

Workers at smaller companies less likely to be screened for cancer

October 12 2017

A new study by American Cancer Society investigators finds workers at organizations with fewer than 25 employees are less likely to have been screened for three cancers, as were people working in certain occupations. The study appears in *Preventive Medicine*.

Background: Cancer screening patterns according to occupation characteristics in the United States are not well known, but could be used to help inform cancer control efforts.

Study: Investigators led by Stacey Fedewa, Ph.D. at the American Cancer Society examined screening rates for cervical, breast, and colorectal cancer by occupational characteristics in 2010, 2013 and 2015 using National Health Interview Surveys (NHIS) among eligible US workers.

Results: Cervical, breast and [colorectal cancer screening](#) prevalence among US workers was 84.0%, 68.9%, and 56.8%, respectively. Screening rates were lower among workers in small (colorectal cancer screening, respectively, compared to healthcare professionals. After adjusting for socioeconomic factors and insurance status, most of the difference was eliminated.

Conclusion: Disparities in cancer screening by occupational characteristics were mostly attributed to lower socioeconomic status and lack of insurance. The findings underscore the need for innovative public health strategies to improve [cancer screening](#) in vulnerable

populations.

More information: Stacey A. Fedewa et al, Disparities in cancer screening by occupational characteristics, *Preventive Medicine* (2017).
[DOI: 10.1016/j.ypmed.2017.10.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2017.10.012)

Provided by American Cancer Society

Citation: Workers at smaller companies less likely to be screened for cancer (2017, October 12)
retrieved 23 April 2024 from
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-10-workers-smaller-companies-screened-cancer.html>

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