



WHAT IS *TXADA*?

The Texas Assessment of Dominant Aggressor is a groundbreaking tool designed to assist law enforcement in accurately identifying the dominant aggressor in intimate partner violence (IPV) cases.

The tool was created in collaboration with advocates from The Archway (formerly SafeHaven) and researchers from RAND. Its purpose is to build on decades of research on coercive control, misidentification of dominant aggressor, victimization, and victim safety in police decision-making.

**SAFEHAVEN IS *NOW*
THE ARCHWAY.**

A quick note:

SafeHaven of Tarrant County rebranded as The Archway, but our mission and our work on TXADA remain the same. The name change reflects our broader focus on safety, innovation, and survivor-centered systems change.

Learn more at
www.thearchwaytx.org

WHY TXADA MATTERS

Each year, thousands of IPV calls result in arrests where the actual victim is mistaken for the primary aggressor, or the victim's reactive or self-defense actions are seen as comparable to the offender's violence. Errors like these can have serious and long-term consequences, such as wrongful imprisonment, custody loss, debilitating legal costs, or, at the very least, prolonged exposure to violence. TXADA addresses this important gap by emphasizing fear, coercion, context, and intent, rather than relying solely on a single incident.

TXADA TIMELINE

Phase I: *Tool Development*

- **Phase I Development:** Completed the tool design with input from national experts, including advocates, law enforcement, academics, judiciary, and survivors.
- **Survivor Insights:** Incorporating survivor testimonies to ensure the tool accurately captures the lived experiences of coercive control, a crucial component of understanding IPV that is often overlooked in police reports.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborating with the Arlington (Texas) Police (APD), Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), RAND researchers, and advocacy organizations.



Phase I: *Complete*



Phase II: *Advancing Research and Real-World Impact*

- **LEO Study:** A nationwide sample of law enforcement officers will take part in a study to evaluate the effectiveness of TXADA.
- **Case Collection:** Gathering and analyzing police reports of dual arrests to develop realistic scenarios for officer training. If your agency would be willing to share similar reports, contact us at TXADA@thearchwaytx.org.
- **Training:** Experts will create a training module for the randomized controlled trial (RCT) study with Arlington Police Department (APD).
- **Field Testing:** The RCT will be used in the field with APD for three to six months, finalized with an evaluation of feedback and arrest decisions.



Phase II Status: *Ongoing*

We are now launching Phase II of the Texas Assessment of Dominant Aggressor (TXADA) validation study. This phase marks an important shift from controlled development to real-world field testing in active intimate partner violence (IPV) cases. By collaborating with law enforcement agencies, we will evaluate how TXADA performs in everyday policing situations—how officers use it, how scoring functions in practice, and how it helps identify the true dominant aggressor. This data will enable us to refine the scoring system, increase the tool’s reliability, and examine its effectiveness across different types of relationships, cultures, and communities.

A key innovation in Phase II is our plan to examine how victims and people who use violence interpret and respond to TXADA questions. This research will help ensure that the tool accurately reflects the complex dynamics of IPV as they actually occur—not just how they are perceived from the outside.

Besides local testing, TXADA is being piloted nationwide with officers across the United States in partnership with RAND and PERF. These collaborations will gather important feedback from diverse jurisdictions, helping to assess how adaptable and scalable the tool is across the country.

Finally, we are working to develop comprehensive training modules for police officers, victim advocates, and social service professionals. These modules, which will help ensure consistent, equitable, responses to IPV, will focus on trauma-informed, victim-centered approaches. In early 2026, we will officially assess the training through a randomized controlled trial (RCT) with officers from APD to measure both outcomes and improvements in victim safety and system response.

RCT is a gold-standard research method used to determine if a program or tool actually works. In our

RCT, officers will be randomly assigned to either (1) receive TXADA training and use it during calls or (2) continue their standard training and practice. RCT helps researchers see if the intervention causes any improvements. This method makes sure the results are fair, reliable, and scientifically credible, showing that TXADA and its training truly make communities safer and responses more effective.

Together, these efforts will bring TXADA closer to becoming a validated, evidence-based national model for improving justice and safety in domestic violence cases.

CALL TO ACTION

TXADA has the potential to save lives, reduce dual and wrongful arrests, and strengthen trust between victims and police.

We invite collaboration and dialogue with colleagues in research, advocacy, and practice who share our dedication to improving responses to intimate partner violence. Whether you are part of a police department, a community organization, or a research team, your insights and partnership can contribute to this life-saving effort.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and patience — we understand many of you wanted TXADA in your hands yesterday! The research and testing process takes time because we are committed to doing it properly. Our goal is to ensure the final tool is scientifically validated, evidence-based, and built on real experiences from the field.

Want to learn more or get involved?

Email TXADA@thearchwaytx.org or follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram at @thearchwaytx.