

Safeworks Monthly Report – February 2018: Supervised Consumption Services

Date: March 14, 2018

Background

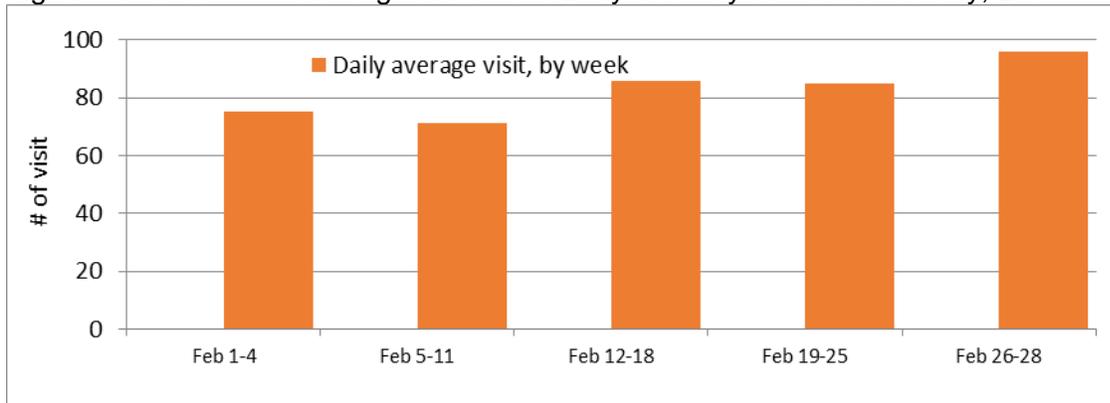
Safeworks Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) launched on October 30, 2017 in a temporary facility at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre with full federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act from Health Canada. On January 15th, 2018, the temporary facility closed, and the permanent facility inside the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre opened for operations.

Service Uptake

From October 30, 2017 to February 28, 2018, Safeworks SCS had **6886 client visits**. In February, the site saw **388 unique individuals** in **2281 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 96 visits per day averaged from February 26 - 28, 2018.

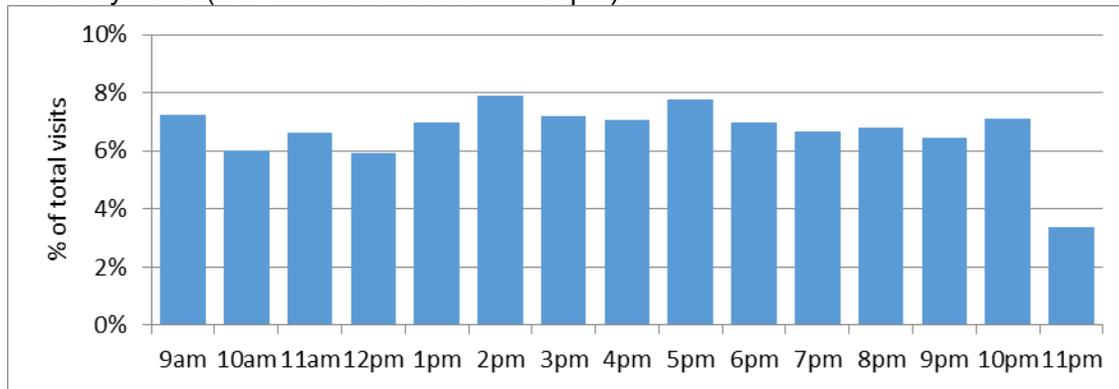
Fig 1: Safeworks SCS Average Number of Daily Visits by Week in February, 2018



The majority of clients use Safeworks SCS more than once, often within the same day. Not all clients consumed drugs on site; 12% of visits in February 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. Service uptake is consistent throughout the day.

Fig 2: Safeworks SCS Total Number of Visits by Time (hourly – based on time of admission) February 2018 (note: intake closes at 11:30pm)



Drug Use and Overdose Prevention and Response

In February 2018, drugs were consumed on site under the supervision of Registered Nurses **2003 times**. With each client who uses drugs by injection, RNs are available to provide education on vein care, infection prevention, and injection technique. In February, there was one instance of drug ingestion (swallowing), and 107 instances of intranasal use (snorting).

The most frequently reported drugs used in February were meth/crystal (1026 times) and fentanyl (485 times). Clients may use more than one drug with 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 in February **124 overdose response kits** were distributed to clients.

From October 30, 2017 – February 28, 2018, Safeworks staff responded to a **total of 119 overdoses**.

In February, Safeworks staff responded to 29 overdoses, of which 20 required supplemental oxygen alone; nine overdoses required naloxone and five also required EMS response.

Table 1: Safeworks SCS Summary of Visits and Overdoses by Month

Month	Number of client visits	Number of Overdoses
October 30 – November 30, 2017	990	26
December, 2017	1561	29
January, 2018	2054	35
February, 2018	2281	29
Total	6886	119

Client Demographics

As of February 28, 2018, a total of 469 unique individuals have registered at the Safeworks SCS. Clients who accessed Safeworks SCS for the first time from October 30, 2017 – February 28, 2018 range in age from 16-69 years old, with an average age of 36 years. The majority of clients are male (68%). Of the 328 clients who shared where they live, 70% have no fixed address or stay in a homeless shelter.

Wrap-Around Care and Referrals

In order to provide streamlined access to specialized care, Safeworks SCS has partnerships with both AHS programs and external community partners. In February, Safeworks made 35 referrals, including 14 referrals to social work and 9 referrals to the Opioid Dependency Program (ODP).

Program Evaluation

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

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