

Safeworks Monthly Report – August 2023

Supervised Consumption Services

September 5, 2023

Background

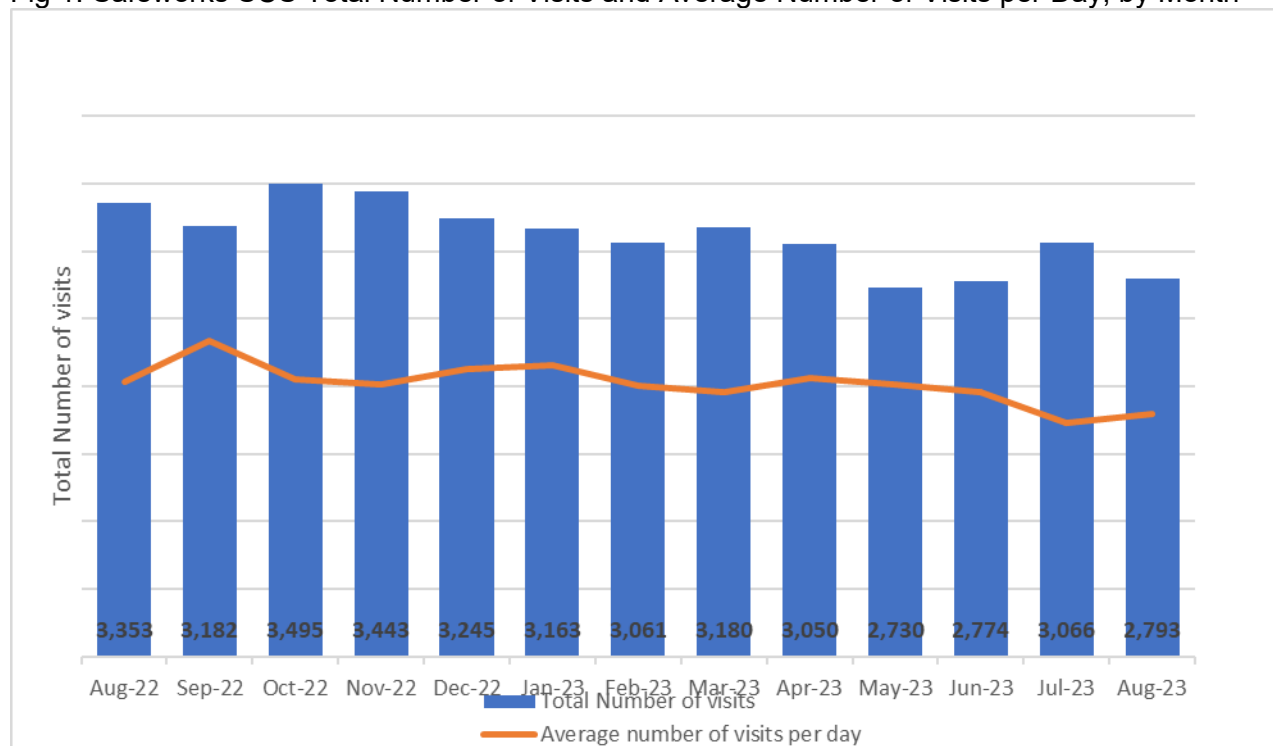
Safeworks Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) launched on October 30, 2017 in a temporary facility at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre with a federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act from Health Canada. On January 15, 2018, the temporary facility closed, and the permanent facility 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 August 31, 2023, Safeworks SCS had **282,880 client visits**. In August 2023, the site saw **492 unique individuals** in **2,793 visits** with an average of 90 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 August 2023, drugs were consumed on site under the supervision of registered nurses (RNs) or paramedics **2,185 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 August 2023, there was 270 instances of intranasal use (snorting).

The most frequently reported drugs used in August 2023 were methamphetamine (798 times) and fentanyl (856 times).

Overdose response kits (containing Naloxone) and overdose prevention education are offered to all clients accessing Safeworks SCS. In August 2023, SCS staff distributed **236 overdose response kits**.

Since operations began on October 30 2017 to August 31, 2023, Safeworks staff have responded to a **total of 6,627 overdoses**.

In August 2023, Safeworks staff responded to **174 overdoses**. Of these, 172 required supplemental oxygen, 83 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 |
|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Aug 2022 | 3353 | 2758 | 68 | 2.47% |
| Sep 2022 | 3182 | 2615 | 67 | 2.56% |
| Oct 2022 | 3495 | 3019 | 119 | 3.94% |
| Nov 2022 | 3443 | 3014 | 130 | 4.31% |
| Dec 2022 | 3245 | 2806 | 165 | 5.88% |
| Jan 2023 | 3163 | 2624 | 137 | 5.22% |
| Feb 2023 | 3061 | 2548 | 126 | 4.95% |
| Mar 2023 | 3108 | 2684 | 226 | 8.42% |
| Apr 2023 | 3050 | 2539 | 210 | 8.27% |
| May 2023 | 2730 | 2139 | 143 | 6.68% |
| June 2023 | 2774 | 2031 | 140 | 6.89% |
| July 2023 | 3066 | 2431 | 139 | 5.71% |
| Aug 2023 | 2793 | 2185 | 174 | 7.96% |

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 August 2023, Safeworks made 115 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 |
|-------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|
|-------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|
| 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 |
| Nov 2022 | 11 | 4 | 134 | 3 | 12 | 16 | 180 |
| Dec 2022 | 2 | 0 | 116 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 136 |
| Jan 2023 | 10 | 2 | 133 | 13 | 4 | 12 | 174 |
| Feb 2023 | 7 | 4 | 104 | 5 | 1 | 12 | 133 |
| Mar 2023 | 2 | 1 | 87 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 110 |
| Apr 2023 | 5 | 0 | 116 | 12 | 2 | 7 | 142 |
| May 2023 | 15 | 1 | 90 | 19 | 2 | 18 | 144 |
| June 2023 | 11 | 2 | 50 | 19 | 5 | 10 | 97 |
| July 2023 | 8 | 3 | 81 | 12 | 4 | 13 | 121 |
| Aug 2023 | 11 | 2 | 75 | 14 | 2 | 11 | 115 |

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