

the 1990s, the number of deaths from heart disease in the United States has declined by 40%, and the number of deaths from cancer has declined by 25%.¹

These declines have been attributed to a variety of factors, including improvements in medical care, changes in lifestyle, and advances in public health. However, the role of the physician in these declines has been the subject of much debate.

Some argue that the physician's role has been diminished by the rise of managed care and the emphasis on cost containment. Others argue that the physician's role has been enhanced by the development of new medical technologies and the increasing complexity of medical care.

In this article, we will explore the role of the physician in the decline of heart disease and cancer deaths, and we will discuss the challenges that physicians face in the future.

Heart Disease and Cancer Deaths

Heart disease and cancer are the two leading causes of death in the United States. In 1990, heart disease was the leading cause of death, accounting for 25% of all deaths. Cancer was the second leading cause of death, accounting for 23% of all deaths.

By 2000, heart disease had declined to 18% of all deaths, and cancer had declined to 18% of all deaths. This represents a significant decline in the burden of these two diseases.

The decline in heart disease deaths has been attributed to a variety of factors, including improvements in medical care, changes in lifestyle, and advances in public health. The decline in cancer deaths has been attributed to a variety of factors, including improvements in medical care, changes in lifestyle, and advances in public health.

Medical Care

Improvements in medical care have played a significant role in the decline of heart disease and cancer deaths. In the case of heart disease, this has been due to advances in the treatment of heart failure, coronary artery disease, and hypertension.

In the case of cancer, this has been due to advances in the treatment of various types of cancer, including breast cancer, prostate cancer, and lung cancer.

Lifestyle

Changes in lifestyle have also played a significant role in the decline of heart disease and cancer deaths. In the case of heart disease, this has been due to a decline in smoking and an increase in physical activity.

In the case of cancer, this has been due to a decline in smoking and an increase in the use of sunscreen.

Public Health

Advances in public health have also played a significant role in the decline of heart disease and cancer deaths. In the case of heart disease, this has been due to the implementation of public health programs that promote heart-healthy lifestyles.

In the case of cancer, this has been due to the implementation of public health programs that promote cancer prevention.

Conclusion

The decline in heart disease and cancer deaths is a testament to the power of medical care, lifestyle changes, and public health. However, the role of the physician in this decline has been the subject of much debate.