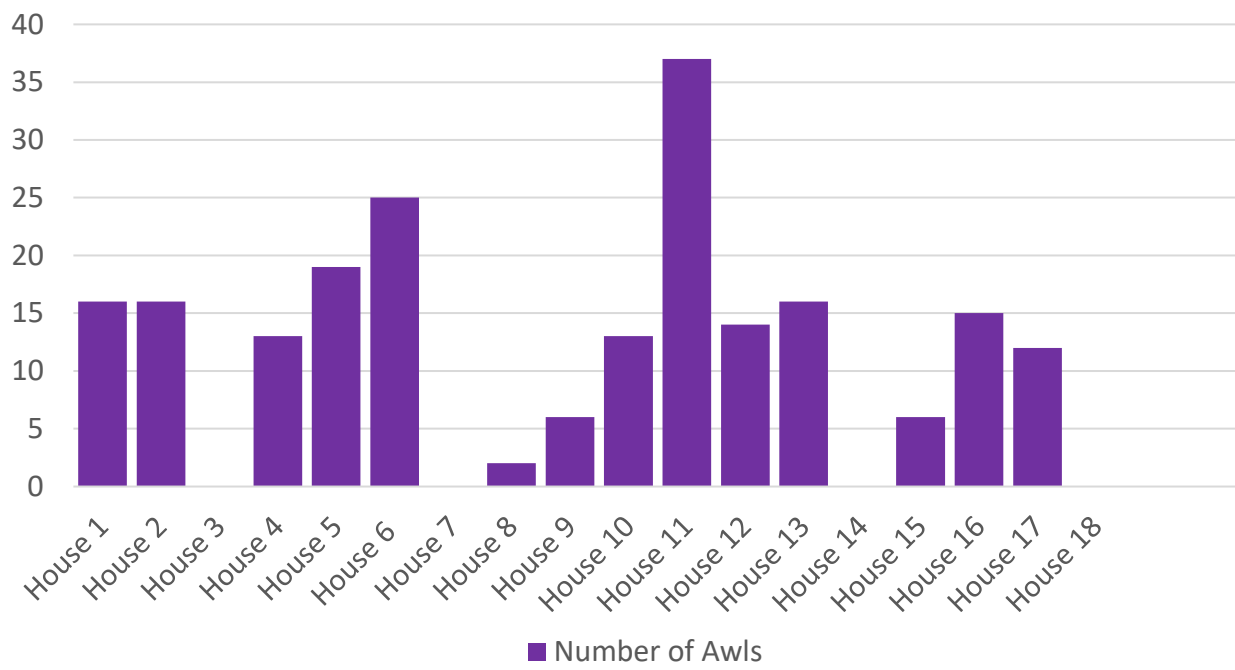


Of the **327,000+ artifacts recovered** from the Dorchester Site, **886 were bone tools**

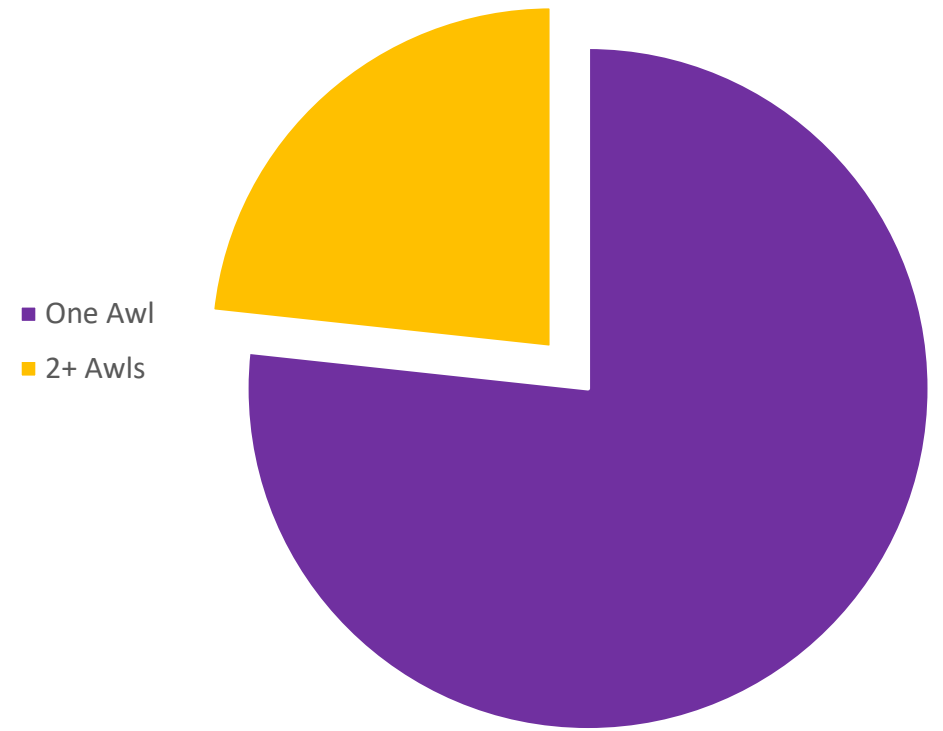
The significance of identifying the frequencies of bone tools is to aid in the understanding of tool function and activity areas throughout the archaeological site. Generally, the more tools found in an area suggests more tool activity, and frequencies of tool types within those areas suggests shared function.

~35% of all bone tools from the Dorchester Site are bone awls (n=306)

Number of Awls per House



Percentage of Features with 2+ Awls



The Dorchester Site: Bone Awl Analysis

A **BONE AWL** is defined as a pointed bone tool, often identified by its functional attributes. The tools are highly variable and are often subjected to generalized classification¹.



Bone Awl, Cat#10681



Bone Awl, Cat#10649



Bone Awl, Cat#10651



Bone Awl, Cat#10848



Bone Awl, Cat#10638



Bone Awl, Cat#10650



Bone Awl, Cat#11014



Bone Awl, Cat#11180



Bone Awl, Cat#: 5525



Bone Awl, Cat#: 5380



Bone Awl, Cat#: 5482



Bone Awl, Cat#: 5610



Bone Awl, Cat#: 5385

These are images of some of the awls analyzed during this project. They display a wide array of attributes, including polish, tip shape, base shape, breakage, striation, and crushing.

Each trait has the potential to represent the use wear patterns of a unique function, though it is theorized that many bone awls (though not all) are multifunctional tools².

¹ Jamieson, J. B. (2016). Bone, Antler, Tooth and Shell: a Study in Iroquoian Technology. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing.

² Pierre, C. G. S., & Walker, R. B. (2007). Bone Awls of the St. Lawrence Iroquoians: A Microwear Analysis. In *Bones as tools: Current methods and interpretations in worked bone studies* (pp. 107–118). essay, Archaeopress.