Abstract

Social engagement (SE) and its relationship to cognitive health, particularly in older adults, is not defined in the literature. The published studies indicated that SE may be a risk factor for cognitive decline and health; however this association is largely unexplored and presents an opportunity to expand the models of successful aging. The purpose of this study was to construct a working definition of SE, using published studies. Then, a conceptual model was created to classify categories of social engagement. These steps will lay groundwork for examining social engagement as a phenomenon of value to gerontological nursing and cognitive aging.