

geographic area. In addition, he argues that a person's behavior results from the interaction of his or her traits and abilities with the environment. No single factor can explain the totality of a child and his or her family's health behaviors. Children possess their own factors that influence their behavior (i.e., personal history or biologic factors). In turn, they are surrounded by relationships with family, friends, and peers who influence their behavior. Children and their families are then situated within a community that establishes the context in which social relationships develop. Finally, wider sociocultural factors exist that influence whether a behavior is encouraged or prohibited (i.e., social policy on smoking, cultural norms of mothers as primary caregivers of young children, media that can influence how a teen thinks he or she should look) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009; Perry-Jenkins, Newkirk, and Ghunney, 2013) (Fig. 2-7).



**FIG 2-7** Youngsters from different cultural backgrounds interact within the larger culture.

Promoting the health of children requires a nurse to understand social, cultural, and religious influences on children and their families. The American population is constantly evolving. Patients experience negative health outcomes when social, cultural, and religious factors are not considered as influencing their health care (Chavez, 2012; Williams, 2012). Educating health care providers is