

Safeworks Monthly Report – April 2021 Supervised Consumption Services

May 14, 2021

Background

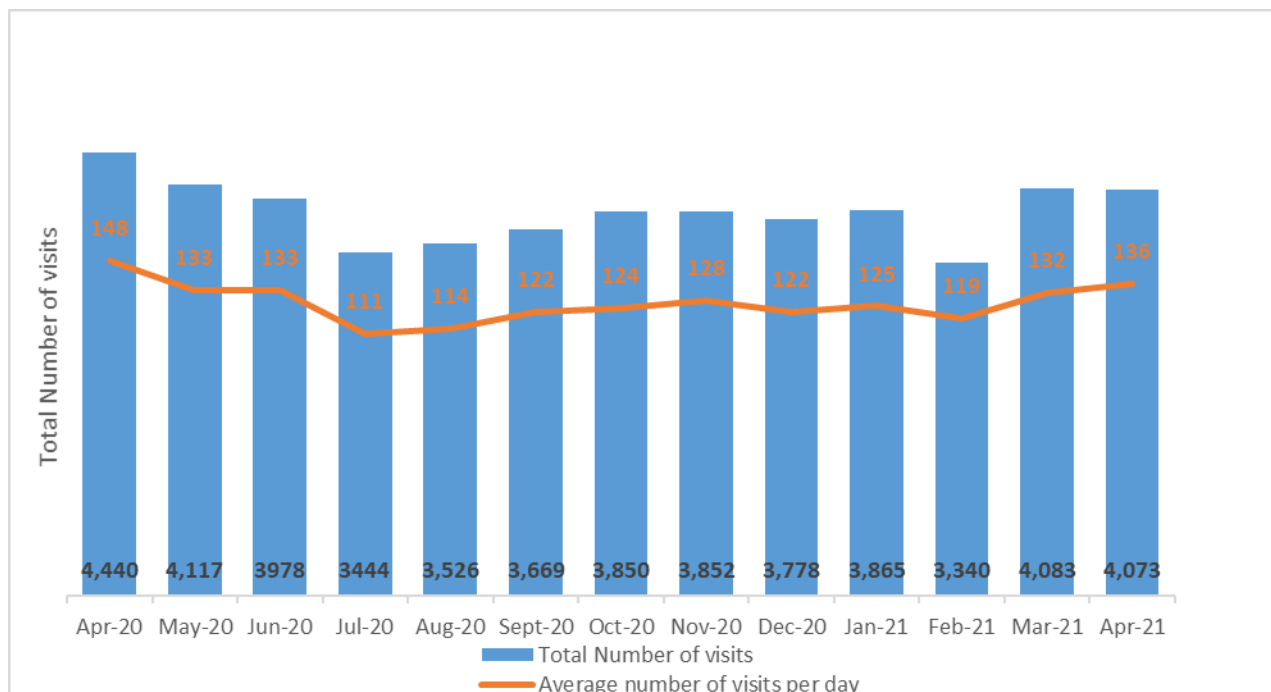
Safeworks Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) launched on October 30, 2017 in a temporary facility at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre with a federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act from Health Canada. On January 15, 2018, the temporary facility closed, and the permanent facility 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 April 30, 2021, Safeworks SCS had **192,587 client visits**. In April 2021, the site saw **485 unique individuals** in **4,073 visits** with an average of 136 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 six booths with the proper infection control measures in place. Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in the fall, booth capacity was reduced again to three on November 10, 2020, and remains 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 April 2021, drugs were consumed on site under the supervision of registered nurses (RNs) or paramedics **3594 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 276 instances of intranasal use (snorting).

The most frequently reported drugs used in April 2021 were fentanyl (1531 times) and methamphetamine (1485 times).

Overdose response kits (containing Naloxone) and overdose prevention education are offered to all clients accessing Safeworks SCS. In April 2021, SCS staff distributed **248 overdose response kits**.

Since operations began on October 30 2017 to April 30 2021, Safeworks staff have responded to a **total of 2,668 overdoses**.

In April 2021, Safeworks staff responded to **85 overdoses**. Of these, 85 required supplemental oxygen, 26 required naloxone and 5 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
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%
Oct 2020	3850	3427	81	2.36%
Nov 2020	3852	3555	78	2.19%
Dec 2020	3778	3467	69	1.99%
Jan 2021	3865	3580	104	2.91%
Feb 2021	3340	3052	89	2.92%
Mar 2021	4083	3616	104	2.88%
Apr 2021	4073	3594	85	2.37%

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 2021, Safeworks made 73 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
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
Oct 2020	7	5	67	22	10	12	123
Nov 2020	2	2	72	8	3	8	95
Dec 2020	0	1	75	4	1	9	90
Jan 2021	6	3	52	7	3	14	85
Feb 2021	2	1	93	5	3	14	118
Mar 2021	0	5	63	3	3	10	84
Apr 2021	2	1	55	6	3	6	73

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

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