

Safeworks Monthly Report – September 2020 Supervised Consumption Services

October 20, 2020

Background

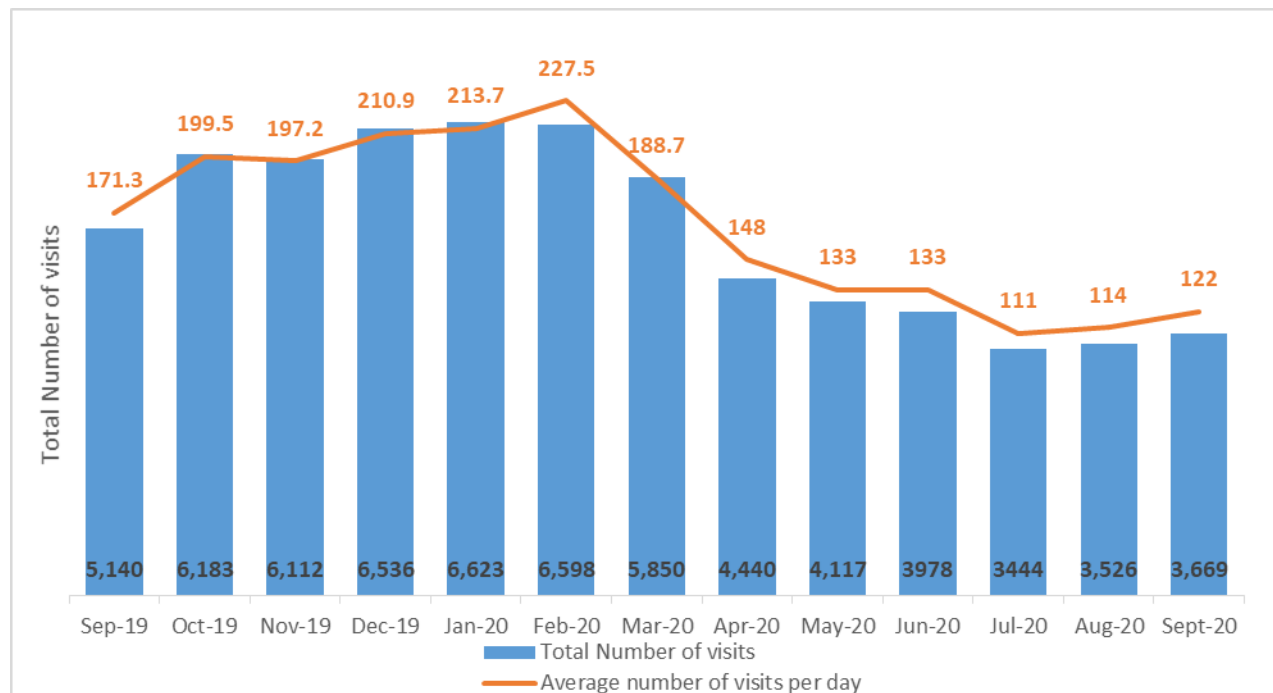
Safeworks Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) launched on October 30, 2017 in a temporary facility at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre with a federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act from Health Canada. On January 15, 2018, the temporary facility closed, and the permanent facility 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 the start of operations on October 30, 2017 to September 30, 2020, Safeworks SCS had **165,746 client visits**. In September 2020, the site saw **466 unique individuals** in **3,669 visits** with an average of 122 visits per day.

Uptake of services recently declined during the spring COVID-19 response. In response to COVID-19 public health recommendations, Safeworks SCS decreased booth capacity from six booths to three booths on March 19, 2020. On July 20, 2020, booth capacity was increased back to 6 booths with the proper infection control measures in place.

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 September 2020, drugs were consumed on site under the supervision of registered nurses (RNs) or paramedics **3214 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 September, there were no instances of ingestion (swallowing), and 74 instances of intranasal use (snorting).

The most frequently reported drugs used in September 2020 were fentanyl (1542 times) and meth/crystal (968 times).

Overdose response kits (containing Naloxone) and overdose prevention education are offered to all clients accessing Safeworks SCS. In September 2020, staff distributed **274 overdose response kits**.

Since operations began on October 30 2017 to September 30 2020, Safeworks staff have responded to a **total of 2,058 overdoses**.

In September, Safeworks staff responded to **82 overdoses**. Of these, 82 required supplemental oxygen, 19 required naloxone and two also required an EMS response.

Table 1: Safeworks SCS Summary of Visits and Overdoses by Month in the past 12 months

Month	Number of client visits	Number of times drugs consumed	Number of Overdoses	Overdoses per number of times drugs consumed
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%
May 2020	4117	3537	52	1.47%
Jun 2020	3978	3382	42	1.24%
Jul 2020	3444	2965	63	2.12%
Aug 2020	3526	3003	50	1.66%
Sept 2020	3669	3210	82	2.55%

* 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 September 2020, Safeworks made 138 referrals.

Table 2: Safeworks SCS Summary of Referrals by Month in past 12 months

Month	Social Work Referrals	ODP Referrals	Other * Referrals	Treatment/ Detox	Shelter/ Housing	Urgent Care	Total Referrals
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
May 2020	10	6	90	7	14	18	145
Jun 2020	9	8	70	4	9	8	108
Jul 2020	9	6	50	8	17	10	100
Aug 2020	9	5	82	13	13	9	131
Sept 2020	12	3	87	15	13	8	138

* "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.