

Reddit Transparency Report 2022

Introduction

Reddit's mission is to bring community, belonging, and empowerment to everyone in the world, and we do that by keeping Reddit safe, healthy, and real. As part of this, we regularly assess our platform and share our findings about the health of our communities, our ongoing efforts to foster safe interactions, and insights into how we enforce our policies through our recurring transparency reports.

Reddit's Transparency Reports provide recurring insights and metrics about content that was removed from Reddit – including content proactively removed as a result of automated tooling – accounts that were suspended, and legal requests we received from governments, law enforcement agencies, and third parties to remove content or disclose private user data from around the world.

Prior Reddit Transparency Reports are available in our new [Transparency Center](#). You can see our other updates on the [Reddit blog](#) and on [r/RedditSecurity](#).

TL;DR

2022 was the biggest year of content creation on Reddit to date. Our passionate and increasingly global users created an eye-popping 8.3 billion posts, comments, chats, and private messages on the platform. You can relive some of the beautiful mess that was 2022 via our [Reddit recap](#).

The overwhelming majority – over 96% – of content shared across Reddit in 2022 respected Reddit's [Content Policy](#) and individual community rules. The remaining ~4% of content was removed by moderators or admins for violating community rules or the Content Policy, with the overwhelming majority of admin removals (79.6%) being due to [spam](#) (e.g., karma farming, scams).

Beyond spam, historic trends continued with increased content and subreddit removals across most policy categories. This was largely due to our evolving policies and enhanced enforcement abilities. We're always looking for ways to make our platform a healthy place for all types of people and interests, and this year's data demonstrates that we're continuing to improve over time.

We also saw increased volumes across nearly all of the global legal requests that we received to remove content or produce account information. This includes year-over-year increases of 43% in copyright notices, 51% in legal removal requests submitted by government and law enforcement agencies, 61% in legal requests for account information from government and law enforcement agencies, and 95% in trademark notices.

Finally, starting later this year, we will shift the entire report to a biannual publication focused on 6 month periods of data (rather than annually) for all reporting categories (a process that we kicked off last fall with our first-ever [mid-year report](#) focused on legal requests).

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 product surfaces, 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 and behavior online. Reddit employees (known as “admins”) are responsible for enforcing the Content Policy across Reddit with the help of mods, who apply the Content Policy to their communities in addition to their own specific rules. All this is done through a combination of automated tooling and human review to detect and remove violating content.

We also receive government and law enforcement requests from 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 Policy Updates

In March 2022, we [announced](#) updates to Rule 3 in an effort to make our [policy prohibiting non-consensual intimate media](#) easier for users to understand and report violating content.

[Rule 3](#) prohibits users from revealing someone’s [personal or confidential information](#), or posting or threatening to post [intimate or sexually-explicit media](#) of someone without their consent.

In this update, we further outlined the boundaries around sharing intimate or sexually-explicit media on Reddit, provided examples of violations, and [linked to resources](#) allowing people to get support if they have been affected by non-consensual intimate media sharing.

In practice, there was a 473% increase of subreddits removed and a 244% increase of user accounts permanently suspended for violating Rule 3 compared to 2021. Looking at the data as a whole, it’s likely this increase is primarily reflective of our updated policies and increased effectiveness in detecting and removing non-consensual intimate media from Reddit.

Content on Reddit

Every day, millions of people around the world submit posts, comments, and other content to Reddit. Amazingly, this resulted in the creation of over 8.3 billion pieces of content on Reddit in 2022. To keep the platform healthy, we deploy our layered, community-driven approach to content moderation. In addition to our proactive moderation efforts, Reddit regularly receives reports and requests to remove some of this content from the platform.

In 2022, mods and admins removed 3.7% of the total content created on Reddit, across all content types (2.2% and 1.5%, respectively). These figures include removals performed through automation by a scaled community moderation tool called [AutoMod](#), as well as some bespoke moderation bots built by community moderators.

Chart 1 : Content created on Reddit in 2022

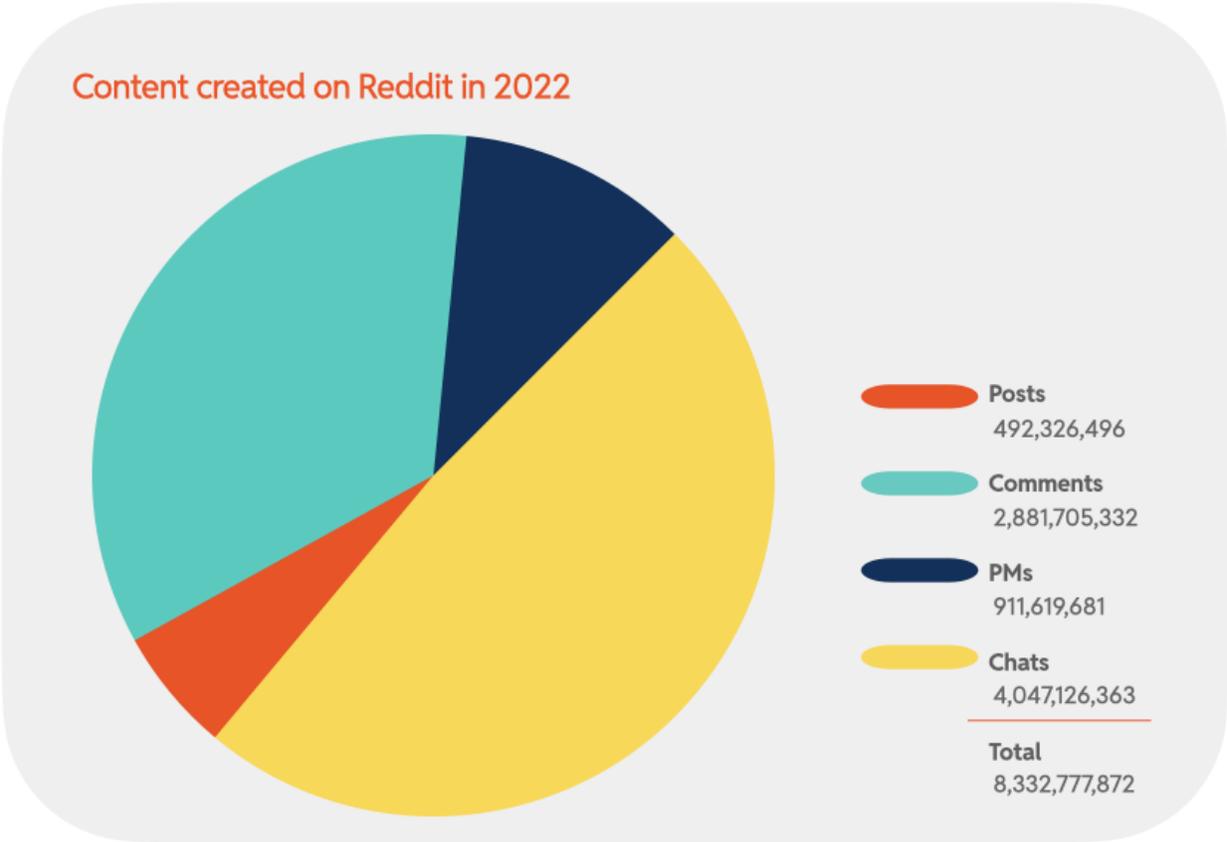
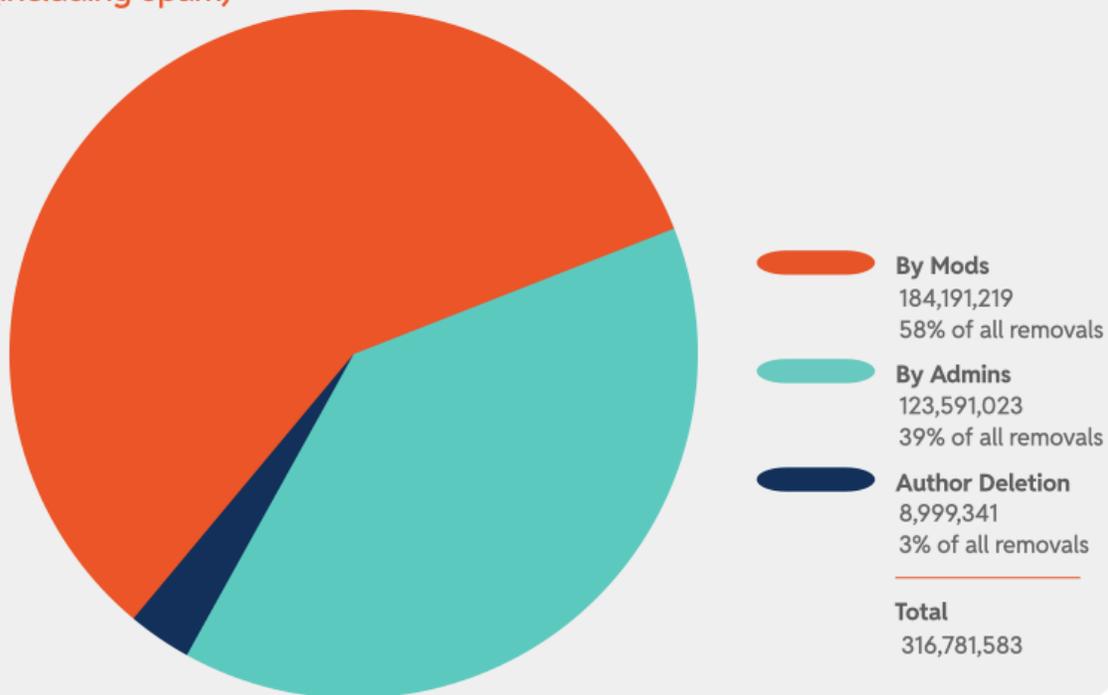


Chart 2 : Pieces of content removed from Reddit in 2022 for any reason (including Spam)

Pieces of content removed from Reddit in 2022 for any reason (including Spam)



Content Removals

This section provides an overview of content removed from Reddit in 2022 broken down by mod removals and admin removals. It also includes the volume of user reports and the percentage of removal actions taken based on these reports.

Content Removed by Moderators

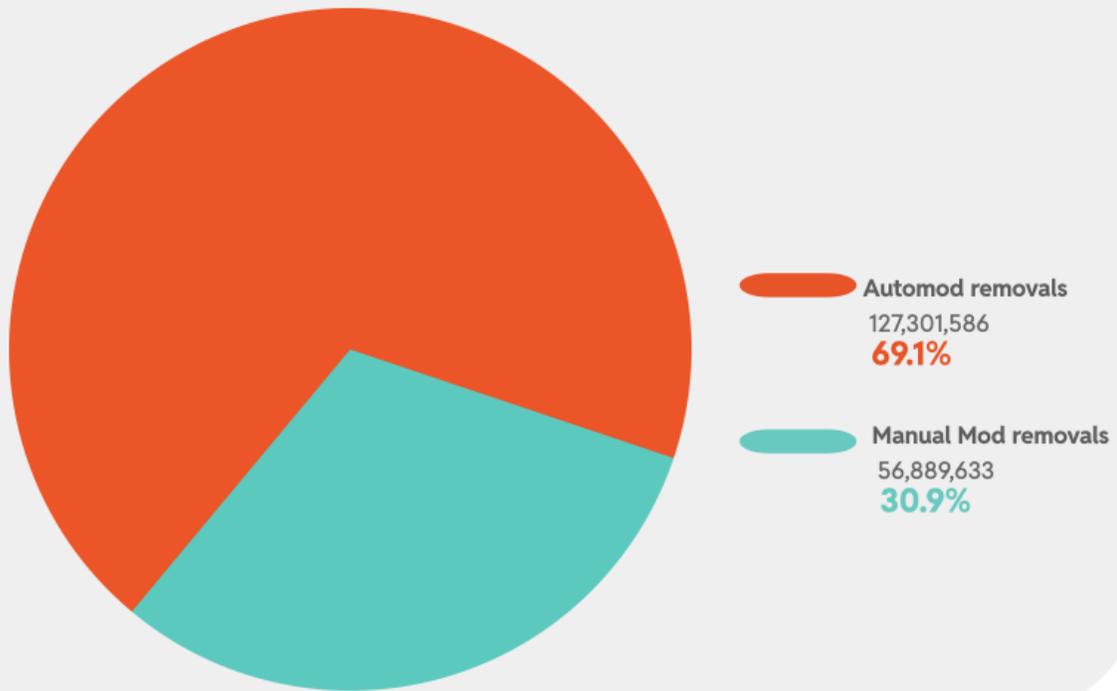
The 2022 numbers reinforce the critical importance of moderators and their efforts to curate and safeguard their communities.

Content removals initiated by mods accounted for 58% of all content removed on Reddit in 2022. Notably, mod removals 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 total volume of removals by moderators in 2022 increased by 4.7% compared to 2021. Roughly 69% of these resulted from proactive Automod removals. Comparatively, manual mod removal actions decreased by 21.2%, year over year, reflecting an increased share of overall removals performed by both Automod and admins (covered in the next section).

Chart 3: Content removed by moderators in 2022

Content removed by moderators in 2022



Content Removed by Reddit Admins

Admins also regularly remove content from Reddit to enforce the Content Policy and protect the integrity of the platform. We use a variety of signals and enforcement tools to identify and remove violative content, including manual review, automated detection, and user reports.

In 2022, 4,285,651,509 posts, comments, and PMs were shared on Reddit, and 316,781,583 (around 7%) of these were removed. Admins were responsible for 39% of these removals.

As in previous years, the vast majority of these removals were for Content Manipulation, which includes 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. To increase transparency into this large volume of removals, we are now differentiating between spam, which constitutes the bulk of these removals (79.6%), and other Content Manipulation categories (1.4%). The remaining 19% of admin removals were for other violations of the Content Policy.

This means that, excluding spam (and other Content Manipulation), admins performed 11% of all content removals, while 89% were performed by moderators. For a more detailed breakdown of these removals by rule violation, please refer to the “Content Types” section below.

Note: In the graphs below, we refer to "content removed" to include posts, comments and private messages (PMs) – chats are not included, as sanctions for policy violations in chat are applied at the user account level.

Chart 4: Content removed by admins (not including content manipulation) vs. content removed by mods in 2022

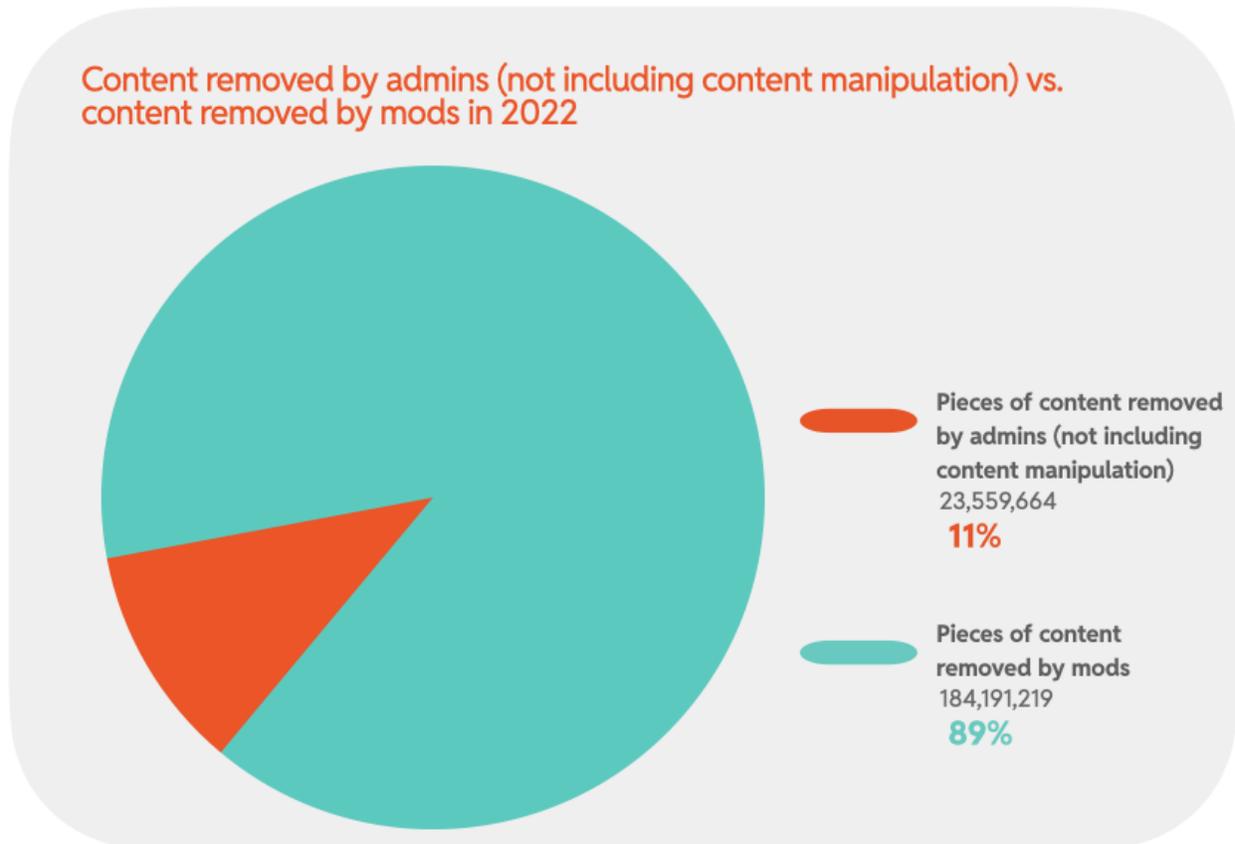
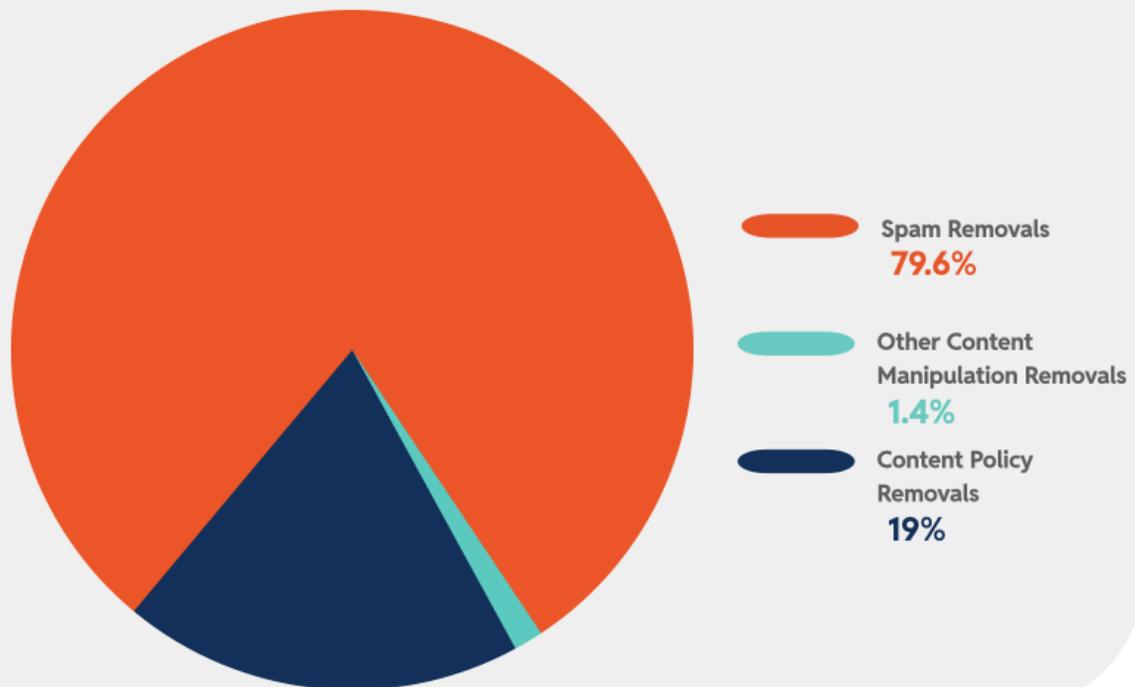


Chart 5: Content removed by admins in 2022 (content manipulation & spam removals vs. Content Policy removals)

Content removed by admins in 2022 (content manipulation & spam removals vs. Content Policy removals)



User Reports

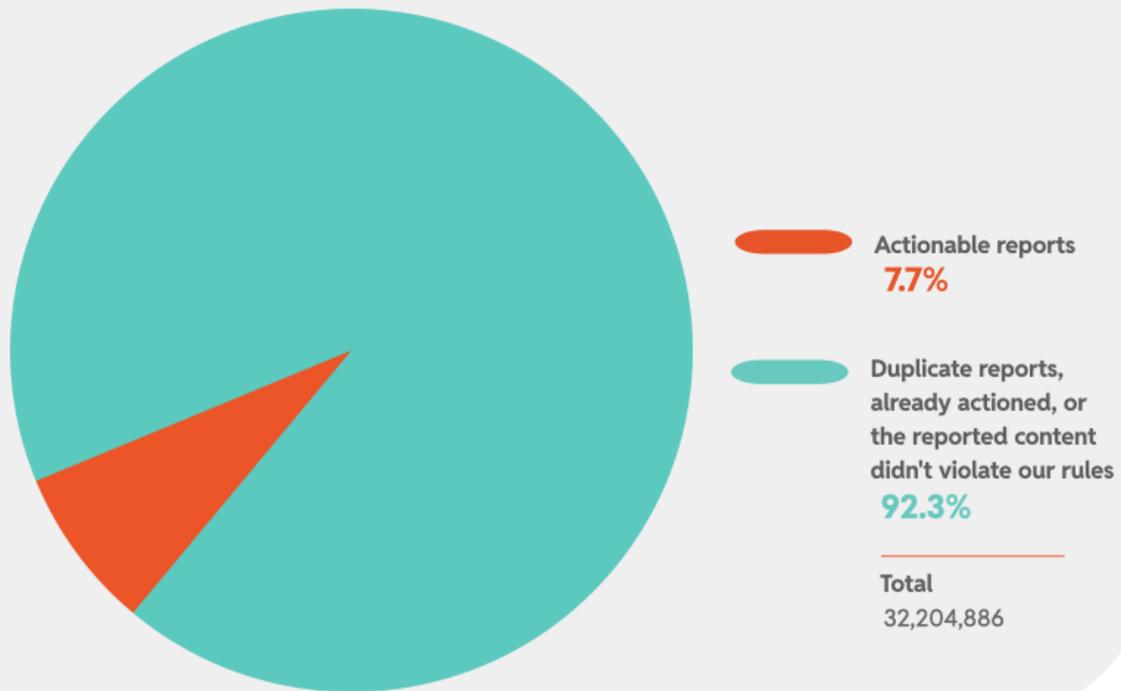
Users may report content on Reddit via our [Reddit Help Center](#), reddit.com/report, or by using the “Report” button directly on a post or comment. By submitting a report, users can alert a community’s team of moderators (anonymously) and/or Reddit administrators to something that potentially violates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

In 2022, Reddit received 32,204,886 user reports for potential Content Policy violations in posts, comments and PMs. 7.7% of these reports resulted in a removal action being taken by admins. The remaining 92.3% of reports were either duplicates, already actioned, or the reported content didn't violate our rules.

Note: These numbers do not include user reports from chats as those are actioned with account-level sanctions. Please refer to the “Chats” section below.

Chart 6: User reports in 2022 (Posts, comments, PMs)

User reports in 2022 (Posts, comments, PMs)



Moderator-Specific Reports

In 2021, Reddit introduced Community Interference reports that allowed mods to flag to admins instances within their own communities where a user or group of users were engaging in community interference (i.e. "brigading").

In 2022, 370 interference investigations were processed by Reddit, of which 76% were found to be actionable, resulting in a variety of enforcement measures such as mod education, community warnings, bans, or restricting a community's access to certain features.

Content Types

This section breaks down admin removals in 2022 by content type, source of the report or flag (i.e., whether it was reported by users or flagged by Reddit's automated systems), and, where possible, by rule violation.

Posts & Comments

Reddit admins remove posts and comments that violate our Content Policy. The numbers below include 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 2022

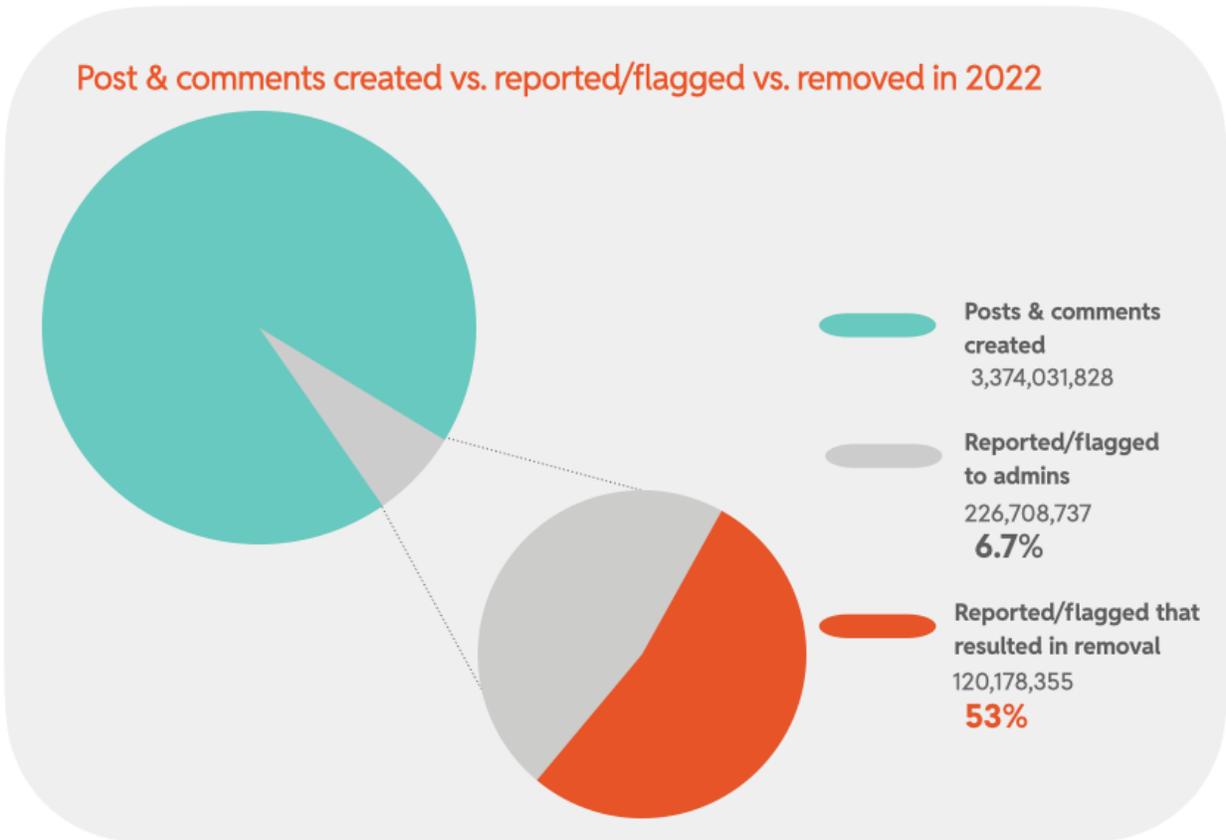


Chart 8: Posts & comments - source of reports/flags

Posts & comments - source of reports/flags

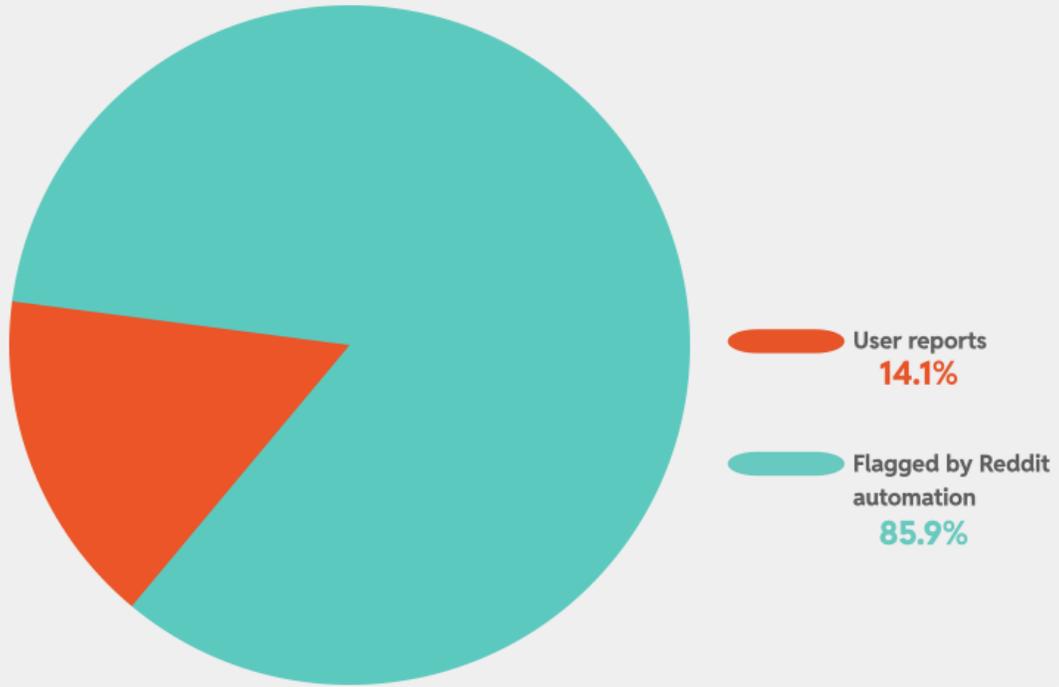
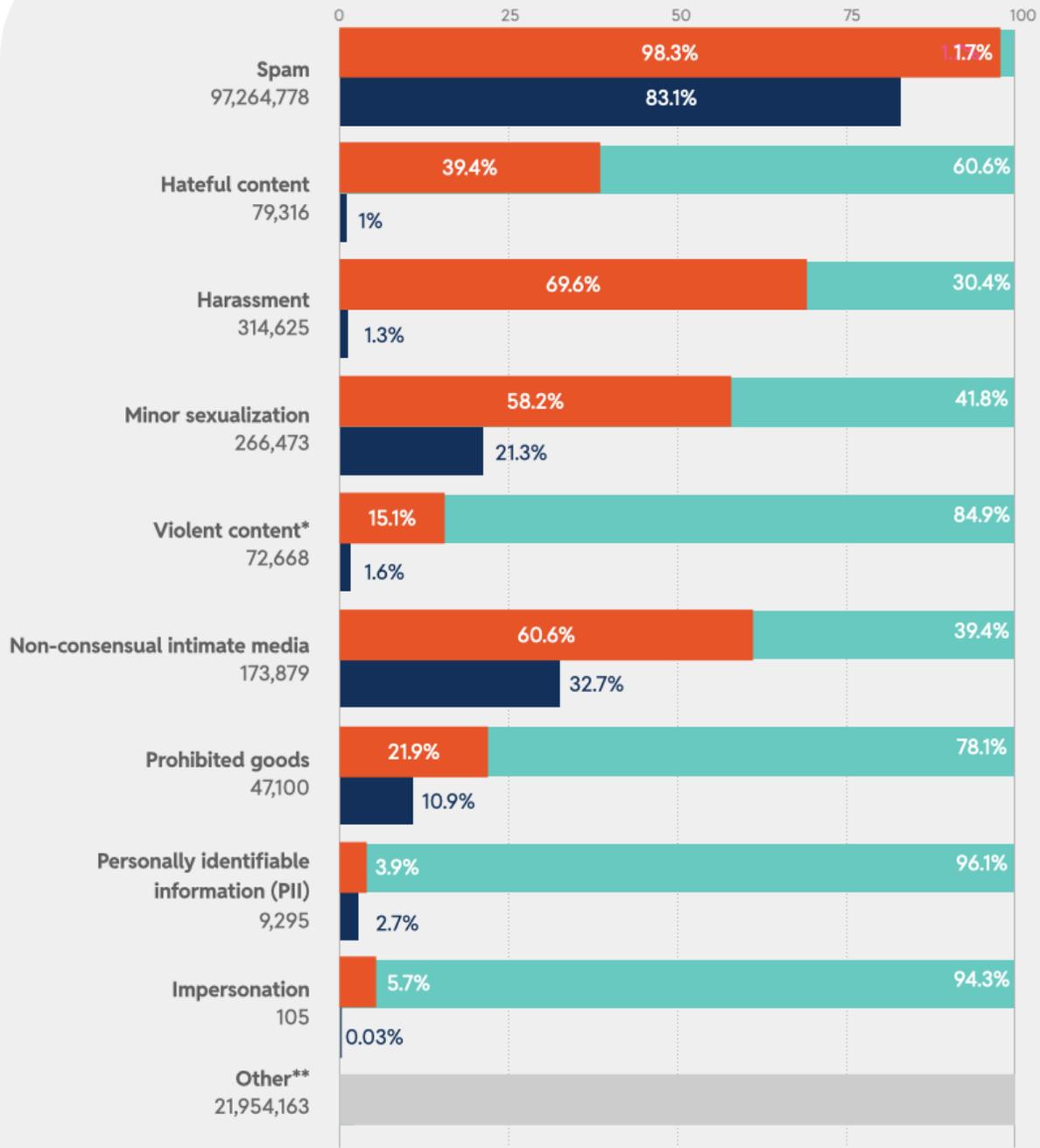


Chart 9: Posts & comments removed by Content Policy violation

Posts & comments removed by Content Policy violation



● Flagged by Reddit Automation
 ● User Reports
 ● Actionability (reported/flagged vs. removed)

* Includes 57 pieces of US-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization content.

** "Other" includes the total of "other content manipulation" removals (as described in Chart 4 & 5), as well as a combination of small "other" removal reasons, including: reports abuse, restrict access ("geoblocked"), policy violations occurring in live stream and live stream chat segments.

Subreddits (aka Communities)

Bans

Reddit admins may ban a community if it is found to be in violation of our policies or if it lacks active moderation.

The decision to ban an entire community is never taken lightly, and can only be carried out by Reddit admins. In 2022, admins banned 1,384,911 communities, representing a 244% increase over last year's figure (402,457). This is largely the result of a significant increase in enforcement against communities engaging in prohibited spam behavior, such as mass-sharing unsolicited promotional content.

Excluding spam-related bans, admins banned 27.7% of all new communities created in 2022. These bans were largely due to communities being unmoderated. We've also seen increases across most of the categories below, including subreddit bans for violations of Rule 3 (prohibiting non-consensual intimate media), and Rule 7 (which covers prohibited goods). These increases can likely be attributed to our enhanced enforcement abilities, including through automated tooling, as well as our policy updates.

Moderator Code of Conduct

In September 2022, Reddit introduced the [Moderator Code of Conduct](#), which replaced the Moderator Guidelines for Healthy Communities. The new Code enables redditors to flag to admins instances in which moderators and/or subreddits might be in violation of the Code's rules. From September through December 2022, Reddit investigated 246 potential violations of the Moderator Code of Conduct, with 26% (65) resulting in subreddit bans. The remaining investigations were either mediated by admins, correctively actioned (e.g., removing one or more mods, temporarily restricting a community, limiting posting functionality within a community), or closed with no action after a finding of no violations.

Quarantine

On a platform as open and diverse as Reddit, there will sometimes be communities that, while not prohibited, may warrant additional scrutiny. For this reason, Reddit admins may apply a [quarantine](#) to communities under certain circumstances. In 2022, 6 communities were quarantined; this is a 90% decrease from the 64 communities that were quarantined in 2021. This drop can be attributed to a number of factors, including the introduction of our [Mod Code of Conduct](#) and our efforts to strengthen alternative methods of enforcement at the community level.

Chart 10: Subreddits created vs. banned in 2022 (not including spam-related bans)

Subreddits created vs. banned in 2022 (not including spam-related bans)

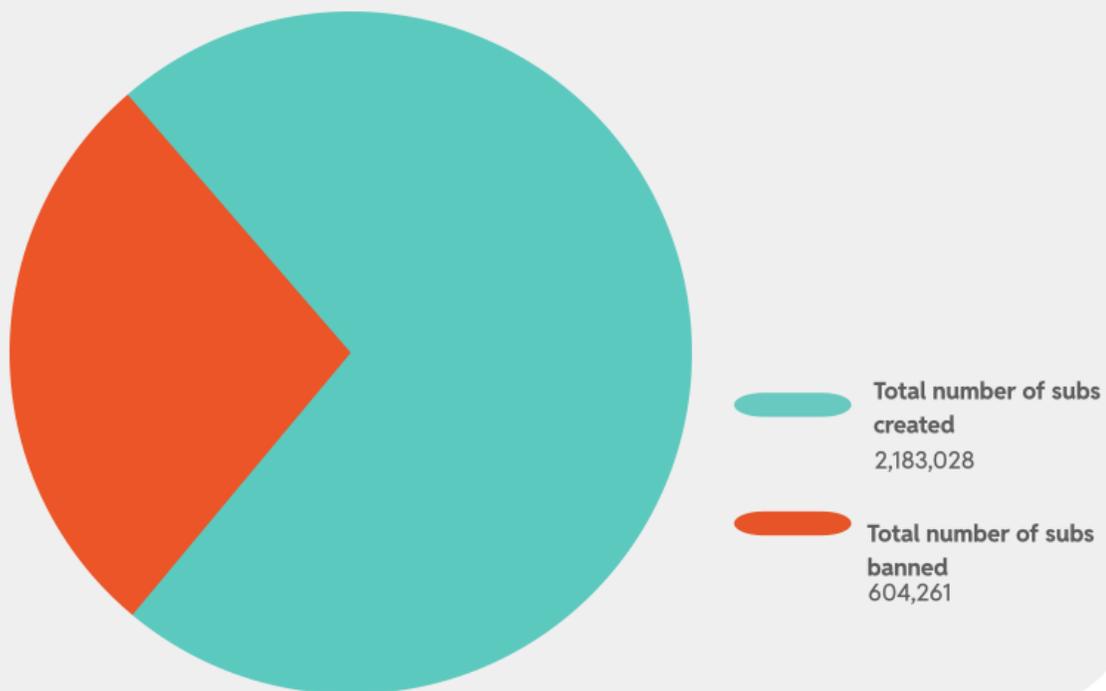


Chart 11: Subreddit ban reasons



Private Messages

Private messages (PMs) are non-public direct messages sent between individual users that appear in an account’s [inbox](#). Reddit admins only review PMs that are flagged by automated detection systems, reported by one of the participants, or triggered by other investigative signals. As a result, admins may remove messages that violate the Content Policy – with content manipulation (primarily spam), harassment, and violence being the most common violation categories, as seen below. In 2022, 911,619,681 PMs were created on Reddit, and 3,347,866 were removed by admins. Once again, the vast majority of violating PMs in 2022 were flagged by Reddit automation (97%).

Chart 12: PMs sent vs. reported/flagged vs. removed in 2022

PMs sent vs. reported/flagged vs. removed in 2022

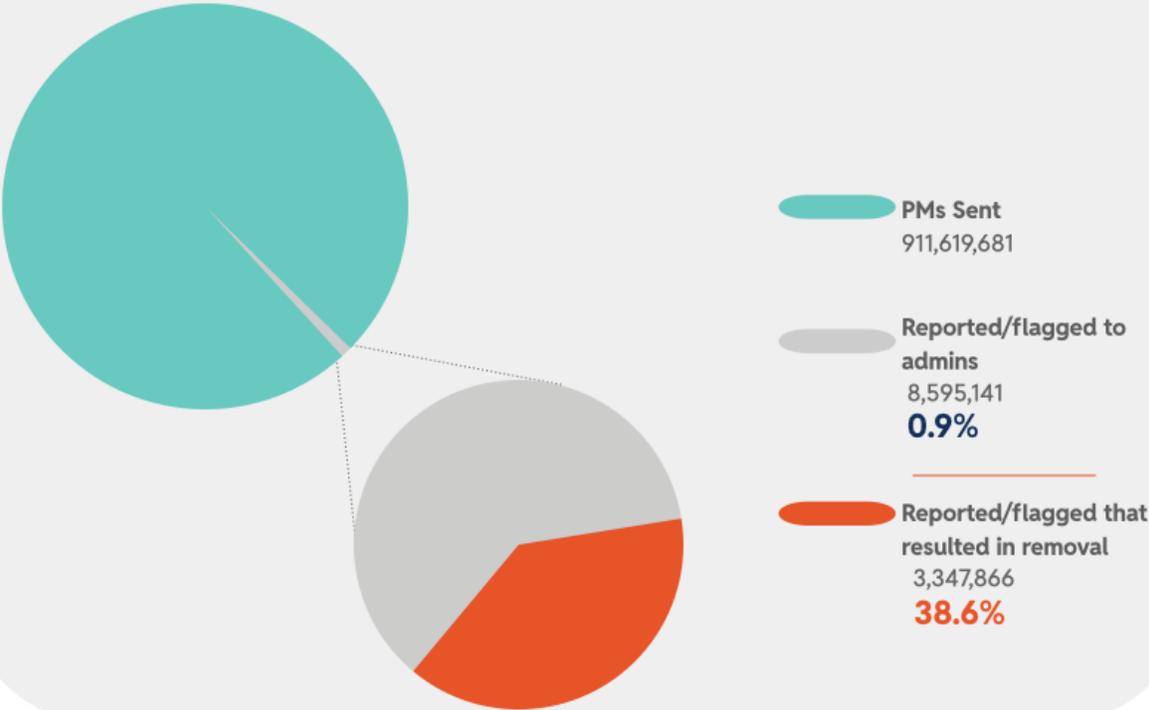


Chart 13: Private messages - source of reports/flags

Private messages - source of reports/flags

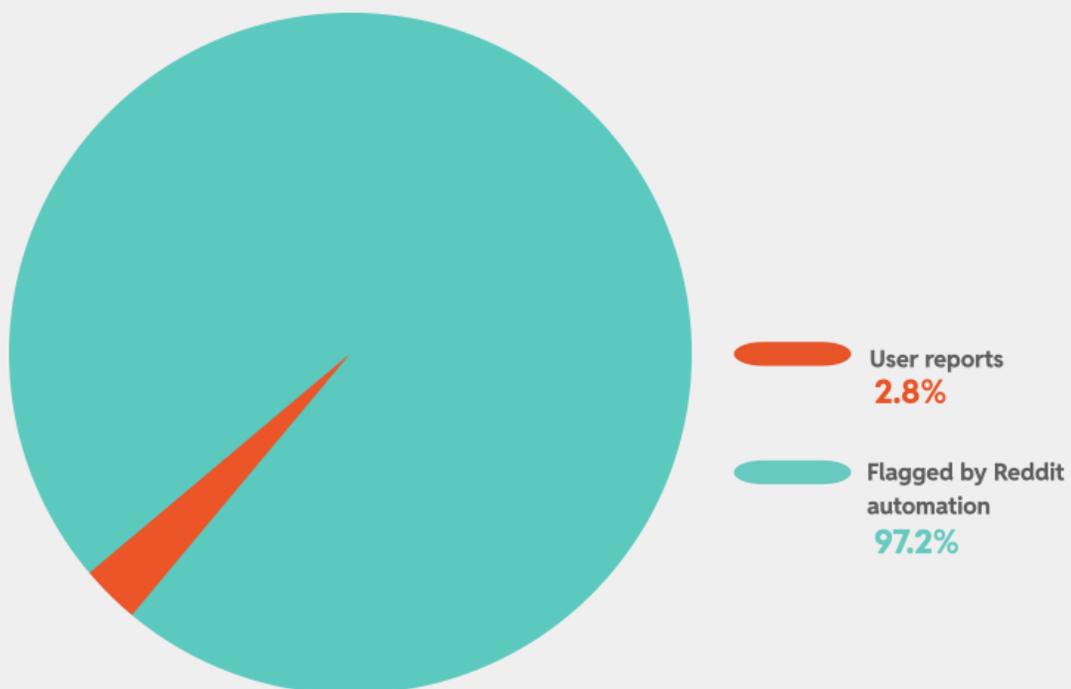
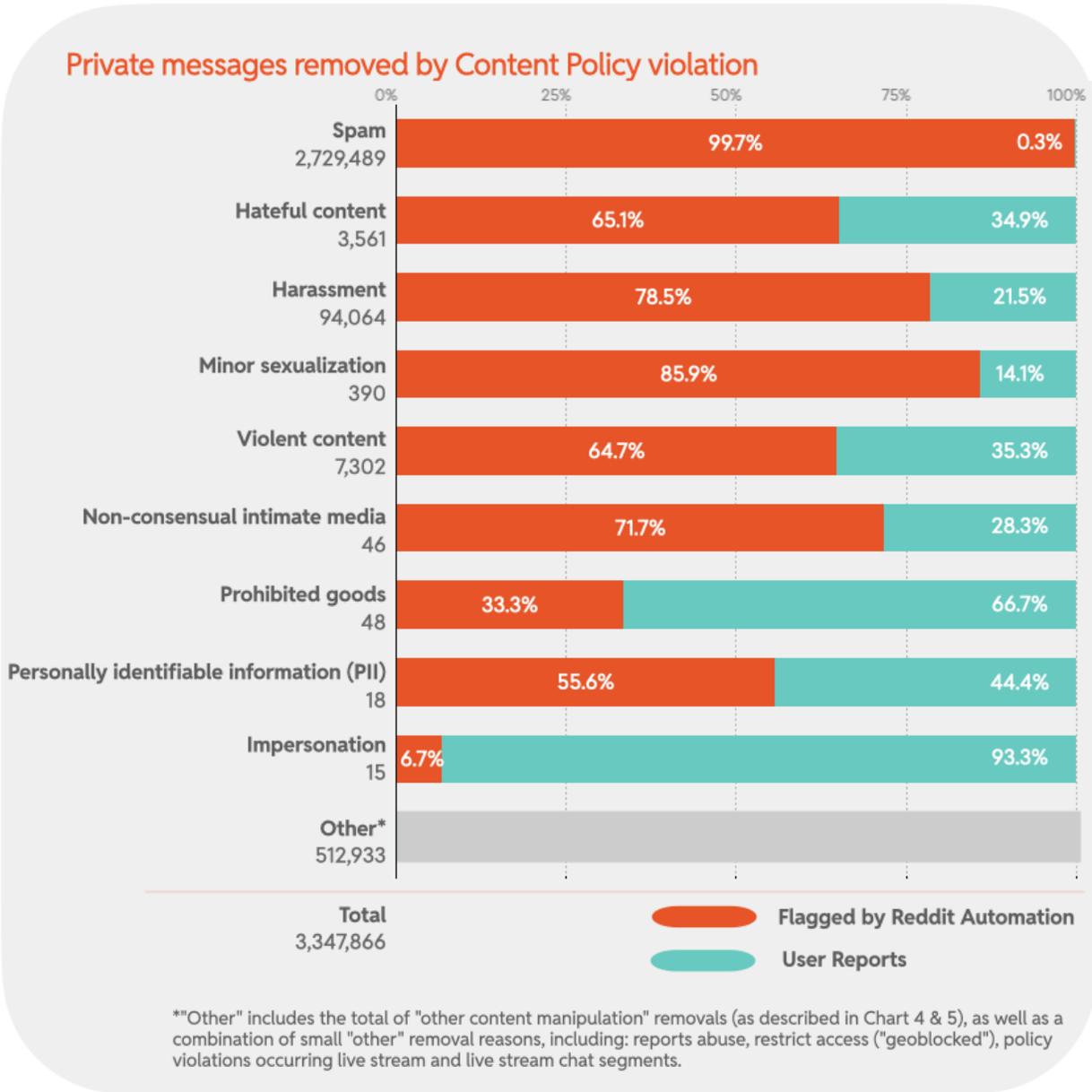


Chart 14: Private messages removed by Content Policy violation



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 2022, there was a 111% increase in chat activity compared to 2021, with a total of 4,047,126,363 chat messages sent.

142,553,483 were flagged by Reddit automation as potential spam, while 1,323,366 chats were reported by users. These automated flags and user reports resulted in 2,086,301 accounts being temporarily and/or permanently suspended by admins. For more information, please refer to the “Account Sanctions” section below.

Chart 15: Chat messages sent vs. reported/flagged vs. account-level sanctions in 2022

Chat messages sent vs. reported/flagged vs. account-level sanctions in 2022

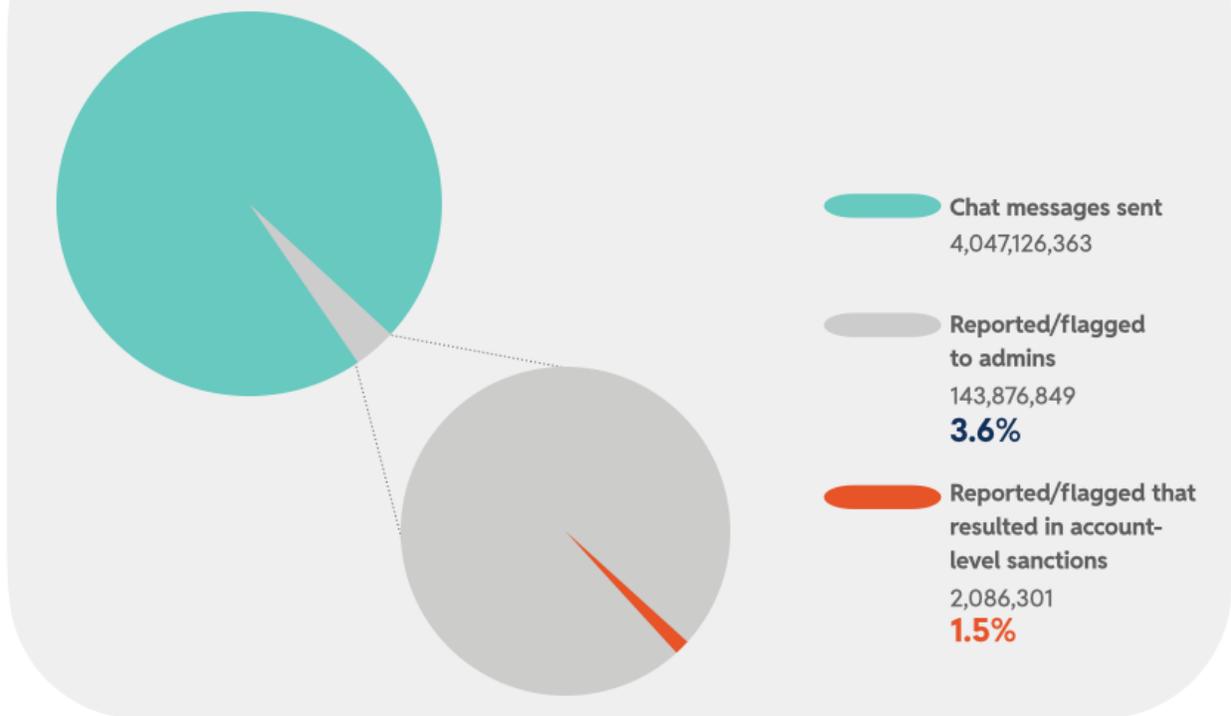
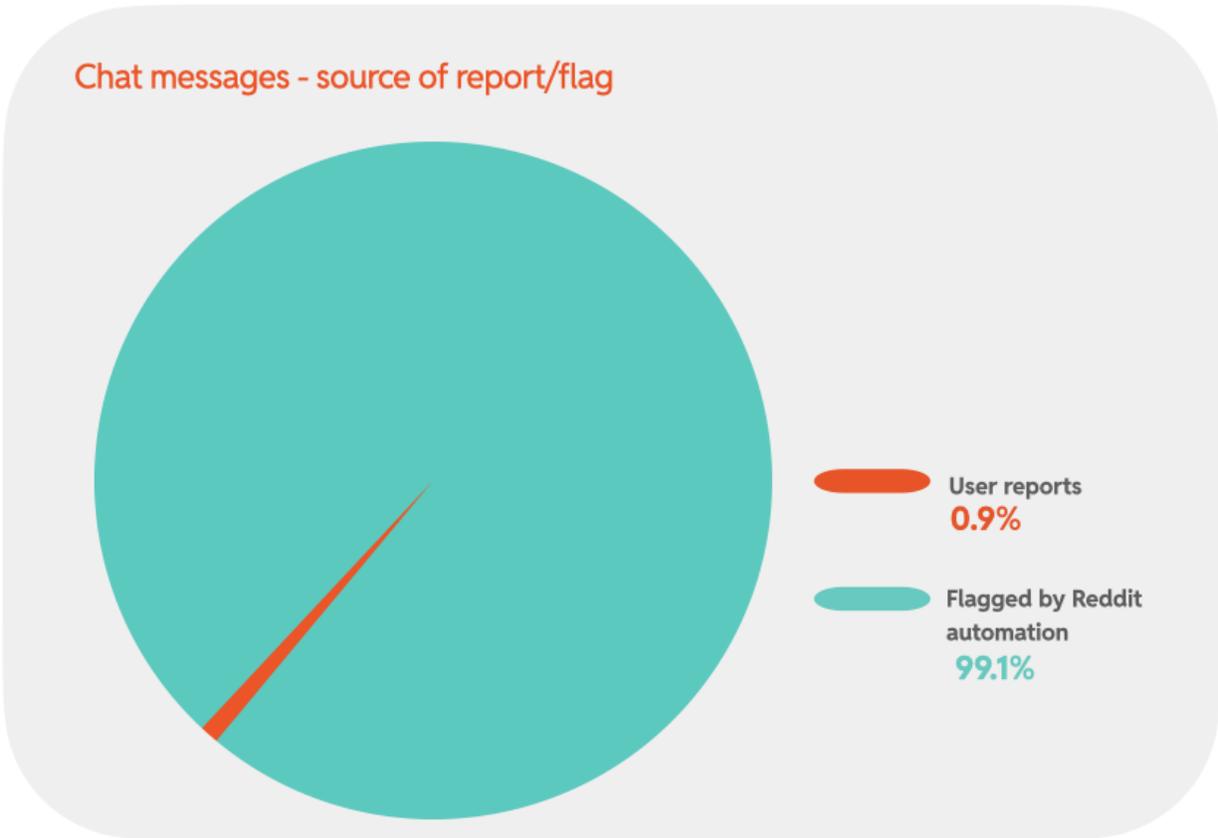


Chart 16: Chat messages - source of report/flag



User Accounts

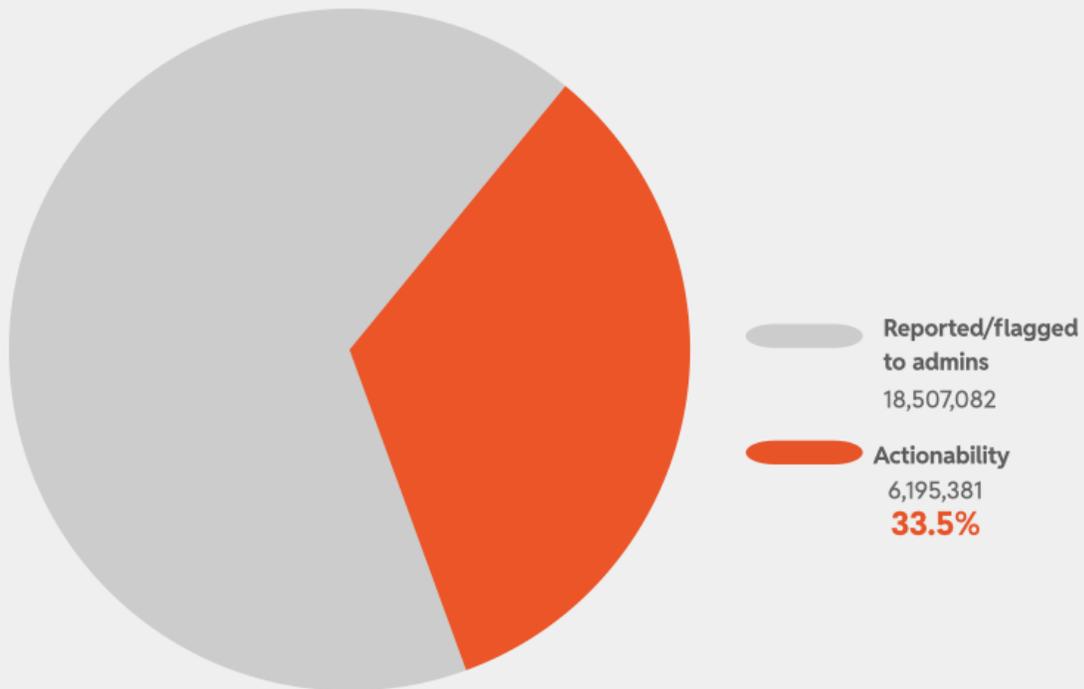
Admin Account Sanctions

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, including warnings, temporary suspensions of 3 or 7 days, and permanent suspensions (depending on the severity and number of previous violations).

In 2022, admins handed out 6,195,381 temporary and permanent account suspensions. Note that multiple sanctions can be applied to a single account over the course of time.

Chart 17: User accounts reported or flagged to admins vs. actionability

User accounts reported or flagged to admins vs. actionability



In the graph below, account sanctions are organized by the policy that was violated. We exclude content manipulation and spam from the data and corresponding analysis due to their outsized impact (75% of all account sanctions in 2022), to allow for better representation of the other policy reasons for account sanctions. In this year's data, we also exclude sanctions pertaining to copyright and trademark violations, which are covered in the Legal Removals section below.

In 2022, permanent account suspensions increased by over 200% compared to 2021. This was largely driven by expanded enforcement against accounts violating ban evasion and harassment policies across subreddits, as well as spam removals of accounts promoting prohibited goods.

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

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

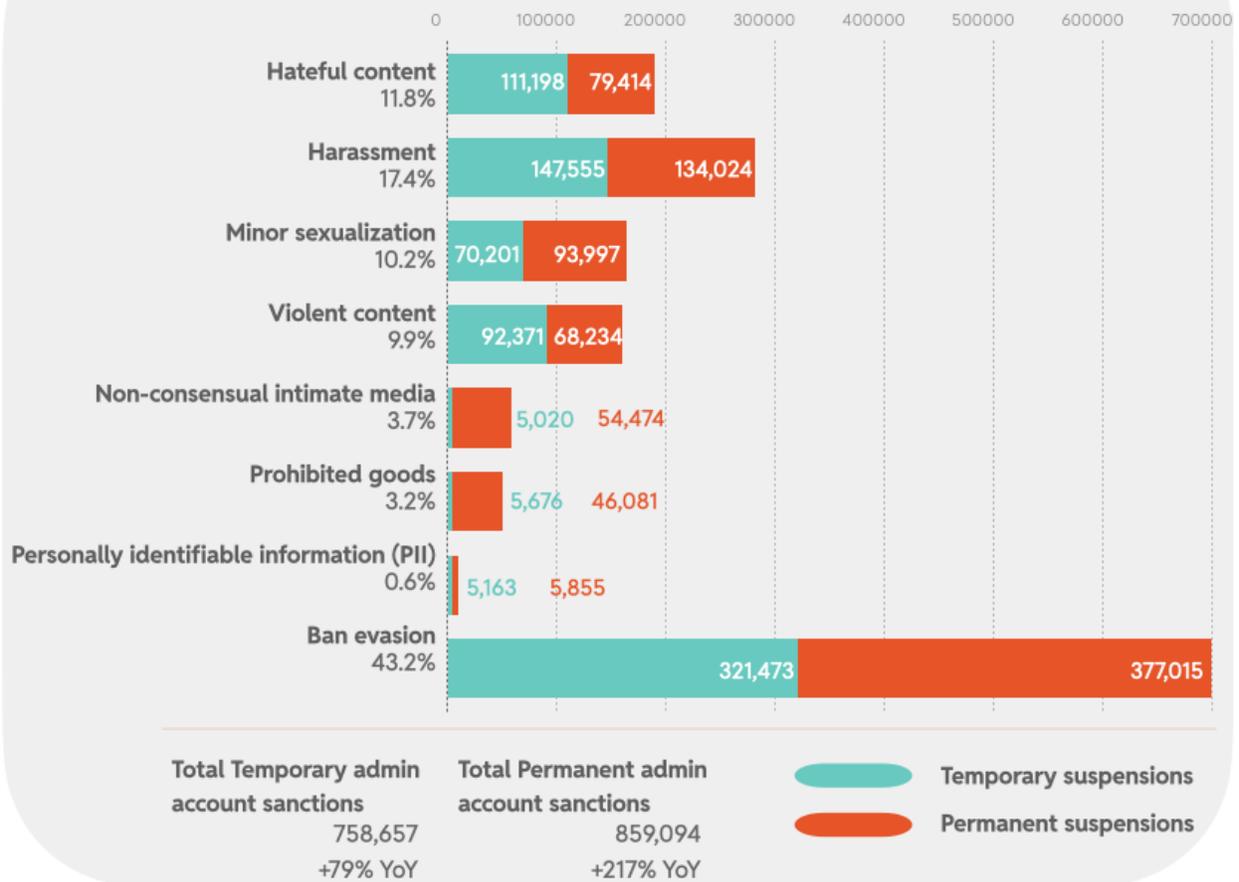
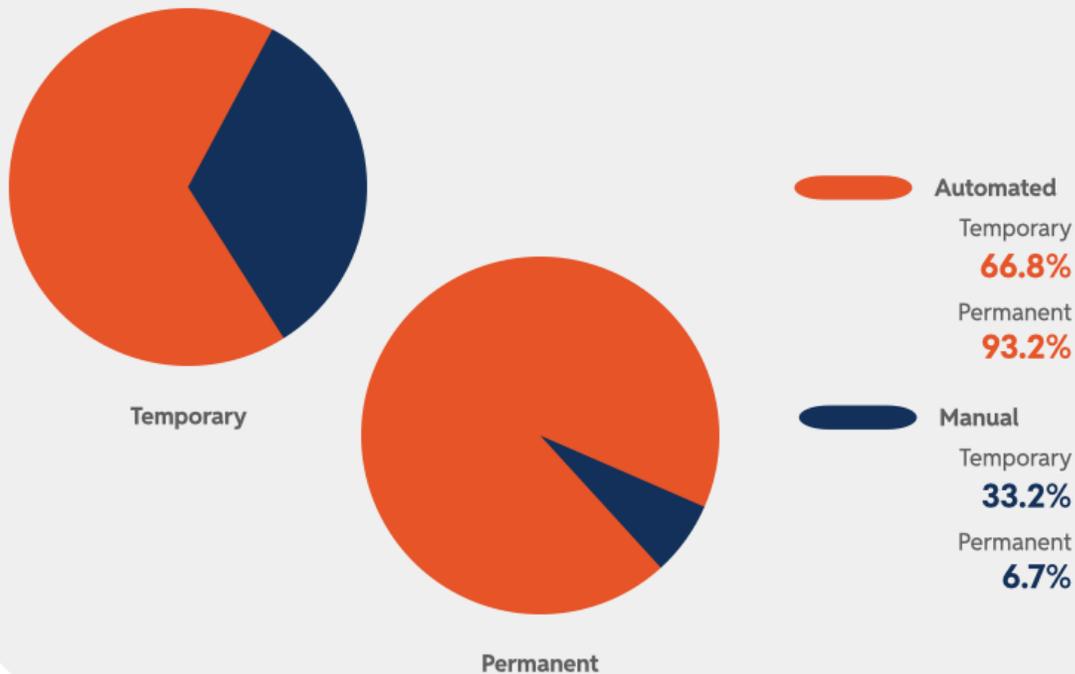


Chart 19: Manual vs. automated Admin actions (including content manipulation and spam)

Manual vs. automated Admin actions (including content manipulation and spam)



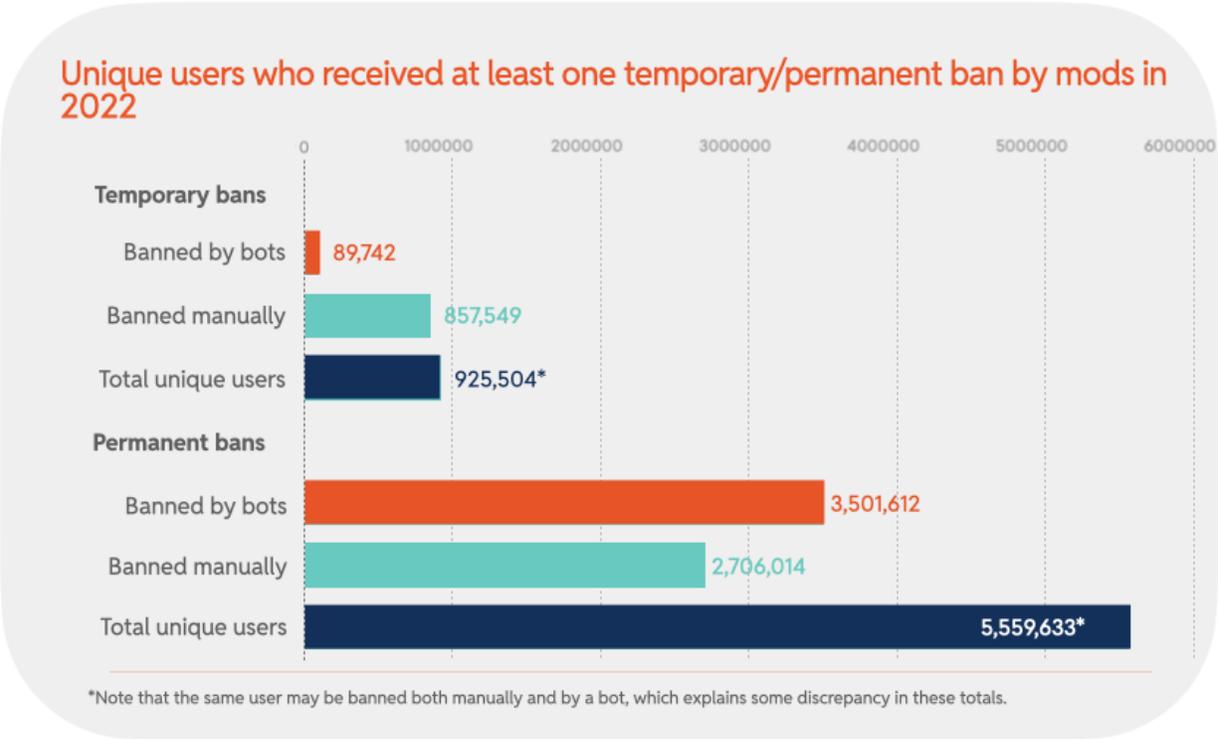
Automated permanent suspensions can occur for a variety of reasons, including:

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

Users Banned from Subreddits by Mods

Moderators can also ban users from their subreddits who 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, but it only applies to that specific community and not to the site as a whole. Mods may also employ automation to assist with this task.

Chart 20: Unique users who received at least one temporary/permanent ban by mods in 2022



Appeals

Account-level sanctions issued 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 account/content), or denied.

In 2022, Reddit admins received 223,125 appeals of account-level sanctions issued by admins. Compared to 2021, that represents a 182% increase in the total volume of appeals, which was largely driven by spam-related appeals. Conversely, our reversal rate decreased due to the low actionability of these appeals. 14.5% were granted and the remaining 85.5% were denied.

Chart 21: Appeals of account-level sanctions issued by admins in 2022

Appeals of account-level sanctions issued by admins in 2022

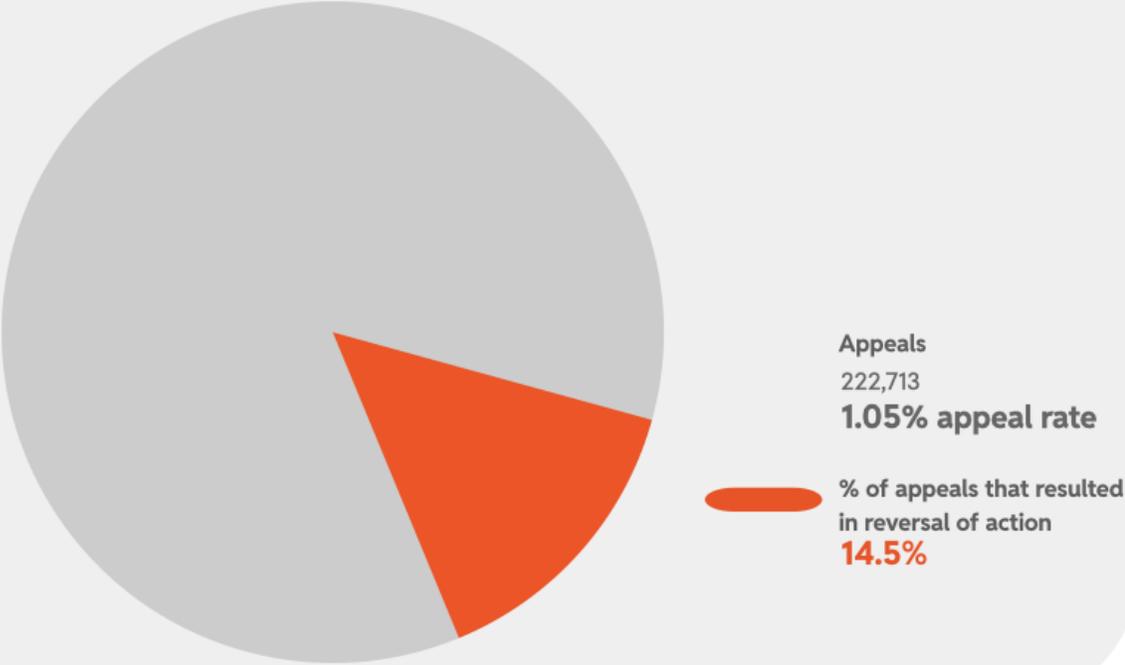
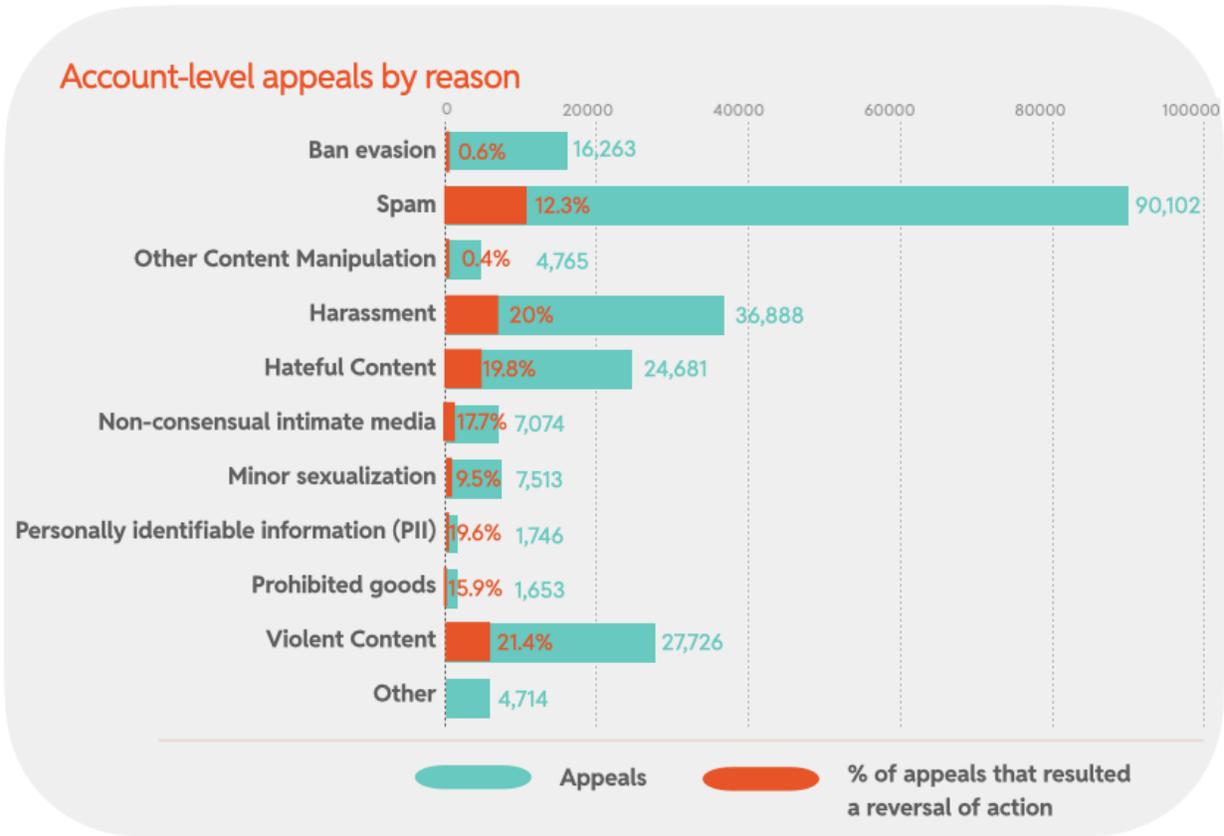


Chart 22: Account-level appeals by reason



Mod-Specific Appeals

Outside of the standard appeal process for general users described above, mods may use r/ModSupport modmail to submit appeals of content actions within their communities that they feel were made in error. In 2022, 6,325 appeals submitted by mods were reviewed by admins. Due to some internal process changes, we can't accurately report on the success rate of these appeals in 2022; however, it's our hope to provide that data again in future reports.

Legal Removals

This section covers legal removal requests received by Reddit from governments, law enforcement agencies, and private parties around the world during the reporting period of July 1 - Dec 31, 2022. As noted above, in October 2022 we shared our first-ever [mid-year report](#) focused on legal requests, so you can find data regarding these types of requests during the first half of the year there.

Note: A single legal removal request may identify several pieces of content (URLs). In this section we report both the number of requests and the total number of pieces of content identified in those requests.

Government and Law Enforcement Requests to Remove Content

This section includes legal requests submitted by government and law enforcement agencies to remove content on Reddit (either via court order or some other type of request). Government and law enforcement officials may seek 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 in whole or in part for any number 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 then actioned by the appropriate team. When there are no underlying Content Policy violations but the request is otherwise determined to violate local law(s), Reddit may restrict access to the content in the reporter's country.

In the second half of 2022, Reddit received 212 requests from government and law enforcement agencies in 20 countries around the world to remove content from the platform. This is on par with the first half of the year (214 requests). Our overall rate of removal (a combination of Content Policy violations and geo-blocking actions) decreased to 81% compared to requests from Jan-June 2022 (94%). Amongst these removals, the vast majority of content was removed for Content Policy violations: Reddit's Content Policy is applied universally regardless of how we become aware of the violating content or who the reporter is. A small percentage (literally 1%) of content identified by government and law enforcement agencies didn't otherwise violate Reddit's Rules but was subsequently restricted locally (aka geo-blocked) in the requester's country based on violations of local law. In cases where local restrictions are implemented, users in that country will encounter a notice and explanation when trying to access the content, so as to be as transparent as possible.

Trends

- 51% increase y/y in the total volume of legal removal requests submitted by government and law enforcement agencies in 2022, with a 17% increase in content removed or restricted compared to 2021.
- 57% of requests received in the second half of 2022 identified the posting of non-consensual intimate images as the reported issue, resulting in 99% removal of reported content under [Rule 3](#).
- An increase in "hybrid" requests, which seek both the removal of content *and* the production of related account data. We received 52 "hybrid" requests from law enforcement in H2 2022, with 85% of these legal requests originating from India. Hybrid requests increased by 164% in 2022 (95), compared to 2021 (36).

Notable Requests

- **France** - In association with ongoing litigation over efforts by a local business to get Reddit to remove content alleging that it was a scam, in 2022, the *Tribunal de Commerce de Paris* ordered Reddit to remove 67 pieces of content. We appealed the lower court's order and won our appeal to the *Cour de Cassation* in early 2023.
- **Russia** - In the second half of 2022, *Roskomnadzor* requested the removal of 42 unique pieces of content. The majority (32 pieces) of content did not violate our rules, and we

declined to take action on those pieces of content because we believed their removal would violate international human rights norms (for example, several posts provided commentary on the Russian invasion of Ukraine). The remaining 10 pieces of content were removed for violating our Content Policy; specifically, content that posed a safety risk to our users.

Chart 23: Government and Law Enforcement content removal requests by country (July-December 2022)

Government and Law Enforcement content removal requests by country (July-December 2022)

| Country | Requests | Requests complied with in whole or in part | Content or communities identified in requests | % of content or communities removed for Content Policy violations* | % of content or communities restricted in requesting country | No action** |
|--------------------|------------|--|---|--|--|--------------|
| Australia | 26 | 96% | 108 | 99% | 0% | 1% |
| Brazil | 2 | 100% | 3 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| Canada | 4 | 75% | 7 | 86% | 0% | 14% |
| Denmark | 2 | 100% | 4 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| France | 1 | 100% | 1 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| Germany | 2 | 50% | 2 | 50% | 0% | 50% |
| India | 49 | 92% | 276 | 92% | 1% | 7% |
| Ireland | 3 | 100% | 5 | 80% | 0% | 20% |
| Mexico | 1 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 0% | 100% |
| Netherlands | 3 | 100% | 10 | 90% | 0% | 10% |
| Norway | 1 | 100% | 6 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| Pakistan | 11 | 64% | 101 | 15% | 2% | 83% |
| Philippines | 8 | 88% | 15 | 87% | 0% | 13% |
| Russia | 37 | 24% | 37 | 24% | 0% | 76% |
| Singapore | 1 | 100% | 2 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| South Korea | 38 | 100% | 250 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| Sweden | 1 | 100% | 5 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| Turkey | 5 | 100% | 5 | 100%*** | 0% | 0% |
| United Kingdom | 12 | 100% | 44 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| United States | 5 | 60% | 86 | 98% | 0% | 2% |
| Grand Total | 212 | 82% | 968 | 81% | 0.2% | 18.8% |

*includes content already removed by the user, by mods, or by admins

**reasons for no action include incomplete requests, duplicate requests, or requests where we asked for more information and the requester did not respond or follow-up

***includes two pieces of U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization content

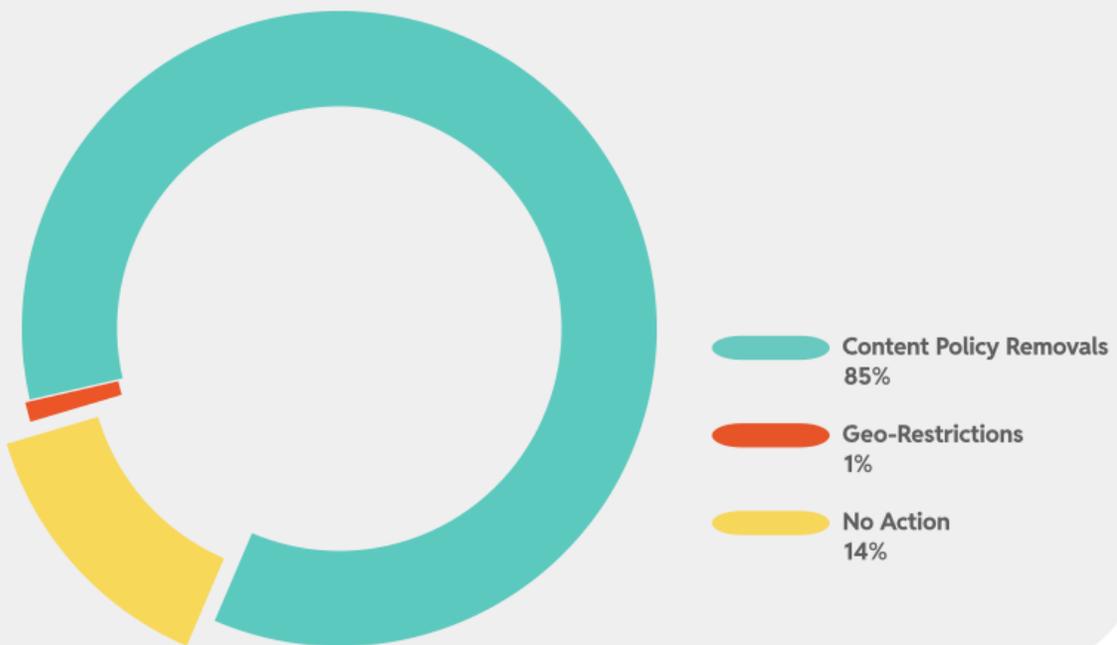
Chart 24: Content Types & Communities identified in Government and Law Enforcement removal requests (July-December 2022)

Content Types & Communities identified in Government and Law Enforcement removal requests (July-December 2022)

| Type of content reported by Government and Law Enforcement | Content or communities removed for Content Policy violations | Content or communities restricted in requesting country |
|--|--|---|
| Post/Comments | 514 | 0 |
| Post / Comment + User | 192 | 0 |
| Post/Comment + Subreddit | 36 | 0 |
| Subreddit | 14 | 2 |
| User | 7 | 0 |
| User + Subreddit | 7 | 2 |
| User + Subreddit + Post/Comment | 53 | 2 |
| Grand Total | 823 | 6 |

Chart 25: Reddit actions in response to Government and Law Enforcement removal requests (July-December 2022)

Reddit actions in response to Government and Law Enforcement removal requests (July-December 2022)



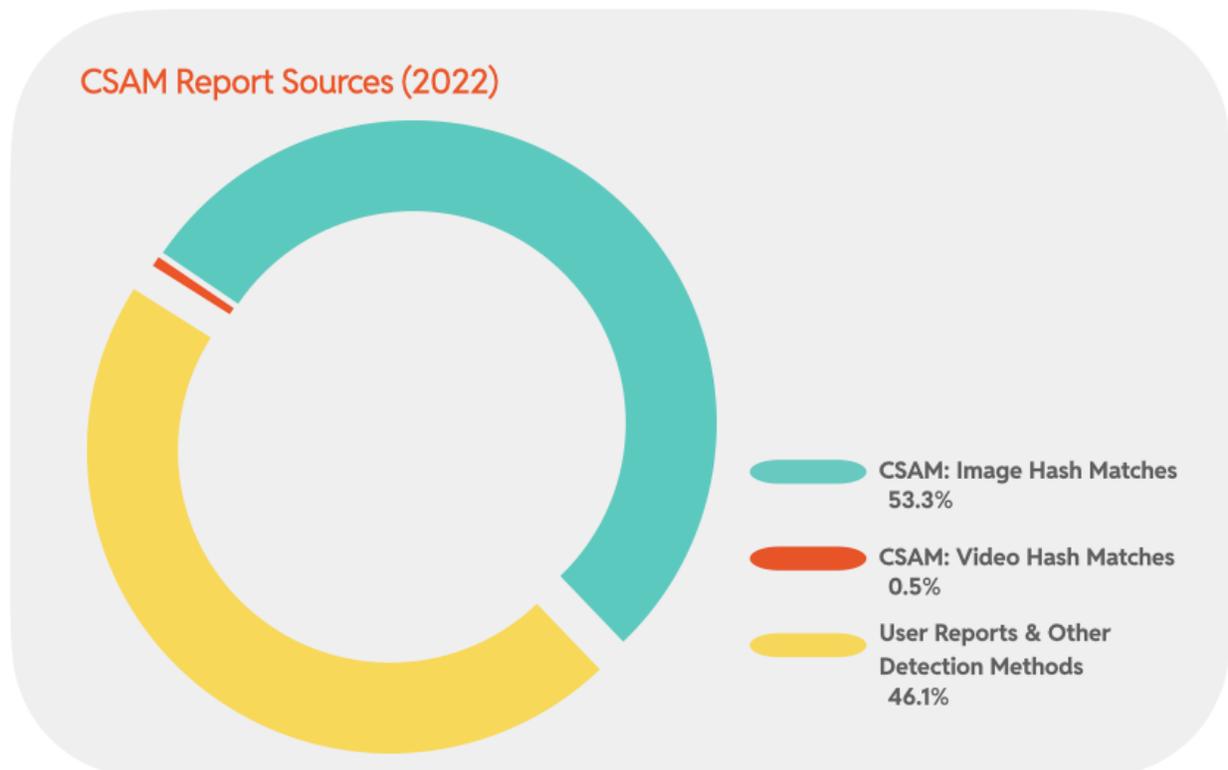
Examples of geo-restrictions

- **India** - we geo-restricted access to four NSFW (adult sexually explicit, not NCIM or otherwise in violation of the Content Policy) subreddits in response to two requests from law enforcement in India.
- **Pakistan** - we geo-restricted access to two NSFW (adult sexually explicit, not NCIM or otherwise in violation of the Content Policy) communities in response to one legal request from Pakistan.

Child Sexual Abuse Material

We have zero tolerance for content or interactions that involve the sexual exploitation of minors. We use a combination of automated methods (including hash-matching technology, which applies a unique digital fingerprint to each media file to help identify violative content uploaded to Reddit), human review, and community reports to detect activities potentially related to child sexual exploitation on Reddit. 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 U.S. law to report the relevant users/content to the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children \(NCMEC\)](#), and preserve relevant account data.

Chart 26 : CSAM Report Sources (2022)



Between July and December of 2022, Reddit removed 31,574 pieces of content due to CSAM violations and filed 40,243 CyberTipline reports to NCMEC.

Based on this large increase during the second half of the year, Reddit ended up submitting a total of 52,592 CyberTipline reports in 2022 and removed 80,888 pieces of CSAM content, an increase of 874% over 2021.

Several factors contributed to the significant increase in the removal of CSAM content and NCMEC CyberTipline reports in 2022. We hired more staff dedicated to combating child sexual exploitation, and continued our ongoing investments into tooling and proactive detection methods. Additionally, we added new ways to share media (such as images in chat and comments) on the platform.

We remain steadfastly committed to preventing and disrupting the sexual exploitation of children. For more information on our efforts to combat this type of violative content, please refer to our article on [How Reddit Fights Child Sexual Exploitation](#).

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, businesses, private individuals, social organizations, and non-governmental organizations to remove content they believe is defamatory or otherwise violates private legal rights.

As described above, all content identified in these requests is first reviewed under Reddit's Content Policy, and content that violates our rules is removed. When there are no underlying Content Policy violations, but the content violates local law(s), Reddit may restrict access to the content in the country where it is alleged to be illegal. In these cases, users in that country will encounter a notice and explanation when trying to access the content, so as to be as transparent as possible.

In the second half of 2022, Reddit received 127 legal demands from private parties seeking the removal of content and citing local laws. This represents a 23% increase compared to H1 of 2022. We removed 40% of content identified in these requests for violating our Content Policy. 4% of the reported content ended up being restricted locally in the requester's country.

Reddit has seen a 22% increase YoY in the volume of private party legal requests to remove content compared to 2021. We removed content in response to 37% of these requests: 203 pieces of content were removed for Content Policy violations and six pieces of content were restricted in the requester's country.

Note: This section does not include requests from users to remove/delete their own content under the EU General Data Protection Regulation, the California Consumer Privacy Act, or removal requests under Germany's Network Enforcement Act (NetzDG; see below).

Chart 27: Private Party Legal Removal Requests - per Country (July-December 2022)

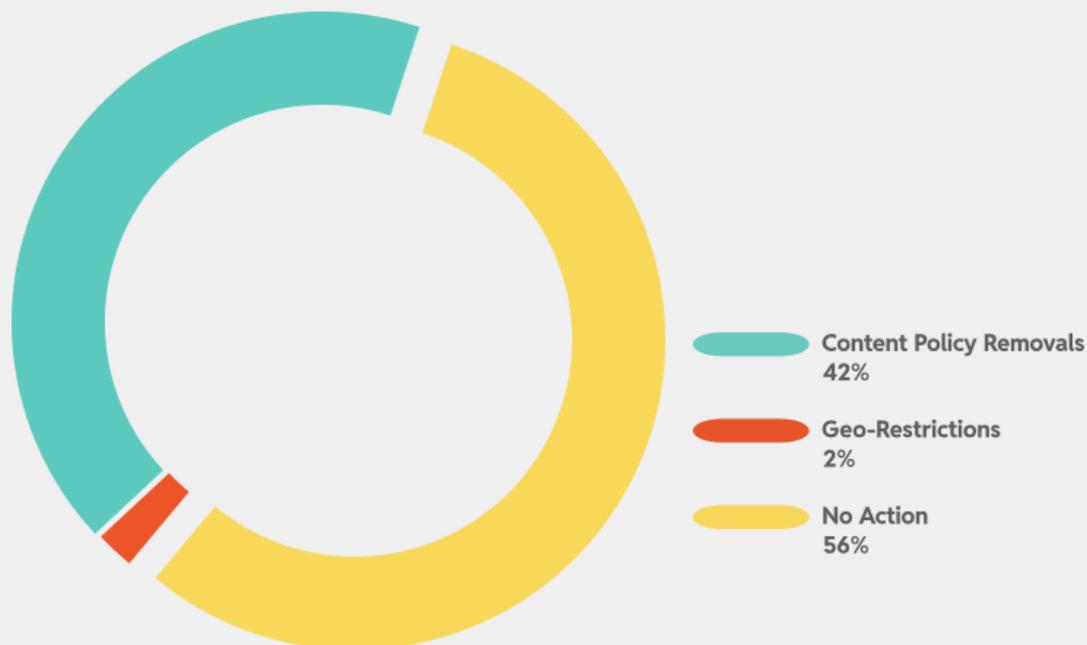
Private Party Legal Removal Requests - per Country (July-December 2022)

| Country | Requests | Requests complied with in whole or in part | Content or communities identified in requests | % content or communities removed for Content Policy violations | % content or communities restricted in requesting country | No action* |
|--------------------|------------|--|---|--|---|------------|
| Australia | 6 | 66% | 9 | 56% | 0% | 44% |
| Canada | 4 | 50% | 8 | 38% | 0% | 62% |
| France | 1 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 0% | 100% |
| Germany | 7 | 71% | 19 | 74% | 16% | 10% |
| Hungary | 2 | 50% | 2 | 50% | 0% | 50% |
| India | 5 | 80% | 21 | 95% | 0% | 5% |
| Ireland | 2 | 100% | 4 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| Italy | 4 | 66% | 6 | 17% | 0% | 83% |
| Japan | 3 | 33% | 3 | 34% | 0% | 66% |
| Latvia | 1 | 100% | 2 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| Monaco | 1 | 0% | 3 | 0% | 0% | 100% |
| New Zealand | 6 | 83% | 17 | 88% | 0% | 12% |
| Portugal | 2 | 0% | 4 | 0% | 0% | 100% |
| Pakistan | 1 | 100% | 1 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| Russia | 2 | 0% | 2 | 0% | 0% | 100% |
| South Africa | 1 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Slovakia | 1 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 0% | 100% |
| Switzerland | 1 | 100% | 1 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| Turkey | 8 | 63% | 30 | 7% | 7% | 86% |
| United Kingdom | 16 | 16% | 54 | 2% | 0% | 98% |
| United States | 53 | 23% | 100 | 50% | 0% | 50% |
| Grand Total | 127 | 48% | 288 | 42% | 2% | 56% |

*Reasons for no action include incomplete requests, duplicate requests, or requests where we asked for more information and the requester did not respond or follow-up

Chart 28 : Reddit actions in response to Private Party Legal Removal Requests (July - December 2022)

Reddit actions in response to Private Party Legal Removal Requests (July - December 2022)



NetzDG

Reddit also receives content removal requests from private parties under Germany's Network Enforcement Act (NetzDG). For completeness, we include the NetzDG removal request data for the second half of 2022 below.

The overall 2022 NetzDG numbers represent a 112% increase in the volume of NetzDG requests received in comparison to 2021, and our removal rate has also increased by 10.42%, mainly due to report form improvements (that resulted in better quality reporting and less spam). 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 29: NetzDG removal requests (July-December 2022)

NetzDG removal requests (July-December 2022)



Copyright Removals

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

When Reddit receives a complete and valid copyright notice, we remove the content the notice identifies as infringing. We accept and review notices from rights holders following a process consistent with the U.S. Digital Millennium Copyright Act. For more information, please visit our [Copyright Help Center](#).

From July to December of 2022, we received 77,673 copyright notices requesting the removal of 930,442 pieces of content. We removed 749,115 pieces of content in response to those notices (an 80.5% actionability rate).

Compared to the first half of 2022, the number of copyright notices we received decreased by 56% during the second half of the year. However, the amount of content reported for removal and the amount of content removed both increased during the second half of the year, 26% and 33%, respectively.

In 2022, we saw a 43% increase over the previous year in the total number of copyright notices received, a 126% increase in the amount of content reported for removal, and a 97% increase in the amount of content removed.

While the increased volume of notices, reported content, and removed content can mostly be attributed to ordinary organic growth, we did see a notable trend which partly contributed to these rises. In 2022, more content creators enlisted rights management services to submit automated template notices on their behalf. These notices are easily generated, enable the submitter to report a

large quantity of content in a single notice, and can be submitted in bulk. As a result, these rights holders were able to submit significantly more copyright notices and report more content than they had in previous years.

Chart 30: Copyright Notice Reports (July-December 2022)

Copyright Notice Reports (July-December 2022)

| Year | Number of Notices | Content Reported | Content Removed | Content Actionability Rate |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| July - December 2022 | 77673 | 930442 | 749115 | 80.5% |

User and Subreddit Bans

In accordance with our copyright policy, in appropriate circumstances, Reddit may permanently suspend users who are repeat copyright infringers. Repeat infringement can also result in entire subreddits being banned, such as when there is an excessive amount of infringing content in a subreddit.

From July to December of 2022, Reddit permanently suspended 1,944 users and banned 1,672 subreddits for repeated copyright infringement. Permanent user suspensions decreased by 49% and subreddit bans increased by 8% compared to the first half of 2022.

In 2022, we permanently suspended a total of 5,853 users and banned 3,215 subreddits for excessive copyright removals. This is a 51% increase in user suspensions, and a 105% increase in subreddit bans compared to the year prior.

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.

From July to December of 2022, Reddit rejected 38,216 copyright notices (a 51% compliance rate) and declined to remove 181,327 pieces of content that did not qualify for removal because the notices were invalid or incomplete.

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

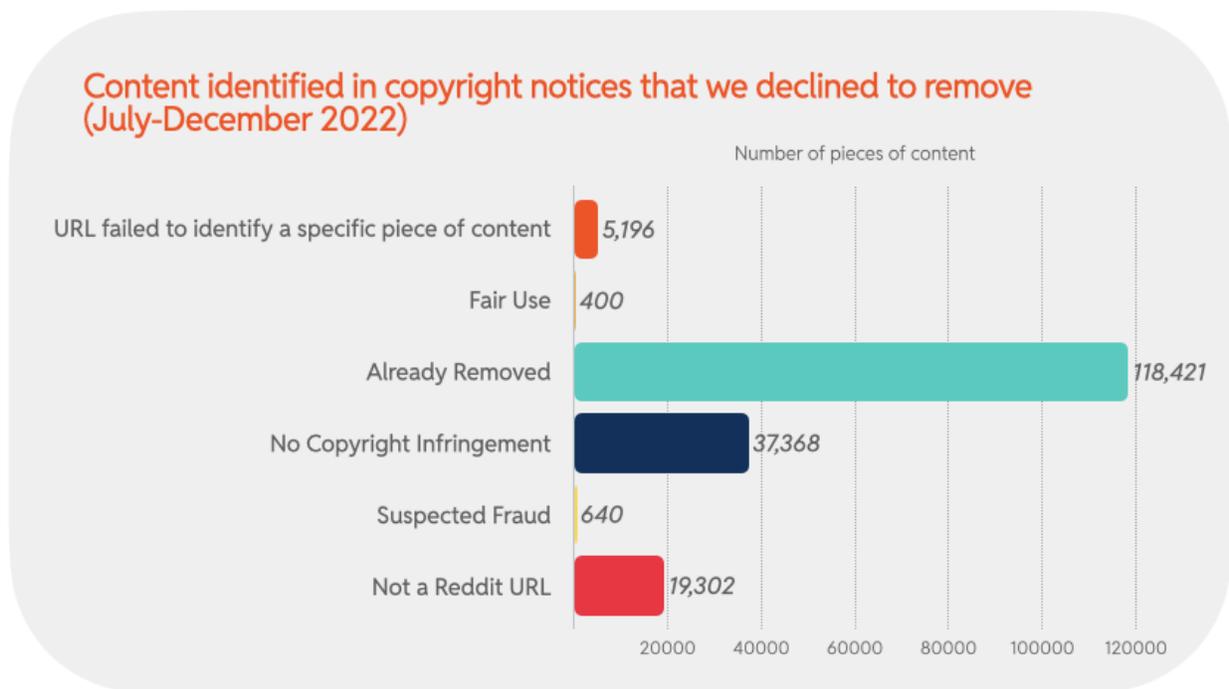
- Failing to include [all of the necessary information](#) in the notice
- Confusing other policy issues for copyright infringement, such as privacy violations or harassment
- Targeting content that makes a “fair use” of the claimant’s work, as allowed by copyright law

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

Examples:

- Not Subject to Copyright - A video game coupon manufacturer requested the removal of a post that purported to share protected coupon codes. Reddit declined to remove the content because coupon codes are not [minimally creative works of authorship](#), and are therefore not subject to copyright protections.
- Owner Must Report - Reddit received a number of copyright takedown notices that reported certain content creators' works for removal. The notices contained clear signals that they were submitted by the creators' fans, who did not have express authorization from the creators to do so. A copyright notice must come from either [the copyright owner or an expressly designated agent](#), so Reddit declined to process these notices.
- Work Not Found - Reddit received a copyright takedown notice on behalf of a rightsholder whose company name contains the word "Lacey." The reported content was a clothing pattern which featured the word "lacey," but otherwise had no relationship with the copyrighted work described by the rightsholder. Thus, Reddit declined to process the notice.

Chart 31: Content identified in copyright notices that we declined to remove (July-December 2022)



Counter Notices and Retractions

Reddit receives counter notices from users whose content has been removed in response to a copyright notice, following a procedure consistent with the U.S. Digital Millennium Copyright Act. A valid counter notice results in the reinstatement of the 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 valid 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.

From July to December of 2022, Reddit received 619 counter notices and 41 retraction requests. 46 counter notices were found to be valid, resulting in the restoration of 205 pieces of content to Reddit. Similarly, all retraction requests resulted in restoration of the associated content.

Trademark Removals

When Reddit receives a complete and valid trademark infringement notice, we remove any violative content identified in the notice.

From July to December of 2022, Reddit received 431 trademark infringement notices reporting a total of 4,310 pieces of content. Reddit took action on 74 notices and removed 213 pieces of content for alleged trademark infringement in response to these notices. Reddit also permanently suspended 39 users and banned 10 subreddits for repeated trademark infringement.

Trademark infringement notices increased by 22% compared to the first half of 2022. However, the amount of content reported and the amount of content removed both decreased during the second half of the year by 2% and 50%, respectively.

In 2022, we saw a 95% increase over the previous year in the total amount of notices received. We also experienced record growth in both the total amount of reported content (740%) and the total amount of removed content (123%), compared to the previous year.

Example:

- A software company submitted a trademark notice regarding a subreddit whose community description and posts made unauthorized use of the company's registered trademark. Reddit banned the subreddit for trademark infringement because the ways in which the subreddit used the company's mark were likely to cause confusion as to the subreddit's affiliation with the company.

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.

From July to December 2022, we rejected 357 trademark notices and declined to remove 4,097 pieces of content that did not qualify for removal because the notice was incomplete or invalid.

Despite seeing record increases in the total number of trademark infringement notices and reported content in 2022, our actionability rate decreased to 7% in 2022 (from 28% in 2021) due to incomplete or invalid trademark notices.

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

- Failing to identify a valid, registered trademark
- Failing to include information sufficient to assess whether or not 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
- Confusing other policy issues for trademark infringement, such as copyright infringement, privacy, or harassment

Examples:

- Nominative Fair Use - Reddit received a trademark notice sent from an authorized representative on behalf of a financial institution. The notice requested the removal of a number of posts that discussed the financial institution’s goods and services, and referred to the company by its trademarked name. The posts used the mark in a way that was unlikely to cause consumer confusion and would constitute fair use under trademark law, so we rejected the trademark request and declined to remove the content.
- Failure to Identify Valid, Registered Trademark - Reddit received a trademark notice from a brand reporting a post for trademark infringement. In their notice, the brand provided a pending trademark that was still under examination by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and had not yet been approved and registered. We rejected the trademark request and declined to remove the content.

Information Requests

This section covers the volume of global information requests received in the second half of 2022, along with our rate of compliance.

At Reddit, we believe that privacy is a right, as outlined in [our privacy policy](#). By default, we collect and retain limited information for most accounts.

Reddit receives a variety of requests for account information, including legal process (e.g. a subpoena or court order) related to government and law enforcement investigations, private party legal requests related to civil litigation or criminal defense, and user requests for their own data under applicable privacy regulations.

Legal Requests for Account Information

Reddit may disclose specific account information in response to valid legal requests from government and law enforcement agencies or private parties (e.g. civil litigants and criminal defendants) when required by law and in certain emergency situations. 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 account data is subject to legal information requests before any disclosures are made (ie, pre-production notice), unless we are legally prohibited from doing so, or under certain other counterproductive circumstances (e.g. exigent emergency situations, child safety matters).

If Reddit is legally prohibited from providing pre-production notice of an information request, Reddit will attempt to notify the user upon expiration of the legally required non-disclosure period (aka post-production notice).

For more information regarding user notice, please refer to the [Reddit Guidelines for Law Enforcement](#).

Government and Law Enforcement Agency Requests for Account Information

Reddit receives legal requests for the disclosure of account information from government and law enforcement agencies on a regular basis. These requests are typically one of two varieties: non-emergency disclosure requests or exigent emergency disclosure requests.

- Non-emergency requests require the issuance of formal legal process, such as a subpoena or court order, which is then submitted to Reddit for processing.
- Emergency disclosure requests involving threats of imminent 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)).

Non-emergency Government and Law Enforcement Agency Requests for Account 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; 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, we will ask the requesting entity to modify or refine the request.

Chart 32: Global Government and Law Enforcement Agency non-emergency request volumes and compliance rate (July-December 2022)

Global Government and Law Enforcement Agency non-emergency disclosure requests volume and compliance rate (July-December 2022)

| Country | Number of Requests | Request Compliance* rate | Identifiers** Cited |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Australia | 4 | 25% | 5 |
| Austria | 3 | 67% | 15 |
| Brazil | 4 | 50% | 5 |
| Canada | 12 | 58% | 16 |
| Czech Republic | 1 | 0% | 3 |
| Denmark | 1 | 0% | 2 |
| Finland | 1 | 0% | 11 |
| France | 7 | 43% | 7 |
| Germany | 31 | 45% | 41 |
| Greece | 3 | 0% | 3 |
| Hungary | 2 | 0% | 4 |
| India | 54 | 0% | 341 |
| Ireland | 1 | 0% | 1 |
| Italy | 1 | 0% | 1 |
| Malta | 1 | 0% | 1 |
| Mexico | 1 | 0% | 2 |
| Nepal | 1 | 0% | 1 |
| Netherlands | 1 | 0% | 1 |
| New Zealand | 3 | 67% | 3 |
| Norway | 2 | 50% | 2 |
| Pakistan | 3 | 0% | 8 |
| Poland | 2 | 0% | 4 |
| Portugal | 1 | 0% | 1 |
| Romania | 1 | 0% | 1 |
| Serbia | 1 | 0% | 1 |
| Singapore | 8 | 0% | 13 |
| South Korea | 3 | 0% | 7 |
| Spain | 1 | 0% | 1 |
| Sweden | 4 | 0% | 7 |
| United Kingdom | 62 | 76% | 77 |
| United States | 508 | 82% | 1,214 |
| Total | 728 | 68% | 1799 |

*Compliance may refer to partial or full disclosure of the requested account data. If Reddit disclosed any data in response to a request, it is counted in the compliance rate. The compliance rate is calculated using the total number of requests rather than the total number of identifiers cited.

**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.

Between July and December 2022, Reddit received 729 non-emergency legal requests for account information from global government and law enforcement agencies, and disclosed account information in response to 496 these requests (68%). Of these global requests, U.S. government and law enforcement agencies accounted for 508 requests (70% of global volume), and Reddit disclosed data (in whole or in part) in response to 417 of these U.S. requests (82% of U.S. requests).

Compared to the first half of 2022, global government and law enforcement requests for account information increased by 27% during the second half of the year.

Across the entirety of 2022, Reddit received information requests from a total of 36 different countries and disclosed data (in whole or in part) to 10 of those countries. During this period, we received our first legal requests for account information from Brazil, Italy, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, and Serbia.

User Notice for Government and Law Enforcement Agency Requests

Government and law enforcement requests are often subject to non-disclosure orders or are otherwise prohibited from user notice. Reddit will attempt to notify users about legal requests seeking disclosure of their account information, unless prohibited by law from doing so, or under limited exceptions where notice would be counterproductive

Reddit provided user notice for 11% of global government and law enforcement requests received between July and December of 2022.

The following tables outline the number of users notified by Reddit in response to government and law enforcement agency requests for the second half of 2022.

Chart 33 : User Notice for Government and Law Enforcement Agency Requests (July-December 2022)

User Notice* for Government and Law Enforcement Agency Requests (July-December 2022)

| Notice Type | Number of Legal Requests | Number of Users Notified |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pre-production Notice | 77 | 108 |
| Post Production Notice | 27 | 41 |

*User notice may apply to legal process received outside of the current reporting period.

Non-emergency U.S. Legal Process Types

The overwhelming majority of global requests to disclose account information continue to originate from U.S. government and law enforcement authorities.

The type of U.S. legal process served on Reddit determines the categories of historical data that Reddit may be compelled to disclose. In general:

- U.S. subpoenas may compel disclosure of basic subscriber information (BSI): IP logs (including registration IP), the account holder’s name (if any), email address (if any), and phone number (if any).
- U.S. court orders may compel disclosure of BSI and other non-content records about the account, such as account preferences and communication header information (e.g., the to/from fields of a Private Message or the participant list for a chat discussion).
- U.S. search warrants may compel disclosure of BSI, other non-content records, and the contents of communications (e.g. the actual user generated words/media included in a post, comment, PM, or chat).

In addition to U.S. legal process that may compel the one-time disclosure of historical data (listed above), U.S. pen register / trap and trace (PRTT) orders may compel *multiple ongoing* disclosures of IP logs and communication headers for a strictly defined and limited period of time. PRTT orders may not compel disclosure of the content of communications.

For more information regarding the types of data collected by Reddit, please refer to our [Privacy Policy](#).

Chart 34 : U.S. Government and Law Enforcement Agency non-emergency disclosure requests by type of legal process (July-December 2022)

U.S. Government and Law Enforcement Agency non-emergency disclosure requests by type of legal process (July-December 2022)

| Legal Process Type | Number of Requests | Request Compliance* Rate | Identifiers** Cited |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| U.S. Subpoenas | 319 | 82% | 673 |
| U.S. Court Orders | 20 | 55% | 53 |
| U.S. Search Warrants | 169 | 86% | 488 |
| U.S. PRTT Orders | 0 | N/A | 0 |

*Compliance may refer to partial or full disclosure of the requested account data. If Reddit disclosed any data in response to a request, it is counted in the compliance rate. The compliance rate is calculated using the total number of requests rather than the total number of identifiers cited.

**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.

U.S. Requests - State Breakdown

U.S. information requests are issued pursuant either to federal or state/local law.

Between July and December of 2022, Reddit produced account information (in whole or in part) in response to 85% of U.S. federal requests, and 80% of U.S. state/local requests.

For the second half of 2022, Reddit received the most requests from government and law enforcement agencies based in California, Florida, and Illinois.

Across all of 2022, Reddit received the highest volume of requests from agencies located in California, Florida, and New York.

Chart 35 :U.S. State/Territory Requests (July-December 2022)

U.S. State/Territory Requests (July-December 2022)

| Originating State/Territory* | U.S. Federal Requests | State/Local Requests |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Alabama | 0 | 7 |
| Alaska | 0 | 4 |
| Arizona | 1 | 5 |
| Arkansas | 0 | 0 |
| California | 42 | 13 |
| Colorado | 3 | 0 |
| Connecticut | 0 | 1 |
| Delaware | 0 | 4 |
| Florida | 11 | 26 |
| Georgia | 0 | 10 |
| Hawaii | 5 | 0 |
| Idaho | 0 | 4 |
| Illinois | 17 | 19 |
| Indiana | 1 | 6 |
| Iowa | 0 | 7 |
| Kansas | 0 | 4 |
| Kentucky | 0 | 3 |
| Louisiana | 0 | 5 |
| Maine | 1 | 1 |
| Maryland | 8 | 10 |
| Massachusetts | 2 | 4 |
| Michigan | 6 | 6 |
| Minnesota | 7 | 11 |
| Mississippi | 1 | 2 |
| Missouri | 4 | 3 |
| Montana | 1 | 0 |
| Nebraska | 1 | 0 |
| Nevada | 1 | 3 |
| New Hampshire | 1 | 1 |
| New Jersey | 2 | 19 |
| New Mexico | 0 | 9 |
| New York | 25 | 9 |
| North Carolina | 3 | 3 |
| North Dakota | 1 | 2 |
| Ohio | 11 | 19 |
| Oklahoma | 1 | 4 |
| Oregon | 1 | 0 |
| Pennsylvania | 8 | 7 |
| Puerto Rico | 0 | 0 |
| Rhode Island | 1 | 2 |

National Security Requests

U.S. law prohibits us from reporting exact numbers of National Security Letters (NSLs) or Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) orders received. The U.S. 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 on the receipt of national security legal requests. Furthermore, companies are required to use even larger bands to differentiate between receipt of NSLs and FISA orders.

These reporting rules may work for larger companies that receive large numbers of national security requests, but they do little to provide meaningful transparency 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.

We can share, however, that Reddit has never received any government requests for bulk data collection under any authority. Reddit has also never received any government requests for data under Section 702 (50 U.S.C. § 1881a).

Chart 36 : U.S. National Security requests

U.S. National Security requests

| Year | Report Period | Number of requests | Identifiers* Cited |
|------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2022 | Jul-Dec | 0-249 | 250-499 |
| | Jan-Jun | 0-249 | 0-249 |
| 2021 | Jul-Dec | 0-249 | 0-249 |
| | Jan-Jun | 0-249 | 0-249 |
| 2020 | Jul-Dec | 0-249 | 0-249 |
| | Jan-Jun | 0-249 | 0-249 |
| 2019 | Jul-Dec | 0-249 | 0-249 |
| | Jan-Jun | 0-249 | 0-249 |
| 2018 | Jul-Dec | 0-249 | 0-249 |
| | Jan-Jun | 0-249 | 0-249 |

*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.

Emergency Disclosure Requests

In emergency situations, law enforcement may submit Emergency Disclosure Requests (EDRs) seeking disclosure of limited account information without legal process. Under U.S. law, Reddit may grant 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. We may request additional information for a variety of reasons, including to further contextualize the nature of the emergency, clarify overly-broad requests, or validate the identity of the law enforcement official that is seeking data. Requests that do not meet the emergency disclosure threshold may be denied, and the requester may be directed to obtain legal process.

For the second half of 2022, Reddit received 225 emergency disclosure requests from around the world, and disclosed limited account information in response to 70 (31%) of those requests.

Across the full year of 2022, Reddit received a total of 424 EDRs from 20 different countries, and disclosed limited account information in response to 165 (39%) requests from 14 different countries. This year, we received our first EDRs from Denmark, Ireland, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, and Spain.

The number of emergency disclosure requests received in 2022 increased by 48% compared to 2021 (293). Notably, 2022 represents the first increase in annual emergency disclosure requests volume since 2019.

Fraudulent EDRs

Emergency disclosure requests require companies like Reddit to enact a high degree of vigilance and scrutiny, as they neither follow a standard format nor include the same level of oversight as formal legal process. Throughout 2021 and 2022, the tech industry faced an uptick in [targeted attempts to obtain account information through fraudulent EDRs and impersonation of law enforcement](#).

In July 2022, Reddit identified a fraudulent EDR where the purported law enforcement official and alleged emergency circumstances could not be substantiated. We rejected the request due to its suspicious nature, did not disclose any account information, and referred the matter to U.S. authorities for further investigation.

Chart 37 : Emergency Disclosure Request volumes and compliance rate (July-December 2022)

Emergency Disclosure Request volumes and compliance rate (July-December 2022)

| Country | Number of Requests | Request Compliance* Rate | Identifiers** Cited |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Canada | 15 | 53% | 15 |
| Finland | 1 | 0% | 1 |
| Germany | 3 | 67% | 3 |
| Greece | 1 | 0% | 1 |
| India | 2 | 0% | 7 |
| New Zealand | 2 | 0% | 2 |
| Philippines | 1 | 0% | 1 |
| Republic of Ireland | 1 | 100% | 1 |
| Singapore | 1 | 0% | 1 |
| United Kingdom | 5 | 40% | 5 |
| United States | 193 | 29% | 204 |
| Total | 225 | 31% | 241 |

* Compliance may refer to partial or full disclosure of the requested account data. If Reddit disclosed any data in response to a request, it is counted in the compliance rate. The compliance rate is calculated using the total number of requests rather than the total number of identifiers cited.

** 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

In addition to requesting the disclosure of account information, government and law enforcement entities also send legal requests directing Reddit to temporarily save certain account information. These requests are ordinarily issued in anticipation of obtaining legal process (e.g. a subpoena, court order, or warrant) and require companies like Reddit to preserve a copy of the existing account information to ensure the data is not edited, altered, or destroyed in the meantime. Notably, preservation requests can only require retention of information already in the account when the request is received; a single preservation request 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 legally valid preservation request may result in account information being retained beyond Reddit's standard retention period.

Independent of whether Reddit preserves data pursuant to a preservation request, we 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.

From July to December 2022, Reddit received 408 preservation requests from government and law enforcement agencies across the globe, representing a ~26% increase from the prior six month period.

Chart 38 : Preservation request volumes (July-December 2022)

Preservation request volumes (July-December 2022)

| Country | Number of Requests | Identifiers Cited* |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Canada | 5 | 10 |
| Germany | 2 | 7 |
| India | 7 | 150 |
| Mexico | 2 | 3 |
| New Zealand | 1 | 1 |
| Republic of Ireland | 8 | 8 |
| Sweden | 2 | 2 |
| United Kingdom | 10 | 13 |
| United States | 368 | 904 |

*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.

Private Party Requests for Account Information

While government and law enforcement agencies submit the vast majority of the legal requests for account information that we receive, private parties also send Reddit legal process (e.g. subpoenas) for disclosure of information for use in civil litigation or criminal defense.

Reddit carefully reviews each request for compliance with applicable laws and regulations. If we determine that a request is invalid, overbroad, or in violation of applicable laws, Reddit will object to or challenge the request.

Between July and December 2022, Reddit received 17 private party account information requests from four different countries. Of these, 13 requests originated from the United States. Reddit disclosed account information in response to 12% (two) of these requests.

In all of 2022,Reddit disclosed account records in response to a total of four private party requests, resulting in a 15% compliance rate.

Chart 39 : Private Party information request volumes and compliance rate (July-December 2022)

Private Party information request volumes and compliance rate (July-December 2022)

| Country | Number of requests | Request Compliance* Rate | Identifiers** Cited |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Canada | 1 | 100% | 1 |
| Germany | 2 | 0% | 3 |
| Australia | 1 | 0% | 2 |
| United States | 13 | 8% | 43 |

*Compliance may refer to partial or full disclosure of the requested account 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.

User Notice for Private Party Requests

In cases where Reddit receives a valid private party request for which Reddit may be required to provide responsive data, Reddit will attempt to notify impacted users prior to producing data. Reddit does not typically provide user notice regarding invalid or otherwise inactionable private party requests.

Between July and December of 2022, Reddit provided user notice for 15% of private party requests received during this period.

The following table outlines the number of users notified by Reddit in response to private party requests for the second half of 2022.

Chart 40 : User Notice for Private Party Requests (July-December 2022)

User Notice* for Private Party Requests (July-December 2022)

| Notice Type | Number of Legal Requests | Number of Users Notified |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pre-production Notice | 2 | 6 |
| Post Production Notice | 0 | 0 |

*User notice may apply to legal process received outside of the current reporting period.

User Access Requests

Reddit users can request a copy of their own Reddit account information (known as "access requests"). These requests may include EU General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") data subject access requests and California Consumer Privacy Act ("CCPA") consumer information requests.

In the second half of 2022, Reddit received 11,321 access requests, a substantial 68% increase over the 6,724 access requests received during the first half of the year.

Comparing 2022 to previous years tells an even more dramatic growth story. Reddit received a total of 18,045 access requests in 2022, resulting in a 117% increase and more than doubling the 8,326 requests received in 2021. We received more access requests in 2022 than the previous four years combined.

The below tables show the global distribution of user access requests for both the second half of 2022 and the full year.

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

Chart 41 : User Access Requests by Continent (July-December 2022)

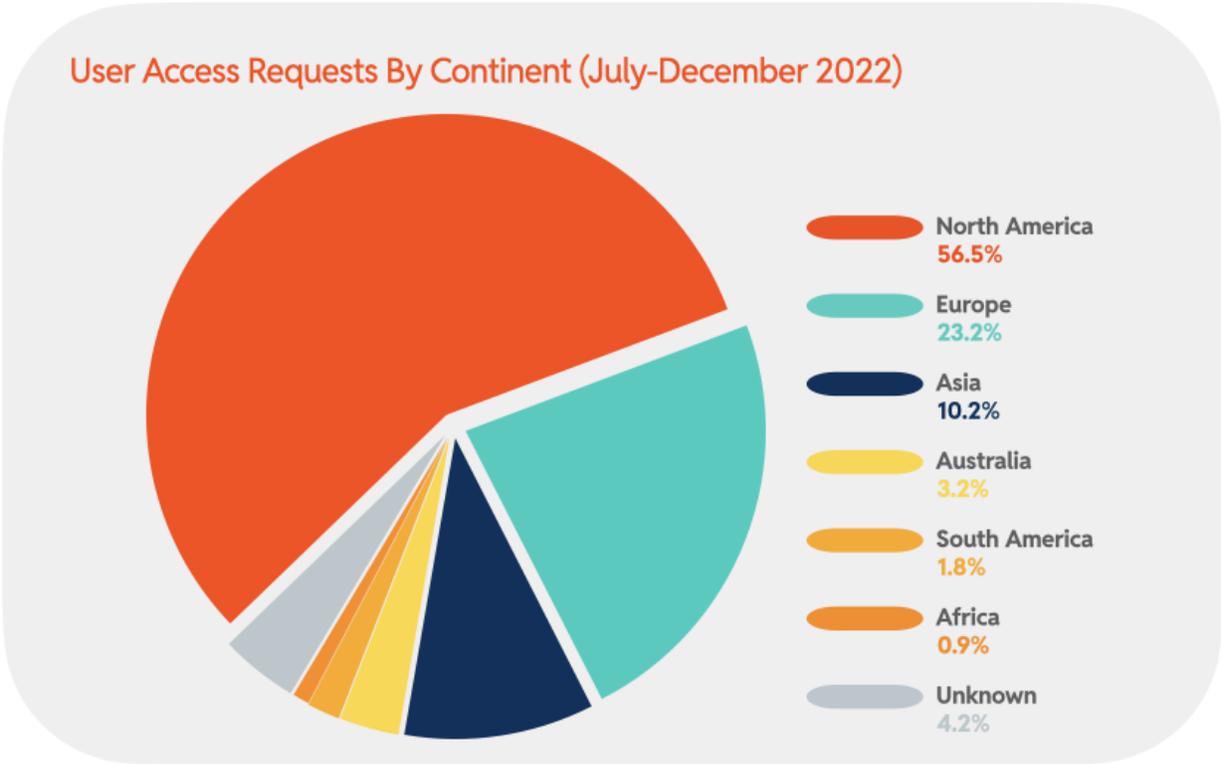
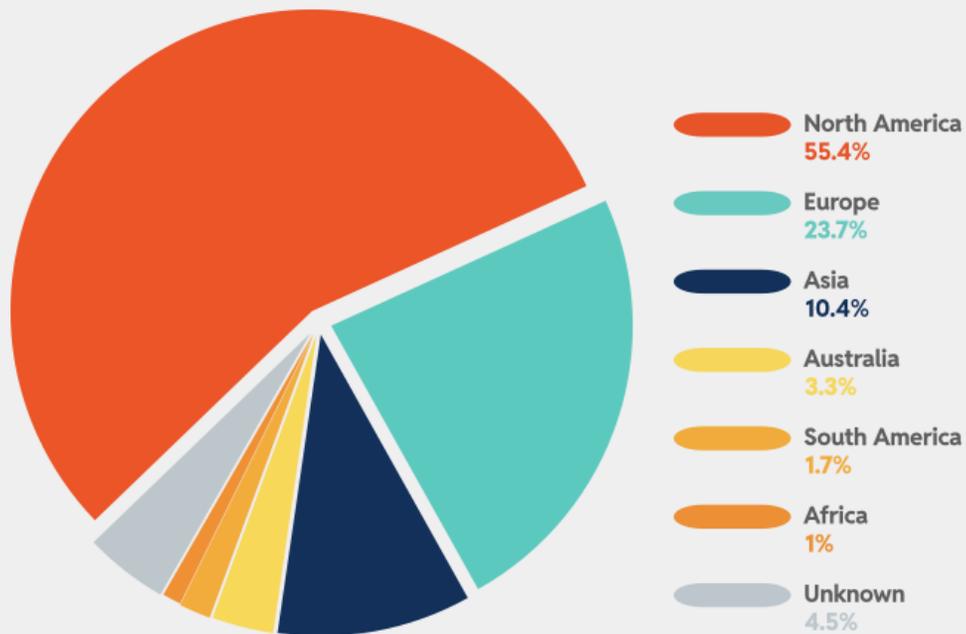


Chart 42 : User Access Requests by Continent for 2022

User Access Requests by Continent for 2022



Appendix

Links to previous Transparency Reports ([HERE](#))

- Mid-Year Transparency Report 2022 ([LINK](#)) ([PDF](#))
- 2021 Transparency Report ([LINK](#)) ([PDF](#))
- 2020 Transparency Report ([LINK](#)) ([CSV](#))
- 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

- [Q4 2022](#)
- [Q3 2022](#)
- [Q2 2022](#)
- [Q1 2022](#)
- [Q3 2021](#)
- [Q2 2021](#)

- Q1 2021