

SOS

SAFER OPIOID SUPPLY



PROGRAM EVALUATION

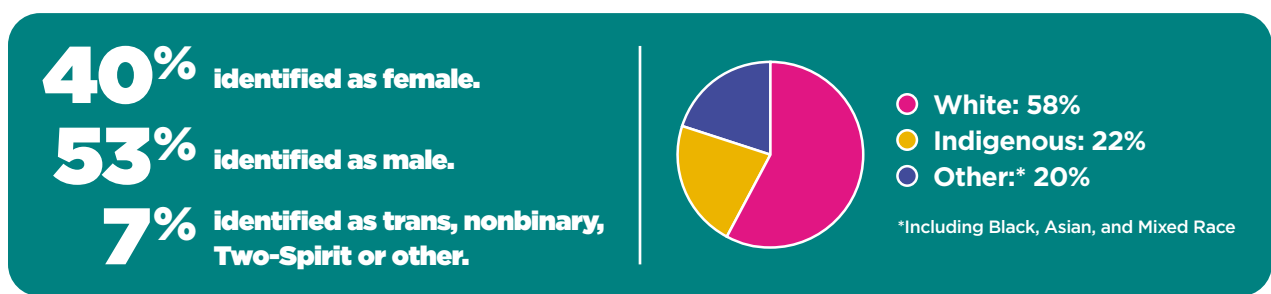
www.pqwchc.org/programs-services/harm-reduction/safer-opioid-supply-sos-program



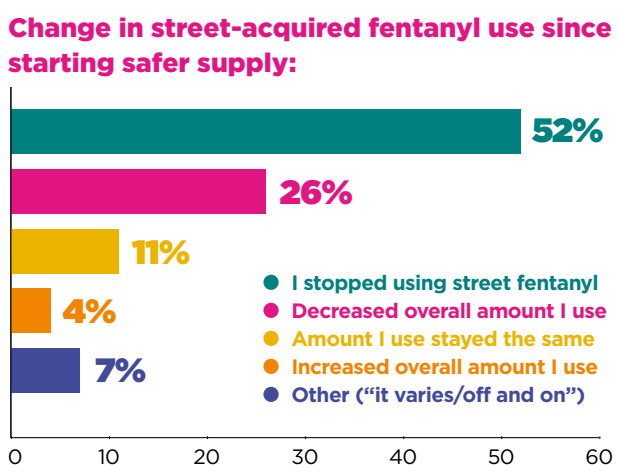
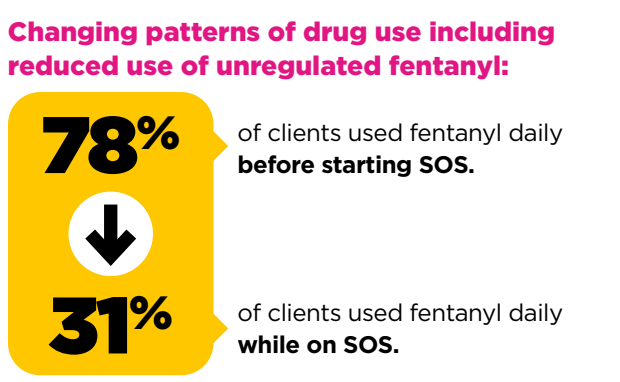
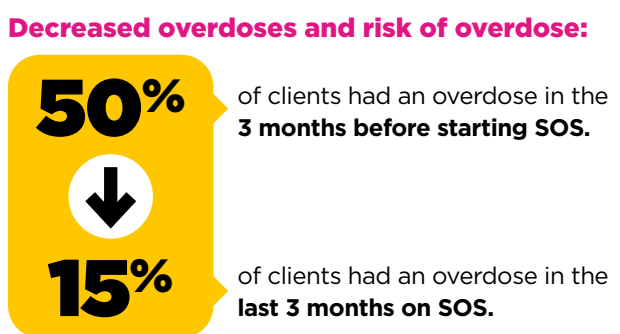
PARKDALE QUEEN WEST Community Health Centre

About the program: The PQWCHC Safer Opioid Supply (SOS) Program provides clients with prescriptions for regulated pharmaceuticals as an alternative to the unregulated fentanyl supply. The SOS program also provides comprehensive primary healthcare, case management, and social supports.

PROGRAM STATISTICS: 86 active clients as of December 31, 2022.



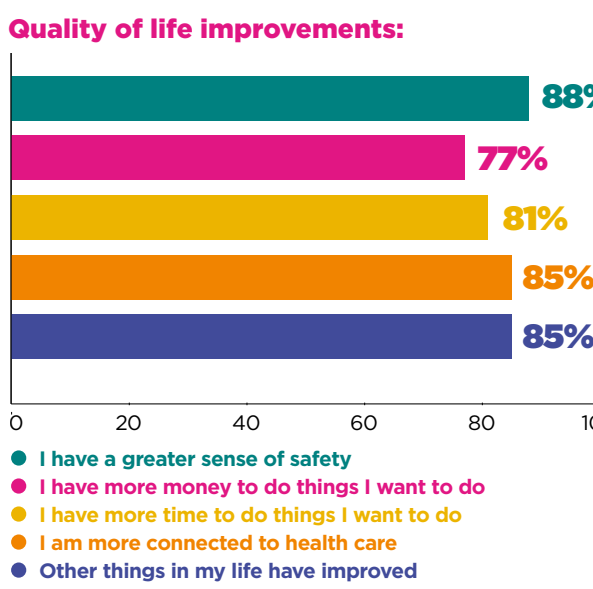
KEY OUTCOMES:



- Increased access to comprehensive healthcare services:**
- 73% of clients were able to address a health issue for the first time **after starting SOS**
- Decreased involvement in and harm from criminalized activities:**
- 27% of clients had **decreased interactions** with police compared to only 8% of clients having increased interactions

SOCIAL CARE & QUALITY OF LIFE:

- Increased access to case management and counselling:**
- 40% of clients met with a case manager, housing worker, outreach worker, or counsellor in the **3 months before starting SOS**
 - 89% of clients met with a case manager, housing worker, outreach worker, or counsellor in the **last 3 months on SOS**
- Access to housing supports:**
- 27% of clients have gotten new or better housing because of the SOS program
 - 54% of clients still want or need better housing



0% of respondents said that being on safer supply had not improved their quality of life.

- Access to harm reduction supports and programming:**
- 30% of clients said that their access to harm reduction supplies had increased after starting SOS (and 61% said that they already had good access to harm reduction supplies)
- Increased safety:**
- 92% of clients said the way they used opioids on SOS felt safer than before

CLIENT-IDENTIFIED NEEDS:

- A greater range of options relating to medication, use, and treatment.
- Access to take-home doses for more than one day would be helpful to increase clients' autonomy.
- Sustained funding to continue offering care and increase program capacity to meet the need in the community.
- Volunteer and/or low-barrier work opportunities

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Program level:**
 - Explore options for providing access to pharmaceutical heroin and fentanyl
- Community level:**
 - Contribute to sector-wide protocols and resources around the availability of multi-day take-home doses for clients in safer supply programs
 - Develop educational resources for hospitals and treatment centres to improve continuity of care for clients receiving safer supply
- Policy and system level:**
 - Increase the high-dose pharmaceutical opioid options available on the Ontario formulary
 - Develop and support non-medicalized models of safer supply
 - Act swiftly to ensure access to safer and affordable housing for all, regardless of income level, including housing that supports the tenancy of people who use drugs
 - Decriminalize drugs and regulate the supply

Methods: Data were obtained from surveys with clients at program entry (n=10), surveys with clients who had been in the program for more than six months (n=27), coding and analysis of interviews with 15 clients, and the electronic medical record, all collected between July 2022 and January 2023.