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Beliefs associated with fecal occult blood test and colonoscopy use at a worksite colon cancer screening program.

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Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States. Although regular screening can decrease morbidity and mortality from CRC, screening rates nationwide are very low. This descriptive study assessed beliefs associated with fecal occult blood test and colonoscopy use among participants of a worksite colon cancer screening program. Randomly selected employees, aged 40 and older, were mailed a survey on CRC screening-related beliefs. Instruments were tested for reliability and validity. Results indicated that fecal occult blood test use was significantly associated with being female, Caucasian, having low perceived barriers, and provider recommendation. Colonoscopy use was significantly associated with higher knowledge, lower barriers, higher benefits, higher self-efficacy, and provider recommendation. Findings may be used to develop interventions designed to improve CRC screening rates.

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