

Safeworks Monthly Report – October 2023

Supervised Consumption Services

November 1, 2023

Background

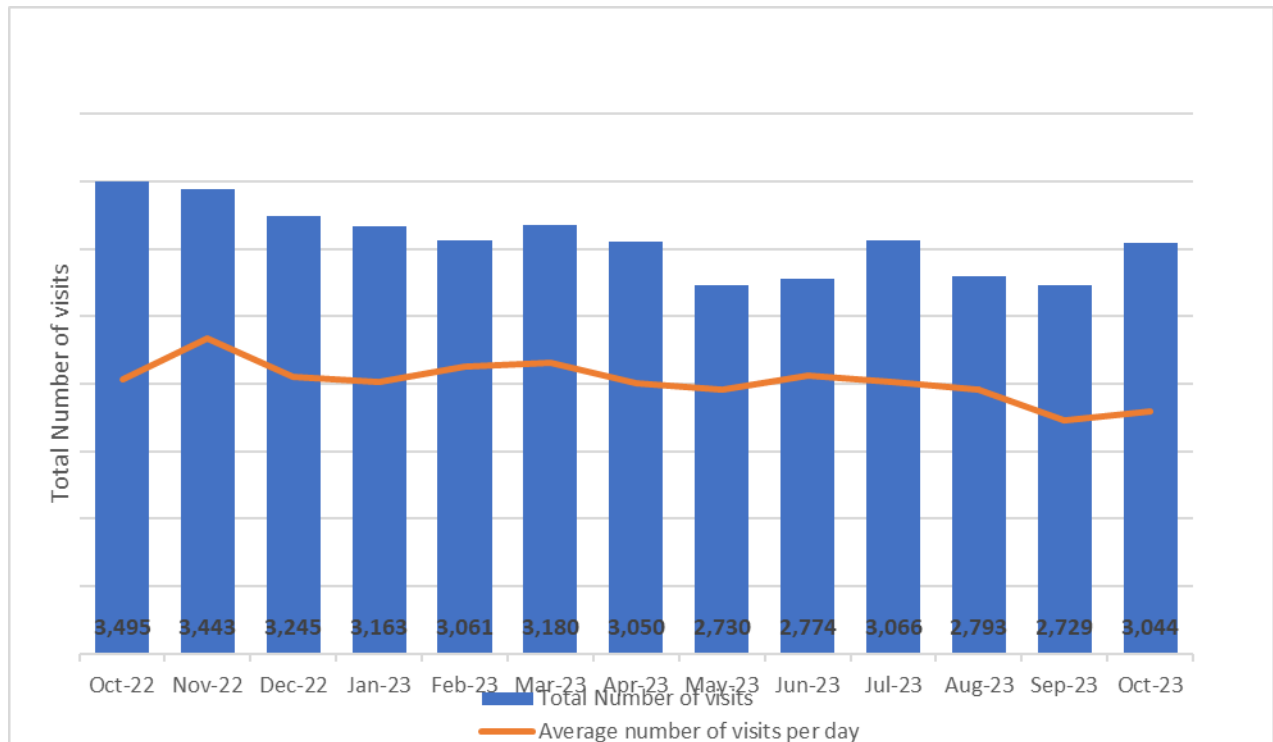
Safeworks Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) launched on October 30, 2017 in a temporary facility at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre with a federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act from Health Canada. On January 15, 2018, the temporary facility closed, and the permanent facility 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 October 31, 2023, Safeworks SCS had **288,653 client visits**. In October 2023, the site saw **484 unique individuals** in **3,044 visits** with an average of 98 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 2023, drugs were consumed on site under the supervision of registered nurses (RNs) or paramedics **2609 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 420 instances of intranasal use (snorting).

The most frequently reported drugs used in November 2023 were methamphetamine (1071 times) and fentanyl (968 times).

Overdose response kits (containing Naloxone) and overdose prevention education are offered to all clients accessing Safeworks SCS. In October 2023, SCS staff distributed **246 overdose response kits**.

Since operations began on October 30, 2017, to October 31, 2023, Safeworks staff have responded to a **total of 6967 overdoses**.

In October 2023, Safeworks staff responded to **182 overdoses**. Of these, 128 required supplemental oxygen, 50 required naloxone and 4 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 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%
August 2023	2793	2185	174	7.96%
September 2023	2729	2192	158	7.21%
October 2023	3044	2609	182	6.98%

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 March 2023, Safeworks made 133 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 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	92	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
Sept 2023	8	2	66	13	3	16	108
Oct 2023	13	2	154	9	11	28	217

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