

# Transparency Report 2021

Feb 16, 2022

## Introduction

The mission of Reddit is to bring community, belonging, and empowerment to everyone in the world. An important part of this mission is ensuring users' safety, security, and privacy.

We publish this annual report to provide transparency about content that was removed from Reddit, accounts that were sanctioned, and legal requests we received from third parties to remove content or disclose private user data. As we continue to incorporate guidance from The Santa Clara Principles on Transparency and Accountability in Content Moderation, this year we offer more insight into what we do about illegal or unwelcome content on Reddit (Content Removals), how we handle prohibited efforts to artificially promote content (Content Manipulation), how we identify potentially violating content (Source of Report/Flag), and what we do with bad actors (Account Sanctions).

Reports for previous years can be found [here](#).

## **TL;DR**

[2021](#) was an exciting year on Reddit, resulting in the creation of nearly 5.8B posts, comments, private messages, and chats across the platform. At the same time, we saw a roughly 20% increase in the volume of content removed by our community moderators, and a 27% increase in the amount of violating content removed by Reddit admins. We've also seen an increase in legal demands from private parties and governments to remove content on Reddit (e.g., 104% increase in copyright takedown notices; 15% increase in government removal requests;), and a 32% increase in law enforcement or government requests for user information. Behind this growth, our mod and admin teams have worked tirelessly to prioritize user safety and security in furtherance of our mission to bring community, belonging, and empowerment to everyone in the world.

# Our Approach to Content Moderation

Content moderation on Reddit happens through a layered, community-driven approach. This approach is akin to a democracy, wherein everyone has the ability to vote and self-organize, follow a set of common rules, establish community-specific norms, and ultimately share some responsibility for how the platform works.

Reddit's [Content Policy](#) serves as a set of principles-based rules that apply to all users and content on Reddit. Users then create their own communities (known as “subreddits”) and establish additional rules that are tailored to a community’s unique and often highly specific needs.

Users who write and enforce these community-specific rules are volunteer moderators (known as “mods”), and they perform the majority of community moderation actions without involvement from Reddit, Inc. This self-moderation effort at the community level continues to be the most scalable solution we’ve seen to the challenges of moderating content online. Reddit employees (known as “admins”) are responsible for the Content Policy and enforce it across Reddit with the help of mods, who apply the Content Policy to their communities in addition to their own specific rules.

We also receive government and law enforcement requests from all around the world to remove content on the basis of alleged violations of local law. We review each of these requests carefully and object when appropriate. In situations where we find no underlying Content Policy violations, Reddit may restrict access to the reported content in the requesting country if it violates local law. For more information, please refer to the “Legal Removals” section of this report.

## Content on Reddit

Every day, millions of people around the world submit millions of posts, comments, and other content to Reddit, and Reddit regularly receives reports and requests to remove some of this content from the platform. The section below covers content that mods and admins removed from Reddit during 2021, broken down by content type and, where possible, by rule violation. These figures include removals performed by a scaled community moderation tool known as [AutoMod](#), as well as some bespoke moderation bots built by our community moderators.

Chart 1: Content created on Reddit in 2021

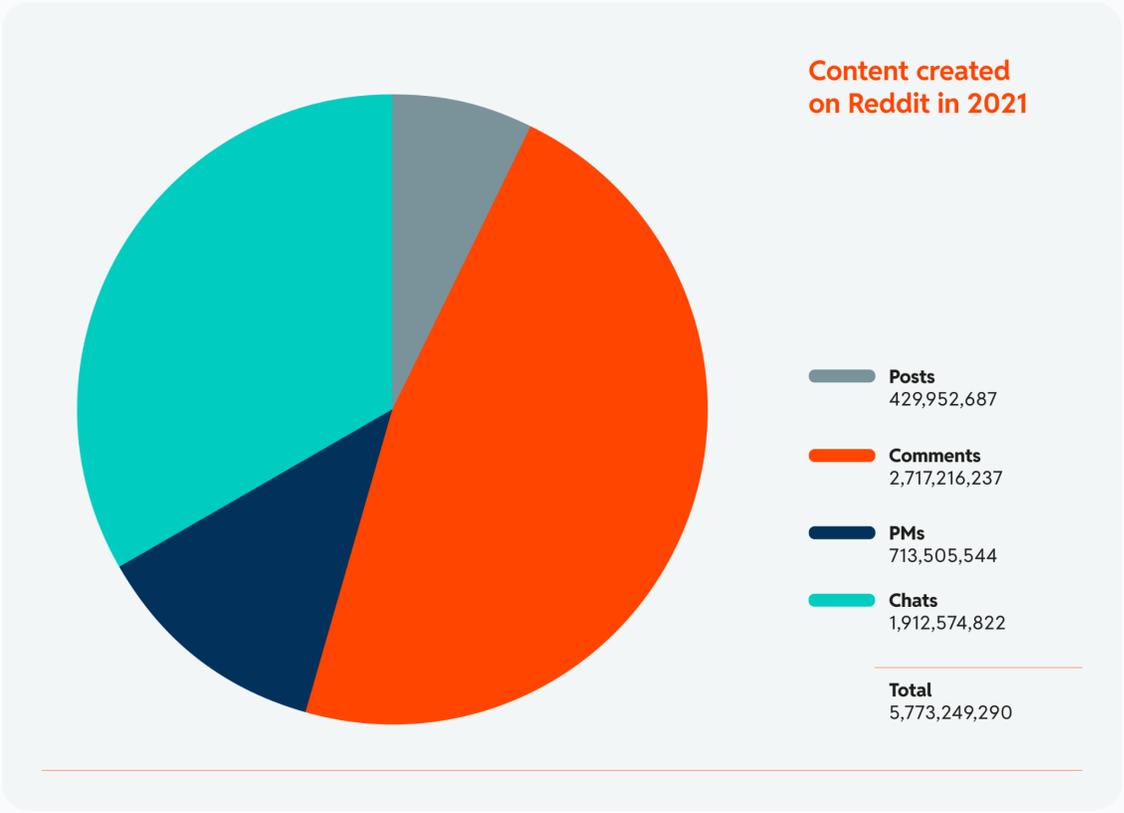
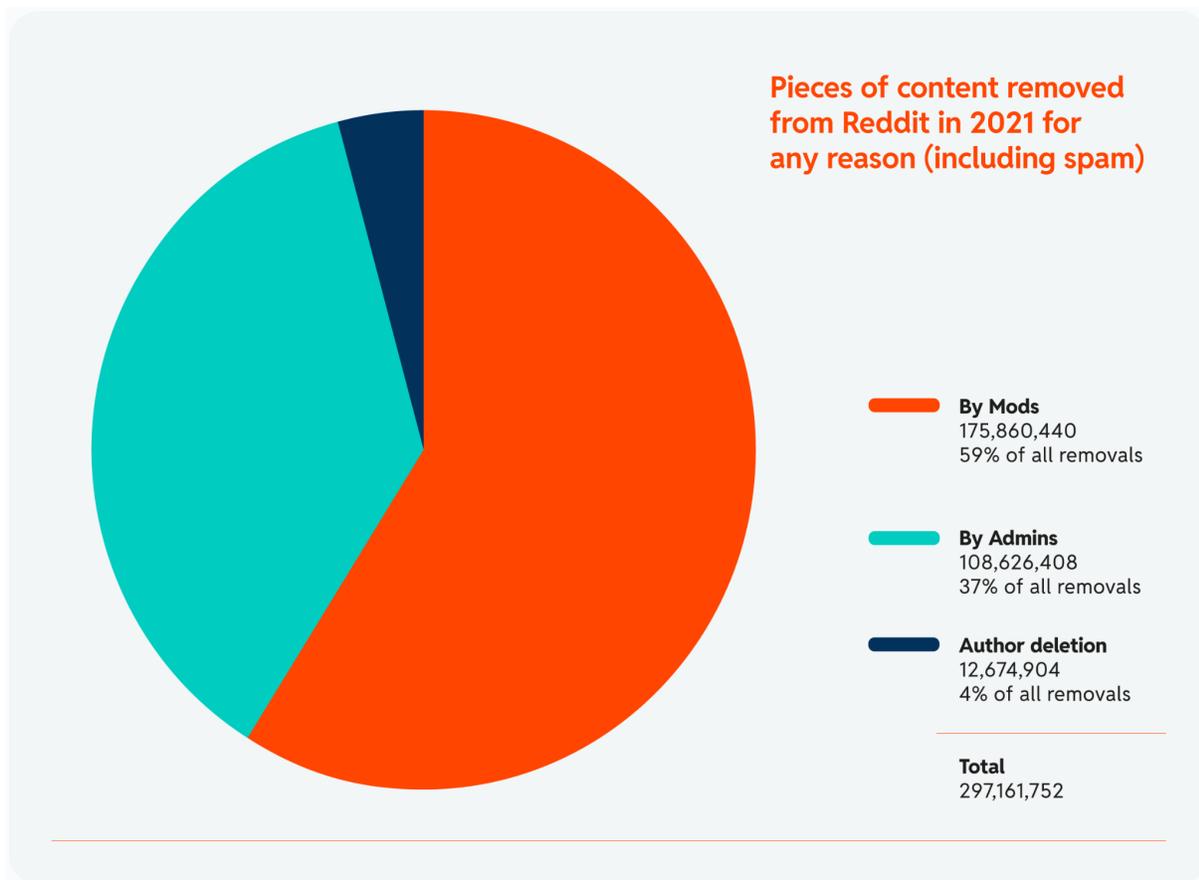


Chart 2: Content removed from Reddit in 2021 for any reason (including spam)



## Content Removals

This section of the report provides an overview of content removals on Reddit in 2021 broken down by mod removals, admin removals, and volume of user reports. Immediately following this section, we deep-dive on admin content removals by content type (see “Content Types” below).

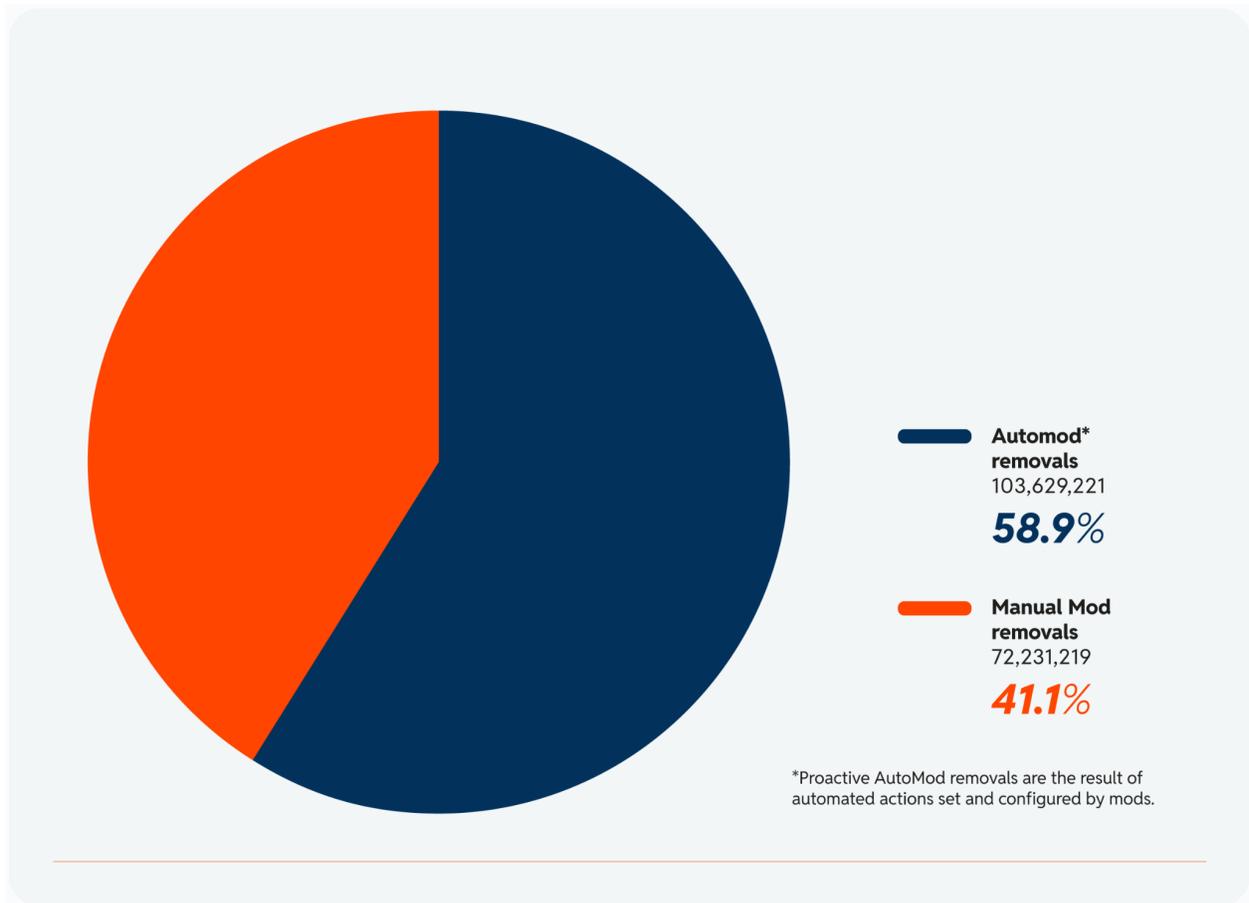
### **Content Removed by Moderators**

The numbers for 2021 once again highlight the importance of moderators and their tireless efforts to curate and safeguard their communities. Removals performed by mods can be based on any reason specific to the rules of a given community, and are not necessarily an indication of content being in violation of Reddit’s Content Policy.

The absolute volume of removals by moderators rose by nearly 20% in 2021 from 148,137,254 to 175,860,440, with 58.9% of these removals being proactive Automod removals. The total amount

of content removals initiated by mods in 2021 accounted for 59% of all content removed on Reddit.

Chart 3: Content removed by moderators in 2021



## Content Removed by Reddit Admins

Admins also regularly remove content from Reddit to enforce the Content Policy and protect the integrity of the site. They do this through manual review and action, as well as with the help of automated tools and user reports. In 2021, admins were responsible for 37% of all removals on Reddit. The vast majority of these removals, however, were for Content Manipulation (91.8%). “Content Manipulation” in this context refers to issues like spam, community interference (i.e., “brigading”), vote manipulation (attempts to interfere with Reddit’s upvote/downvote tallies), and other attempts to artificially promote content<sup>1</sup>. The remaining 8.2% of admin removals in 2021 were for violations of the Content Policy. In shorthand, this means that more than 95% of all

<sup>1</sup> For more on how Reddit prioritizes users’ safety & security in these areas, please refer to our [Quarterly Safety & Security Reports](#).

non-spam removals on Reddit were performed by moderators. (For a breakdown of these removals by rule, please refer to the “Content Types” section of this report.)

*Chart 4: Content removed by admins (not including spam and other content manipulation) vs. content removed by mods in 2021*

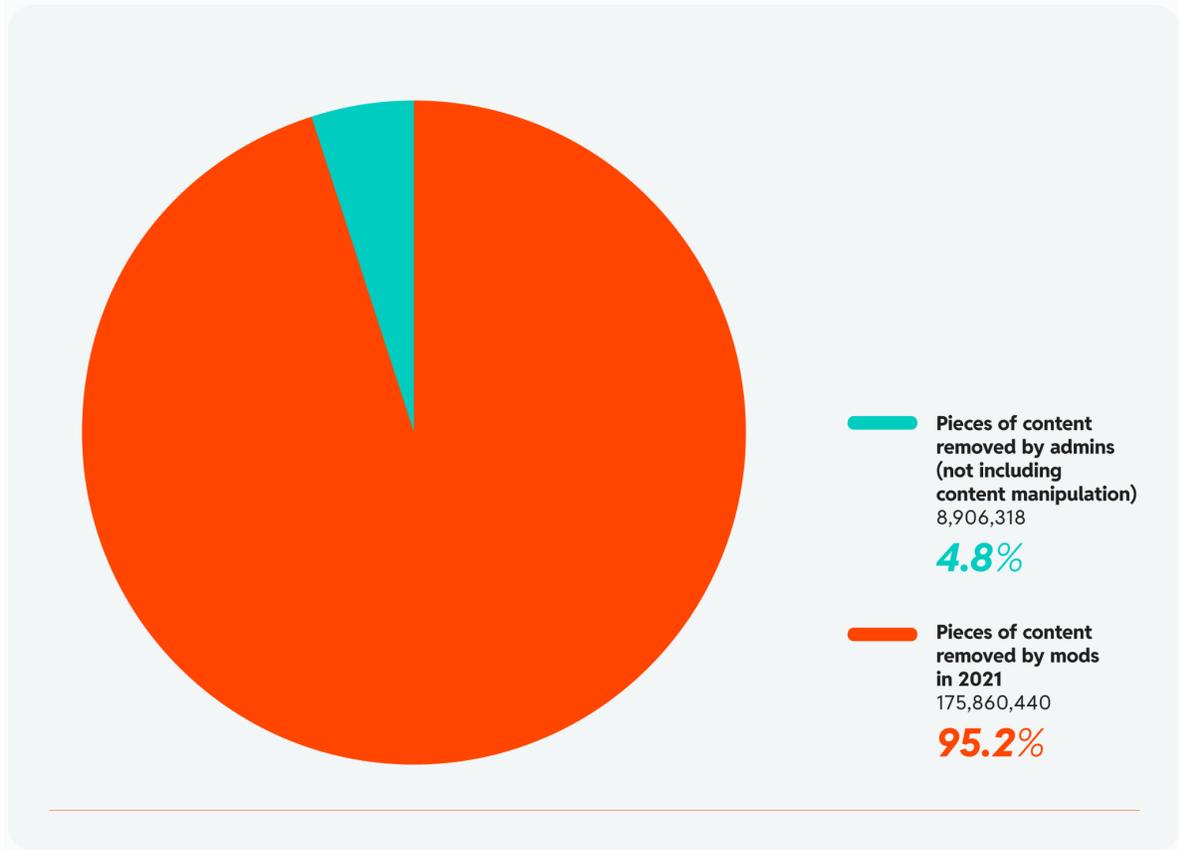
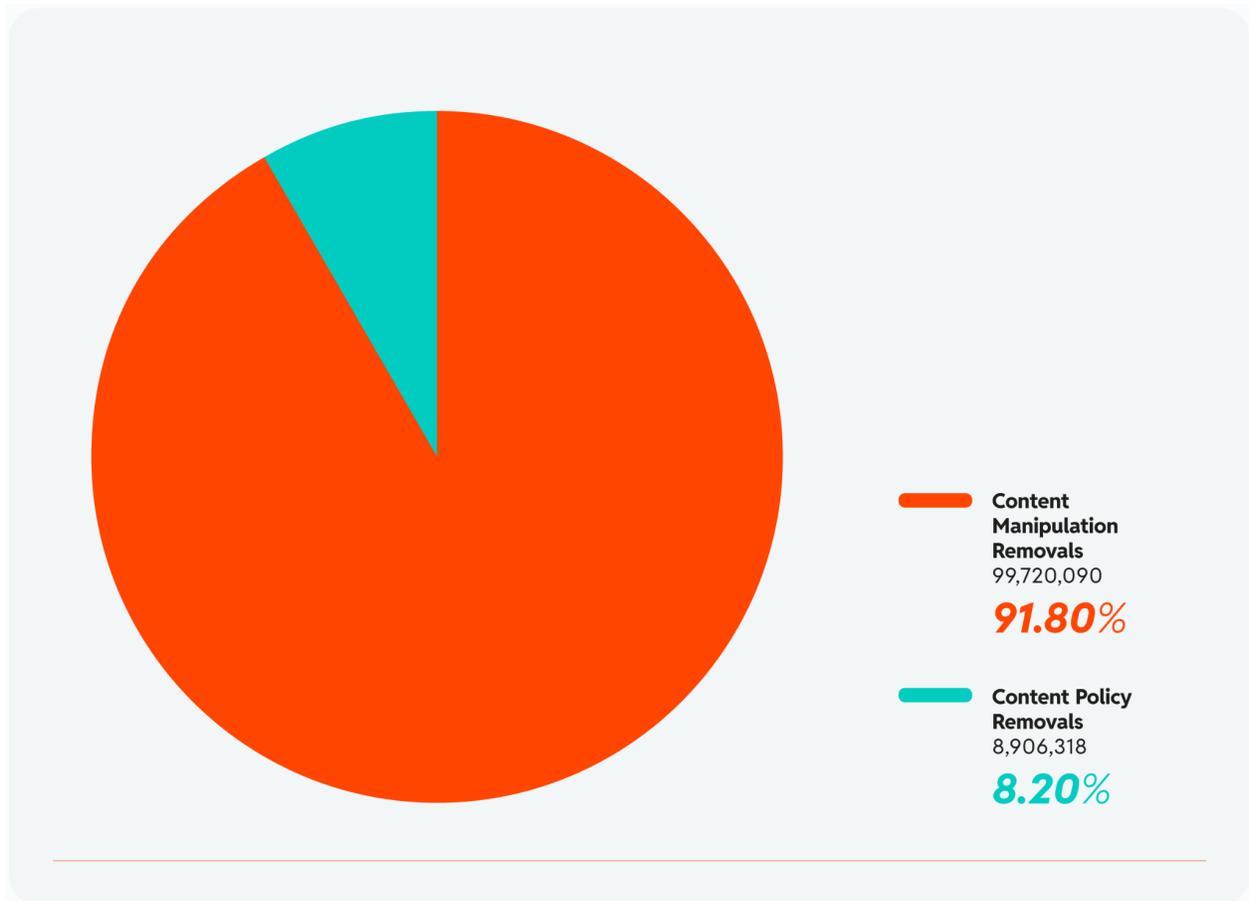


Chart 5: Content removed by admins in 2021 (content manipulation vs. Content Policy removals)

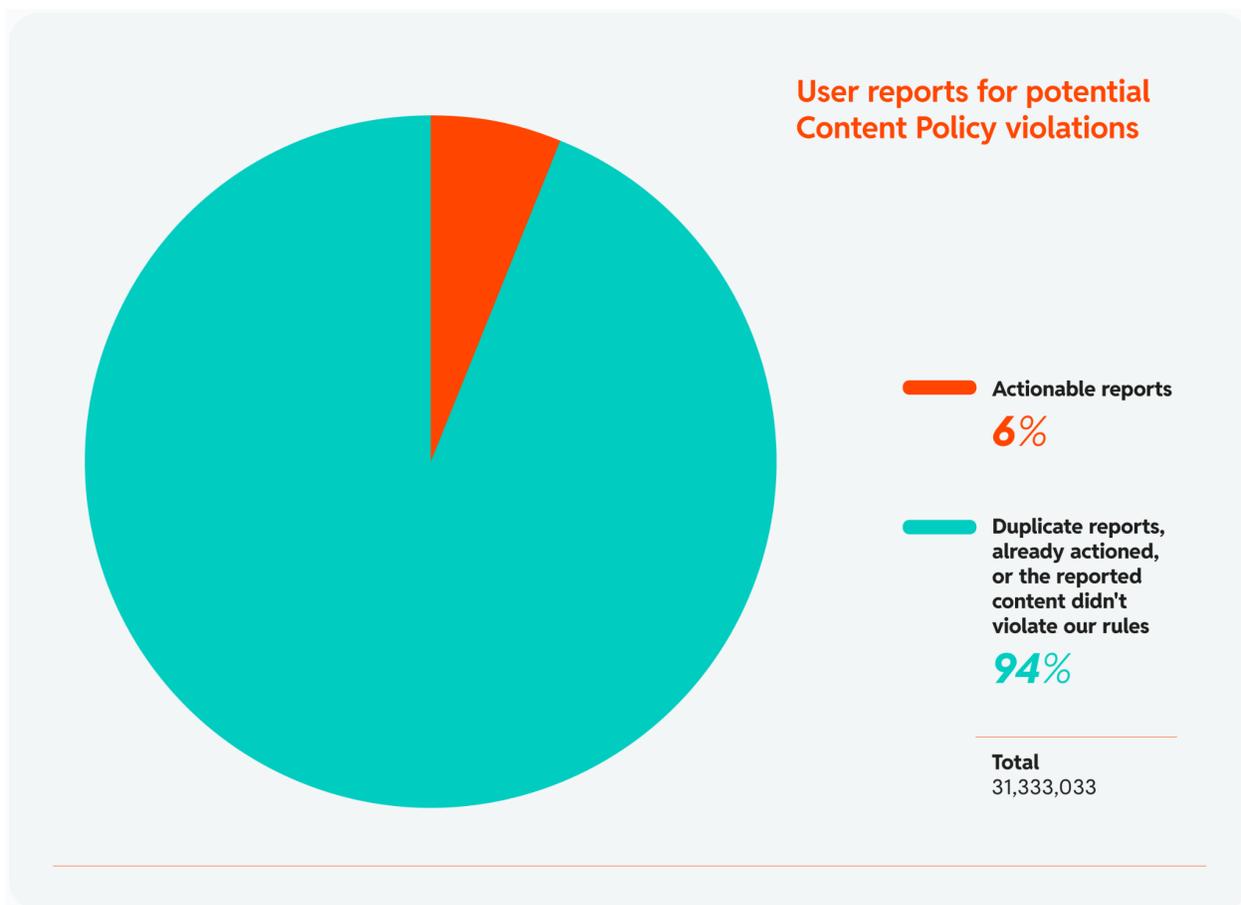


## User Reports

Users may report content on Reddit via our [Reddit Help Center](#), [reddit.com/report](https://reddit.com/report), or by using the report button directly on a post or comment. By sending a report, users can alert a community's team of moderators (anonymously) and/or Reddit administrators to something that violates either community rules or Reddit's Content Policy.

Reddit received 31,333,033 user reports for potential Content Policy violations in 2021. 6.27% of reports resulted in action being taken by admins. The remaining 93.73% of reports were either duplicates, already actioned, or the reported content didn't violate our rules.

Chart 6: User reports in 2021



## Moderator-Specific Reports

In September 2021, Reddit introduced the Community Interference report. This reporting option is unique to moderators and allows them to flag to admins instances within their own community where a user or a group of users are engaging in community interference (i.e. “brigading”). From September through the end of 2021, 699 reports were processed by Reddit, of which 59% were found to be actionable (one report may consist of multiple reported instances.)

## Content Types

This section breaks down admin removals in 2021 by content type, source of the report or flag, and, where possible, by rule violation.

# Posts & Comments

Reddit admins may remove posts and comments that violate our Content Policy. The numbers below represent posts and comments removed by our teams over the course of the year, broken out by rule violation, volume of user reports or automated flags, and actionability rate.

Chart 7: Post & comments created vs. reported/flagged vs. removed in 2021

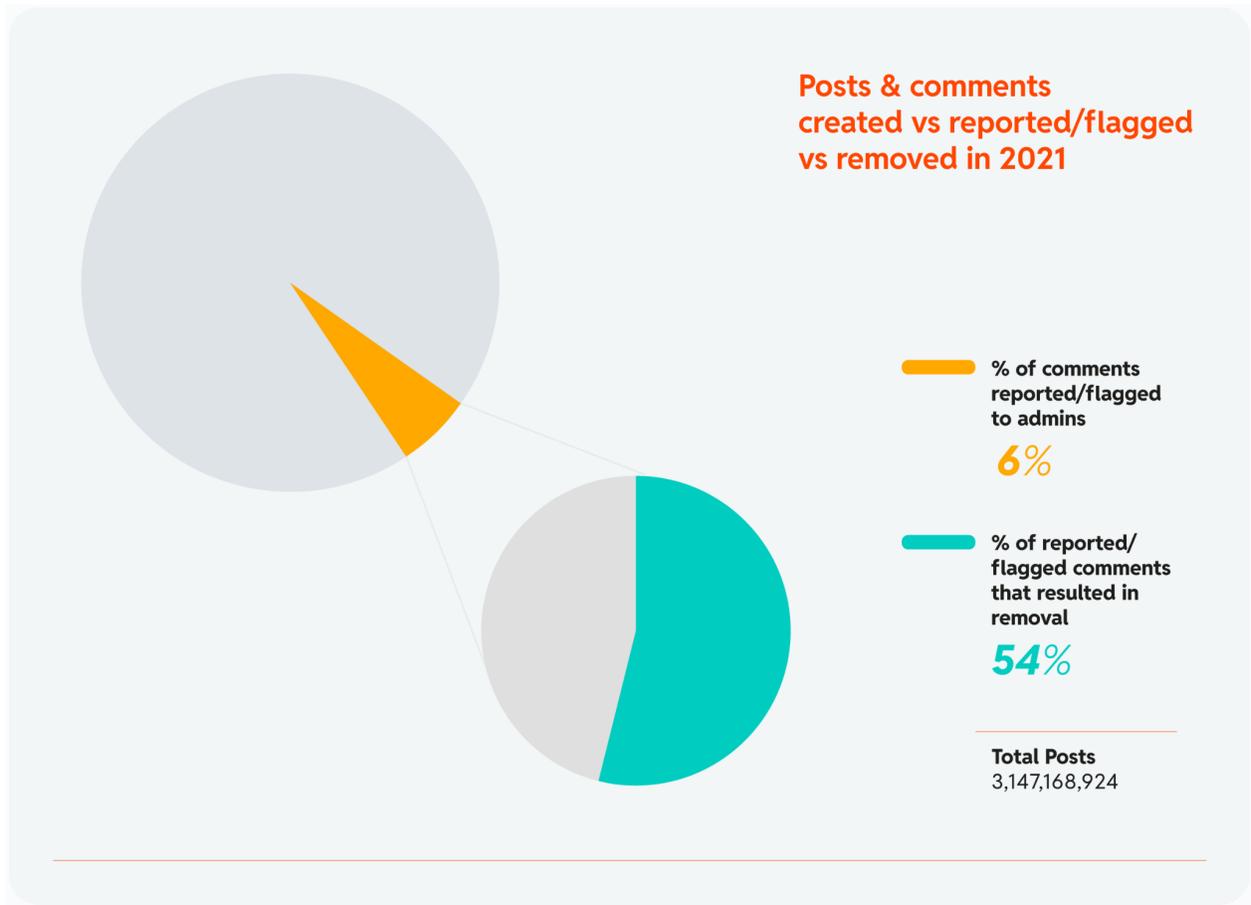


Chart 8: Posts & comments removed by Content Policy violation

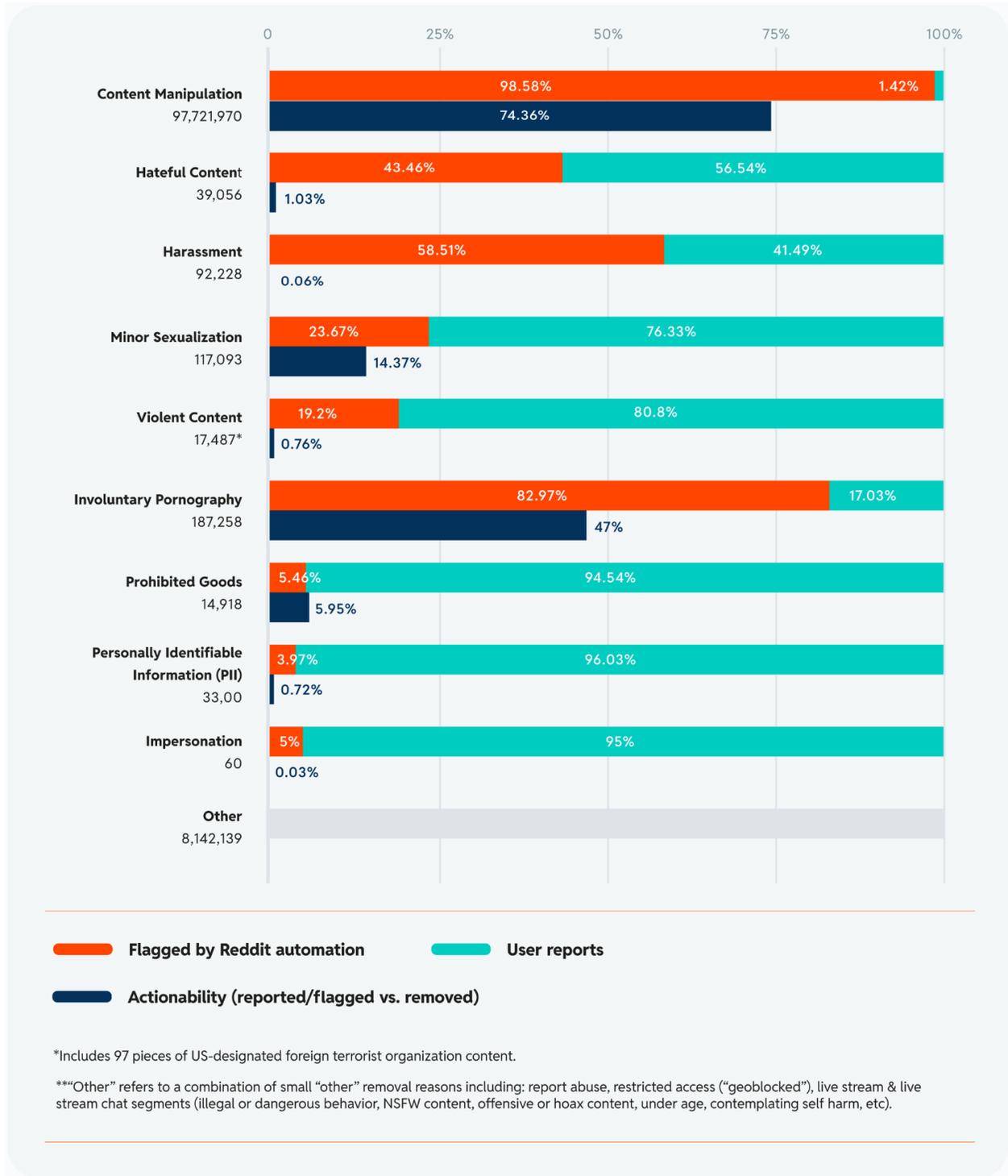
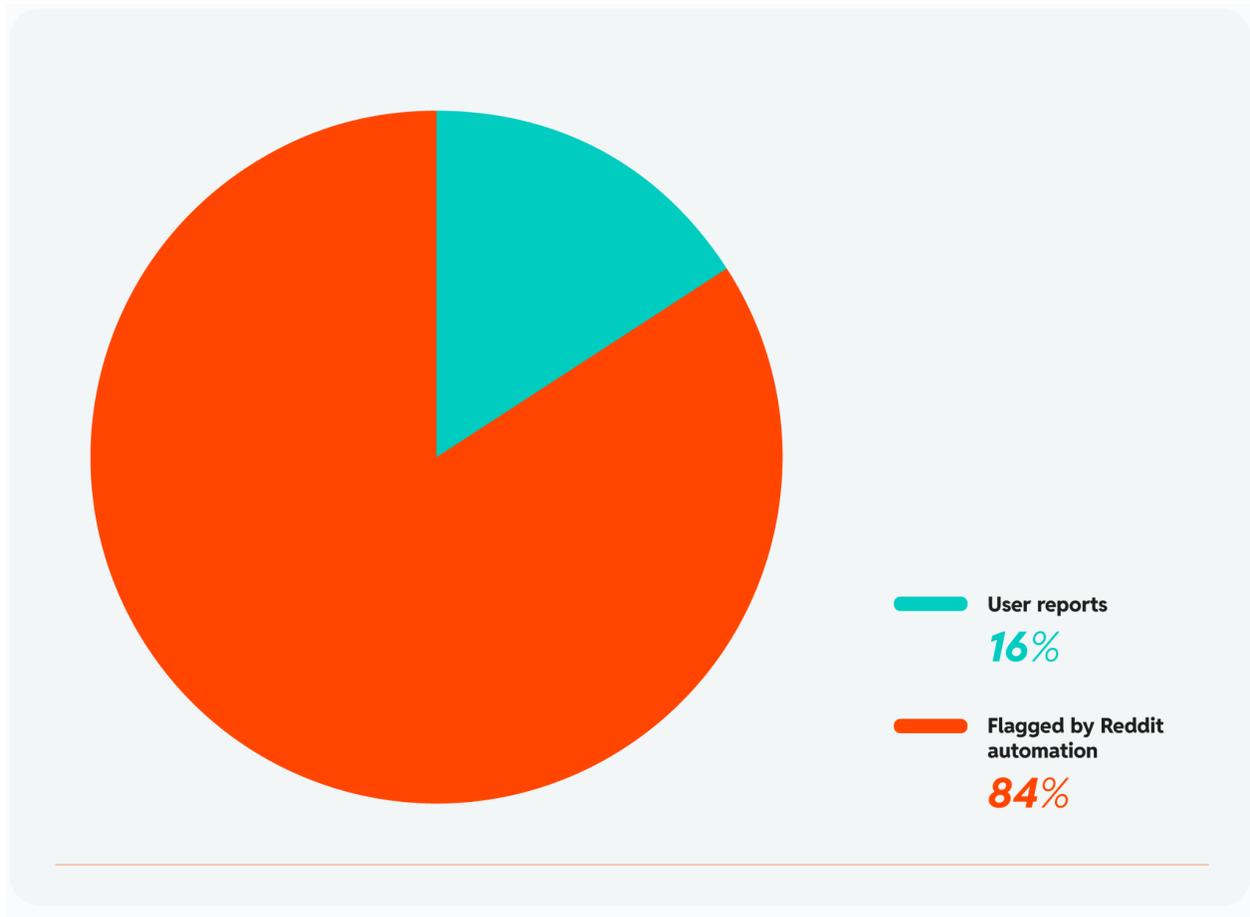


Chart 9: Posts & comments - source of reports/flags



## Subreddits (aka Communities)

### Bans

Reddit admins may ban a community if it is found to be in violation of our policies. Communities may also be removed if they lack active moderation, in accordance with our [moderator guidelines](#). The removal of an entire community is always carried out by Reddit admins. In 2021, admins removed 402,457 communities. This represents a 207% increase on last year's figure (131,058), however, the majority of subreddits removed (96%) were unmoderated communities or they were found to be engaging in content manipulation (e.g. spam). Notably, we have seen an increase in bans of subreddits for violations of copyright and for violations of our policy on minor sexualization, and we have seen a decrease in bans of subreddits for hateful content and harassment.

## Quarantine

On a platform as open and diverse as Reddit, there will sometimes be communities that, while not prohibited, may nevertheless be highly offensive or upsetting to average redditors. For this reason, Reddit admins may apply a [quarantine](#) to communities under certain circumstances. In 2021, 64 communities were quarantined; this is a decrease of 11% from the 72 communities that were quarantined in 2020.

*Chart 10: Subreddits quarantined vs. removed in 2021*

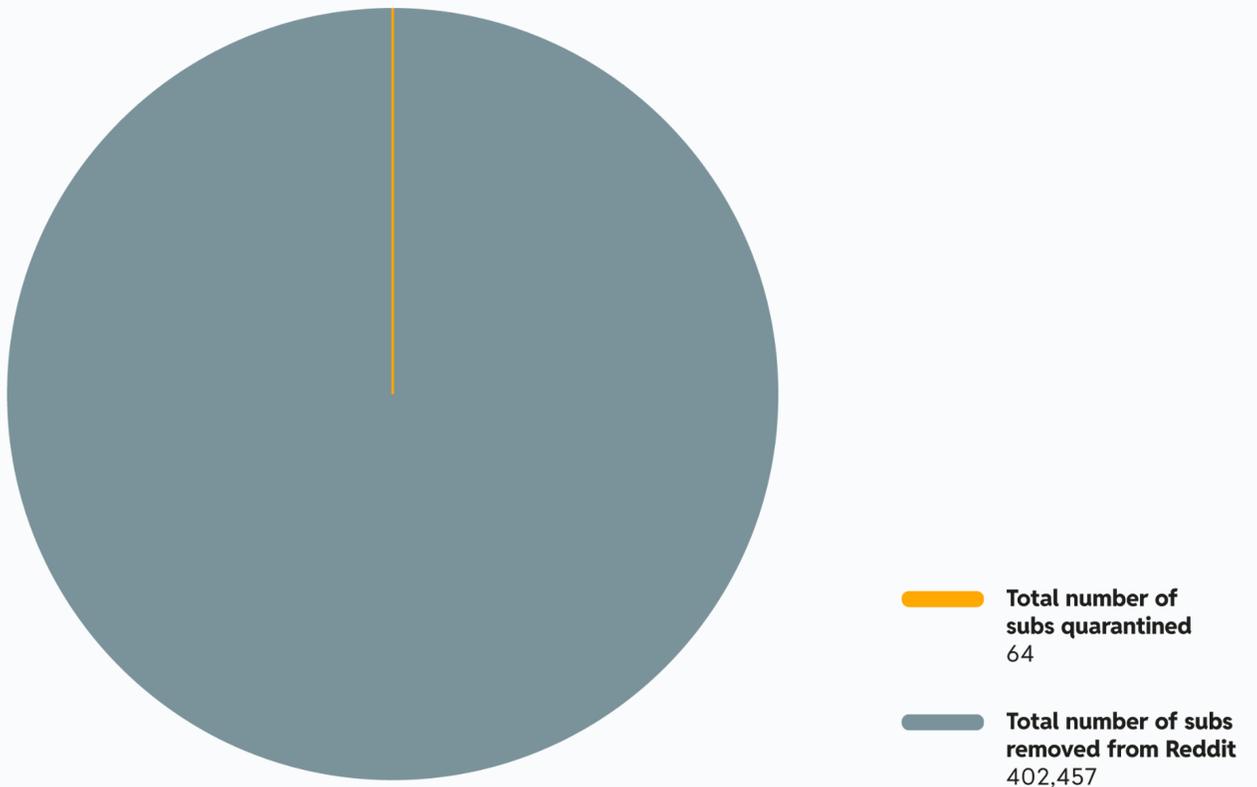
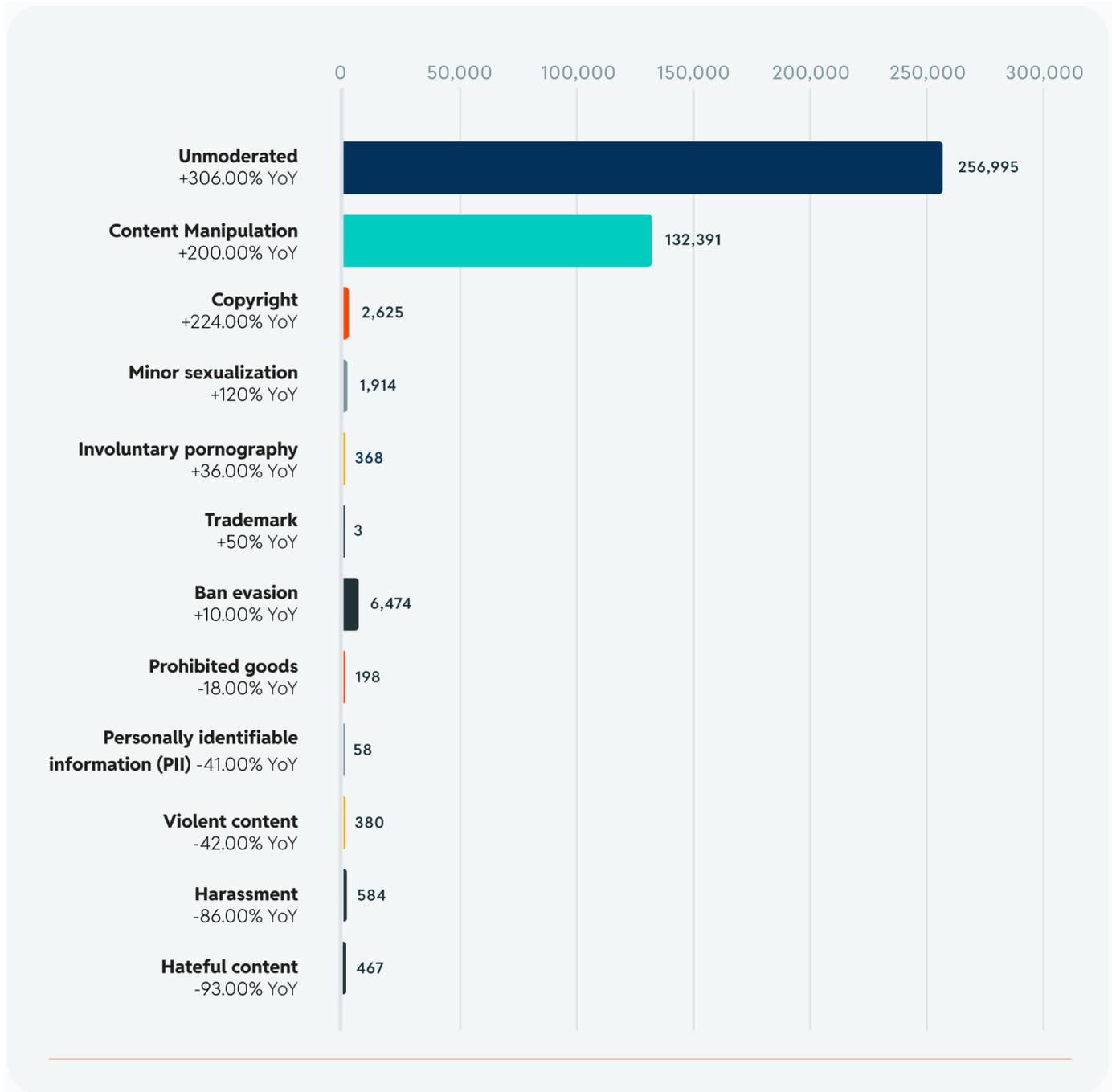


Chart 11: Subreddit removal reasons



# Private Messages

Private messages (PMs) are direct messages sent between individual users that appear in an account's [inbox](#). Reddit admins may remove messages that violate the Content Policy, mostly for content manipulation (spam), harassment, or violence, as seen below. In 2021, 713,505,544 PMs were created on Reddit, and 2,290,899 (0.32%) were removed by admins. This is an increase of over two million messages removed from 2020's figures. The vast majority of violating content in 2021 was flagged by Reddit automation (99%).

Chart 12: PMs sent vs. reported/flagged vs. removed

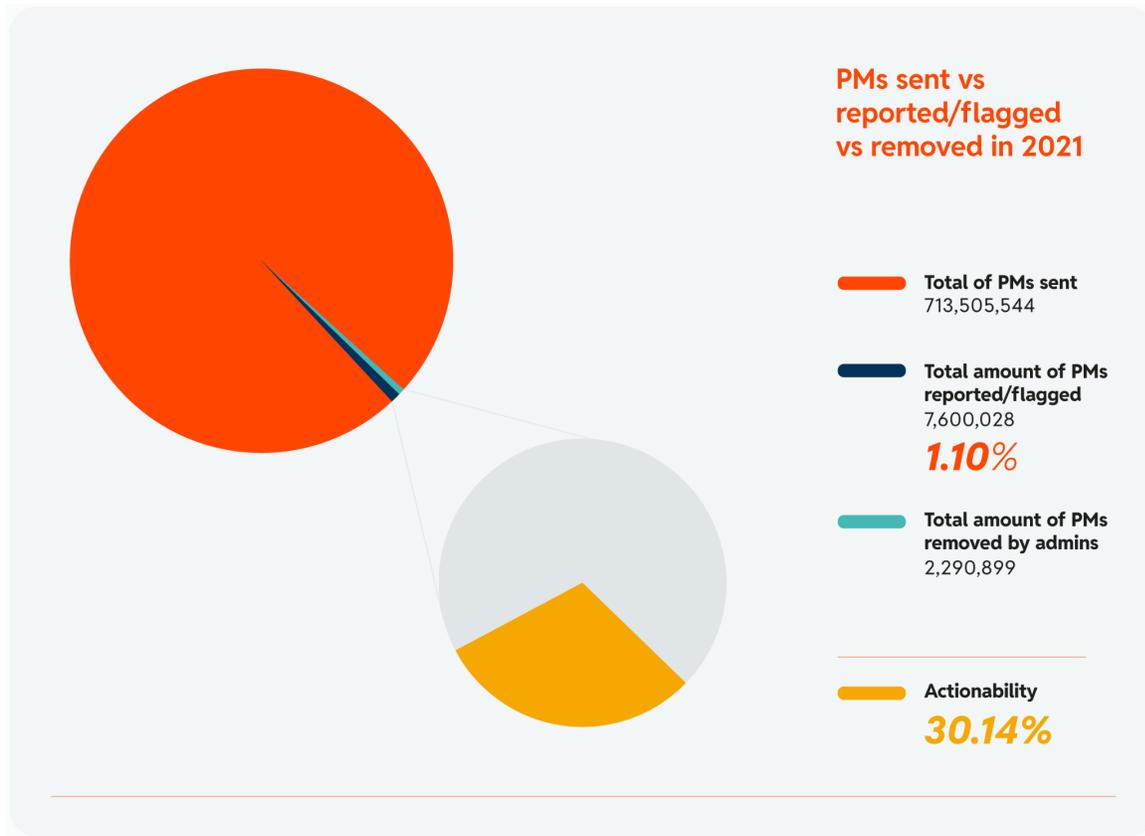


Chart 13: Source of PMs reported/flags

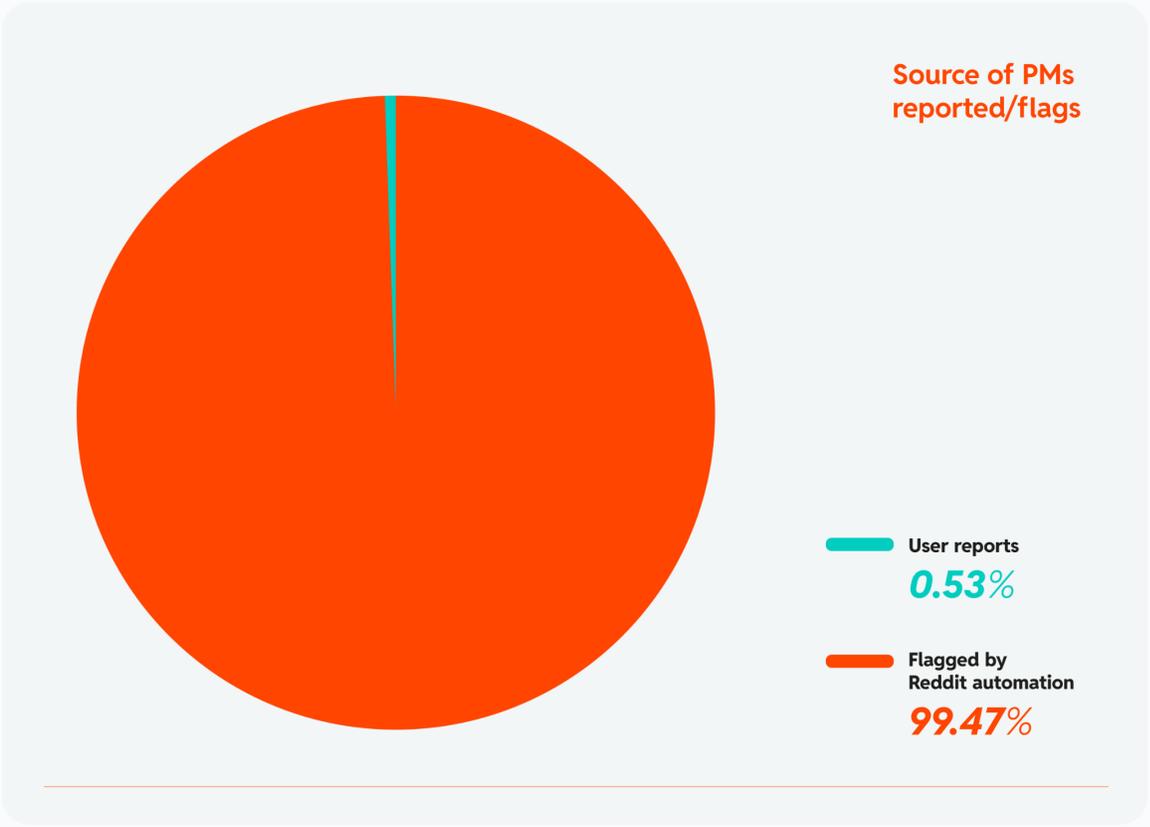
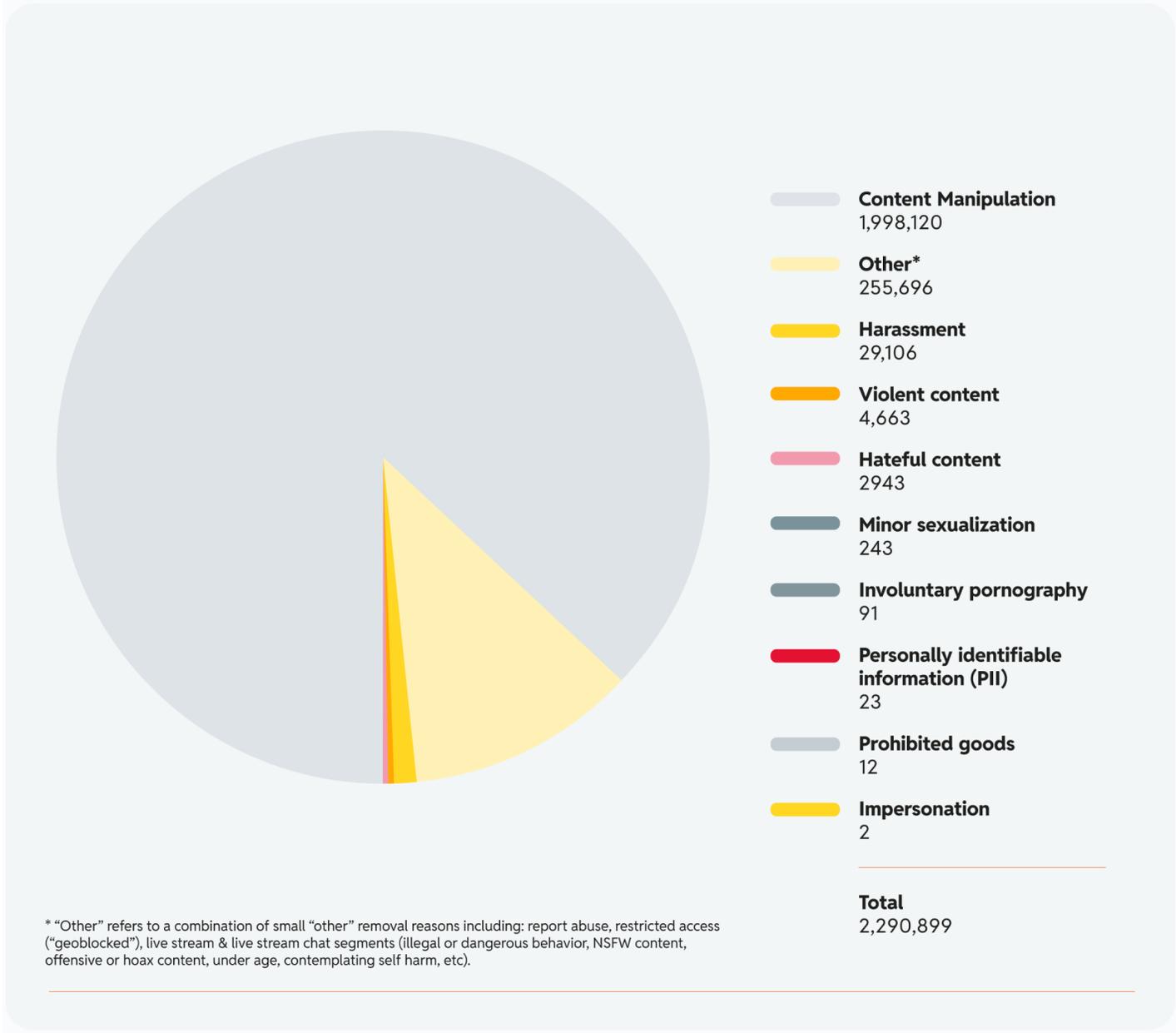


Chart 14: Private messages removed by Content Policy violation



# Chats

Redditors can visit a community and click on the 'Start Chatting' prompt, which will then match them with other members of that community in a small group chat. In 2021, 1,912,574,822 chat messages were sent, 38,462,689 were flagged by Reddit automation, and 652,858 were reported by users. This resulted in 633,148 accounts being temporarily and/or permanently suspended by admins in 2021. For more information, please refer to the "Account Sanctions" section of this report.

Chart 15: Chat messages sent vs. reported/flagged vs. account-level sanctions

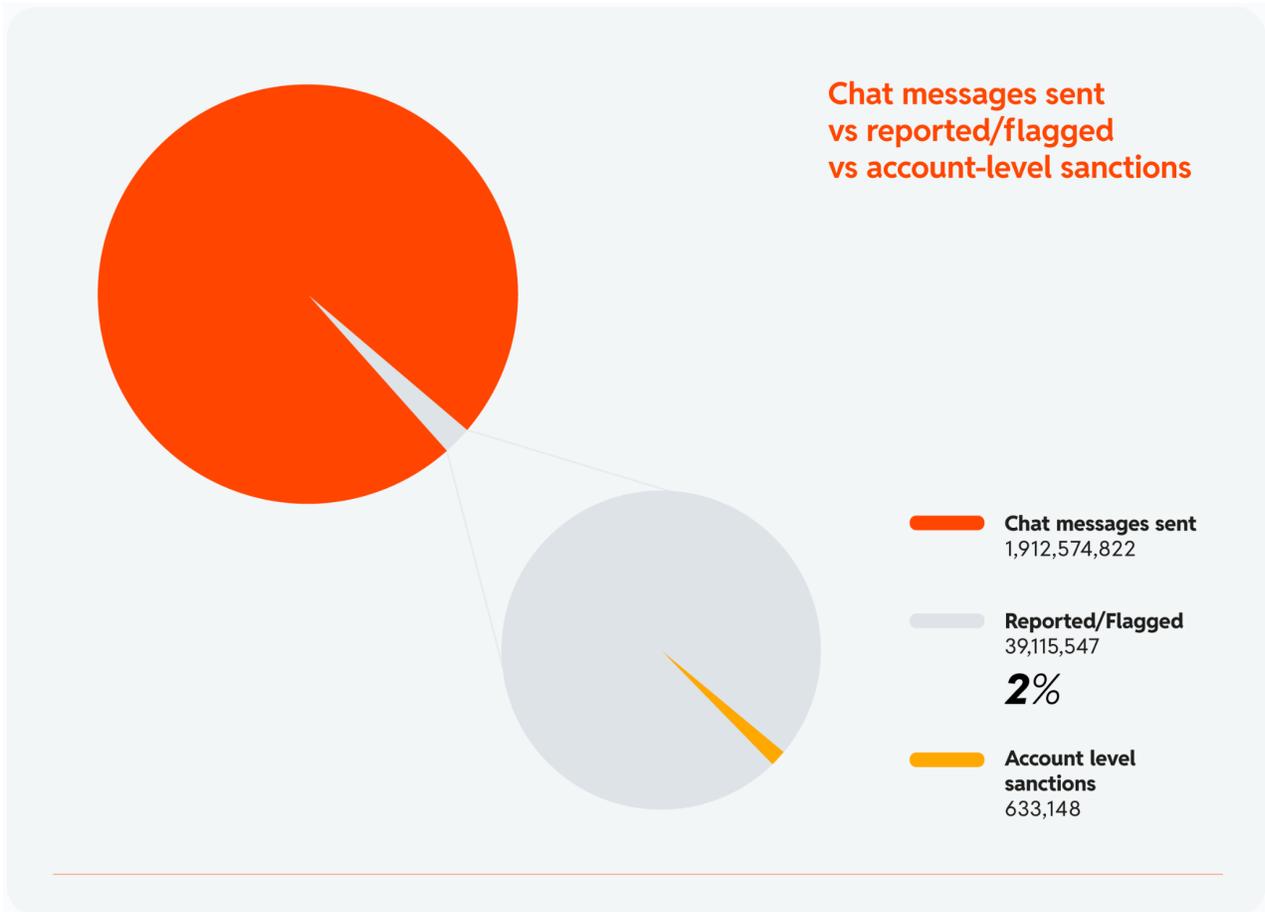
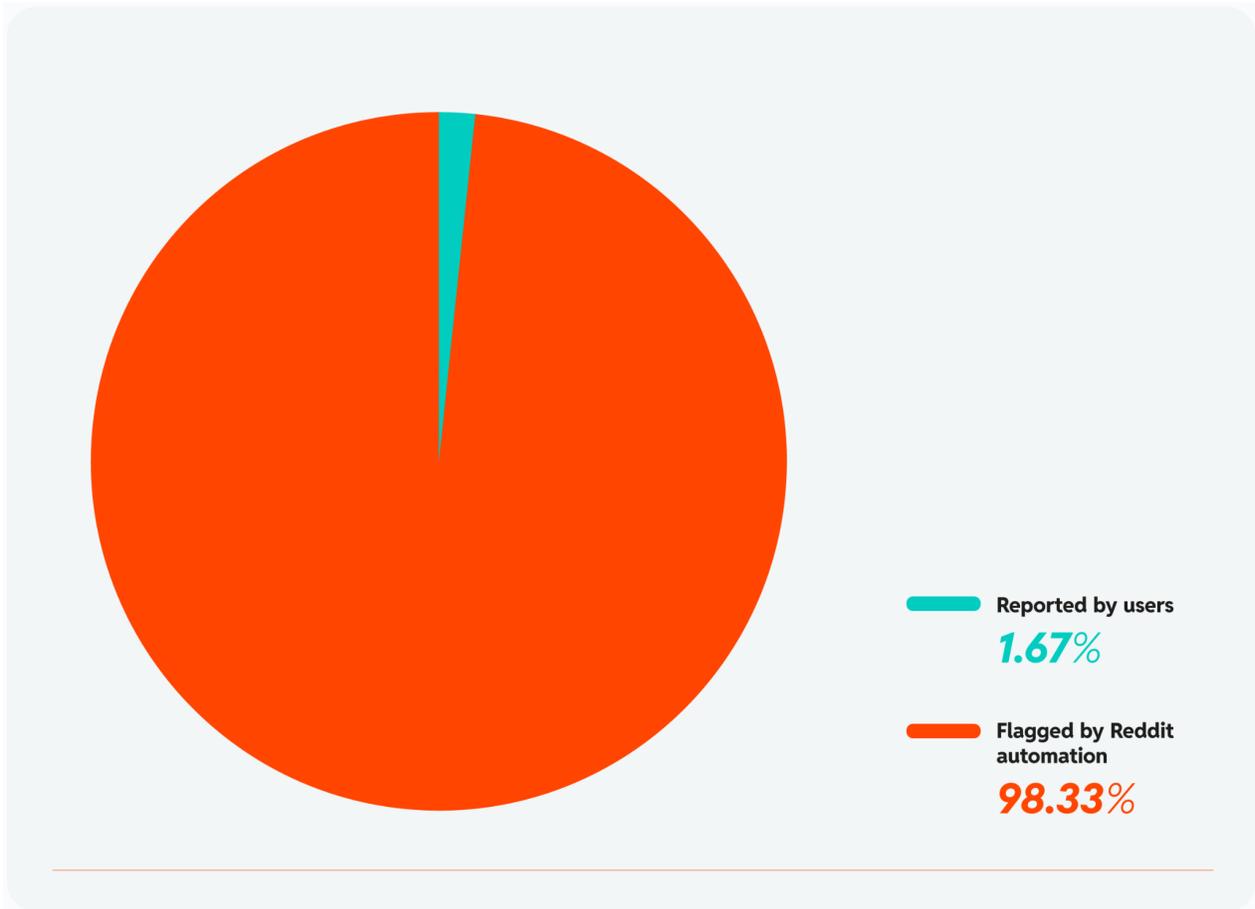


Chart 16: Chat messages - source of report/flag

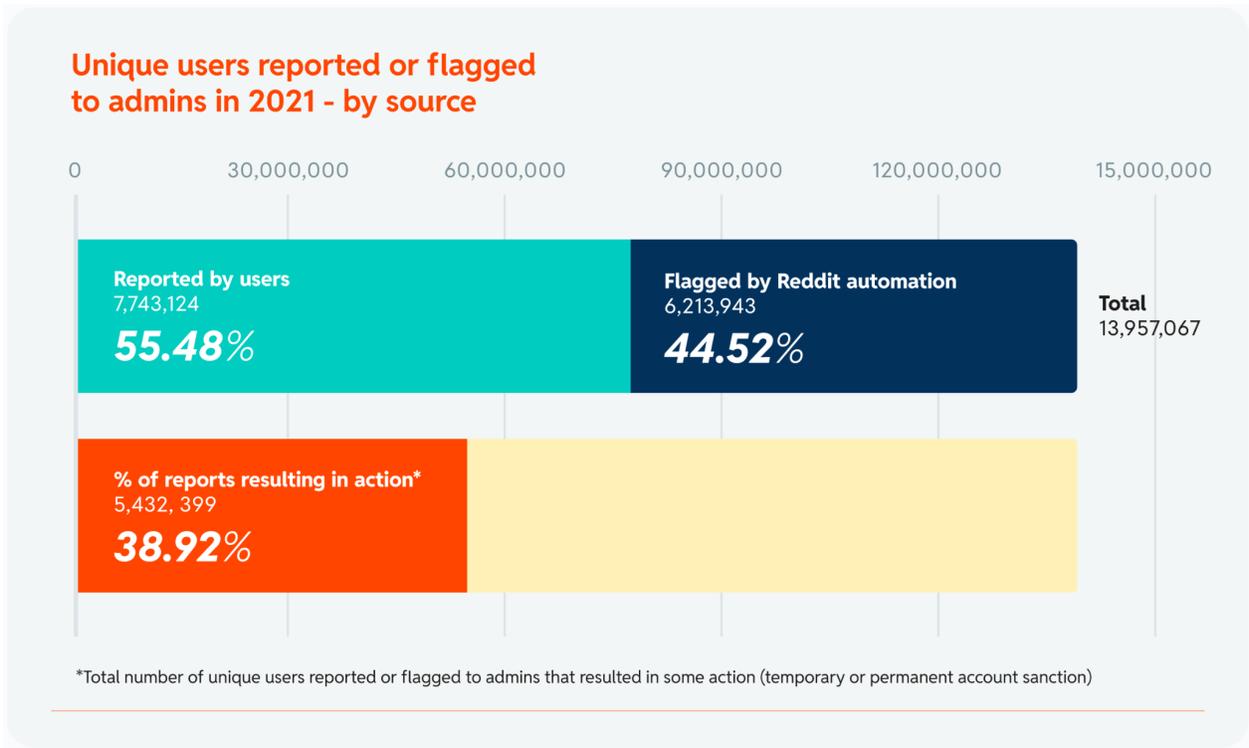


## User Accounts

### Admin Account Sanctions

Reddit admins are responsible for ensuring that users adhere to the Content Policy. Different types of account sanctions are applied for behavior that violates a given policy. These include warnings, temporary suspensions of 3 or 7 days, and permanent suspensions (depending on the severity and number of previous violations). The section below covers the number of account sanctions applied by Reddit admins in 2021, organized by the policy that was violated and by source of the underlying report/flag. Note that multiple sanctions can be applied to a single account over the course of time.

Chart 17: Unique users reported or flagged to admins in 2021 by source (includes overall actionability rate)



This section includes the total number of temporary and permanent account suspensions handed out by admins in 2021. Due to its outsized impact (87% of all account sanctions in 2021), we exclude content manipulation & spam from the data and corresponding analysis in the graph below to allow for better representation of the other policy reasons for account suspensions.

Chart 18: Admin account sanctions per rule (not including content manipulation or spam)

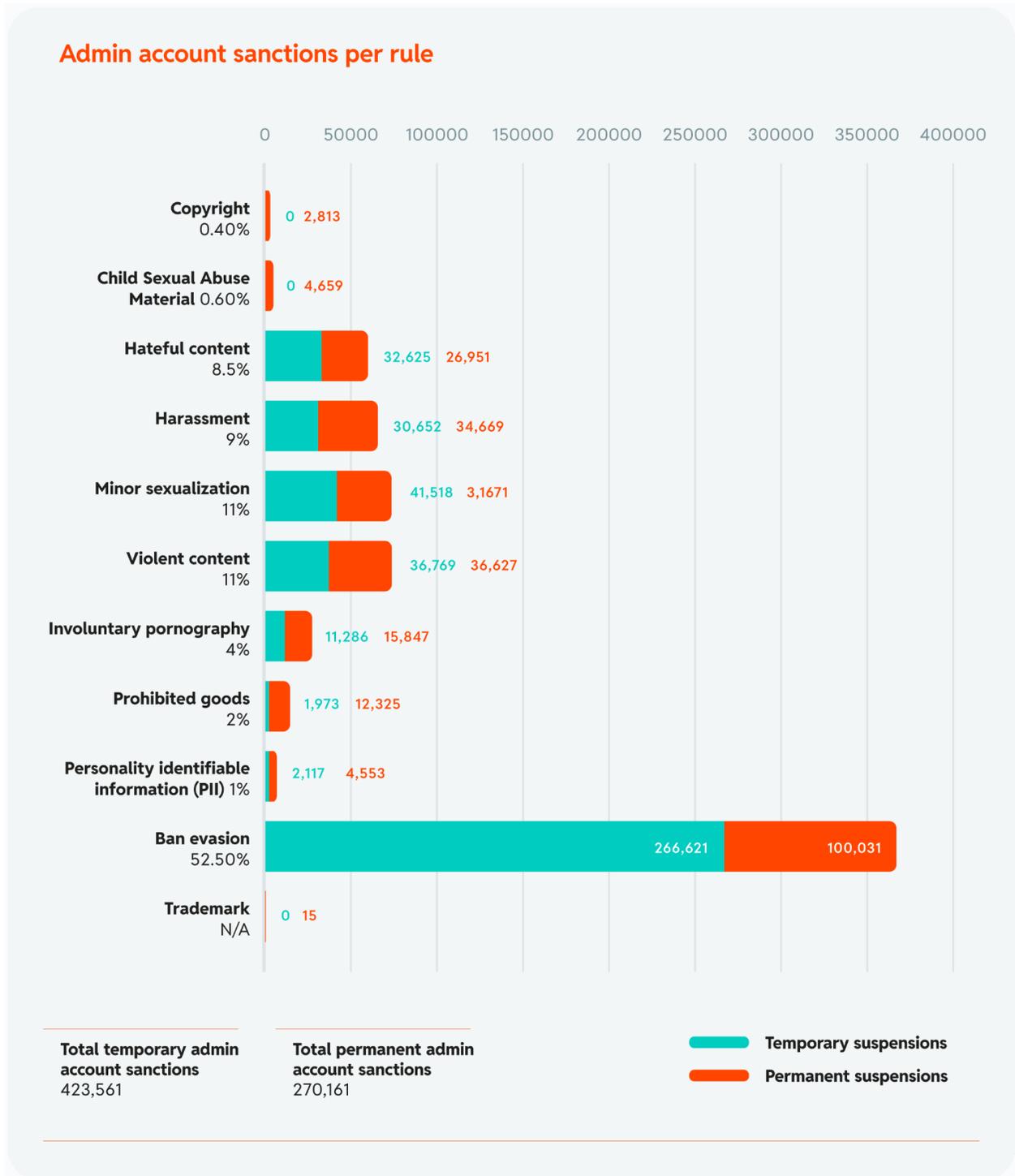
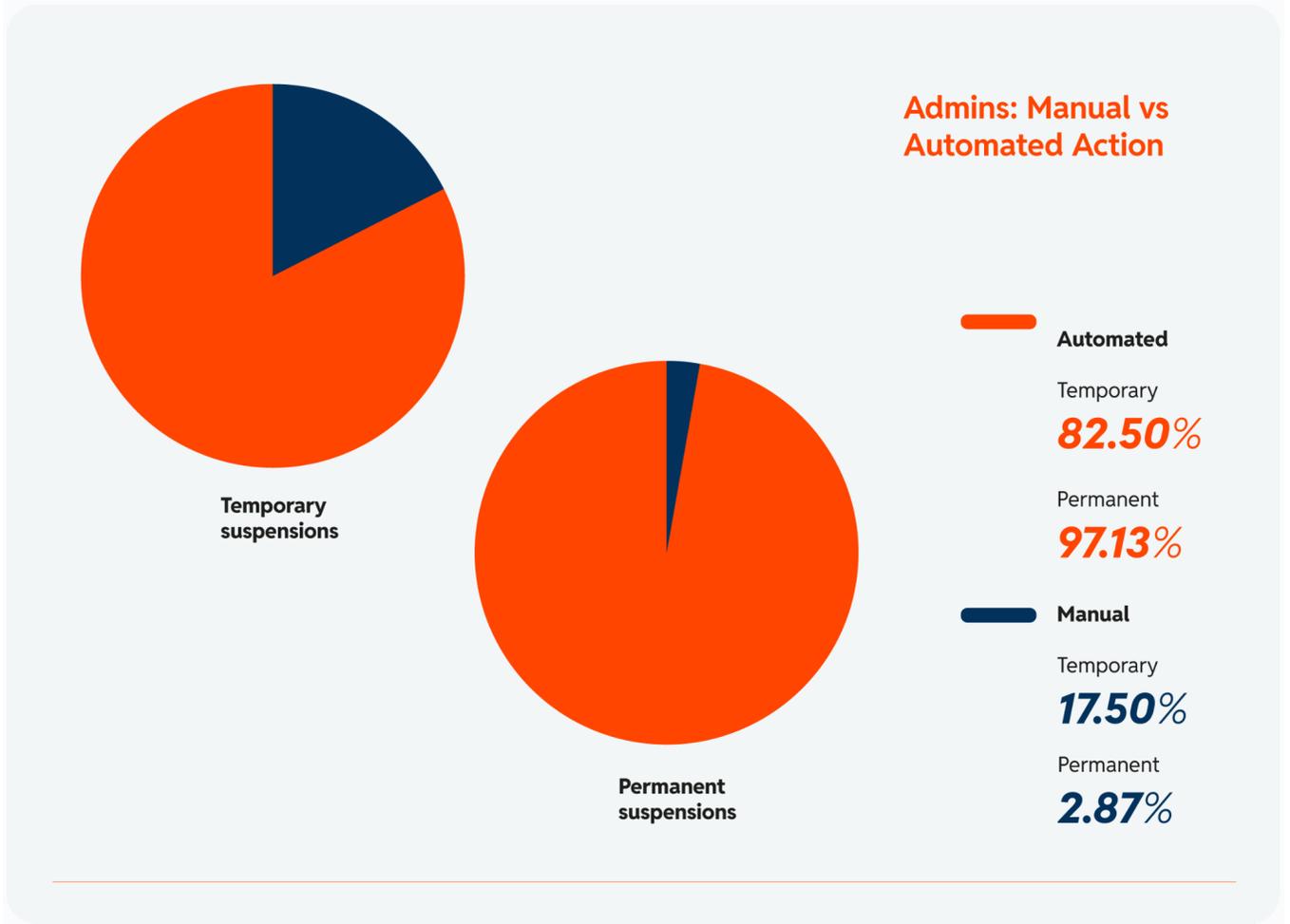


Chart 19: Admins: manual vs. automated action



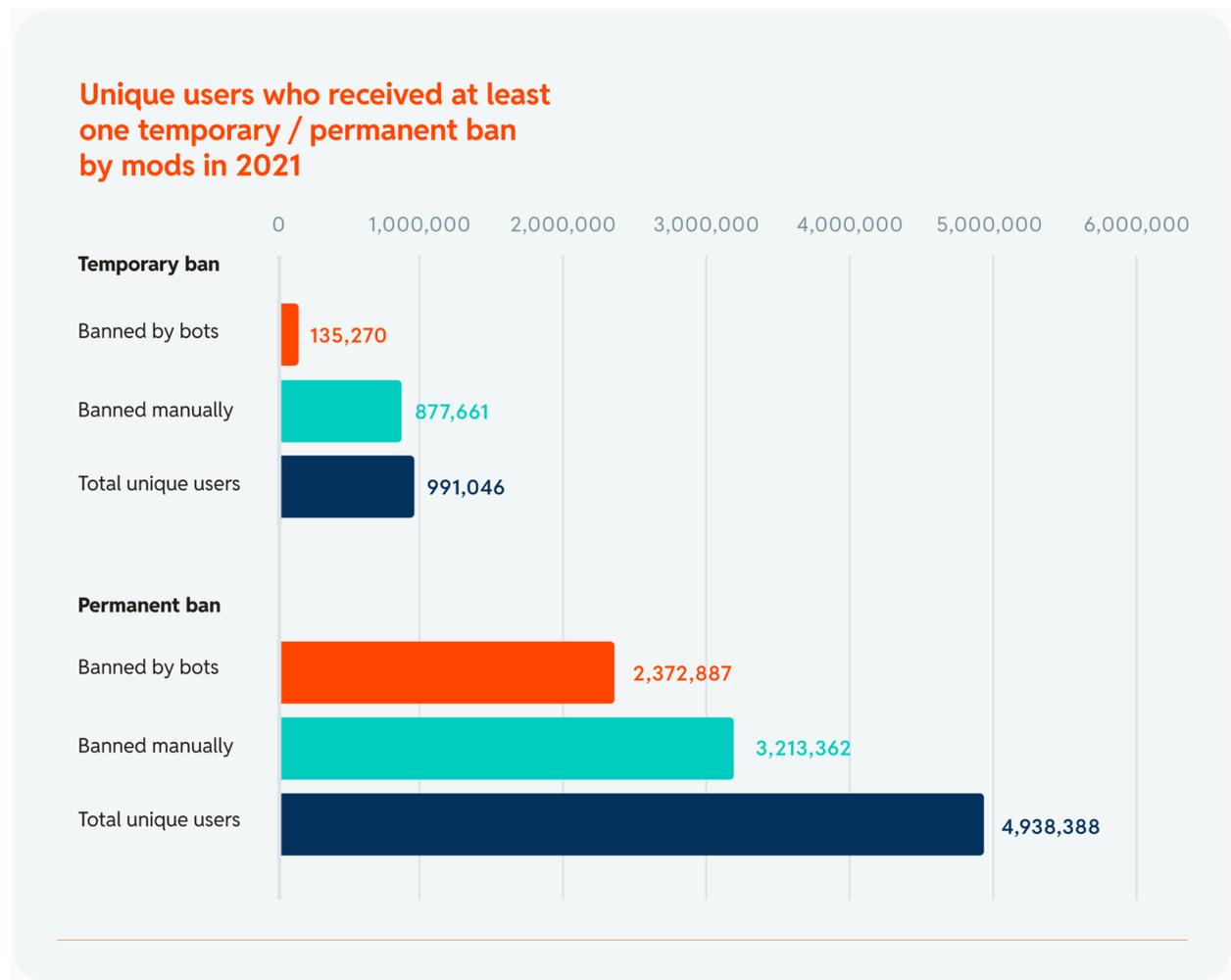
Automated permanent suspensions can occur for a variety of reasons, including:

1. Spam: accounts that are initially identified and temporarily actioned as spam are turned into permanent suspensions when certain behavior is verified during a period of incubation.
2. User evading a subreddit ban: when a user evades a ban, they receive sequential 3-day/7-day/permanent suspensions if they continue their behavior.
3. User evading a sitewide ban: after a user is permanently suspended for violating the Content Policy, if they then create alternate accounts, their alternate accounts are usually suspended too.
4. Vote manipulation: when users participate in "vote manipulation," they receive sequential warning/3-day/7-day/permanent suspensions if they continue their behavior.

## Users Banned from Subreddits by Mods

Moderators can also “ban” accounts from their subreddits if they find those users are not following their rules or are being otherwise disruptive to their communities. When a mod bans a user, this ban can be temporary or permanent, and, importantly, the ban only applies to that specific community (and not to the site as a whole). Mods may also employ automation bots to assist with this task.

Chart 20: Mods - temporary & permanent user bans



# Appeals

Whether applied against an individual piece of content, an account, or an entire community, actions taken by Reddit in response to Content Policy violations may be [appealed](#). Appeals are evaluated by Reddit admins, and are either granted (resulting in the reinstatement of the content/account/community), or denied. In 2021, Reddit admins received 79,009 appeals. 19.65% were granted and the remaining 80.35% were denied.

Chart 21: Admin appeals in 2021

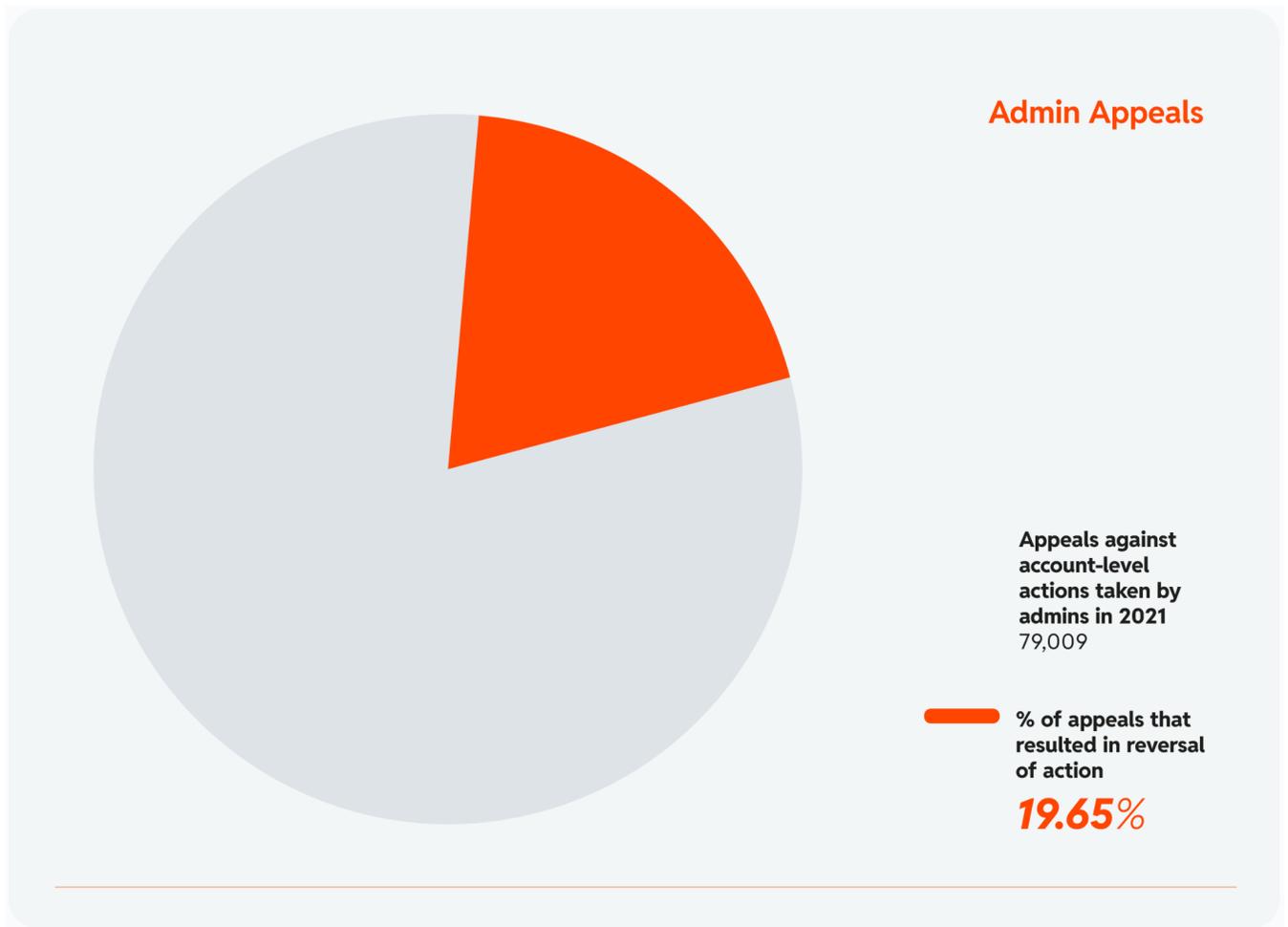
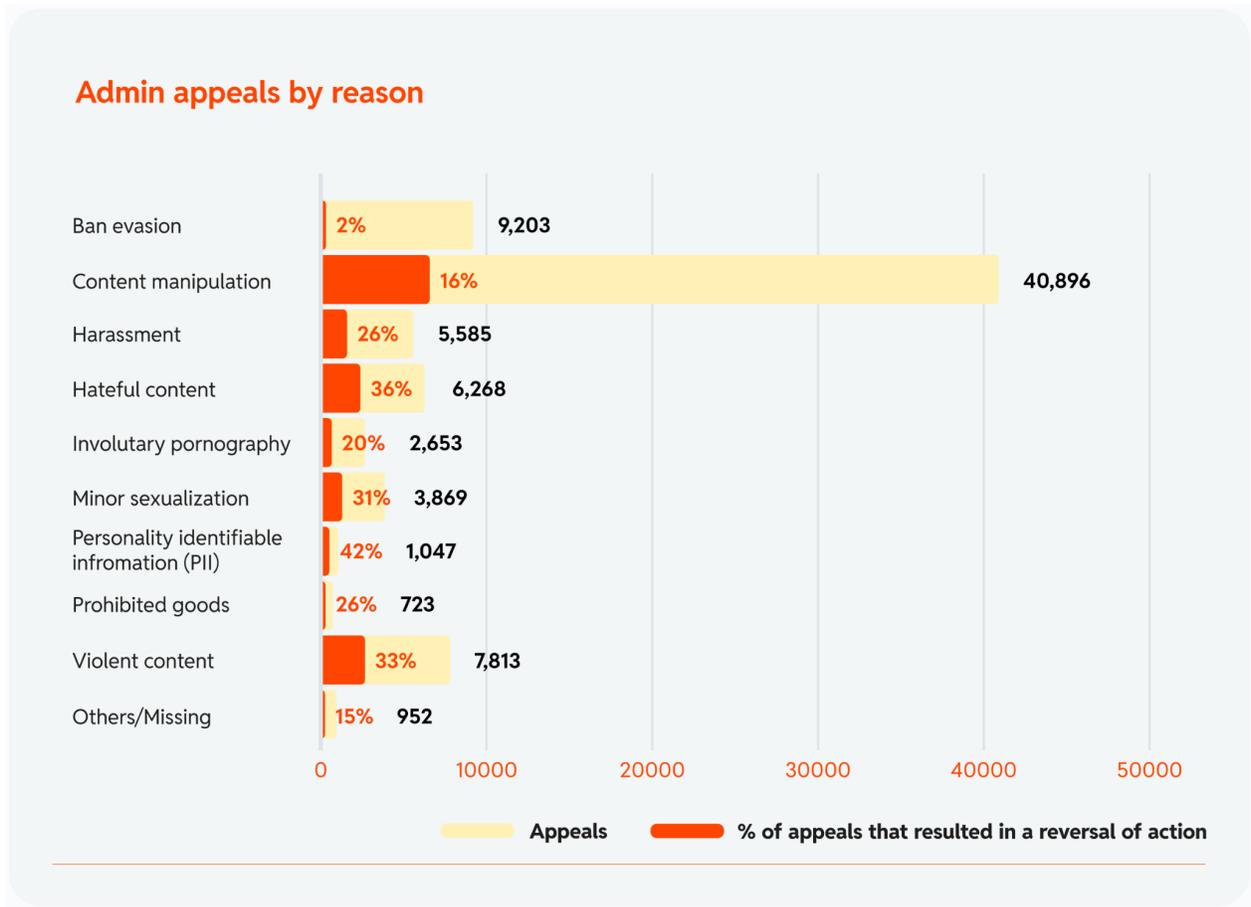


Chart 22: Admin appeals by reason



Outside of the standard appeal process for general users described above, mods may now also submit appeals of content actions within their communities that they feel are made in error via r/ModSupport modmail. In 2021, 2611 appeals submitted by mods were reviewed by admins, resulting in a 70% appeal success rate.

# Legal Removals

This section covers legal removal requests received by Reddit in 2021 from law enforcement and government entities and private parties around the world. A single legal removal request may identify several pieces of content (URLs), so in this section we report both the number of requests and the total number of pieces of content removed in response to these requests.

## **Law Enforcement/Government Requests to Remove Content**

This section includes all legal requests submitted on behalf of governments to remove content (either via court order or some other type of request). Governments may request the removal of content for a variety of reasons, including alleged violations of local law. Reddit scrutinizes each request to determine its legal sufficiency, and may push back or deny the request entirely for a variety of reasons, including that the request is overbroad or inconsistent with international law. All reported content is first reviewed under our [Content Policy](#), and any violations are actioned by the appropriate team. In situations where there are no underlying Content Policy violations and the request is otherwise determined to violate local law(s), Reddit may restrict access to the content in the reporter's country.

In 2021, Reddit received 292 requests from law enforcement or government agencies to remove content from the platform, a 15% increase from 2020. 90% of these removal requests originated from outside the US. The three countries requesting the most removal of content were the United Kingdom, India, and Australia.

Chart 23: LE/Government content removal requests by country

### LE/Government content removal requests by country

Country	Requests	Pieces of Content Identified in Requests	% Requests We Complied With in Whole or in Part
Australia	47	198	100%
Canada	7	54	86%
Denmark	14	29	86%
France	1	1	100%
Germany	7	10	86%
India	50	117	92%
Ireland	1	1	0%
Korea (South)	25	327	100%
Malaysia	10	14	100%
New Zealand	3	6	67%
Norway	2	2	100%
Pakistan	5	41	60%
Russian Federation	32	31	72%
Singapore	3	4	33%
Spain	1	2	0%
Turkey	3	3	67%
United Kingdom (UK)	52	184	96%
United States (US)	29	115	76%
<b>Total</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>1139</b>	<b>73%</b>

Chart 24: Reddit removals in response to LE/Government requests

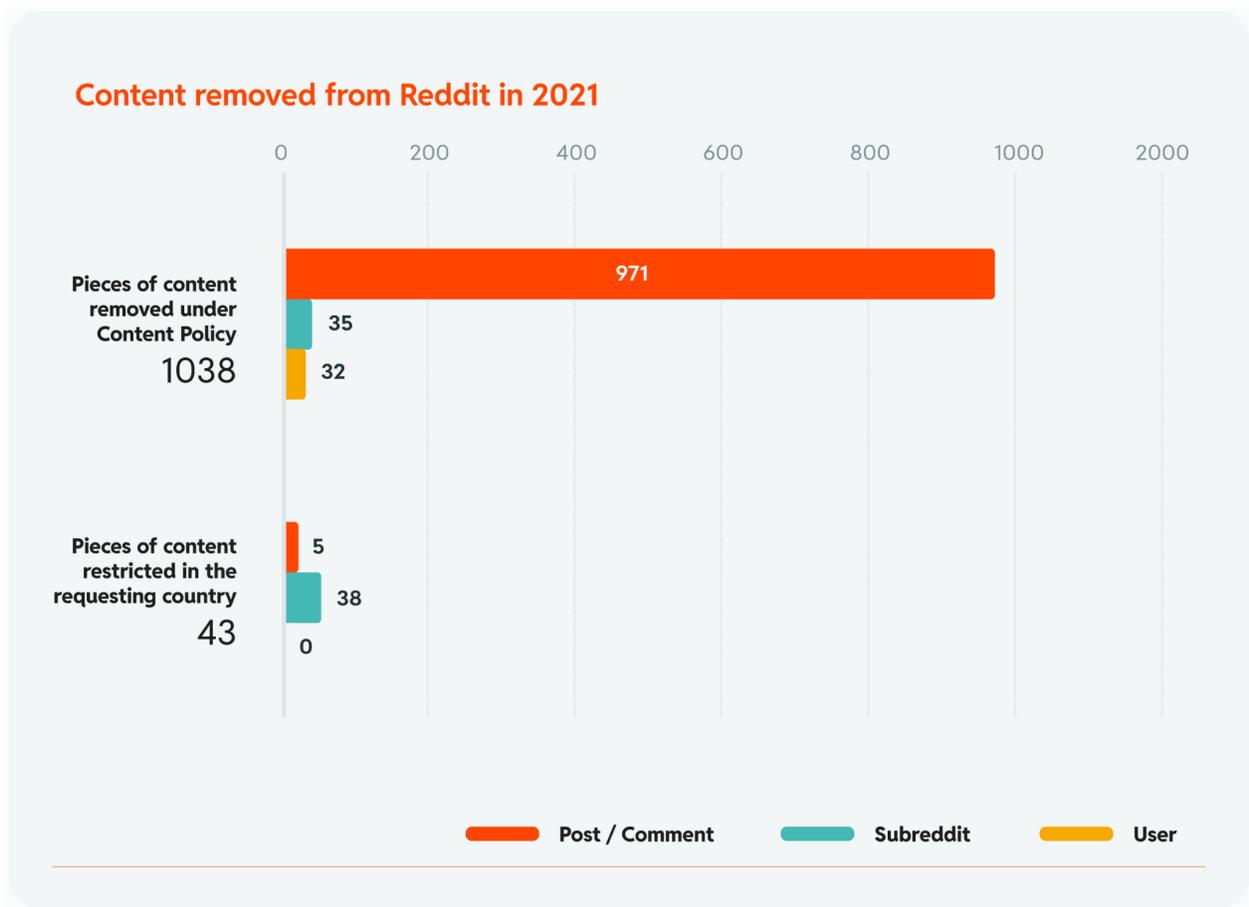
Reddit removals in response to LE/Government requests

	Content Type	Pieces of Content Identified in Requests	Content Removed Under the Content Policy	Content Restricted in the Requesting Country	Content We Declined to Remove*
Australia	Post / Comment	173	169	0	0
	Subreddit	10	10	1	0
	User	15	15	0	0
Canada	Post / Comment	54	54	0	1
	Subreddit	0	0	0	0
	User	0	0	0	0
Denmark	Post / Comment	26	26	0	2
	Subreddit	2	2	0	0
	User	1	1	0	0
France	Post / Comment	0	0	0	0
	Subreddit	0	0	0	0
	User	1	1	0	0
Germany	Post / Comment	4	3	0	1
	Subreddit	4	1	0	0
	User	2	2	0	0
India	Post / Comment	99	93	0	3
	Subreddit	5	3	1	1
	User	13	5	0	2
Ireland	Post / Comment	1	0	0	1
	Subreddit	0	0	0	0
	User	0	0	0	0
Korea (South)	Post / Comment	327	327	0	0
	Subreddit	0	0	0	0
	User	0	0	0	0
Malaysia	Post / Comment	2	2	0	0
	Subreddit	10	10	0	0
	User	2	2	0	0
New Zealand	Post / Comment	6	5	0	1
	Subreddit	0	0	0	0
	User	0	0	0	0
Norway	Post / Comment	0	0	0	0
	Subreddit	2	2	0	0
	User	0	0	0	0
Pakistan	Post / Comment	4	1	0	1
	Subreddit	37	0	34	1
	User	0	0	0	0
Russian Federation	Post / Comment	31	18	5	9
	Subreddit	0	0	0	0
	User	1	1	0	0
Singapore	Post / Comment	4	0	0	2
	Subreddit	0	0	0	0
	User	0	0	0	0
Spain	Post / Comment	2	0	0	1
	Subreddit	0	0	0	0
	User	0	0	0	0
Turkey	Post / Comment	1	0	0	1
	Subreddit	2	0	2	0
	User	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	Post / Comment	181	178	0	2
	Subreddit	2	2	0	0
	User	1	1	0	0
United States	Post / Comment	104	94	0	6
	Subreddit	6	5	0	1
	User	5	44	0	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,140</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>37</b>

■ Post / Comment   
 ■ Subreddit   
 ■ User

\*Reasons include incomplete requests, duplicate requests, or requests where we asked for more information and the requester did not respond or follow-up

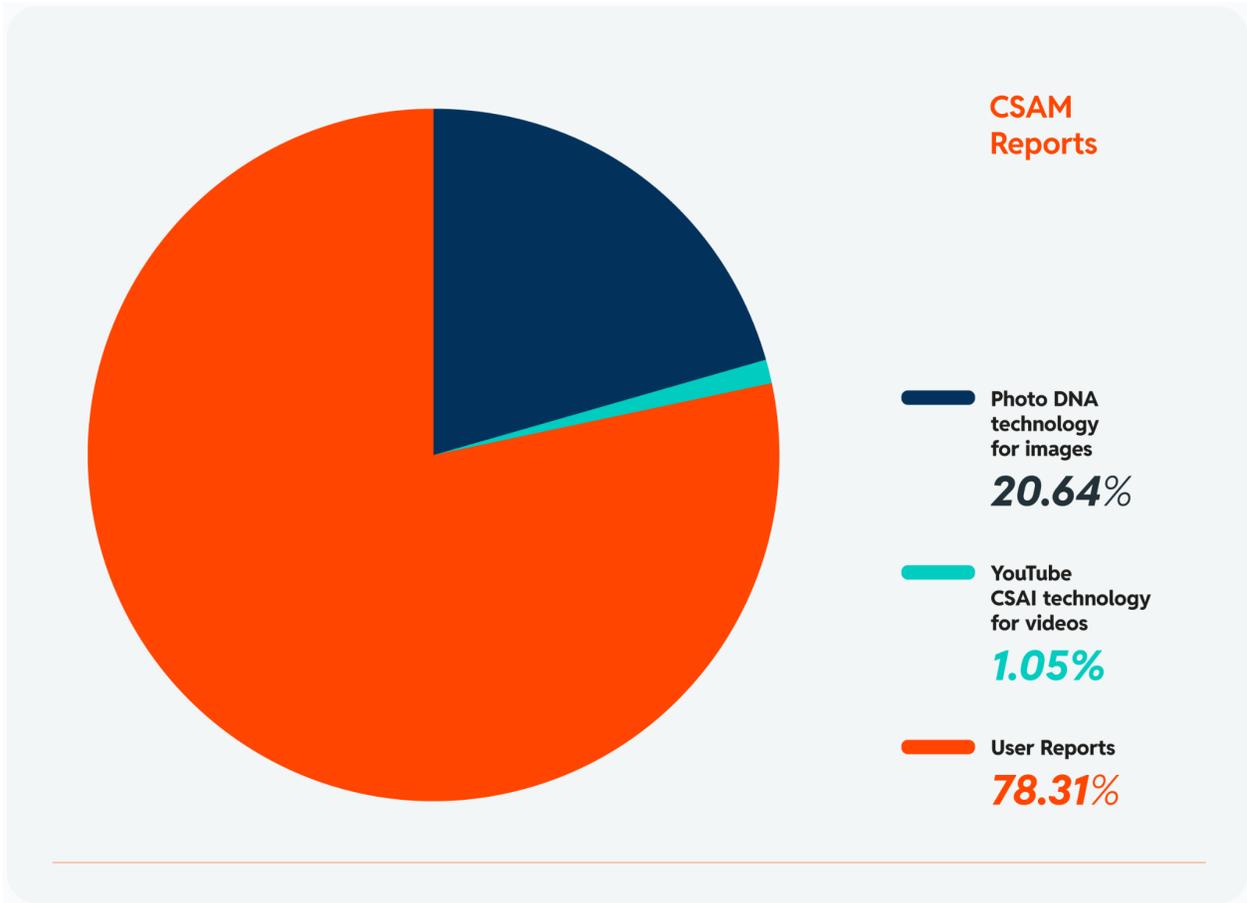
Chart 25: *Reddit removals in response to LE/Government requests - by content type*



## Child Sexual Abuse Material

We have zero tolerance for content that puts children at risk. When we find child sexual abuse material (“CSAM”) on the platform, it is removed immediately and the offending user is permanently suspended from Reddit. We also take the steps required by law to report the relevant users/content to the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children \(NCMEC\)](#) and preserve relevant user data.

Chart 26: CSAM reports



In response to these reports, Reddit removed 9,258 pieces of content and we made 10,059 CyberTipline reports to NCMEC. This is an increase in NCMEC reporting from the 2,233 reports made in 2020, and is the result of us updating our enforcement procedures in 2021.

### **Legal Requests Submitted by Private Parties to Remove Content**

Reddit also receives legal requests from private parties to remove content. Examples include requests from lawyers/solicitors, private individuals, corporations, and social organizations to remove content they believe is defamatory or otherwise violates private legal rights.

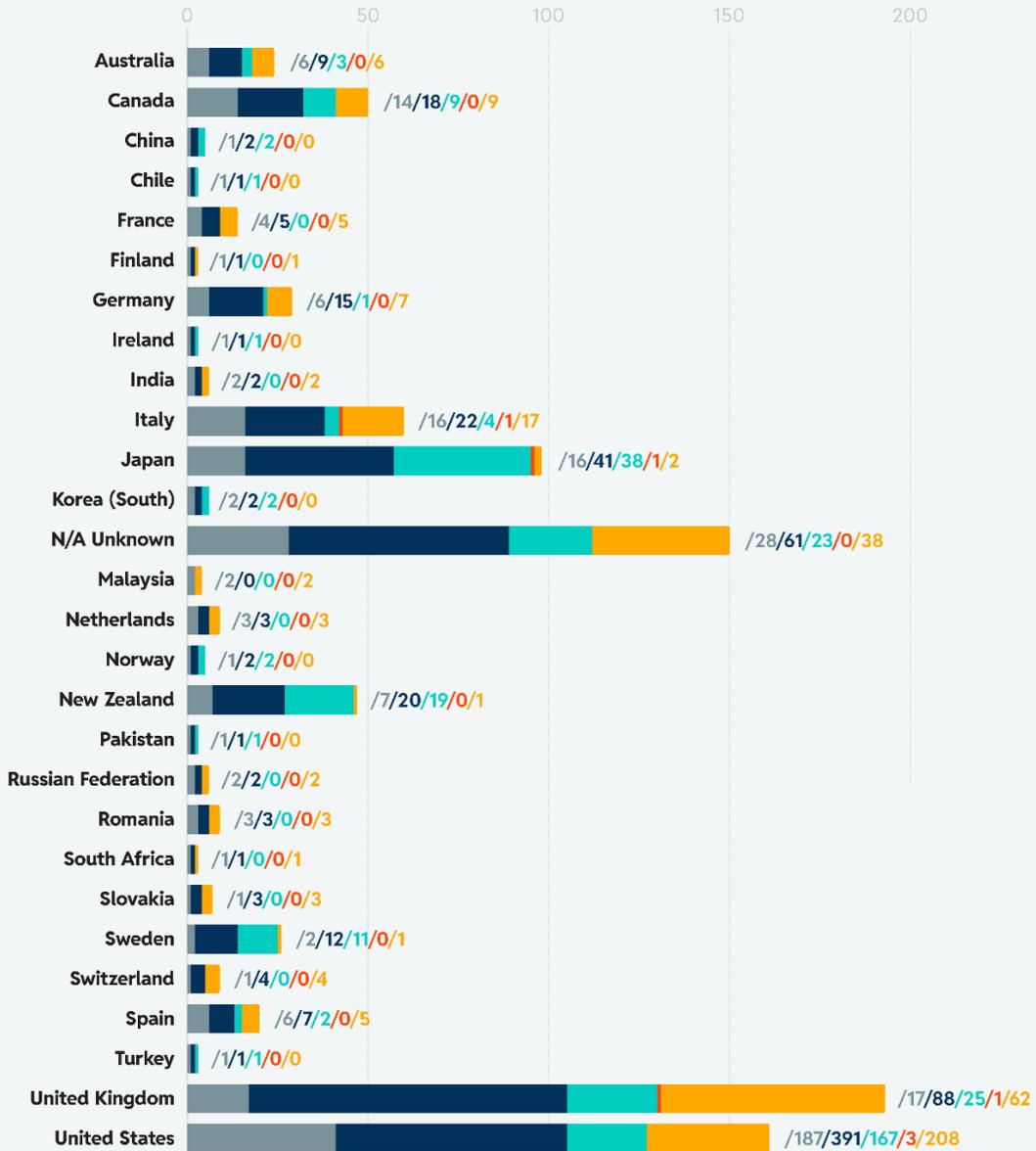
In 2021, Reddit received 187 legal demands for the removal of content citing local laws (not including user requests under General Data Protection Regulation, California Consumer Privacy Act, or removal requests under Germany's Network Enforcement Act). This represents an 8% increase from last year's figure of 173 legal demands.

All content identified in these private party legal requests is first reviewed under Reddit's Content Policy, and subsequently removed for any policy violations. As described above, when Reddit receives a removal request for content that violates local law but does not violate our Content Policy, Reddit may restrict the availability of that content in the country where it is alleged to be illegal.

Reddit complied in whole or in part with 53% of private party legal removal requests in 2021. This resulted in 3 pieces of content being geoblocked in the reporter country and 167 pieces of content being removed entirely for violations of our Content Policy.

*Chart 27: Private party removal requests - per country breakdown*

## Private Party removal requests - per country breakdown



- Requests
- Pieces of content identified in requests
- Pieces of content removed for Content Policy violations
- Pieces of content restricted in requesting country
- Content we declined to remove\*

\*Reasons include incomplete requests, duplicate requests, or requests where we asked for more information and the requester did not respond or follow-up

We also receive content removal requests from private parties under Germany’s Network Enforcement Act (NetzDG). For completeness, we include the NetzDG removal request data for 2021 below. For a more in-depth look at these requests, please refer to our bi-annual NetzDG report [here](#) (under “More information about Reddit’s handling of NetzDG reports”).

Chart 28: NetzDG removal requests



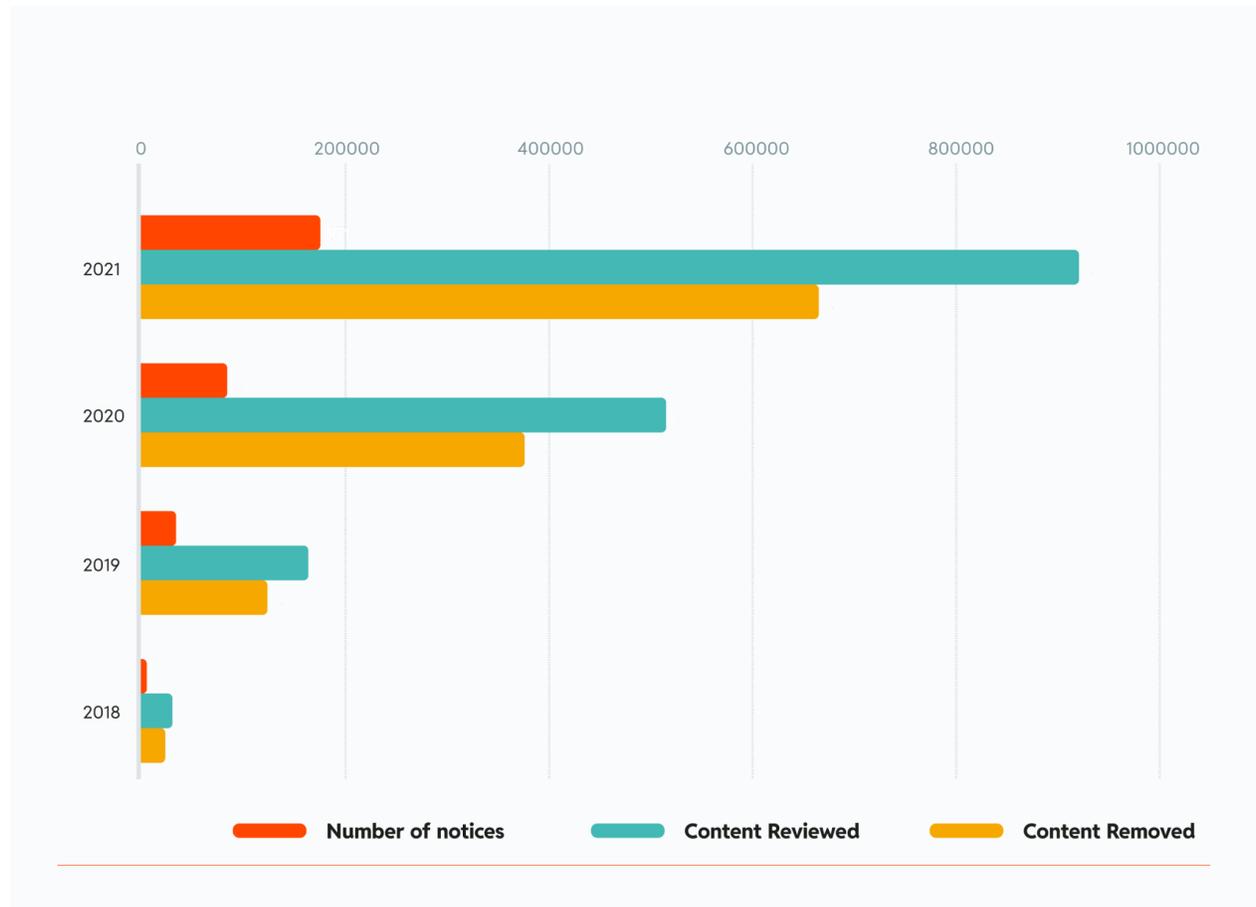
## Copyright Removals

Reddit respects intellectual property laws and requires that users of our services do the same. When Reddit receives a complete and valid copyright notice, we comply with the notice and remove the infringing content identified. For more information, please visit our [Copyright Help Center](#).

This section provides data on the volume of content removed from Reddit in 2021 in response to valid copyright notices, as well as data on the content we declined to remove in response to incomplete or invalid notices. We also include data on content we reinstated after the original poster submitted a copyright counter notice or the rightsholder retracted its copyright notice.

In 2021, Reddit received 177,450 copyright notices reporting 920,672 pieces of content. This represents an increase of 104% from 2020. We removed 665,898 pieces of content in response to these takedown notices.

Chart 29: Copyright Notices



## User and Subreddit Copyright Bans

In accordance with our copyright policy, in appropriate circumstances, Reddit may terminate users who are repeat infringers. This can also result in entire subreddits being removed in certain cases, such as when there is an excessive amount of infringing content in a subreddit.

In 2021, Reddit permanently suspended 2,813 users and banned 2,625 subreddits for excessive copyright infringement.

## Incomplete or Invalid Copyright Notices

When Reddit receives an incomplete or invalid copyright notice, we reject the notice and decline to remove the content identified in the request.

A request may be incomplete or invalid for many reasons, including:

1. Failing to include [information required by copyright law](#)
2. Confusing other issues for copyright infringement, such as privacy or harassment
3. Targeting content that makes a “[fair use](#)” of the claimant’s work, as allowed by copyright law

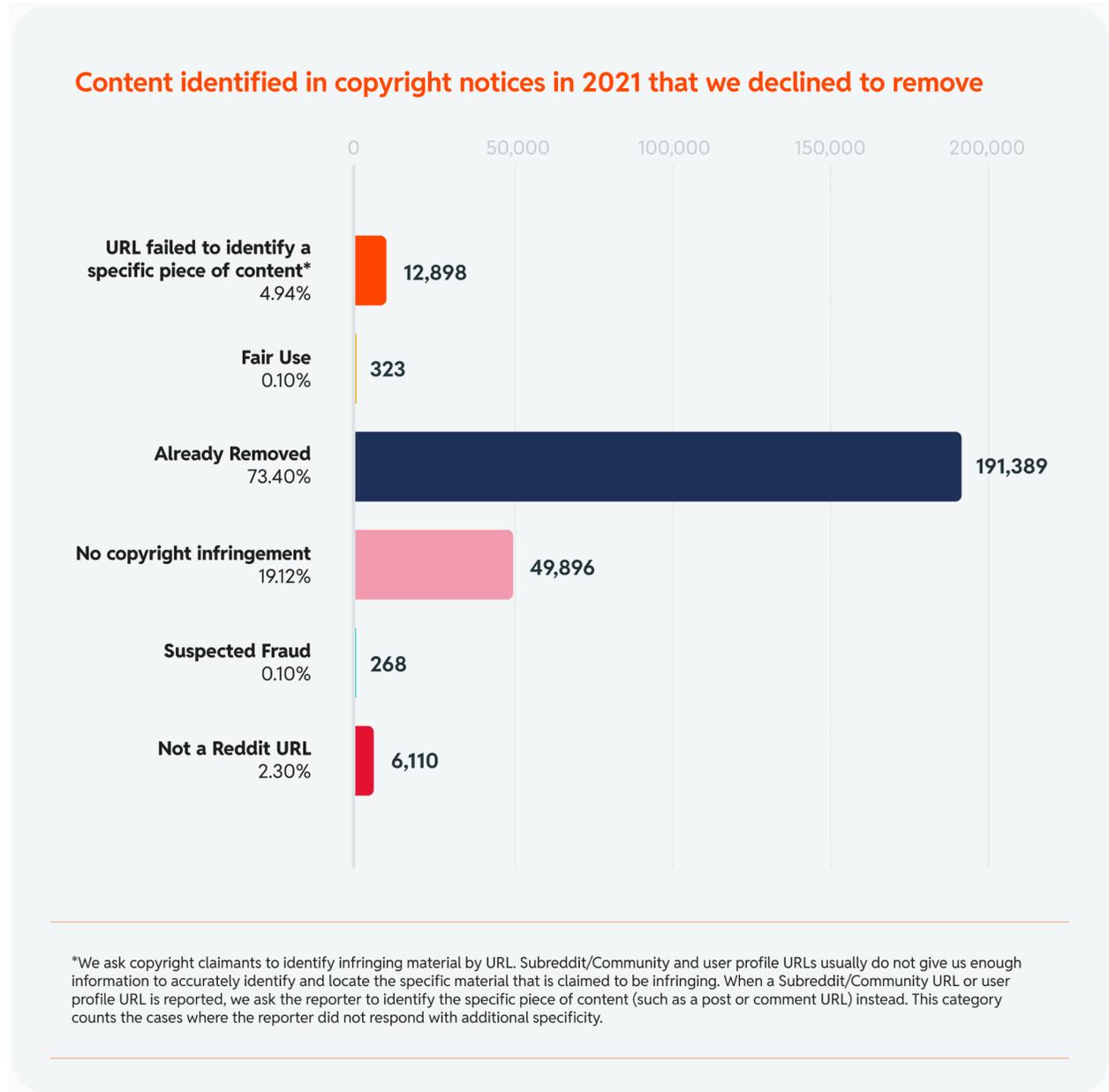
For more information about copyright notices, please visit our [Copyright Help Center](#).

In 2021, 260,884 pieces of content did not qualify for removal due to invalid, incomplete, or duplicate copyright notices.

Examples:

- Fair Use - We received a notice from a company asserting that a video posted to Reddit infringed the company’s copyright in one of its television commercials. The video on Reddit completely rearranged the original commercial word-by-word using obvious jump cuts, conveying an entirely different message with a humorous effect. After review, we found the rearranged video’s use of the original to be so transformative that it would likely be protected by fair use. We did not remove the content.
- No Infringement - We received a notice from a video game publisher requesting removal of two Reddit posts purporting to reveal game mechanics and objectives from one of the publisher’s soon-to-be-released titles. Although the notice claimed that “leaked images of the unreleased game” infringed the publisher’s copyrights in the game, the only image found in either of the reported posts was a screenshot of further plain text description of game mechanics. Since the reported content was merely related to the rightsholder’s work but did not copy from it in a way that constitutes infringement, we declined to remove the content.
- Not Subject to Copyright - We received a copyright notice on behalf of a fraternity requesting the removal of a Reddit text post that described the fraternity’s secret handshake and symbol. The handshake consisted of a few simple motions, and the symbol was composed of a few simple geometric shapes. The Reddit post described the handshake and symbols using its own words. Because the movements of a simple handshake or a composition of simple geometric shapes are not afforded copyright protection, we declined to remove the content.

Chart 30: Content identified in copyright notices in 2021 that we declined to remove



## Counter Notices and Retractions

U.S. copyright law prescribes a statutory procedure for a user to appeal a copyright infringement removal by submitting a counter notice. A valid counter notice results in the reinstatement of the removed content to Reddit. More information on counter notices can be found [here](#).

Reddit may also restore content that was removed as a result of a copyright takedown notice if the party who submitted the notice retracts their claim of copyright infringement.

Reddit complies with counter notices and retraction requests that are complete, and rejects those that are incomplete or invalid. In 2021, Reddit received 542 counter notices and 72 retraction requests. 285 counter notices were found to be valid, resulting in restoration of all the associated content to Reddit. Similarly, all retraction requests resulted in restoration of the associated content.

## **Trademark Removals**

Similar to copyright removals, when Reddit receives a complete and valid trademark infringement notice, we remove the infringing content identified in the request.

Example:

- **Trademark Infringement:** We received a trademark notice from a law firm on behalf of its client, an e-commerce company. The notice requested the removal of a user post that made unauthorized use of the company's registered logo and word mark to promote the user's own related services. The reported content was found to be likely to cause consumer confusion and thus qualify as infringing, and was removed.

In 2021, Reddit received 403 trademark infringement notices, reviewed the 1,036 pieces of content that were reported within those notices, and removed 288 pieces of content for alleged trademark infringement. Reddit also permanently suspended 15 users and banned 3 subreddits for excessive trademark removals in 2021.

## **Incomplete or Invalid Trademark Notices**

When Reddit receives an incomplete or invalid trademark notice, we reject the notice and decline to remove the content identified in the request. In 2021, 748 pieces of content did not qualify for removal due to incomplete or invalid trademark notices.

A request may be incomplete or invalid for many reasons, including:

- Failing to include information sufficient to assess whether or not a trademark infringement has occurred
- Reporting a use of a mark that does not constitute a trademark infringement
- Targeting content that makes a "fair use" of the claimant's trademark, as allowed by trademark law

Example:

- No Infringement - We received a trademark notice from a law firm on behalf of its client, a snack foods company. The notice requested removal of a video post depicting a woman walking around in a grocery store tampering with various food products. When the woman in the video tampers with one of the company's products, the company's trademarked logo can be seen for a few seconds on the product packaging. The notice claimed that the use of the mark in the video was likely to cause consumers to believe that the company's snacks are affiliated with, sponsored, or endorsed by the woman in the video. Since the use of the mark in the video was not for a commercial purpose, and was unlikely to cause consumer confusion as to affiliation, sponsorship or endorsement of the product in question, we rejected the notice and declined to remove the reported content.

## **Information Requests**

Reddit receives a variety of requests for account information, including legal process (e.g., a subpoena or court order) related to law enforcement and government investigations, private party requests related to civil litigation and criminal defense, and user requests for their own data under applicable privacy regulations. This section of the report provides data on the volume of information requests received in 2021 and our rate of compliance.

### **Legal Requests for User Information**

When required by law and in certain emergency situations, Reddit may disclose specific user information in response to valid requests from government entities (including law enforcement agencies) or private parties (e.g., civil litigants and criminal defendants). Reddit carefully reviews every information request for procedural validity and legal sufficiency, and objects when appropriate.

### **User Notice**

To promote due process and advance transparency, Reddit attempts to notify our users when their personal data is subject to information requests before any disclosures are made, unless we are legally prohibited from doing so, or under certain other circumstances (e.g., exigent emergency situations, child safety matters). For more information regarding user notice, please refer to the [Reddit Guidelines for Law Enforcement](#).

### **Law Enforcement/Government Requests for User Information**

Reddit receives requests for the disclosure of user information from law enforcement agencies ("LE") and other government entities on a regular basis. These requests are typically one of two

varieties: routine disclosure requests or exigent emergency disclosure requests. Routine requests require the issuance of formal legal process, such as a subpoena or court order, which is then submitted to Reddit. Emergency disclosures requests involving threats of death or serious bodily harm do not require formal legal process due to their exigent nature, but must be submitted in accordance with applicable law (e.g., 18 USC § 2702(c)(4)).

## **Routine LE/Government Requests for User Information**

Reddit carefully reviews each request for compliance with applicable laws. If we determine that a request is not legally valid (e.g., missing legal requirements, or seeking information outside the scope of the issued legal process), Reddit will challenge or reject it. If we consider the request to be overbroad or unclear (e.g., seeking data on an entire subreddit), we will ask the requesting entity to modify or refine the request.

Reddit received 806 routine (non-emergency) requests for user information from global LE and other government entities in 2021, and disclosed user information in response to 485 of these requests (60%). Reddit received information requests from 27 different countries in 2021, and disclosed data (in whole or in part) in response to 6 of those countries.

*Chart 31: Global LE/Government routine request volumes and compliance rate*

## Global LE/Government Routine Request Volumes and Compliance Rate

	Information Requests	Requests Compliance* Rate	Identifiers** Requested
<b>Argentina</b>	1	0%	5
<b>Australia</b>	9	0%	22
<b>Austria</b>	4	0%	4
<b>Belgium</b>	1	%	2
<b>Canada</b>	16	31%	108
<b>Chile</b>	1	0%	3
<b>Denmark</b>	10	0%	32
<b>Estonia</b>	1	0%	1
<b>France</b>	6	0%	10
<b>Germany</b>	49	4%	134
<b>Greece</b>	5	20%	7
<b>Hungary</b>	3	0%	4
<b>India</b>	61	0%	210
<b>Mexico</b>	4	0%	17
<b>Moldova</b>	1	0%	4
<b>Nepal</b>	3	0%	5
<b>New Zealand</b>	6	17%	6
<b>Norway</b>	6	0%	14
<b>Portugal</b>	1	0%	2
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>	2	0%	4
<b>Singapore</b>	12	0%	21
<b>South Africa</b>	1	0%	2
<b>Spain</b>	1	0%	4
<b>Sweden</b>	4	0%	8
<b>Switzerland</b>	3	0%	4
<b>United Kingdom</b>	33	45%	60
<b>United States</b>	562	82%	2,147

\*Compliance may refer to partial or full disclosure of the requested user data. If Reddit disclosed any data in response to a request, it is counted in the compliance rate.

\*\*Legal requests must specify an identifier (Reddit usernames, email addresses, legal names, phone numbers, etc.) for which data is sought. In some cases, an identifier (such as an email address) may be connected to multiple usernames. Inclusion of an alternate identifier does not mean that Reddit is able to search by it.

Chart 32: LE/Government routine disclosure requests by type of legal process

**LE/Government Routine Disclosure Request Volumes by Type of Legal Process**

Legal Process Type	Received	Compliance* Rate	Identifiers** Requested
Subpoenas	385	82%	1,748
Court Orders	23	78%	146
Search Warrant	152	84%	251
Pen Register/ Trap & Trace	2	50%	2
International LE/ Gov Requests	244	9%	693

\*Compliance may refer to partial or full disclosure of the requested user data. If Reddit disclosed any data in response to a request, it is counted in the compliance rate.

\*\*Legal requests must specify an identifier (Reddit usernames, email addresses, legal names, phone numbers, etc.) for which data is sought. In some cases, an identifier (such as an email address) may be connected to multiple usernames. Inclusion of an alternate identifier does not mean that Reddit is able to search by it.

## US National Security Requests

We are prohibited from reporting exact numbers of National Security Letters or Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act orders received. The USA FREEDOM ACT of 2015 (50 U.S.C. § 1874) sets forth large bands of numbers that a company must use if it wants to report its receipt of national security legal process (and only by using even larger bands can we differentiate between receipt of NSLs and FISA orders).

We can share, however, that Reddit has never received any national security requests for bulk data.

These reporting rules may work for larger companies that receive large numbers of national security requests, but they do little for smaller companies like Reddit that receive few, if any, national security requests. As others have pointed out, these disclosure rules undermine the effectiveness of this transparency report and diminish the trust our communities place in us.

Chart 33: US National Security request volumes



## Emergency Disclosure Requests

Emergency disclosure requests are law enforcement requests seeking disclosure of limited user information without legal process in emergency situations. Reddit only grants such requests if we have a good faith belief that disclosure is necessary to prevent imminent death or serious bodily harm to a person.

Reddit evaluates these requests on a case-by-case basis.

In 2021, Reddit received a total of 294 emergency disclosure requests worldwide, and disclosed limited user account information in response to 176 (60%) of the requests received. Reddit received emergency disclosure requests from 17 different countries in 2021, and disclosed data (in whole or in part) in response to 14 of those countries.

The number of emergency disclosure requests received in 2021 decreased by 9% from the number of requests received in 2020 (324). In a continuing trend from 2020, Canada submitted the highest number (21) of international emergency disclosure requests again in 2021.

Chart 34: Emergency Disclosure Request volumes and compliance rate

### Emergency Disclosure Request Volumes and Compliance Rate

Country	Emergency Requests	Compliance* Rate	Identifiers** Requested
Australia	4	50%	4
Bangladesh	1	0%	1
Brazil	2	0%	8
Canada	21	71%	20
Finland	1	100%	1
France	3	67%	3
Germany	5	20%	5
Greece	11	46%	11
Iceland	2	100%	2
India	1	100%	2
Italy	1	100%	1
New Zealand	5	60%	5
Norway	1	0%	1
Poland	3	100%	3
Singapore	5	40%	5
United Kingdom	7	71%	8
United States	221	60%	224

\*Compliance may refer to partial or full disclosure of the requested user data. If Reddit disclosed any data in response to a request, it is counted in the compliance rate.

\*\*Legal requests must specify an identifier (Reddit usernames, email addresses, legal names, phone numbers, etc.) for which data is sought. In some cases, an identifier (such as an email address) may be connected to multiple usernames. Inclusion of an alternate identifier does not mean that Reddit is able to search by it.

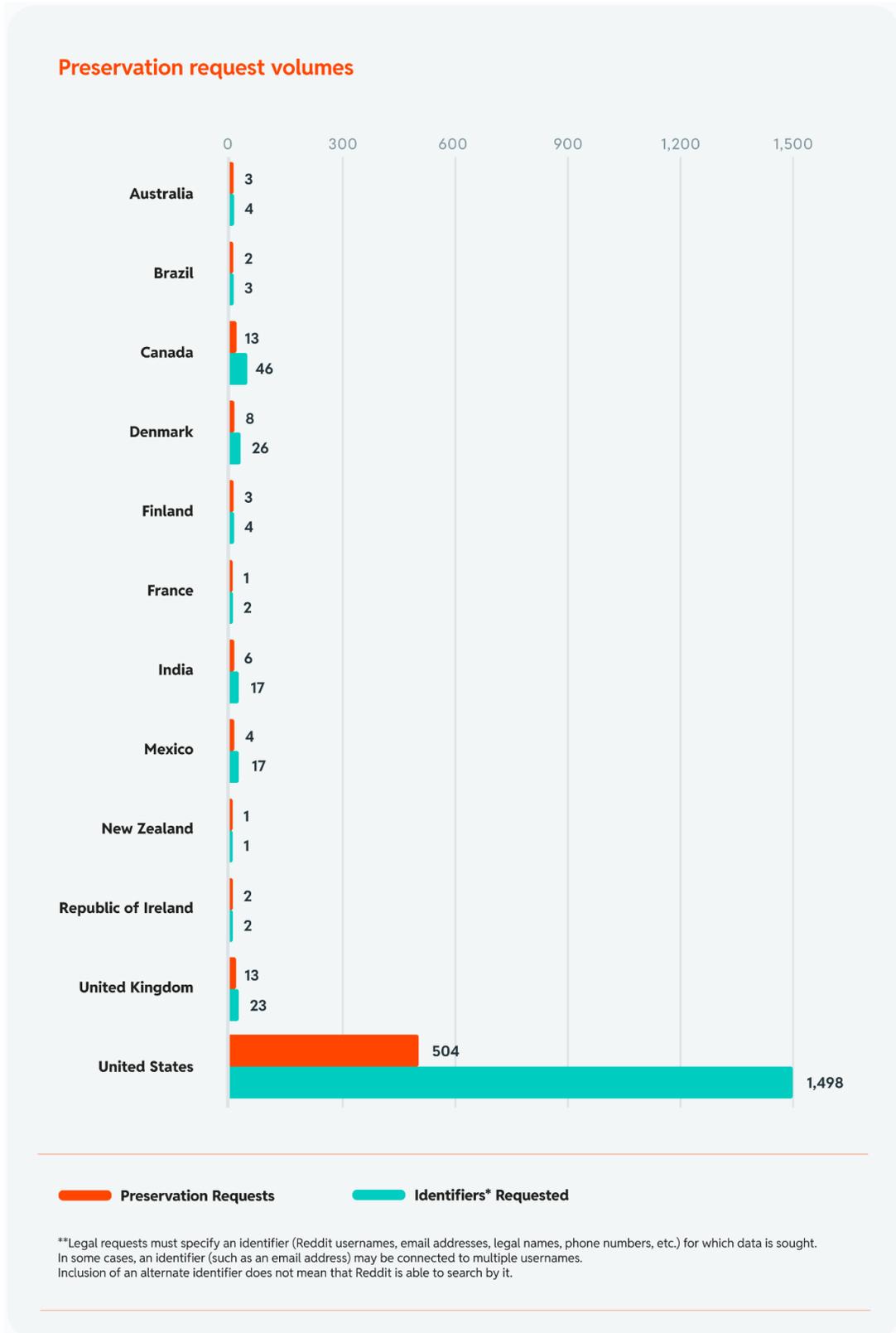
## Preservation Requests

Government entities also send legal requests directing Reddit to temporarily save certain user account information. These requests are sent in anticipation of obtaining legal process (e.g., a subpoena, court order, or warrant) to ensure the user's existing data is not edited, altered, or destroyed in the meantime. Preservation requests can only demand retention of information already in the account when the request is received; they cannot be used to compel Reddit to preserve new data on an ongoing basis, or capture data that is no longer contained in the account. A preservation request may result in information being retained beyond its standard retention period.

When Reddit preserves data pursuant to a preservation request, Reddit will not disclose the preserved information to law enforcement unless and until Reddit receives valid legal process. After the requested preservation period lapses, Reddit purges the preserved data unless it receives a request to extend the preservation.

In 2021, Reddit received 560 preservation requests, a 50% increase over the 374 requests received in 2020. Reddit complied with 81% of these requests. Of these requests, 504 were from US law enforcement and 56 were from international law enforcement.

Chart 35: Preservation request volumes



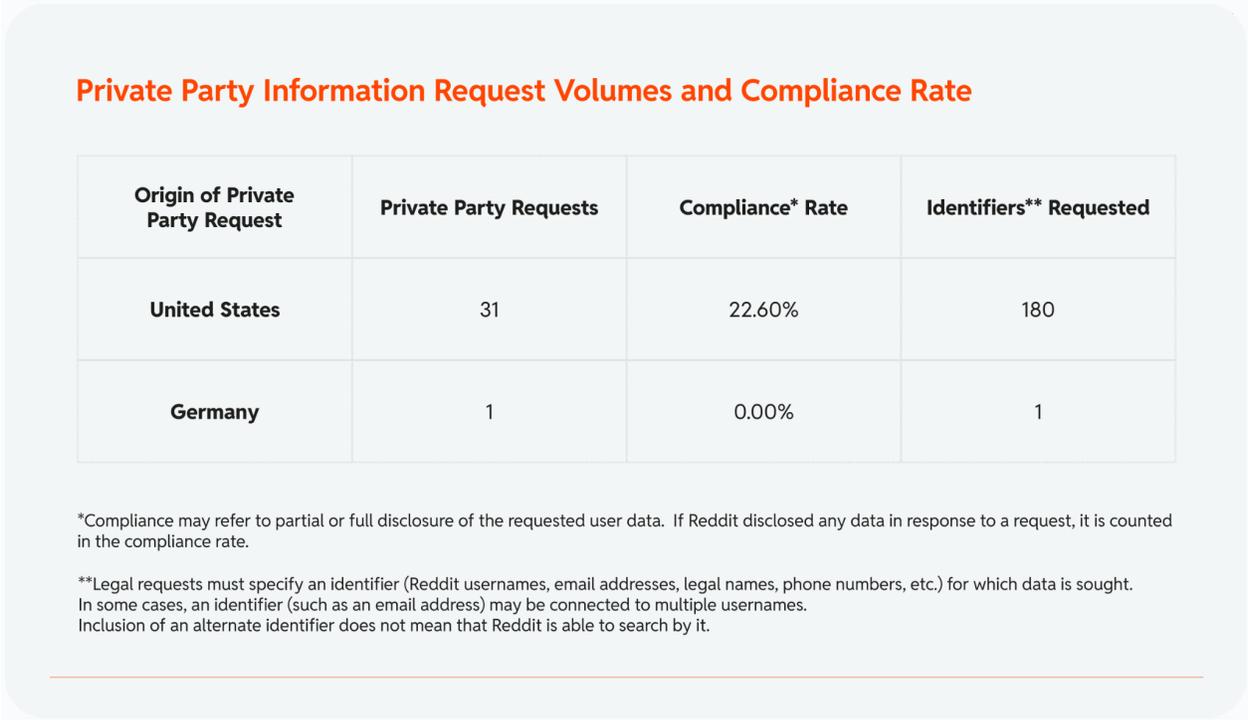
# Private Party Requests for User Information

While law enforcement and other government entities submit most of the requests for user information we receive, private parties also send Reddit legal process (e.g., subpoenas) for disclosure of information for use in civil litigation and criminal defense.

In 2021, Reddit received a total of 31 user information requests from private parties in the United States. Of those, Reddit provided user records for seven requests (23% compliance rate). Reddit also received one (1) user information request from private parties in another country (Germany), but no user records were disclosed. This is an increase from the 19 requests received in 2020.

Reddit carefully reviews each request it receives for compliance with applicable law and regulations. If we determine that a request is invalid, overbroad, or in violation of applicable law (e.g., law regarding unmasking anonymous speakers), Reddit will object to or challenge the request.

Chart 36: Private party information request volumes and compliance rate



## User Access Requests

Reddit users can request a copy of the information Reddit has stored for their accounts (known as "access requests") and these requests may include EU General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") data subject access requests and California Consumer Privacy Act ("CCPA") consumer information requests. In 2021, Reddit received a total of 8,327 access requests. This is an increase of 52.45% from the 5,462 requests received in 2020.

For more information on this process, please refer to our [Privacy Policy](#).

## Appendix

- Links to previous Transparency Reports ([HERE](#))
  - 2020 Transparency Report ([LINK](#))
  - 2019 Transparency Report ([LINK](#))
  - 2018 Transparency Report ([LINK](#))
  - 2017 Transparency Report ([LINK](#))
  - 2016 Transparency Report ([HTML](#))
  - 2015 Transparency Report ([HTML](#))
  - 2014 Transparency Report ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#))
- Link to Quarterly Security Reports
  - [Q3 2021](#)
  - [Q2 2021](#)
  - [Q1 2021](#)
- Data available for download
  - Data download (PDF)

END OF REPORT