

Crime & Disorder near the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre's Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) Facility

2018 Statistical Overview

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Methodology:

Based on a review of ongoing community concerns, coupled with police observations, it was determined the initial radius of 400m associated to previous analytical reports was too broad to capture the immediate impact and activity within the study area. In addition, the previous report only examined disorder which did not give a full picture of the activity of the area. The methodology provided here uses a 250m buffer area and expands the data set to look at criminal behaviour and drug activity.



1/24/2019
Calgary Police Service

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Calgary Police Service supports the medically endorsed, evidence-based spectrum of treatment and services designed to serve the needs of those with addiction-related issues, and the communities of which they are a part. The Service recognizes that supervised consumption sites are one piece of a broader set of programs, policies and practices that fall under the umbrella of harm reduction.

The Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) located at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre began operations in Calgary on October 30, 2017. The SCS was opened primarily in response to the opioid public health crisis to provide people with a place to use drugs safely. While opioids are used in the SCS, the most common drug reported for use during visits to the SCS is crystal methamphetamine (meth). Pro-active police operations in the area have also shown the prevalence of meth and it was the most prevalent drug seized by police across the city in 2018. Since April 30, 2018, the SCS has offered services 24 hours, 7 days a week and from October 30, 2017 to December 31, 2018, the SCS had 54,473 client visits.

The purpose of this report is to provide a statistical overview of incidents of reported crime and disorder. Based on a review of ongoing community concerns, coupled with police observations it was determined that the initial radius of 400m associated to previous analytical reports was too broad to capture the immediate impact and activity within the study area. In addition, the previous products only examined disorder which did not give a full picture of the activity of the area. The methodology provided here uses a 250m buffer area and expands to look at criminal behavior and drug activity. The SCS is housed within the community of Beltline. This inner-city community is a mixed-use area and the buffer area includes: a library, park, condominiums, apartment buildings, restaurants and bars, mixed businesses, and a church.

The 2018 statistics for both crime and disorder indicators show that the percent change in the buffer area does differ from the Centre City and the rest of Calgary. Specifically, the 250m buffer area shows:

- 29% increase for Calls for Service (CFS) compared to the 3-year average;
- 579 Calls for Service (CFS) to the Sheldon Chumir M. Health Centre location, representing a 55% increase over the 3-year average, with a notable 36% increase in 2018 over 2017;
- 15% increase in disorder calls compared to the 3-year average;
- 276% increase in drug-related calls for service compared to the 3-year average;
- 47% increase in violence compared to the 3-year average;
- 45% increase in B&Es compared to the 3-year average;
- 63% increase in vehicle crime compared to the 3-year average.

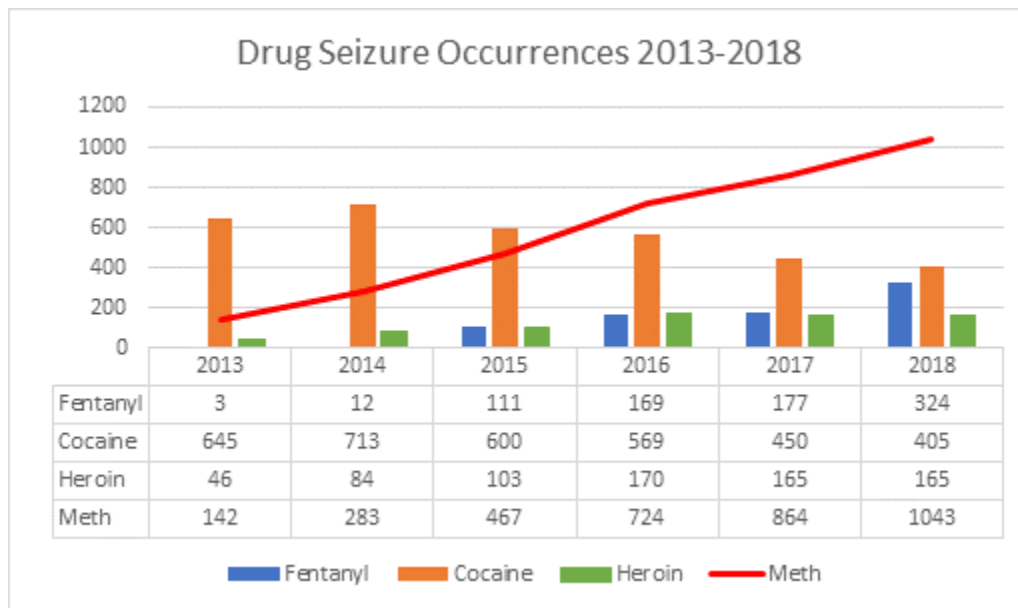
Crime & Disorder near the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre’s Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) Facility

INTRODUCTION

The Calgary Police Service supports the medically endorsed, evidence-based spectrum of treatment and services designed to serve the needs of those with addiction-related issues, and the communities of which they are a part. The Service recognizes that supervised consumption sites are one piece of a broader set of programs, policies and practices that fall under the umbrella of harm reduction.

As described by Alberta Health Services, Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) “provide a place where people can use drugs in a monitored, hygienic environment to reduce harm from substance use while offering additional services such as counselling, social work, and opioid-dependency treatment.”¹ SCS began operations on October 30, 2017, and since April 30, 2018, has offered services 24 hours, 7 days a week. From October 30, 2017 to December 31, 2018, the SCS had 54,473 client visits.²

The most common drug reported for use during visits to the SCS is crystal methamphetamine (meth). Pro-active police operations in the area have also shown the prevalence of meth and it was the most prevalent drug seized by police across the city in 2018.



2013 – 2018 Calgary Police Service city-wide drug seizures

While initial analysis of reported crime and disorder remained stable comparative to the rest of Calgary’s downtown core, beginning in the 3rd quarter of 2018, increased levels of reported crime and disorder showed a change in the area. This change is consistent with reported community perceptions and concerns, and police observations.

¹ Supervised Consumption Services at Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre FAQ, Alberta Health Services

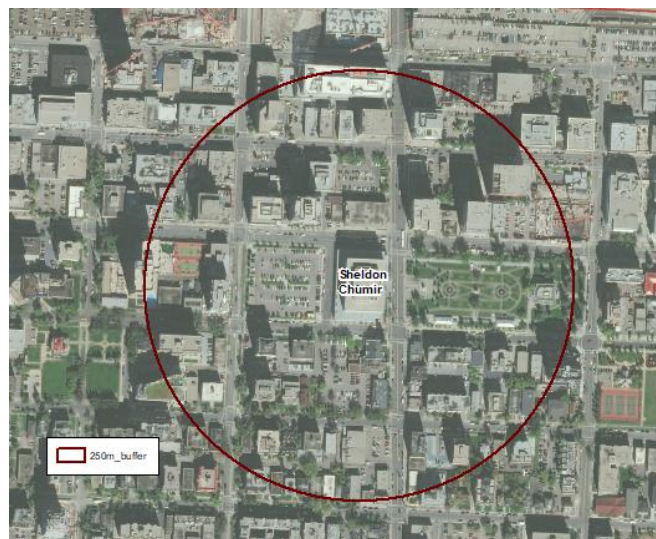
² Safeworks Monthly Report – December 2018: Supervised Consumption Services, Alberta Health Services

The purpose of this report is to provide a statistical overview of incidents of reported crime³ and disorder⁴ for the area surrounding the site in comparison to both Calgary's downtown Centre City⁵, and the rest of the city.

METHODOLOGY⁶

Based on a review of ongoing community concerns, coupled with police observations it was determined that the initial radius of 400m associated to previous analytical reports was too broad to capture the immediate impact and activity within the study area. In addition, the previous products only examined disorder which did not give a full picture of the activity of the area. The methodology provided here uses a 250m buffer area and expands to look at criminal behavior and drug activity.

The SCS is housed within the community of Beltline. This inner-city community is a mixed-use area, with high density and is one of the fastest growing communities in Calgary⁷. In addition to the SCS, the buffer area includes: a library, park, condominiums, apartment buildings, restaurants and bars, mixed businesses, and a church.



³ Crime includes: Non-Domestic Violence, Break and Enters, Stolen Autos & Theft from Vehicles

⁴ Disorder includes: Drunk, Disturbance, Indecent Act, Juvenile Complaint, Landlord/Tenant, Mental Health Concern, Neighbour Dispute, Party Complaint, Prowler, Suspicious Person, Threats, Drugs, Noise Complaint, Possible Gunshots, Unwanted Guest/Patrol, Prostitution, Speeder, Suspicious Auto, Fire, Property Damage, & Abandoned Auto

⁵ Centre City: Communities of Beltline, Chinatown, Downtown Commercial Core, Downtown East Village, Downtown West End, & Eau Claire.

⁶ Data Notes: Crime, Disorder and CFS data is sourced from the monthly VCDM (CAD & Sentry data retrieved via the Business Intelligence (webi) tool). Please note only calls for service and Sentry reports with valid xy coordinates were included in this analysis. Web calls are excluded from Disorder and CFS analysis. The 250 metre buffer area was calculated from the xy coordinates of the Sheldon Chumir Health Centre. ¹ Location Of Interest (LOI) searched for address & common place name permutations of 1213 4 ST & Sheldon Chumir. A total of 53 violent occurrences from 2016 to 2018 were manually re-assigned due to address location inaccuracies and added into aggregate total volumes but not counted within any geographical area.

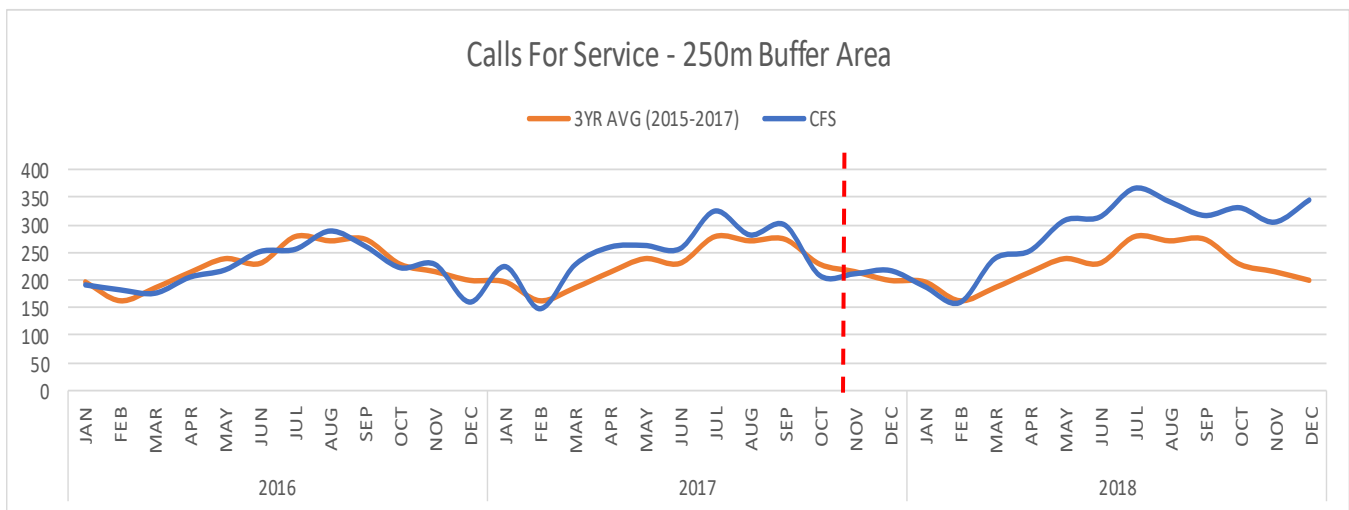
⁷ <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/real-estate/calgary-and-edmonton/calgarys-beltline-carries-on-slow-and-steady-through-citys-downturn/article30189359/>

CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls for Service (CFS) within the 250m buffer area registered a 29% increase in 2018 compared to the 3-year average. The highest volumes of publicly generated call types in 2018 were: unwanted guests, suspicious persons, and check on welfare. In comparison, the Centre City registered an 8% increase while the remainder of the city registered a 4% increase. While the city as a whole has remained stable in CFS over the last three years, the buffer area was significantly higher.

Calls for Service	2015	2016	2017	2018	AVG (3YR)	DIFF AVG	%DIFF AVG
250m Buffer	2,514	2,637	2,916	3,457	2,689	768	29%
Centre City	56,053	57,117	58,124	61,659	57,098	4,561	8%
Rest of City	474,400	483,491	493,569	504,869	483,820	21,049	4%

Historically, CFS volume generally peaks during summer months, but return to lower volumes in winter months. In contrast however, there was a noteworthy upward trend in the volume of CFS observed in the buffer area beginning in March 2018 and steadily increasing to the end of the year.

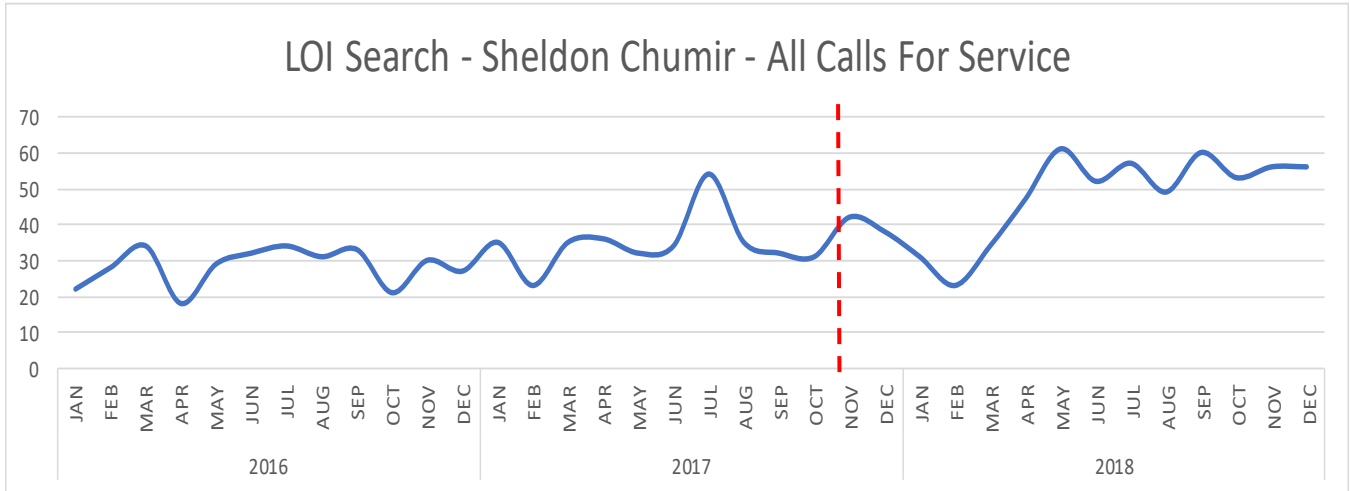


Supervised Consumption Services site opened October 30, 2017

CALLS FOR SERVICE at the SHELDON M. CHUMIR HEALTH CENTRE⁸

In 2018, there were 579 Calls for Service (CFS) to the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre which registered a 55% increase over the 3-year average, with a notable 36% increase in 2018 over 2017. The greatest increases in call volume were: checks on welfare, suspicious persons, and drugs.

⁸ Location Of Interest (LOI) searched for address & common place name permutations of 1213 4 ST & Sheldon Chumir



Supervised Consumption Services site opened October 30, 2017

DISORDER

Disorder within the 250m buffer area registered a 15% increase in 2018 compared to the 3-year average. In comparison, the Centre City registered a 0.4% decrease while the remainder of the city registered no change. While the city as a whole has remained stable in disorder over the last three years, the buffer area was significantly higher.

Disorder	2015	2016	2017	2018	AVG (3YR)	DIFF AVG	%DIFF AVG
250m Buffer	920	933	1022	1101	958	143	15%
Centre City	15,495	14,514	14,548	14,786	14,852	-66	-0.4%
Rest of City	78,693	81,339	81,344	80,444	80,459	-15	0%

The increase in reported disorder is consistent with community and police observations related to unwanted guests, suspicious persons, loitering, drug use, drug trafficking, property damage, erratic behaviour, and disturbances. This is also consistent with increased reports of needle debris and garbage.



Police observed needle and garbage debris

DRUGS⁹

Drug-related calls for service within the 250m buffer area registered a 276% increase in 2018 compared to the 3-year average. In comparison, the Centre City registered a 20% increase while the remainder of the city registered an 11% decrease. While the city as a whole has remained stable in drug crime over the last three years, the buffer area was substantially higher.

Drugs	2015	2016	2017	2018	AVG (3YR)	DIFF AVG	%DIFF AVG
250m Buffer	6	20	26	64	17	47	276%
Centre City	556	445	511	609	504	105	21%
Rest of City	2,649	2,449	2,297	2,182	2,465	-283	-11%

VIOLENCE¹⁰

Violence within the 250m buffer area registered a 47% increase in 2018 compared to the 3-year average. In comparison, the Centre City registered a 35% increase while the remainder of the city registered a 26% increase. While the city as a whole observed an increase in violence over the last three years, the buffer area was significantly higher. In 2018 within the buffer area the highest volume crimes were: common assault, assault with a weapon, robbery (person), and assault peace officer were the most common offences.

Violence	2015	2016	2017	2018	AVG (3YR)	DIFF AVG	%DIFF AVG
250m Buffer	28	36	46	54	37	17	47%
Centre City	738	772	962	1,110	824	286	35%
Rest of City	3,815	3,971	4,909	5,335	4,232	1,103	26%

Officers have observed incidents of threats, assaults and alarming behaviours where bear spray, knives and machetes were used. These police observations are consistent with concerns raised by some community members and suggest that violent crime is under-reported.

BREAK & ENTERS¹¹

Break and Enters within the 250m buffer area registered a 45% increase in 2018 compared to the 3-year average. In comparison, the Centre City registered a 55% increase while the remainder of the city registered 8% increase. Of note, there was no change between 2017 and 2018, with one less offence reported in the buffer area.

Break & Enter	2015	2016	2017	2018	AVG	DIFF	%DIFF
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⁹ Drugs includes: Use, Possession, Trafficking, and Found Drugs (excluding mandatory Health Canada reporting to police of drugs found within the SCS facility).

¹⁰ Violence does not include domestic violence.

¹¹ Break & Enters include: Residential, Commercial, Detached Garages, and Secured Parkades.

					(3YR)	AVG	AVG
250m Buffer	41	25	64	63	43	20	45%
Centre City	331	439	771	797	514	283	55%
Rest of City	8,460	7,855	8,146	8,829	8,154	675	8%

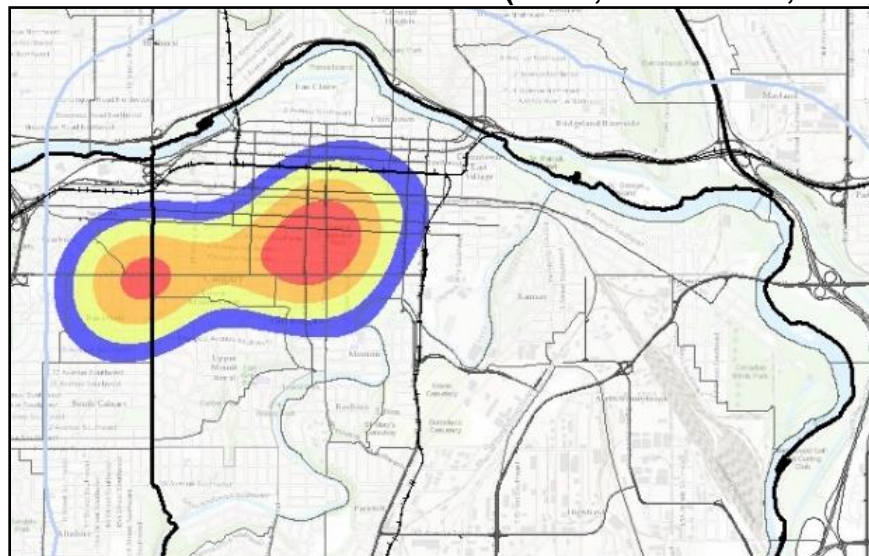
VEHICLE CRIME¹²

Vehicle crime within the 250m buffer area registered a 63% increase in 2018 compared to the 3-year average. In comparison, the Centre City registered a 5% increase while the remainder of the city registered a 0.1% increase. While the city as a whole has remained stable in vehicle crime over the last three years, the buffer area was significantly higher.

Vehicle Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	AVG (3YR)	DIFF AVG	%DIFF AVG
250m Buffer	44	57	35	74	45	29	63%
Centre City	894	1232	1023	1097	1050	47	5%
Rest of City	16,282	17,160	18,188	17,232	17,210	22	0%

A review of stolen and recovered vehicles showed an increase between October and December, 2018, in the area around the SCS. Similar trends were seen with carprowlings.

Stolen Vehicles – Location of Theft (Nov 2, 2018 – Dec 2, 2018)



¹² Vehicle Crime includes: Theft from Vehicles (carprowlings) and Theft of Vehicles