



Dawn prefers to keep to herself and sleep as much as she can while she is in the detention center after a positive drug test.



As she recovers from a night of using prescription drugs, Dawn is oblivious to the antics of her sons.



Dawn said it just took just one pill to get her hooked on the painkiller Lortab. Now her family's future hangs in the balance.

Dawn was one of about 800 people in the state's drug courts when she entered the program; now there are more than 1,700. At the start, she is thinking more about staying out of jail than getting clean.



David, 3, hugs and kisses his mother while sitting on the family's front porch during her last day at home before returning to the detention center.

Fighting addiction

One woman's journey through the drug court system

Substance abuse causes more U.S. deaths -- 120,000 a year -- than any other disease, and it is a factor in at least half the domestic violence, child abuse and property crimes committed. But because of stagnant funding, only one in 12 will get help. To cope, the state has invested \$56 million in drug courts, which will serve every county by year-end. Non-violent addicts receive intensive treatment and avoid prison if they stay off drugs. Considered the best solution to an intractable problem, drug court works for two of every five people. Will Dawn Smith, a mother of three who was convicted of forging prescriptions, be one of those?