

Safeworks Monthly Report – December 2019

Supervised Consumption Services

January 30, 2020

Background

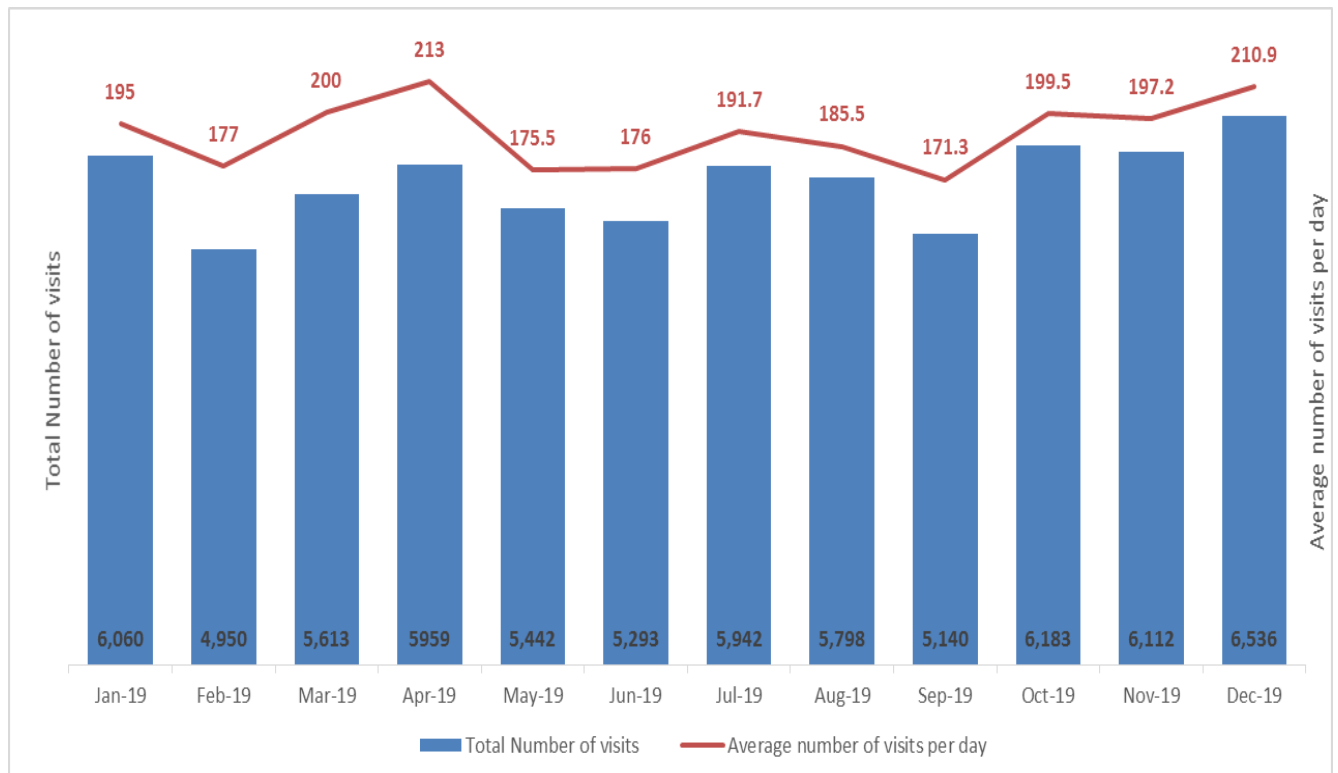
Safeworks Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) launched on October 30, 2017 in a temporary facility at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre with a federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act from Health Canada. On January 15, 2018, the temporary facility closed, and the permanent facility 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 December 31, 2019, Safeworks SCS had **123,501 client visits**. In December 2019, the site saw **1201 unique individuals** in **6,536 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 210.9 visits per day averaged from December 1 to December 31, 2019.

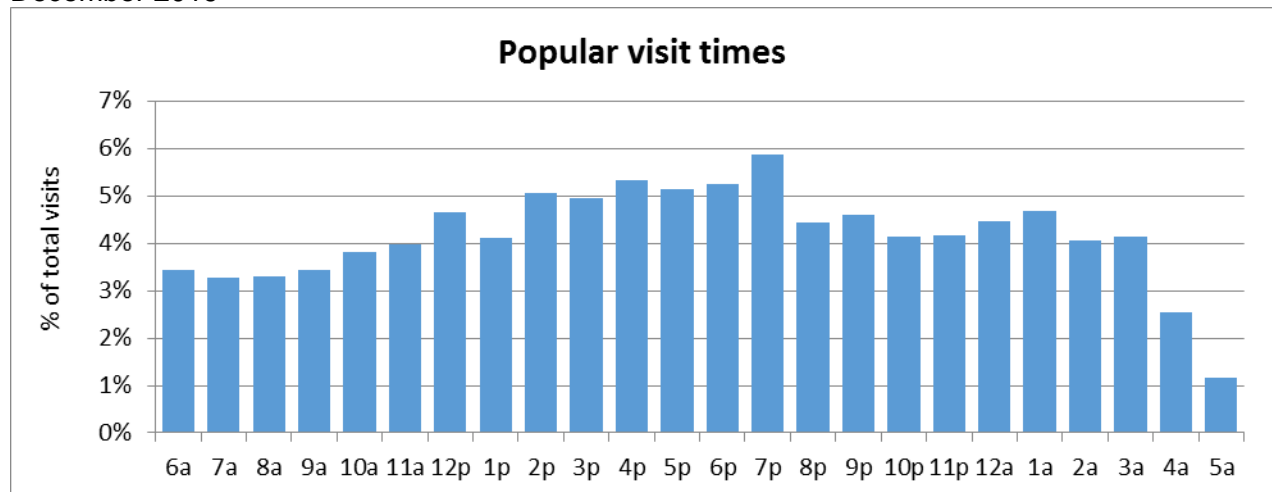
Fig 1: Safeworks SCS Total Number of Visits and Average Number of Visits per Day, by Month



The majority of clients use Safeworks SCS more than once, often within the same day. Not all clients consumed drugs on site: 14.2% of visits in December 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) December 2019



Drug Use and Overdose Prevention and Response

In December 2019, drugs were consumed on site under the supervision of registered nurses (RNs) or paramedics **5,800 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 December, there was zero instances of ingestion (swallowing), and 143 instances of intranasal use (snorting).

The most frequently reported drugs used in December were meth/crystal (2,617 times) and fentanyl (1,911 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 December, staff distributed 231 **overdose response kits**.

From October 30, 2017 to December 31, 2019, Safeworks staff responded to a **total of 1,498 overdoses**.

In December, Safeworks staff responded to 71 overdoses. Of these, 70 required supplemental oxygen, 22 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
Oct 30 – Nov 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 ¹	5293	4,532	57	1.26%
July, 2019	5942	4,804	90	1.87%
August, 2019	5798	4,928	64	1.30%
September, 2019	5140	4,361	39	0.89%
October, 2019	6183	5,311	49	0.92%
November, 2019	6112	5,420	73	1.35%
December, 2019	6536	5,800	71	1.22%
Total	123501	103123	1498	1.45%

¹ The number of overdoses reported from June 2019 to November 2019 have been amended from previous reports due to a data processing error that has now been corrected. The cells shaded in grey indicate the amended information.

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 December, Safeworks made 142 referrals, including 7 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
Oct 30 – Nov 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
Dec 2017	33	12	10				55
Jan 2018	11	12	10				33
Feb 2018	14	9	12				35
Mar 2018	14	6	9				29
Apr 2018	2	10	11				23
May 2018	10	12	12				34
Jun 2018	0	5	6				11
Jul 2018	1	3	7				11
Aug 2018	0	2	6				8
Sep 2018	1	3	13				17
Oct 2018	0	4	15				19
Nov 2018	4	8	26				38
Dec 2018	10	4	57				71
Jan 2019	15	9	85	19	22	13	163
Feb 2019	5	8	64	14	52	7	150
Mar 2019	3	5	56	16	49	4	133
Apr 2019	5	6	43	9	41	6	110
May 2019	1	3	80	30	43	4	161
Jun 2019	1	5	66	14	52	4	142
Jul 2019	8	18	165	25	123	9	348
Aug 2019	26	10	106	24	65	13	244
Sep 2019	33	17	97	16	51	11	225
Oct 2019	19	4	53	8	52	13	153
Nov 2019**	9	2	28	7	36	15	97
Dec 2019	11	7	32	9	70	13	142
Total	240	191	995				2485

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

** Number of referrals may be under-reported for November 2019.