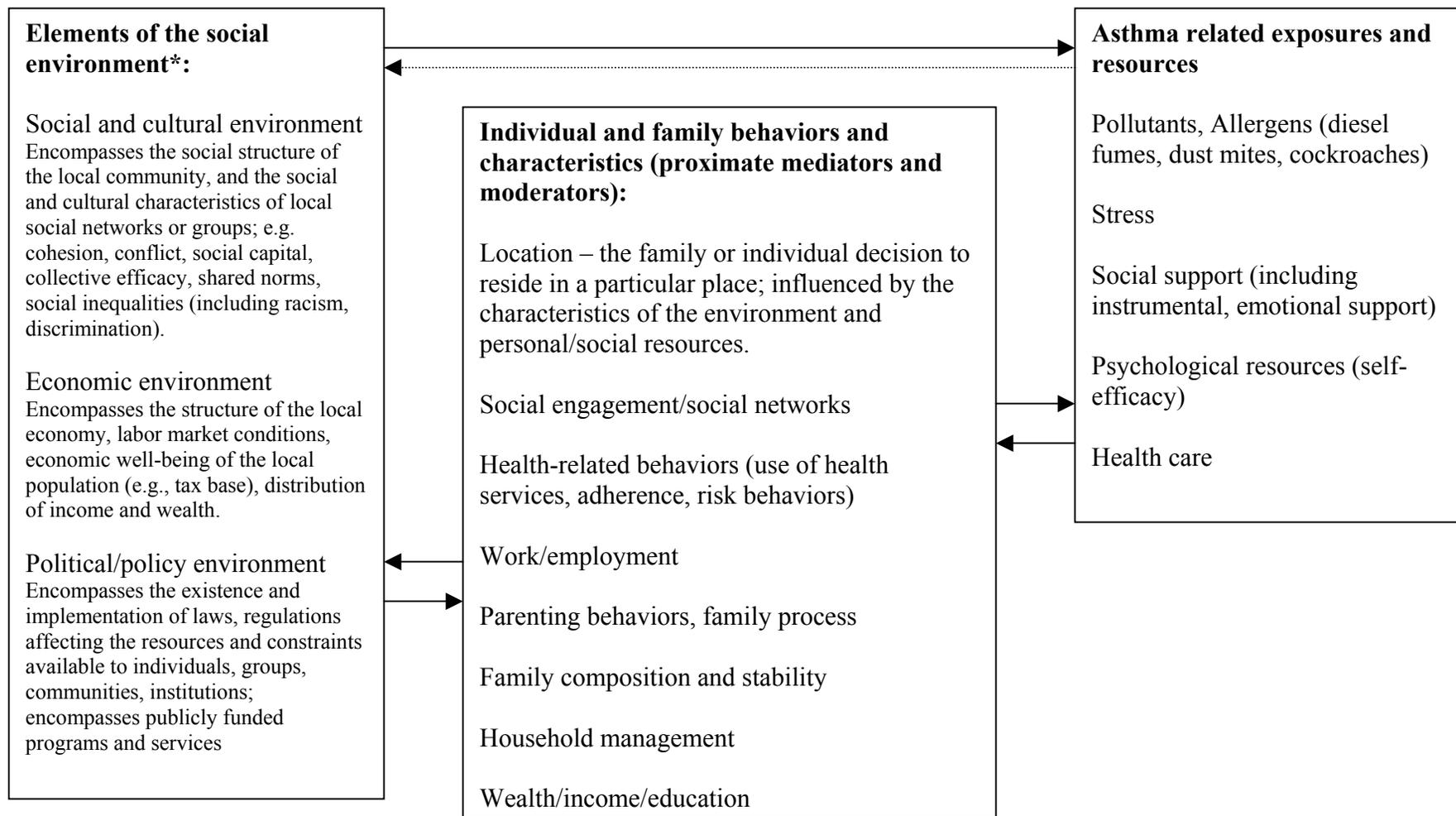


Figure 1. The social environment and asthma-related exposures



* These three elements are interdependent and they are embodied in, and evolve over time in response to, the behavior/characteristics of institutions, social groups, and individuals. These also relate to the physical (built) community. For example, housing stocks are influenced by policies governing housing, the political will to invest public resources in improved housing, the economic vitality of the community, and the influence of community groups on public and private housing investments. Housing characteristics also influence the social and cultural environments of communities by structuring social interaction and social processes.