

# Safeworks Monthly Report – December 2017: Supervised Consumption Services

**Date:** January 9, 2018

## Background

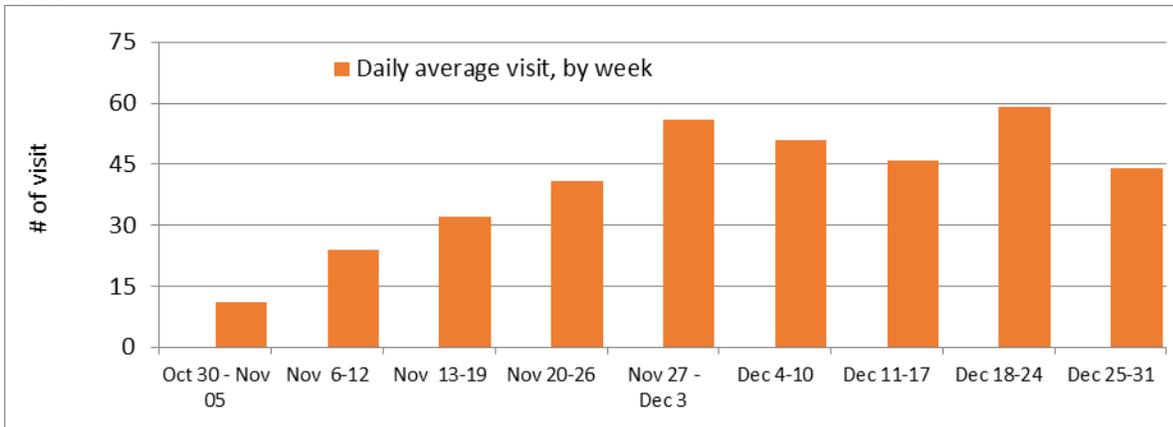
Safeworks Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) launched on October 30, 2017 in a temporary facility at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre with full federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act from Health Canada. The staff team consists of 8 part-time and 9 casual RNs, and 4 part time 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 December 31, 2017, Safeworks SCS had **2551 client visits**. In November, the site saw 224 unique individuals, and in December, the site saw **316 unique individuals**.

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 44 visits per day averaged from December 25 - 31, 2017.

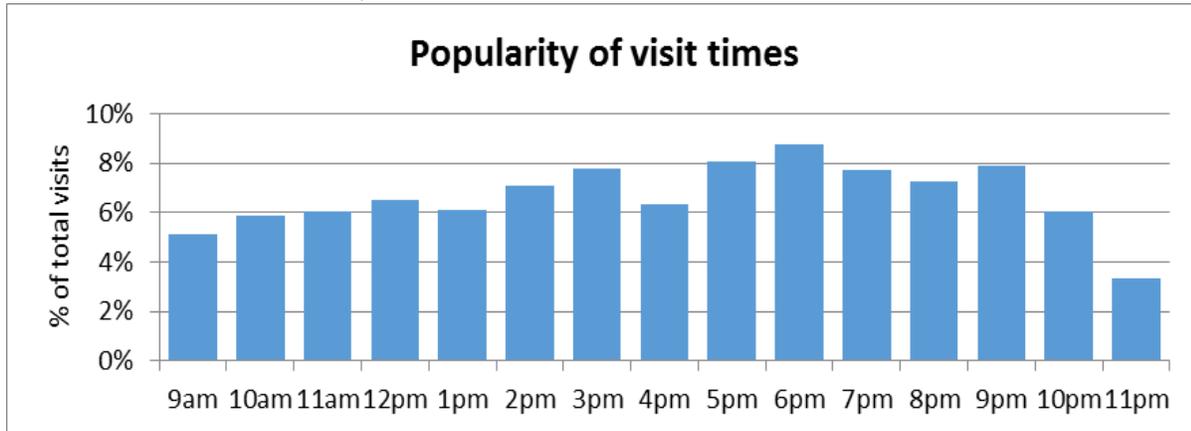
Table 1: Safeworks SCS Average Number of Daily Visits by Week October 30 – December 31, 2017



The majority of clients used Safeworks SCS more than once, often within the same day (up to 9 times in one day). Not all clients consumed drugs on site; 17.4% of visits from October 30 – December 31, 2017 reflect harm reduction supply and/or naloxone kit distribution, monitoring post-consumption from use off site, 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. On average, the busiest time at Safeworks is 5:00pm – 7:00pm, 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 – December 31, 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 that it is 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

From October 30 to December 31, 2017 drugs were consumed on site under the supervision of Registered Nurses **2108 times**. With each client who uses drugs by injection, RNs are available to provide education on vein care, infection prevention, and injection technique. There were only two instances of drug ingestion (swallowing) and 41 instances of intranasal use (snorting).

The most frequently reported drugs used were meth/crystal (847 times), fentanyl (580 times), and heroin (442 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 and overdose prevention education are offered to all clients accessing Safeworks SCS, and from October 30 – December 31, 2017 **166 take-home naloxone kits** were distributed to clients.

From October 30 – December 31, 2017, Safeworks staff responded to a **total of 55 overdoses**.

In December, 2017, Safeworks staff responded to **29 overdoses** within the temporary facility, of which 18 required supplemental oxygen alone; eleven overdoses required naloxone and four also required EMS response.

From October 30 – November 30, 2017, Safeworks staff responded to **26 overdoses** within the temporary facility, of which 17 required supplemental oxygen alone; nine 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 services and external community partners. In December, 2017, Safeworks made 33 referrals to social work and 4 referrals to the Opioid Dependency Program (ODP). 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, two clients are 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 these data 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