

Safeworks Monthly Report – October 2019

Supervised Consumption Services

November 14, 2019

Background

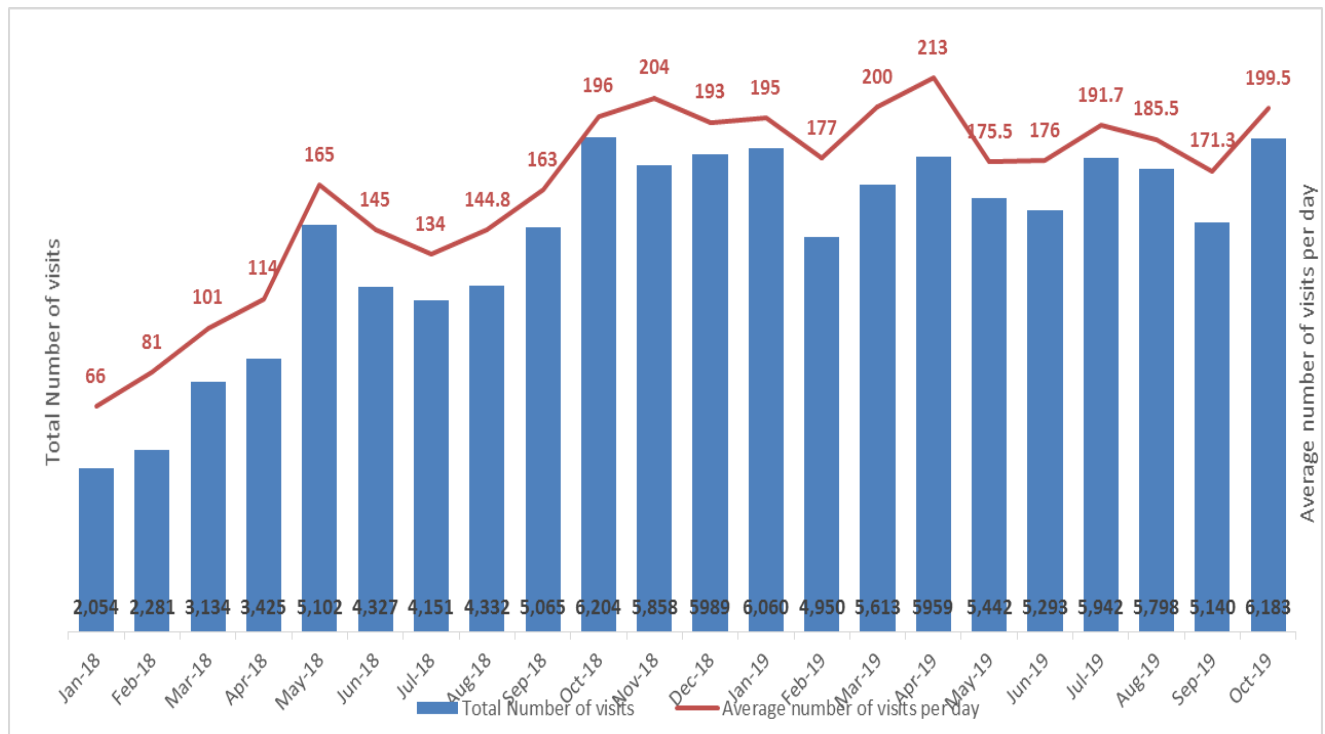
Safeworks Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) launched on October 30, 2017 in a temporary facility at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre with a federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act from Health Canada. On January 15, 2018, the temporary facility closed, and the permanent facility inside the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre opened for operations. On April 30, 2018, Safeworks began offering services 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Service Uptake

From October 30, 2017 to October 31, 2019, Safeworks SCS had **110,853 client visits**. In October 2019, the site saw **1221 unique individuals** in **6,183 visits**.

Uptake of services has increased over time. The average number of visits per day has increased from 11 in the first week of operations (October 30 – November 5, 2017), to 199.5 visits per day averaged from October 1 to October 31, 2019.

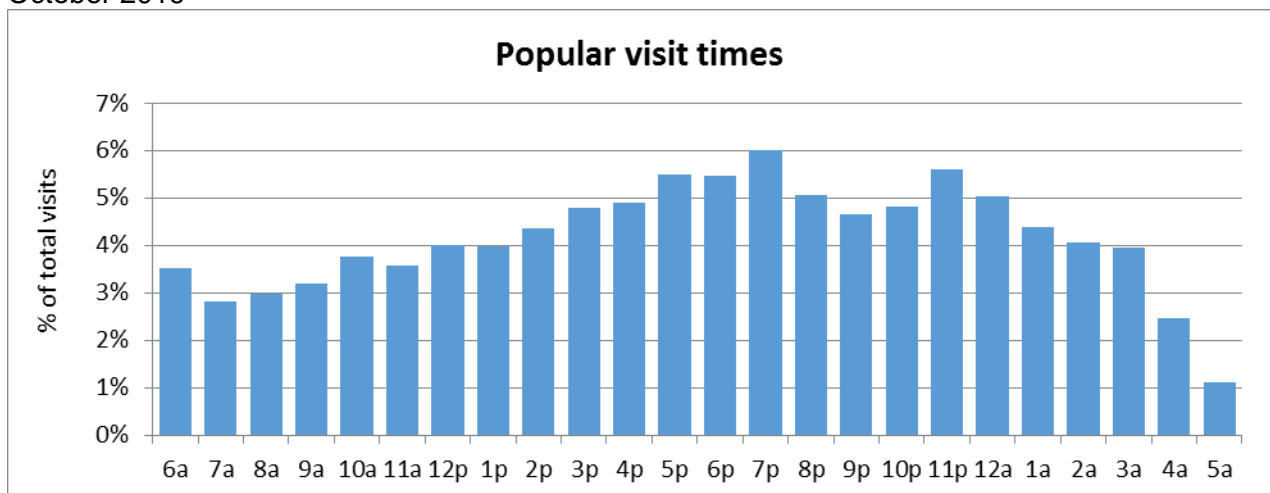
Fig 1: Safeworks SCS Total Number of Visits and Average Number of Visits per Day, by Month



The majority of clients use Safeworks SCS more than once, often within the same day. Not all clients consumed drugs on site: 16.5 % of visits in October reflect receiving harm reduction supplies and/or naloxone kits, being monitored post-consumption from use off-site, receiving wound care or meeting with a social worker.

Safeworks SCS hours of operation are 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Fig 2: Safeworks SCS Total Number of Visits by Time (hourly – based on time of admission) October 2019



Drug Use and Overdose Prevention and Response

In October 2019, drugs were consumed on site under the supervision of registered nurses (RNs) or paramedics **5,311 times**. With each client who uses drugs by injection, RNs and paramedics are available to provide education on vein care, infection prevention, and injection technique. In October, there were two instances of ingestion (swallowing), and 102 instances of intranasal use (snorting).

The most frequently reported drugs used in October were meth/crystal (2,314 times) and fentanyl (1,987 times). Clients may use more than one drug with a single visit.

Overdose response kits (containing Naloxone) and overdose prevention education are offered to all clients accessing Safeworks SCS. In October, staff distributed 287 **overdose response kits**.

From October 30, 2017 to October 30, 2019, Safeworks staff responded to a **total of 1228 overdoses**.

In October, Safeworks staff responded to **24** overdoses. Of these, 24 required supplemental oxygen, 7 required naloxone and one also required an EMS response.

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

Month	Number of client visits	Number of times drugs consumed	Number of Overdoses	Overdoses per number of times drugs consumed
October 30 – November 30, 2017	990	827	26	3.14%
December, 2017	1,561	1,281	29	2.26%
January, 2018	2,054	1,687	35	2.07%
February, 2018	2,281	2,003	29	1.45%
March, 2018	3,134	2,683	67	2.50%
April, 2018	3,425	2,867	44	1.53%
May, 2018	5,102	4,131	71	1.72%
June, 2018	4,327	3,545	78	2.20%
July, 2018	4151	3,295	67	2.03%
August, 2018	4332	3,571	59	1.65%
September, 2018	5065	4,162	89	2.14%
October, 2018	6,204	4,664	63	1.35%
November, 2018	5,858	4,745	62	1.31%
December, 2018	5989	5,033	52	1.03%
January, 2019	6060	4,936	60	1.22%
February, 2019	4950	3,877	70	1.81%
March, 2019	5,613	4,409	53	1.20%
April, 2019	5,959	5,309	38	0.72%
May, 2019	5442	4,942	63	1.27%
June, 2019	5293	4,532	34	0.75%
July, 2019	5942	4,804	47	0.98%
August, 2019	5798	4,928	39	0.79%
September, 2019	5140	4,361	26	0.60%
October, 2019	6183	5,311	24	0.45%
Total	110853	91903	1225	1.33%

Wrap-Around Care and Referrals

To provide streamlined access to specialized care, Safeworks SCS has partnerships with both AHS programs and external community partners. In October, Safeworks made 153 referrals, including 4 referrals to the Opioid Dependency Program (ODP).

Table 2: Safeworks SCS Summary of Referrals by Month

Month	Social Work Referrals	ODP Referrals	Other Referrals *	Treatment/ Detox	Shelter/ Housing	Urgent Care	Total Referrals
October 30 – November 30, 2017	12	7	14	Data not broken down during this time period. These categories were grouped into “Other Referrals” from October 2017 to December 2018.			33
December, 2017	33	12	10				55
January, 2018	11	12	10				33
February, 2018	14	9	12				35
March, 2018	14	6	9				29
April, 2018	2	10	11				23
May, 2018	10	12	12				34
June, 2018	0	5	6				11
July, 2018	1	3	7				11
August, 2018	0	2	6				8
September, 2018	1	3	13				17
October, 2018	0	4	15				19
November, 2018	4	8	26				38
December, 2018	10	4	57				71
January, 2019	15	9	85	19	22	13	163
February, 2019	5	8	64	14	52	7	150
March, 2019	3	5	56	16	49	4	133
April, 2019	5	6	43	9	41	6	110
May, 2019	1	3	80	30	43	4	161
June, 2019	1	5	66	14	52	4	142
July, 2019	8	18	165	25	123	9	348
August, 2019	26	10	106	24	65	13	244
September, 2019	33	17	97	16	51	11	225
October, 2019	19	4	53	8	52	13	153
Total	220	182	963				2246

* “Other” includes referrals made to a variety of programs, including iOAT, The SORCE, and Community Paramedics.