

FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN SOUTH ASIA

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WHY IT MATTERS

Financial inclusion means that **all people have access to affordable and reliable financial resources**. These services increase welfare by increasing resilience to economic shocks. This is a critical area for policymakers, especially in low-income countries, where many lack access to formal and digital financial services.

FINANCIAL ACCESS

Accounts are the foundation of financial access and the root of financial inclusion.

Ownership is linked to higher consumption, lower poverty, and greater saving.

FINANCIAL USE

Higher account ownership encourages saving through formal, reliable channels.

They allow people to store money privately and securely and reduce reliance on borrowing.

FINANCIAL HEALTH

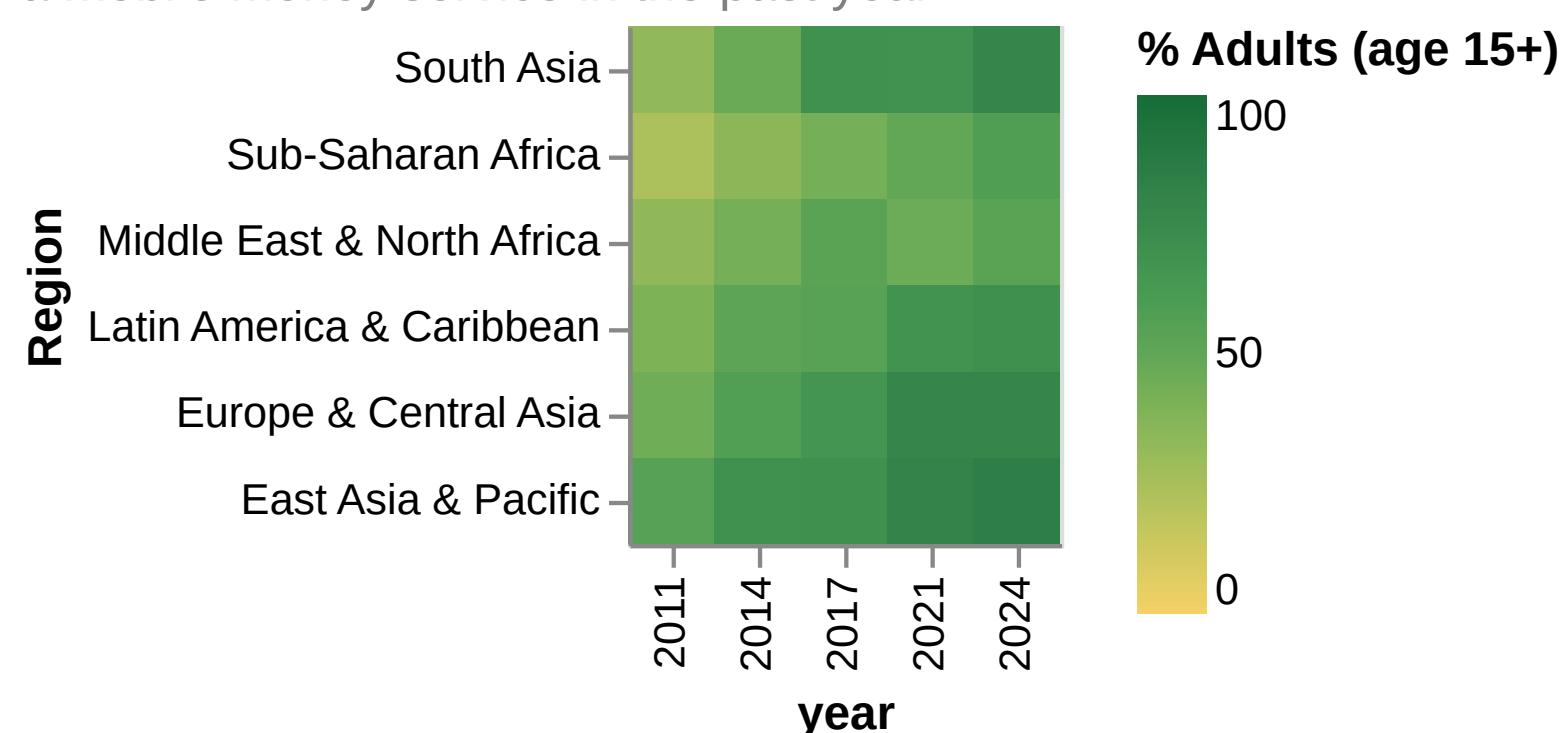
Access to accounts and reliable saving channels supports financial health.

This enables people to meet needs, pursue opportunities, and handle shocks

SOUTH ASIA VS WORLD

Account Ownership (2011-2024)

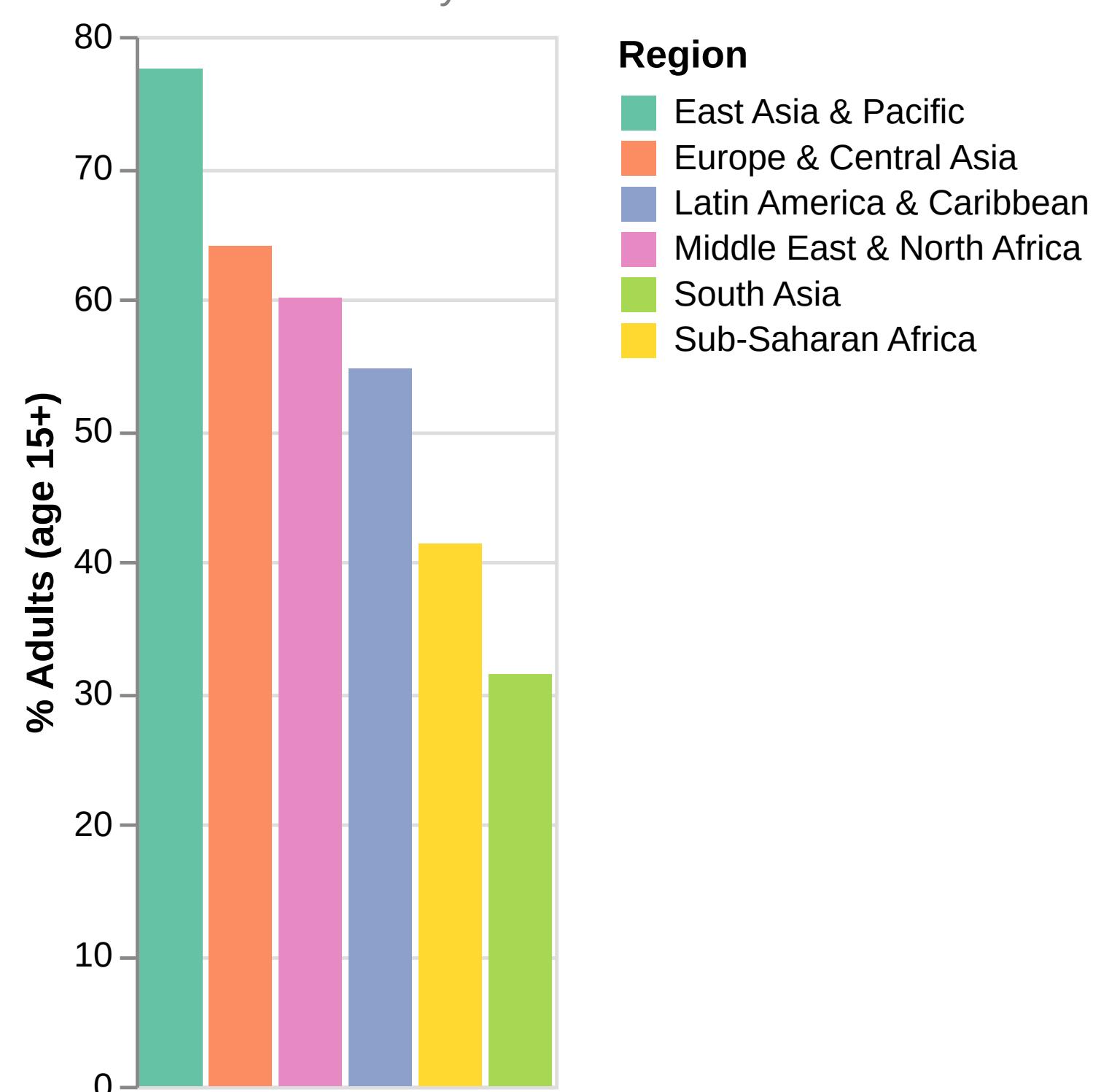
The percentage of respondents who report having an account at a bank or similar financial institution or report personally using a mobile money service in the past year.



78% OF ADULTS IN SOUTH ASIA HAD A FINANCIAL ACCOUNT IN 2024

Financial Resilience (2024)

The percentage of respondents who say it is possible and not difficult at all or somewhat difficult to come up with the funds in 30 days.

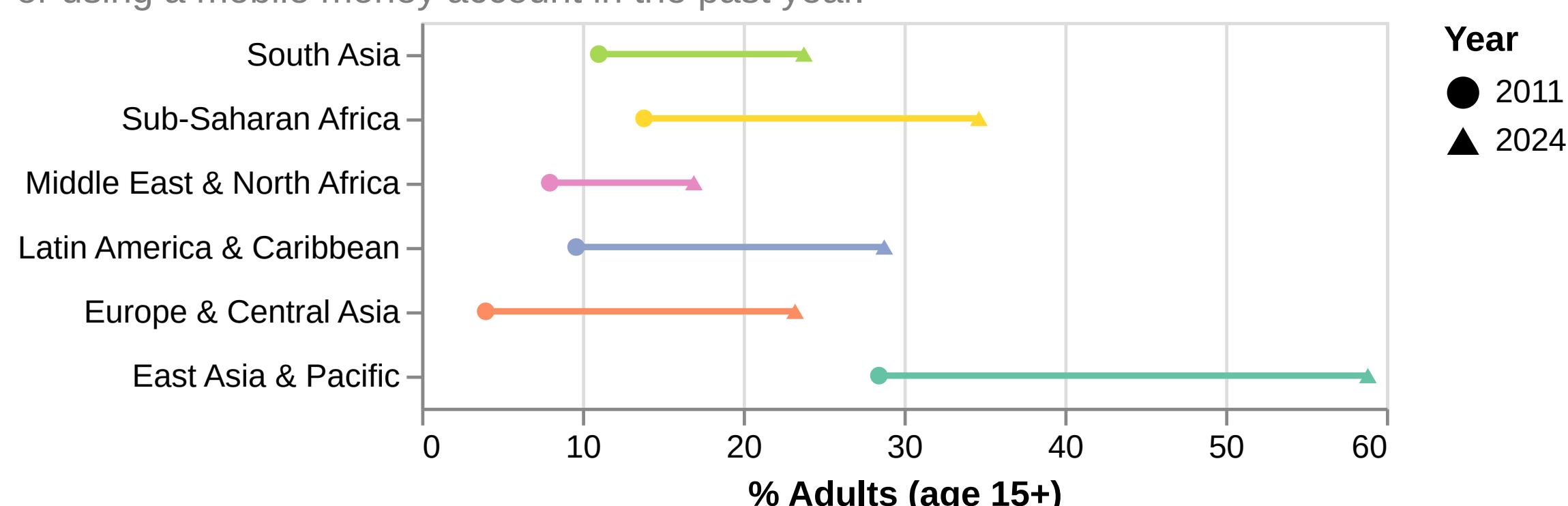


HIGH ACCOUNT OWNERSHIP, LOW RESILIENCE

South Asia reports high account ownership but fewer adults can handle a 30-day cash need, and fewer report saving than in most regions

Financial use: formal savings (2011-2024)

The percentage of respondents who saved at a bank or similar financial institution or using a mobile money account in the past year.

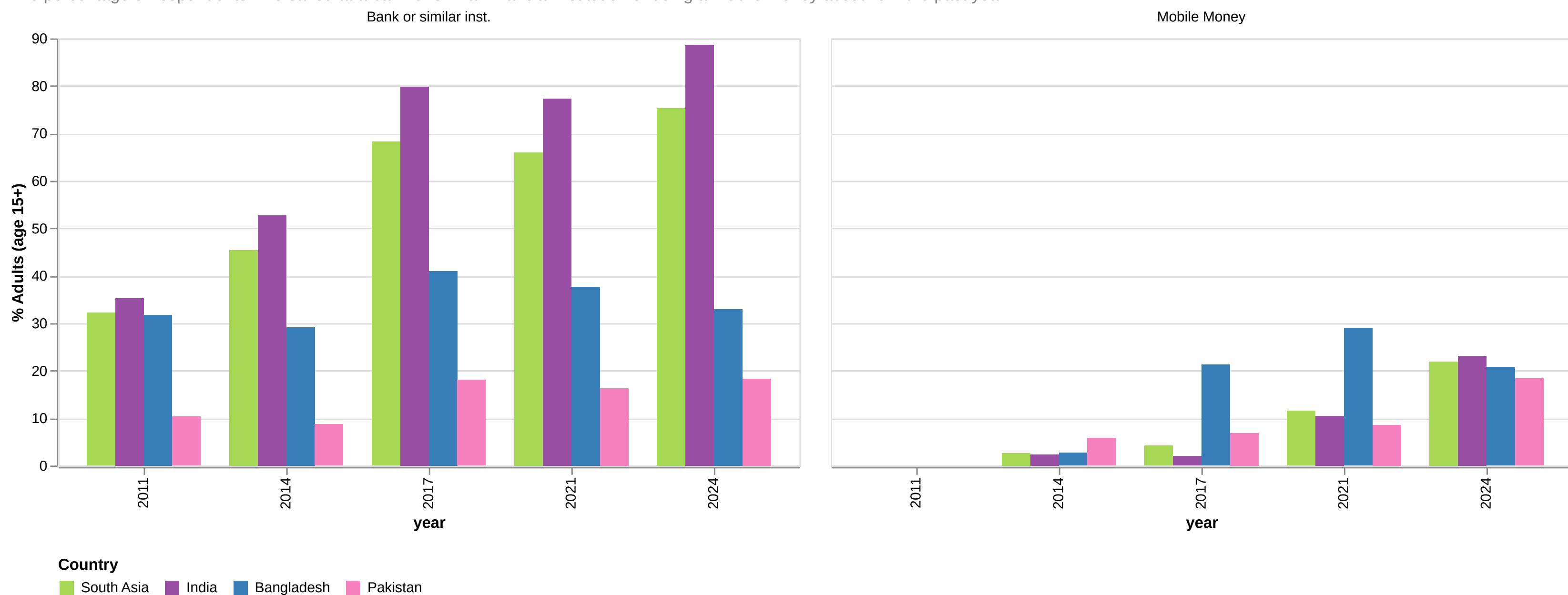


WITHIN SOUTH ASIA

Across countries, most adults report having an account at a bank or similar institution, and mobile money use has risen steadily. Mobile money provides a low-cost, reliable option, especially in rural areas with limited physical access to formal institutions.

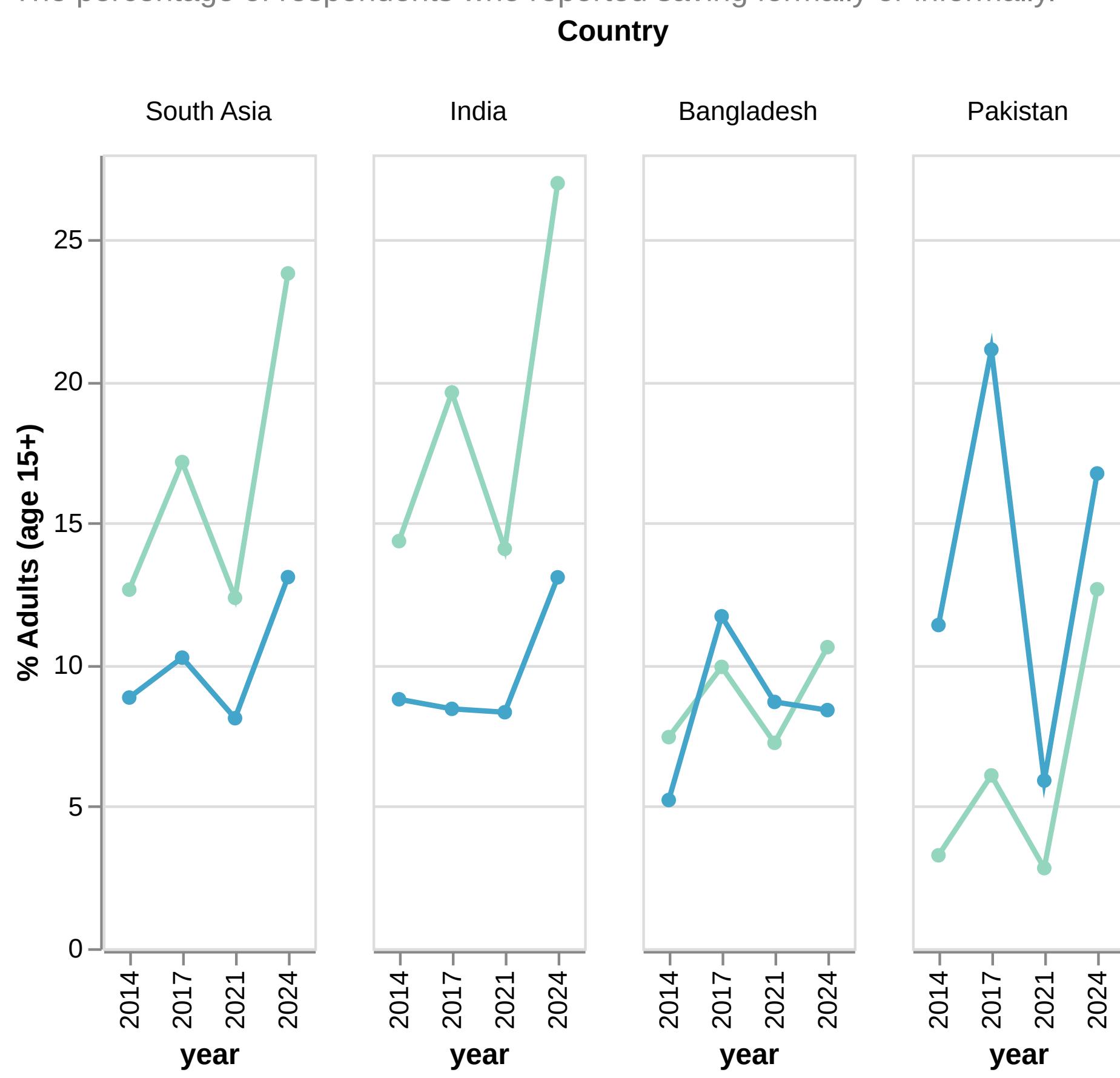
Account Ownership By Country (2011-2024)

The percentage of respondents who saved at a bank or similar financial institution or using a mobile money account in the past year



Savings Behavior By Country (2011-2024)

The percentage of respondents who reported saving formally or informally.



A CLOSER LOOK AT
RESILIENCE STARTS WITH
HOW PEOPLE SAVE

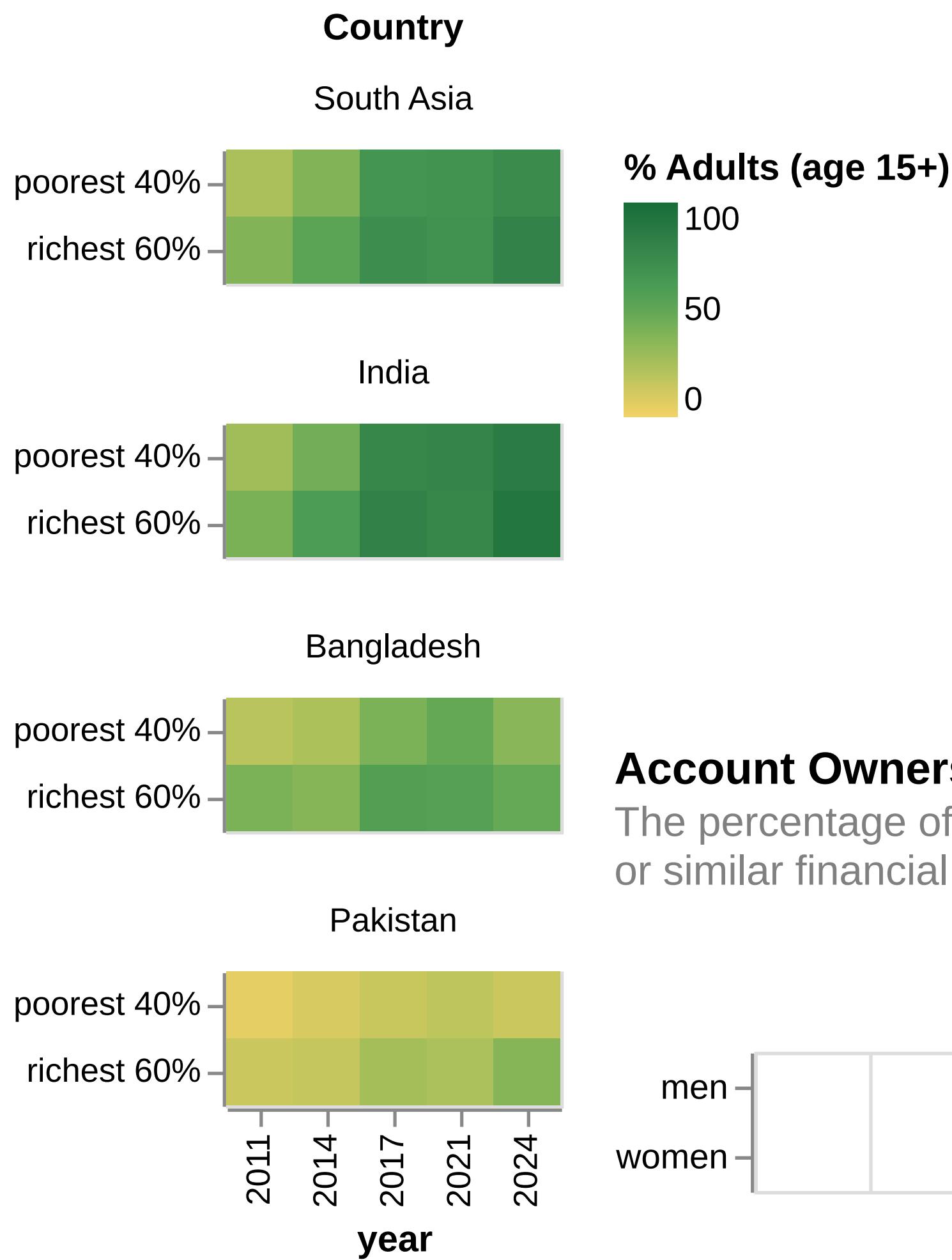
Formal methods include saving at a bank or via mobile money.

Informal methods include savings clubs or saving with someone outside the family.

WHO HAS ACCESS?

Account Ownership By Income Group (2011-2024)

The percentage of respondents in each income group who saved at a bank or similar financial institution or using a mobile money account in the past year.



The richest 60% vs poorest 40% gap is moderate in South Asia overall; Pakistan's gap is wider than in India or Bangladesh.

Account Ownership By Gender (2011-2024)

The percentage of male or female respondents who saved at a bank or similar financial institution or using a mobile money account in the past year.

