

Safeworks Monthly Report – April 2020

Supervised Consumption Services

May 15, 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.

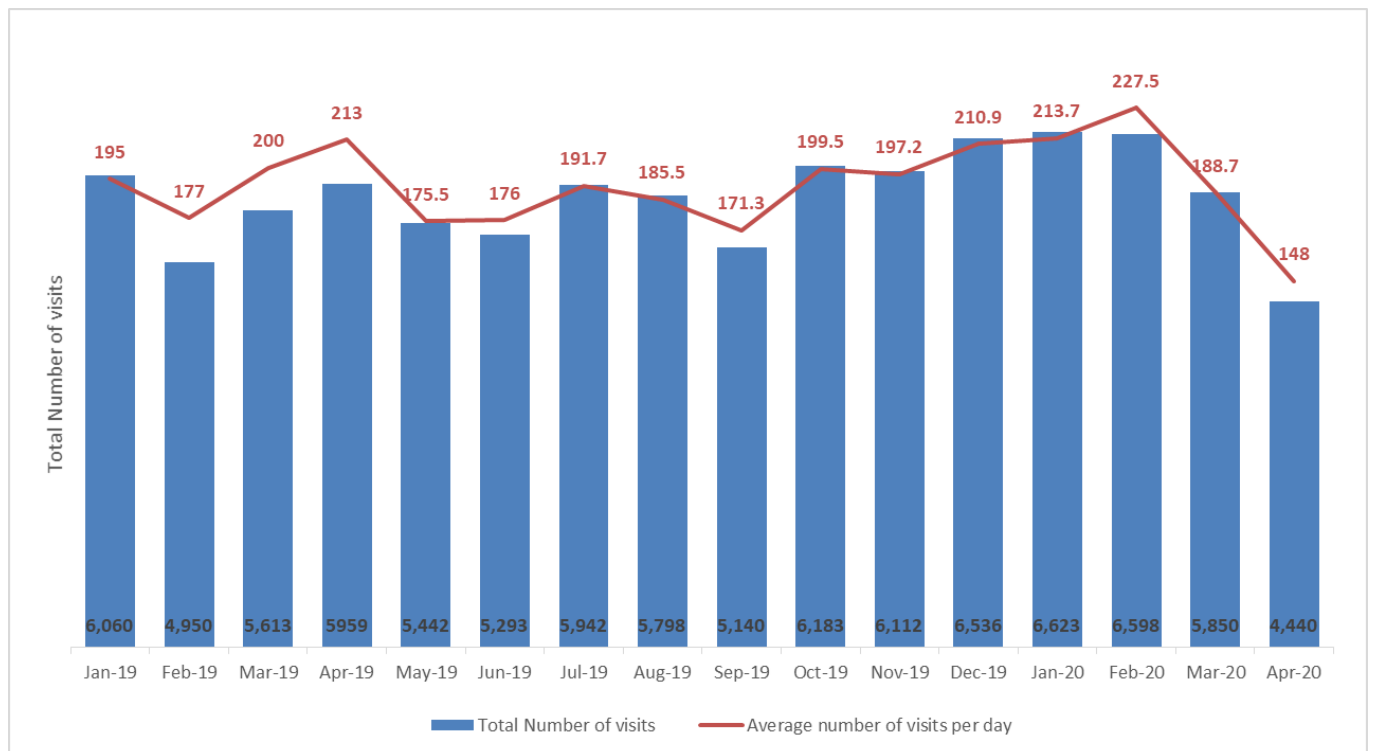
Service Uptake

From October 30, 2017 to April 30, 2020, Safeworks SCS had **147,012 client visits**. In April 2020, the site saw **517 unique individuals** in **4440 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 148 visits per day averaged from April 1 to April 30, 2020.

In response to COVID-19 public health recommendations, Safeworks SCS decreased booth capacity from six booths to three booths on March 19 2020 to maintain physical distancing measures within the consumption room.

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



Drug Use and Overdose Prevention and Response

In April, drugs were consumed on site under the supervision of registered nurses (RNs) or paramedics **3992 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 April, there was one instance of ingestion (swallowing), and 185 instances of intranasal use (snorting).

The most frequently reported drugs used in April were fentanyl (1608 times) and meth/crystal (1544 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 April, staff distributed **287 overdose response kits**.

Since operations began on October 30 2017 to April 30 2020, Safeworks staff have responded to a **total of 1769 overdoses**.

In April, Safeworks staff responded to 87 overdoses. Of these, 78 required supplemental oxygen, 33 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%
Dec 2017	1561	1281	29	2.26%
Jan 2018	2054	1687	35	2.07%
Feb 2018	2281	2003	29	1.45%
Mar 2018	3134	2683	67	2.50%
Apr 2018	3425	2867	44	1.53%
May 2018	5102	4131	71	1.72%
Jun 2018	4327	3545	78	2.20%
Jul 2018	4151	3295	67	2.03%
Aug 2018	4332	3571	59	1.65%
Sep 2018	5065	4162	89	2.14%
Oct 2018	6204	4664	63	1.35%
Nov 2018	5858	4745	62	1.31%
Dec 2018	5989	5033	52	1.03%
Jan 2019	6060	4936	60	1.22%
Feb 2019	4950	3877	70	1.81%
Mar 2019	5613	4409	53	1.20%
Apr 2019	5959	5309	38	0.72%
May 2019	5442	4942	63	1.27%
Jun 2019*	5293	4532	57	1.26%
Jul 2019	5942	4804	90	1.87%
Aug 2019	5798	4928	64	1.30%
Sep 2019	5140	4361	39	0.89%
Oct 2019	6183	5311	49	0.92%
Nov 2019	6112	5420	73	1.35%
Dec 2019	6536	5800	71	1.22%
Jan 2020	6623	5994	47	0.78%
Feb 2020	6598	6069	54	0.88%
Mar 2020	5850	5538	83	1.50%
Apr 2020	4440	3988	87	2.18%
Total	147,012	124,712	1769	1.41%

* The number of overdoses reported from June 2019 to November 2019 have been amended from previous reports due to a data processing error that was corrected in the December 2019 report and onward.

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 April, Safeworks made 100 referrals.

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
Jan 2020	8	16	39	9	62	19	153
Feb 2020	3	0	11	4	22	3	43
Mar 2020	9	21	37	***	15	7	89
Apr 2020	10	9	60	***	13	8	100
Total	278	237	1231				2870

* “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.

*** Treatment/detox for March and April 2020 is grouped into ODP.