

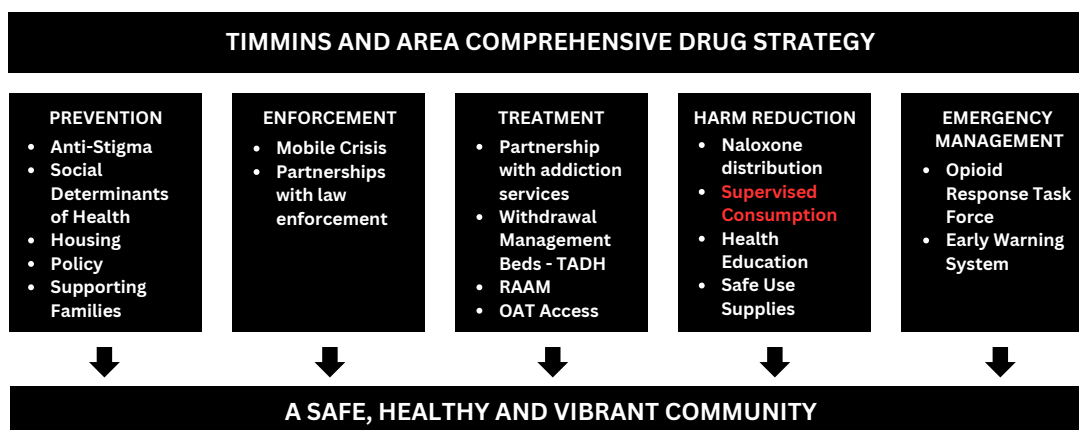
Safe Health Site Timmins

Temporary Urgent Public Health Needs Site Information Sheet
For period ending December 31st, 2023

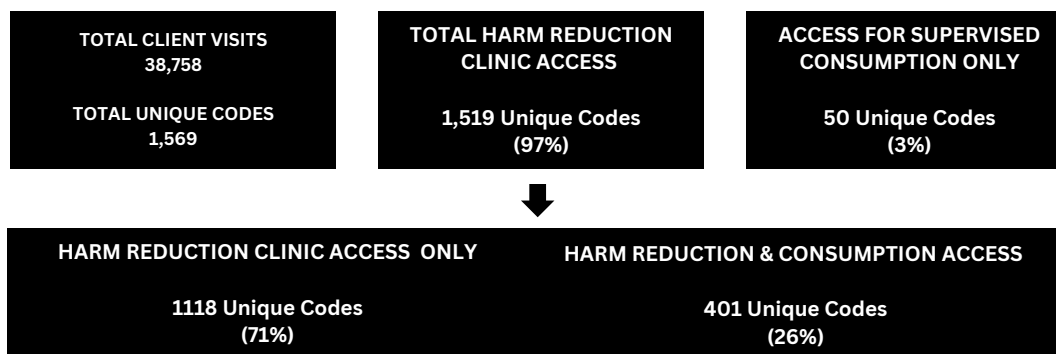
BACKGROUND & SITE ACCESS

Responding to community need, following an unprecedented increase in opioid-related overdoses and overdose-related deaths, the Timmins and Area Drug Strategy (TADS) advocated for and moved forward plans to open an urgent public health needs site. Opening on July 2022 the Safe Health Site Timmins (SHST) is operated by the Timmins and District Hospital (TADH) and funded until December 31st, 2023 through the City of Timmins. TADH approved the temporary extension of services until March 31st, 2024.

The SHST is one vital part of an overall drug strategy. Through the implementation of this strategy as a whole, our community will create positive, meaningful change. Each pillar on its own will not have a huge impact in our community, **we need all pillars to create an equitable, responsive and supportive system that responds to the needs of our community and district.**



Supervised Consumption Sites operate as anonymous sites, through the use of individual codes. There may be some individuals that have used duplicate codes. This unique code is used for **both** the Harm Reduction (HR) Clinic and consumption services. **The access date represents July 2022 - December 2023.**



The Harm Reduction Clinic is where individuals can access basic help and supports, request and receive education around safer substance use practices and request help with being referred for addiction, mental health and support services. Worth noting:

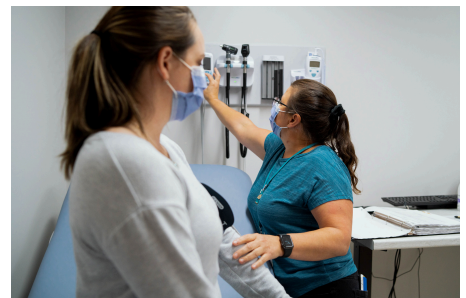
- **1118 unique codes (71%)** who accessed the Harm Reduction Clinic had **no onsite supervised consumption visits.**
- **401 unique codes (26%)** accessed **both** the Harm Reduction Clinic and supervised consumption services.
- **50 unique codes (3%) only** had supervised consumption services visits. SHST staff work to build a relationship with these clients and offer supports, services and information when they attend the site.

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KEY SUCCESSES

- **CONNECTING INDIVIDUALS TO DETOX AND TREATMENT SERVICES**
 - The SHST has facilitated **40 direct admissions to the withdrawal management** unit since July 2022. Clients know that the SHST is a safe service to access if they want help.
 - The SHST supported **56 referrals for 26 individuals to community-based addiction services, including residential treatment.** In cases where services were not immediately available, the SHST supports the individual and offers help and medical intervention while they wait.
 - The SHST actively supports treatment services. **If a client requests Suboxone, the Community Withdrawal Management Service is actioned** as quickly as possible to the site to support the request where the client needs it.
- **REDUCING PRESSURES ON EMERGENCY SERVICES INCLUDING EMS, POLICE AND FIRE**
 - Since July 2022 only **11 of the 361 overdoses, or three per cent,** have required emergency services. Between September and December 2023, **179 overdoses were reversed at SHST with only, one call to EMS** required.
 - The SHST has helped **reduced calls to paramedics in Timmins by almost 20 per cent for opioid-related overdoses** in one year.
- **REDUCING PRESSURES ON OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**
 - Helping support Emergency Department diversion, the SHST provided **medical care 704 times for 147 individuals directly at the site.**
 - Approximately half of the visits to the SHST are to consume pre-obtained substances. The other half are requests to connect with our care system through Harm Reduction (including requesting detox or treatment services, access medical care or counselling and education).
 - At ~\$1000 per opioid-related overdose call, the **SHST has saved our care system ~\$350,000 in ambulance calls** and helping ensure our emergency services are available to respond to the critical calls in our community. This does not include the cost of police and fire response.
 - In 2022 the Canadian Medical Association Journal estimated that providing harm reduction supplies prevented \$7310 in health-related costs per patient per year. In one year, **SHST provided 970 clients with Harm Reduction services, estimated to have saved our health care system \$7,090,700** in health related costs (hospitalizations, medications, illness, etc..)
- **SAVING LIVES**
 - Between July 2022 - October 2023, a total of **78 individuals overdosed 361 times** and through quick medical intervention, **no fatalities were reported.**
 - Each of the **131 overdose interventions that required the administration of Naloxone for reversal would have resulted in a fatality.**
 - We are facing a significant increase in overdoses this quarter with **178 overdoses reported between September - December 2023** alone. As of November 6th, 2023 **our community has been in an active opioid alert 156 of 309 days, or 50 per cent of the year to date.** In 2022, our community spent 46 per cent of the year in an active opioid alert (161 days).



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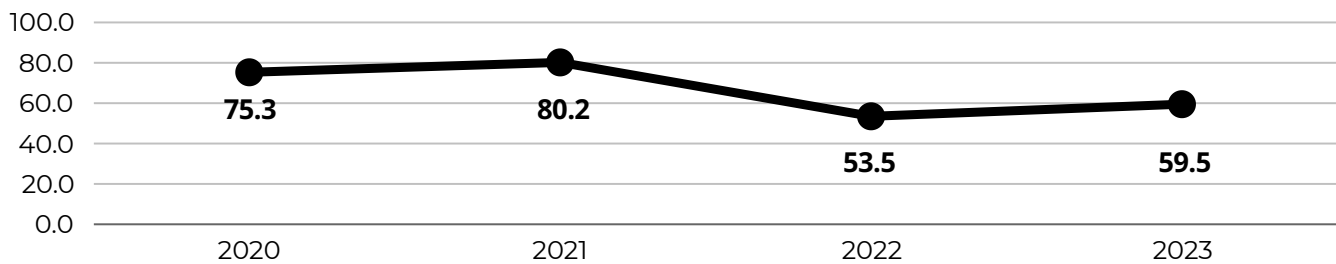
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CURRENT STATE

To continue providing this vital service in our community, an application was submitted for a permanent Supervised Consumption and Treatment Site (CTS) by the Canadian Mental Health Association - Cochrane Timiskaming (CMHA-CT) in January 2023. In October 2023, CMHA-CT was granted the required exemption by Health Canada. Provincial approval and funding is still pending.

SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

Opioid-Related Death Rate - Timmins (per 100,000)



Source: Office of the Chief Coroner

Through initiatives like the SHST and investments into additional withdrawal management and treatment services, Timmins recorded its first decrease in opioid mortality rates. The impact of the opioid crisis would likely be significantly higher without the SHST.



THE RISKS

The risks associated with the closure of this site are significant and have the potential to negatively impact our entire community. Without an alternative funding option or operational plan, the SHST could close on December 31st, 2023. Historically, our community sees a significant increase in overdoses and overdose-related deaths between December and February. Additional risks include:

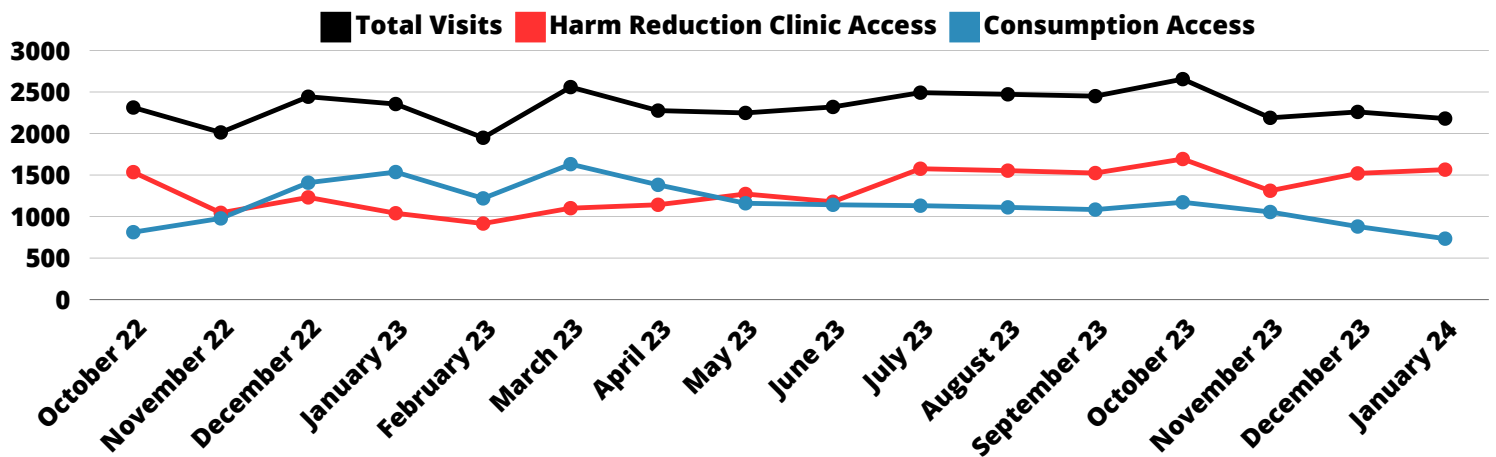
- Increased rate of death in Timmins due to opioid poisoning (per 100,000). In **2022, our community experienced the first decrease in the death rate** related to opioid overdoses.
- Increased presentations to the TADH Emergency Department and increased wait times related to opioid-related overdose and opioid poisoning.
- Increased demand on first responders, including paramedics, police and fire.
- Reduced access to take home Naloxone kits in the community. With extended hours, **the SHST provides over 220 Naloxone kits per month** to those in need.
- Reduced access to public washrooms for those without other options.
- Increased risk of improperly disposed of sharps in the community. The **SHST properly discarded over 130,000 sharps** at the site.

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SITE ACCESS

SHST Visitation Breakdown



The Safe Health Site Timmins (SHST) continues to work closely to connect our clients with treatment, care and services. Reviewing the breakdown in access to our site, a significant decline in visits for the purpose of consumption has been noted.

As SHST staff continue to build trust and successfully connect clients to appropriate care options, a 31 per cent decrease in access for consumption was noted between January 2023 and January 2024. January 2024 saw a total of 34 per cent of all visits being for consumption on site, while 66 per cent of visits were requests to access our care system. **SHST continues to be a vital doorway to treatment and our care system that is being utilized in our community.**

"One on occasion...not realizing I went overboard, they [staff at Safe Health Site Timmins] basically kept waking me up and they let me come through it. They were there to make sure that I didn't overdose and die. I know a lot of people they save on a daily basis."

- "Annie"

"How an Uncertain Future of Supervised Drug Consumption Sites is Affecting Drug Users who Depend on Them"
Morning North with Markus Schwabe - CBC Radio
April 2nd, 2024

"I also know people who go in there and use and it's better that way, nurses on site so no people overdose [and die]. It's a place...so they won't shoot their needles on the ground...Everybody's life is equal, sure we've got medical problems, addiction problems, but we're still human. Everyone deserves a chance."

- "Josh"

"How an Uncertain Future of Supervised Drug Consumption Sites is Affecting Drug Users who Depend on Them"
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