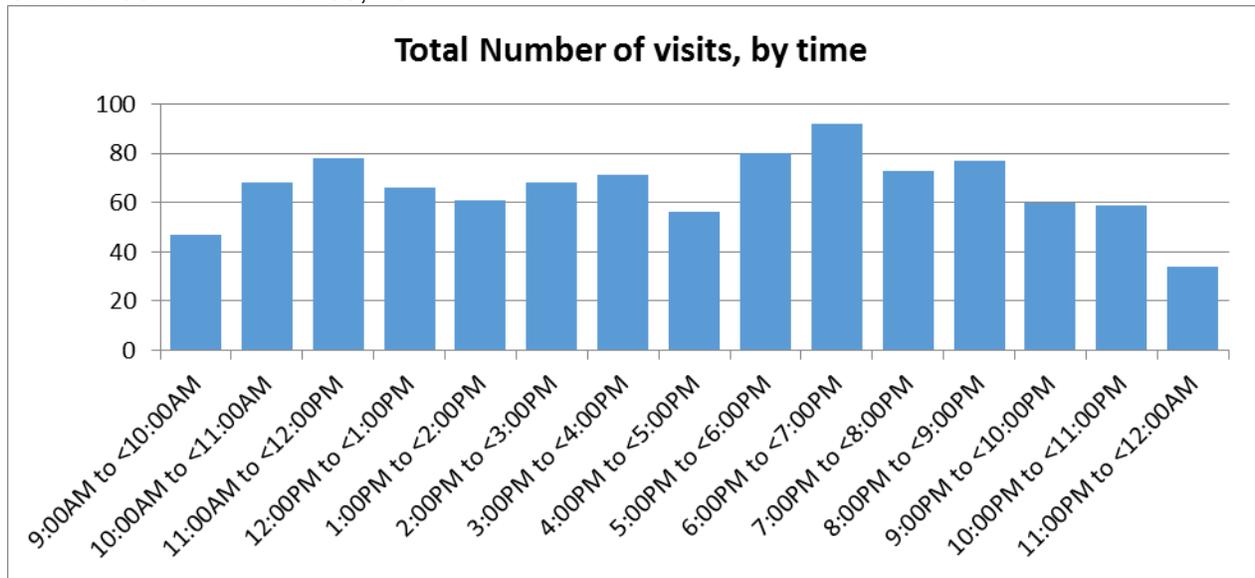
Table 1: Safeworks SCS Average Number of Daily Visits by Week October 30 – November 30, 2017



The majority of clients used Safeworks SCS more than once, often within the same day (up to 7 times in one day). Not all clients consumed drugs on site; 16.5% of visits reflect harm reduction supply and/or naloxone kit distribution, monitoring post-consumption elsewhere, wound care, or social support and referral services.

Safeworks SCS hours of operation are from 9:00am to 11:30pm, and staff are on site from 8:30am to 12:30am. Safeworks SCS is busiest from 11:00am – 12:00pm and 5:00pm – 9:00pm, although service uptake is consistent throughout the day.

Table 2: Safeworks SCS Total Number of Visits by Time (hourly – based on time of admission) October 30 – November 30, 2017



Client feedback is generally very positive; clients report feeling welcome, and verbalize that they are pleased to see this service offered in Calgary, and offered by Alberta Health Services (AHS): *“What you gals are doing here is just incredible. I’m really glad this is here. This is great stuff”* – Client feedback, November 1, 2017

Drug Use and Overdose Prevention and Response

Drugs were consumed on site under the supervision of Registered Nurses **827 times**. Only one of which was ingestion (swallowing) and 14 of which were intranasal (snorting). With each injection, RNs are available to provide education on vein care, injection technique, and overdose prevention.

The most frequently reported drugs used were meth/crystal (316 times), fentanyl (202 times), and heroin (180 times). Clients may use more than one drug within a single injection/consumption and as such, these counts are not reported as percentages.

Naloxone kits are offered to all clients accessing Safeworks SCS, and **138 take-home naloxone kits** were distributed to clients in the first month of operations.

From October 30 – November 30, 2017, Safeworks staff responded to **26 overdoses** within the temporary facility, of which 17 only required supplemental oxygen. Seven overdoses required naloxone and two overdoses also required EMS response.

Wrap-Around Care and Referrals

In order to provide streamlined access to specialized care, Safeworks SCS has partnerships with both AHS and external community partners. From October 30 – November 30, 2017, Safeworks SCS staff made 33 referrals, including 12 referrals to social work, and 7 referrals to the Opioid Dependency Program (ODP). Currently, one client is successfully maintained on Opioid Agonist Therapy at ODP.

Data Collection and Program Evaluation

Client demographic information is captured in paper records within the client's chart, and therefore they are not available on a monthly basis.

Safeworks is partnering with the Institute of Health Economics to conduct a comprehensive provincial program evaluation of SCS.

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Attachment(s): N/A