

Safeworks Monthly Report – February 2024

Supervised Consumption Services

March 29, 2024

Background

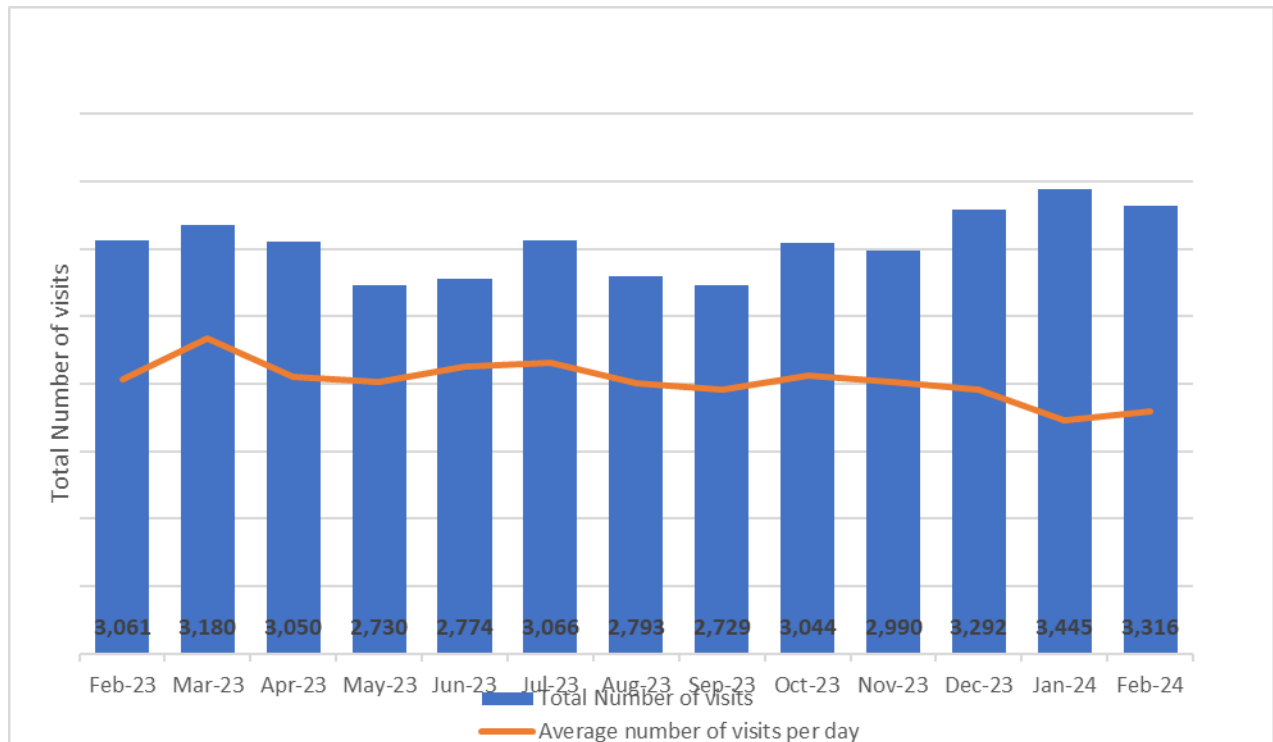
Safeworks Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) launched on October 30, 2017 in a temporary facility at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre with a federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act from Health Canada. On January 15, 2018, the temporary facility closed, and the permanent facility 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 February 29, 2024, Safeworks SCS had **301,396 client visits**. In February 2023, the site saw **555 unique individuals** in **3316 visits** with an average of 114 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 February 2024, drugs were consumed on site under the supervision of registered nurses (RNs) or paramedics **2808 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 December, there were 275 instances of intranasal use (snorting).

The most frequently reported drugs used in February 2024 were methamphetamine (1014 times) and fentanyl (1123 times).

Overdose response kits (containing Naloxone) and overdose prevention education are offered to all clients accessing Safeworks SCS. In February 2024, SCS staff distributed **154 overdose response kits**.

Since operations began on October 30, 2017, to February 29, 2024, Safeworks staff have responded to a **total of 7639 overdoses**.

In February 2024, Safeworks staff responded to **87 overdoses**. Of these, 87 required supplemental oxygen, 25 required naloxone and 1 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
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%
November 2023	2990	2606	211	8.09%
December 2023	3292	2759	218	7.90%
January 2024	3445	2931	156	5.32%
February 2024	3316	2808	87	3.09%

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 February 2024, Safeworks made 297 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
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
Nov 2023	12	6	141	15	19	29	222
Dec 2023	13	4	209	13	22	38	299
Jan 2024	8	7	311	8	11	24	368
Feb 2024	16	3	215	9	25	29	297

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