

Safeworks Monthly Report – October 2022 Supervised Consumption Services

November 10, 2022

Background

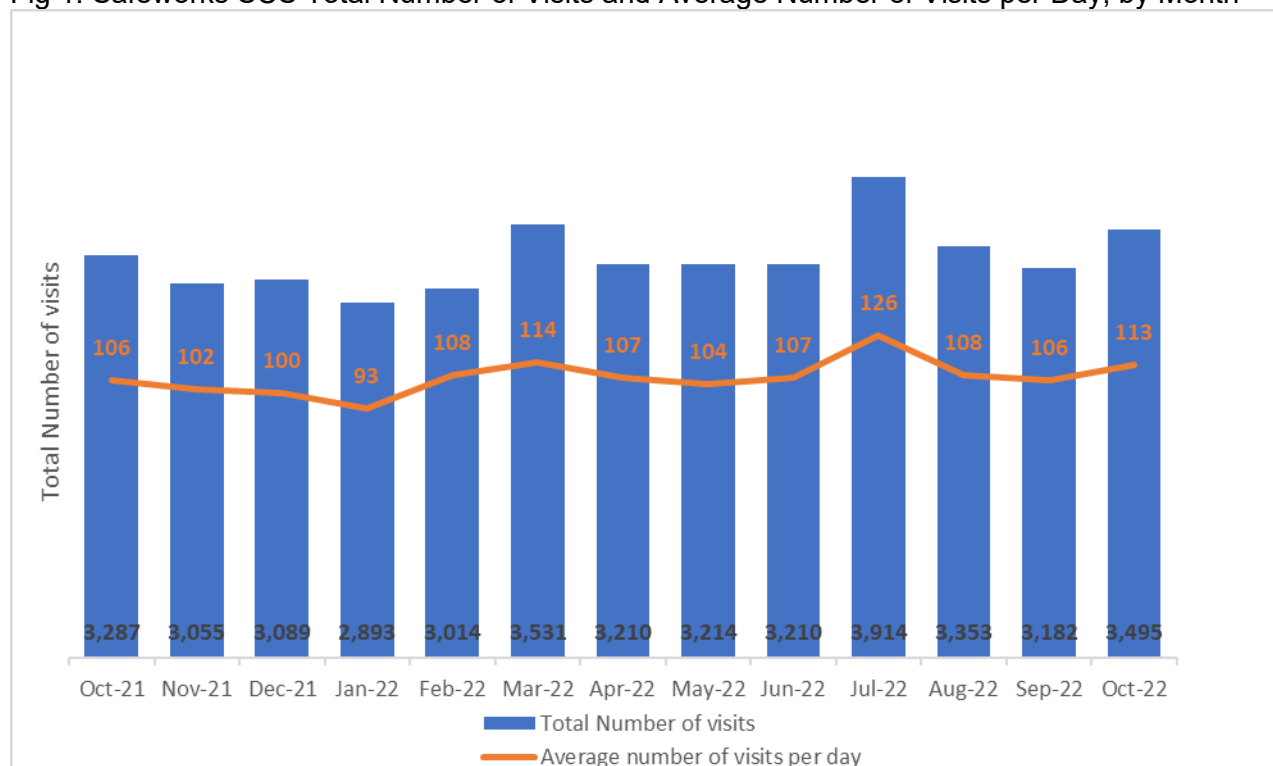
Safeworks Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) launched on October 30, 2017 in a temporary facility at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre with a federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act from Health Canada. On January 15, 2018, the temporary facility closed, and the permanent facility 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 October 31, 2022, Safeworks SCS had **252,375 client visits**. In September 2022, the site saw **483 unique individuals** in **3,495 visits** with an average of 113 visits per day.

Uptake of services declined in the spring of 2020, during the COVID-19 response. Safeworks SCS decreased booth capacity from six booths to three booths on March 19, 2020, following public health recommendations. On July 20, 2020, booth capacity was increased to the full complement of six booths with proper infection control measures in place. Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in the fall of 2020, booth capacity was again reduced to three on November 10, 2020. On July 21, 2021, booth capacity was once again restored to six booths and continues to operate at that capacity.

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 October 2022, drugs were consumed on site under the supervision of registered nurses (RNs) or paramedics **3019 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 was 276 instances of intranasal use (snorting).

The most frequently reported drugs used in October 2022 were fentanyl (1061 times) and methamphetamine (1012 times).

Overdose response kits (containing Naloxone) and overdose prevention education are offered to all clients accessing Safeworks SCS. In October 2022, SCS staff distributed **148 overdose response kits**.

Since operations began on October 30 2017 to October 31 2022, Safeworks staff have responded to a **total of 5,037 overdoses**.

In October 2022, Safeworks staff responded to **119 overdoses**. Of these, 119 required supplemental oxygen, 23 required naloxone and 2 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 |
|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Oct 2021 | 3287 | 2891 | 176 | 6.09% |
| Nov 2021 | 3055 | 2636 | 164 | 6.22% |
| Dec 2021 | 3089 | 2692 | 214 | 7.95% |
| Jan 2022 | 2893 | 2518 | 172 | 6.83% |
| Feb 2022 | 3014 | 2669 | 148 | 5.55% |
| Mar 2022 | 3531 | 3115 | 120 | 3.85% |
| Apr 2022 | 3210 | 2853 | 101 | 3.54% |
| May 2022 | 3214 | 2717 | 90 | 3.31% |
| June 2022 | 3210 | 2751 | 103 | 3.74% |
| July 2022 | 3914 | 3162 | 87 | 2.75% |
| Aug 2022 | 3353 | 2758 | 68 | 2.47% |
| Sep 2022 | 3182 | 2615 | 67 | 2.56% |
| Oct 2022 | 3495 | 3019 | 119 | 3.94% |

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 2022, Safeworks made 159 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 |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Oct 2021 | 7 | 4 | 41 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 62 |
| Nov 2021 | 3 | 1 | 58 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 76 |
| Dec 2021 | 4 | 2 | 89 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 114 |
| Jan 2022 | 1 | 1 | 47 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 53 |
| Feb 2022 | 0 | 3 | 58 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 78 |
| Mar 2022 | 2 | 3 | 58 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 81 |
| Apr 2022 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 48 |
| May 2022 | 0 | 1 | 72 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 104 |
| June 2022 | 1 | 4 | 79 | 2 | 2 | 27 | 115 |
| July 2022 | 3 | 3 | 116 | 6 | 5 | 38 | 171 |
| Aug 2022 | 10 | 14 | 181 | 45 | 7 | 25 | 282 |
| Sep 2022 | 10 | 10 | 250 | 33 | 12 | 22 | 337 |
| Oct 2022 | 13 | 7 | 107 | 4 | 10 | 18 | 159 |

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