

Transparency Report: January to June 2023

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 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 user data from around the world.

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

TL;DR

Last year, we announced our shift from publishing an annual transparency report to a more frequent biannual reporting approach. This is our first complete mid-year transparency report since that change, covering data and insights from the first half of 2023 for both content moderation and legal requests.

From January to June 2023, Redditors created 4.4 billion pieces of content across Reddit communities. Mods and admins removed 3.8% of the total content created on Reddit, across all content types (1.96% by mods and 1.85% by admins) during this time. As usual, [spam](#) accounted for the supermajority of admin removals (78.6%), with the remainder being for various [Content Policy](#) violations (19.6%) and other content manipulation removals, such as report abuse (1.8%).

Beyond updated data and insights into mod and admin content moderation, we have expanded reporting about admin enforcement of Reddit's [Moderator Code of Conduct](#), which sets out our expectations for community moderators. The new data includes a breakdown of the types of investigations that were conducted in response to potential Code of Conduct violations, with the majority (53.5%) falling under [Rule 3: Respect Your Neighbors](#).

We have also expanded our reporting in a number of other areas, including moving data about removing terrorist content into its own section and expanding insights into legal requests for account information with new data about investigation types, disclosure impact, and how we handle fraudulent requests.

Finally, we continued to process large volumes of global legal requests from around the world. Interestingly, we received 29% fewer legal requests to remove content from government and law enforcement agencies during this reporting period, in contrast with receiving 21% more legal requests to disclose account information from global officials.

Read on for more details about all of the latest data and insights.

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 of this is done through a combination of automated tooling and human review to prevent, detect, and remove violating content.

We also process 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 on Reddit

Every day, millions of people around the world post comments and share other content on Reddit. In the first half of 2023, redditors shared over 4.4 billion pieces of content across Reddit's diverse communities. To keep this vibrant 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 content from the platform.

From January to June 2023, mods and admins removed 3.8% of the total content created on Reddit, across all content types (1.96% by mods and 1.85% by admins). These figures include removals performed through automation by a scaled community moderation tool called [AutoMod](#), as well as bespoke moderation bots built by community moderators.

Chart 1 : Content created on Reddit (January-June 2023)

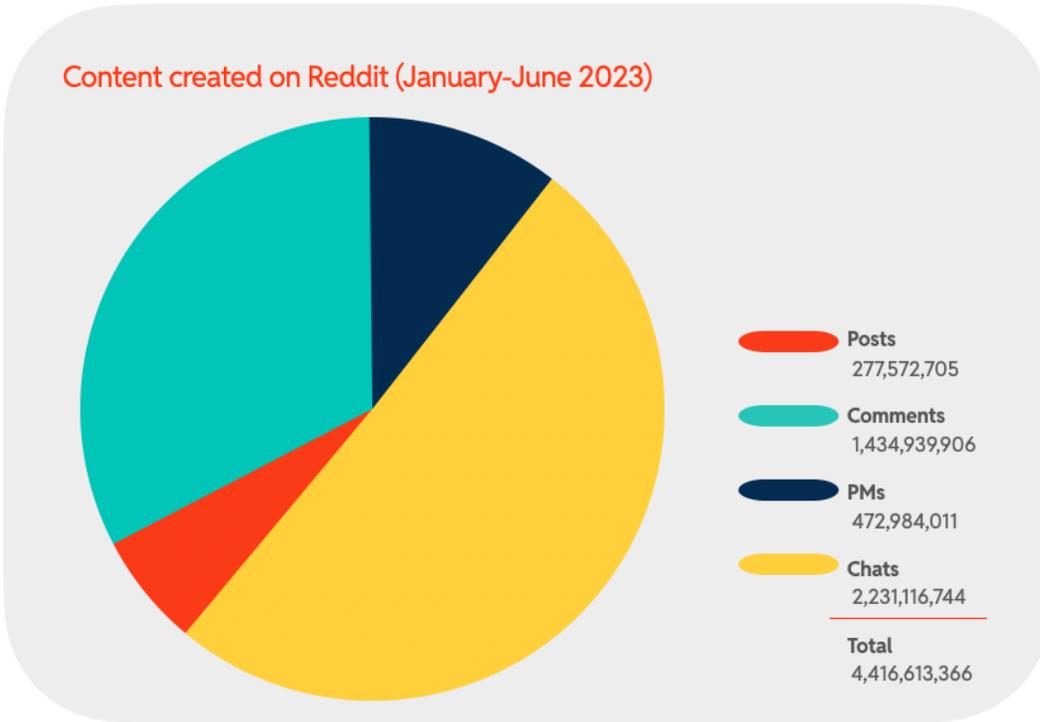
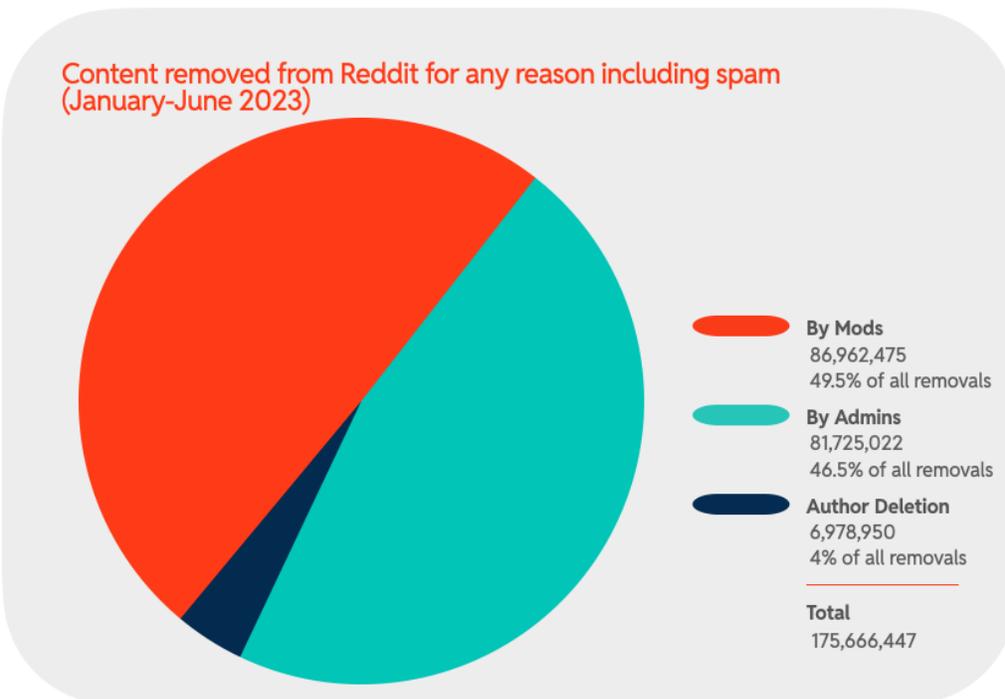


Chart 2 : Content removed from Reddit for any reason including spam (January-June 2023)



Content Removals

This section provides an overview of content removed from Reddit between January and June 2023, 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.

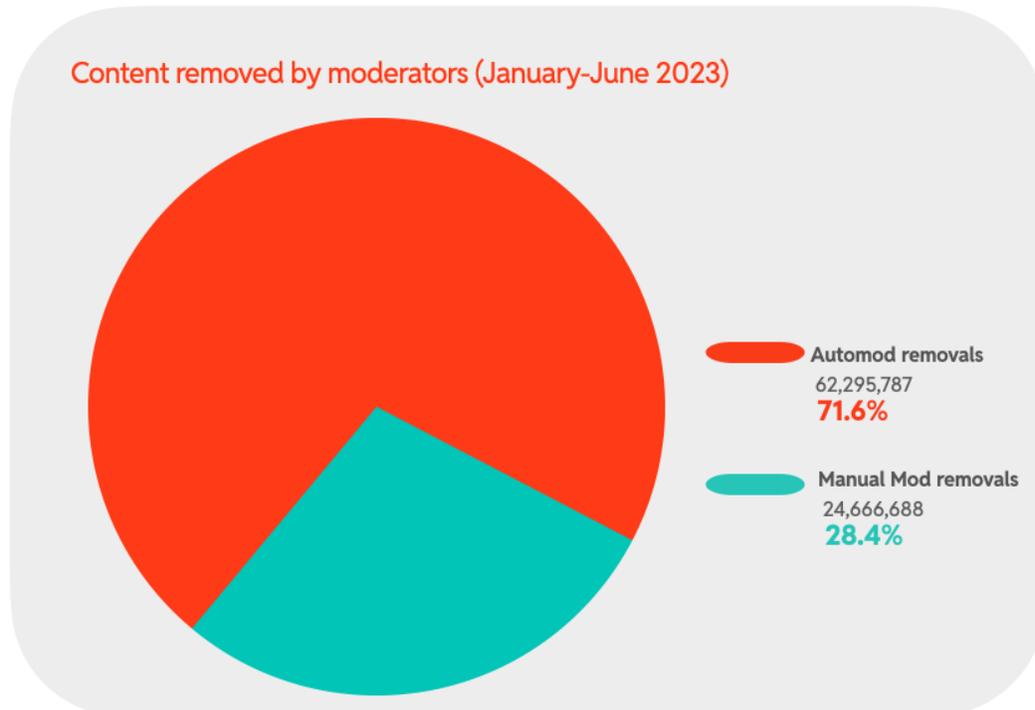
Content Removed by Moderators

Reddit moderators play a critical role in helping to curate and safeguard their communities.

In the first half of 2023, content removals initiated by mods accounted for 49.5% of all content removed on Reddit. 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](#).

Close to 72% of content removal actions by mods were the result of proactive Automod removals. While Automod removals clearly accounted for the majority of mod removal actions, the total volume of Automod removals decreased by 5.6% compared to the last half of 2022. This is also reflected in a roughly 3% decrease in the total volume of mod removals during that period.

Chart 3: Content removed by moderators (January-June 2023)



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.

From January to June 2023, 2,185,496,622 posts, comments, and private messages (PMs) were shared on Reddit, and 168,687,497 (7.7%) of these were removed. Admins performed approximately 48% of these removals, and were exclusively responsible for removals of PMs.

As in [previous reporting periods](#), the vast majority of admin 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: 78.6% of these removals were attributed to spam, while 1.8% were for other Content Manipulation categories. The remaining 19.6% of admin removals were for other violations of the Content Policy.

This means that, excluding spam (and other Content Manipulation), admins performed close to 15.5% of all content removals for Content Policy violations, while 84.5% were performed by moderators. As Reddit tools have evolved, admins have been gradually taking on more of the moderation actions from 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 spam and other content manipulation) vs. content removed by mods (January-June 2023)

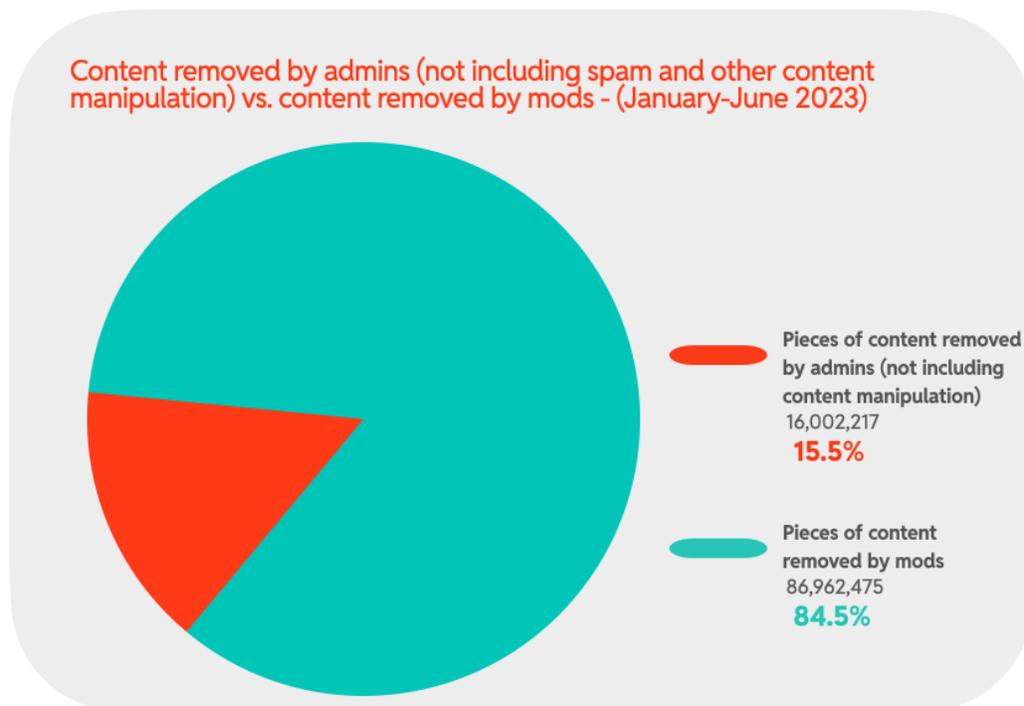
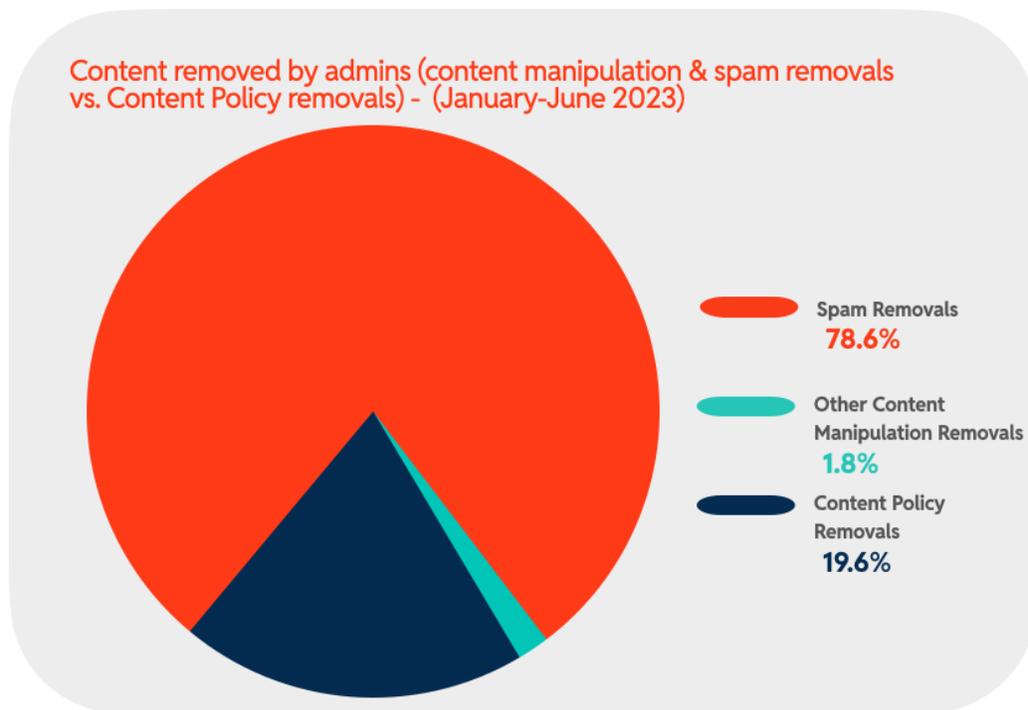


Chart 5: Content removed by admins (content manipulation & spam removals vs. Content Policy removals) (January-June 2023)



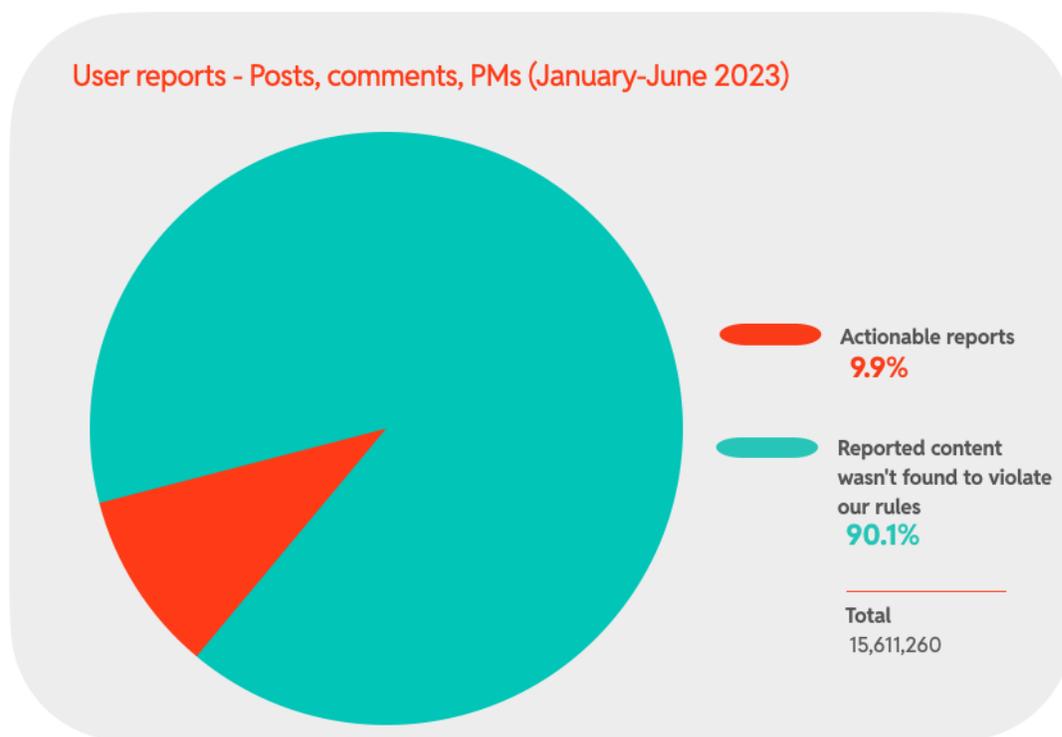
User Reports

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 anonymously alert a community’s team of moderators and/or Reddit administrators to something that potentially violates either a particular community’s rules or Reddit’s Content Policy.

In the first half of 2023, Reddit received 15,611,260 user reports for potential Content Policy violations in posts, comments, and PMs. Admins took removal actions in response to 9.9% of these reports.

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 - Posts, comments, PMs (January-June 2023)



Moderator-Specific Reports

These reports and resulting actions are now largely handled within the scope of the [Moderator Code of Conduct](#) enforcement (see the Content Types, "Subreddits" section below). Thus, this section will no longer be included going forward.

Content Types

This section breaks down admin removals, from January to June 2023, 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 Reddit teams in the first half of 2023, 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 (January-June 2023)

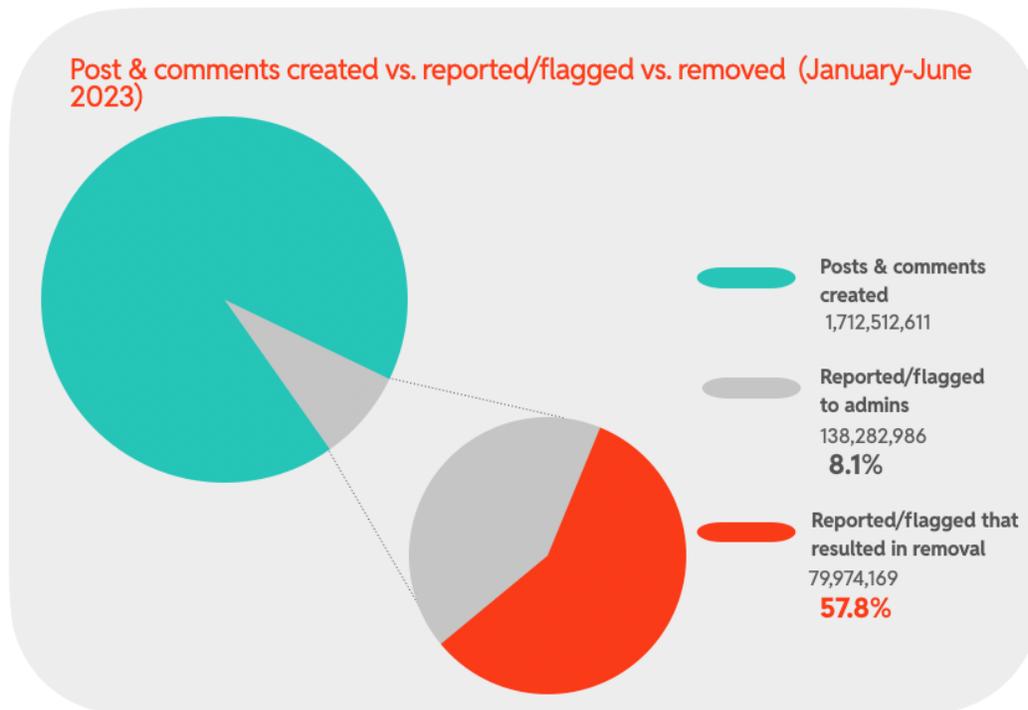


Chart 8: Posts & comments - source of reports/flags (January-June 2023)

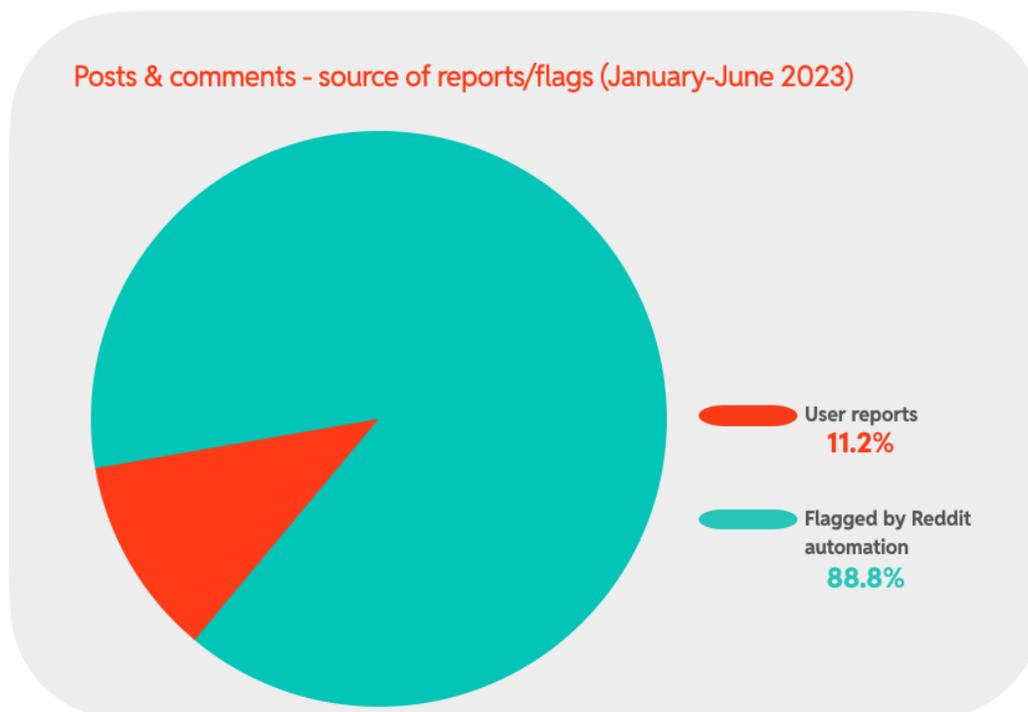
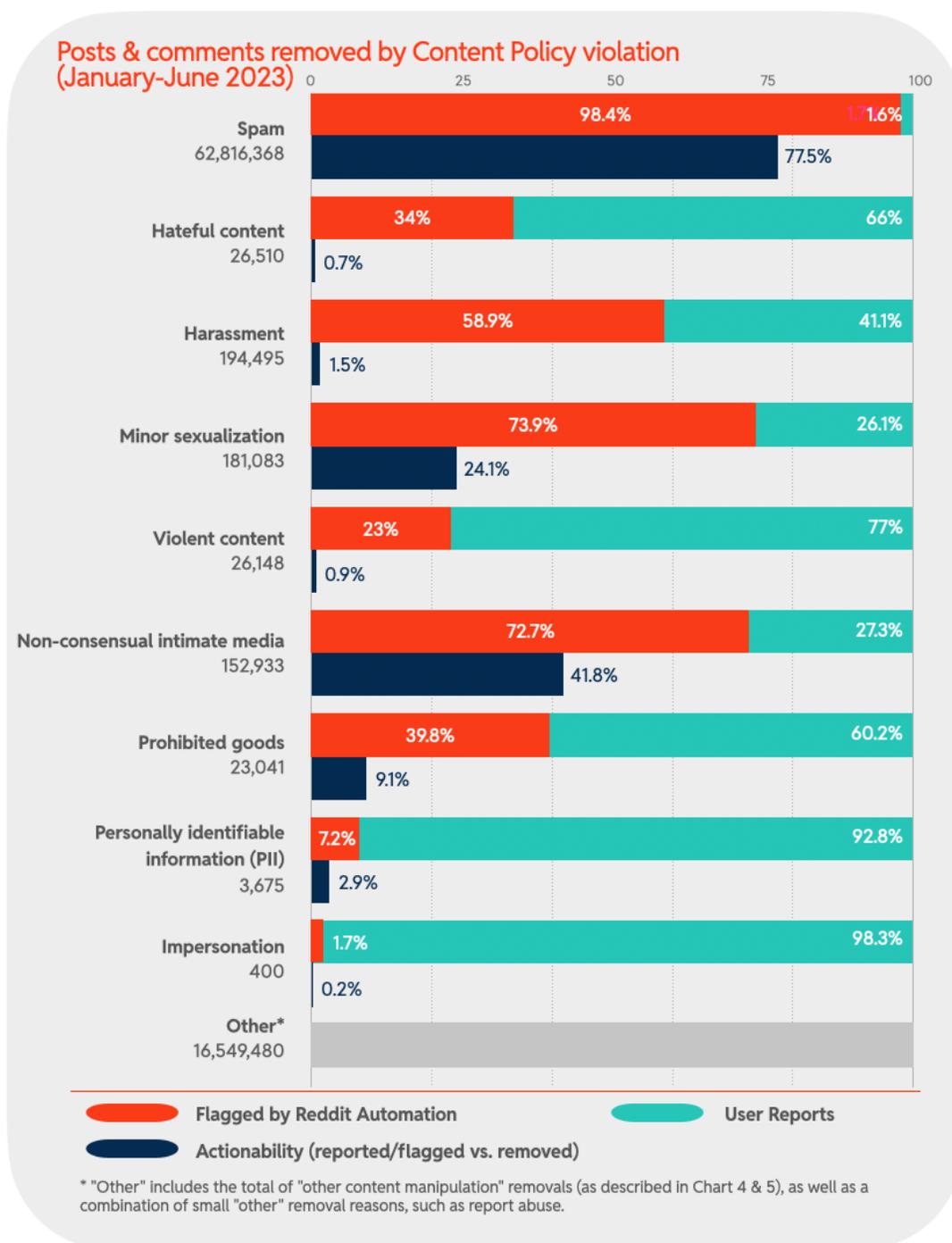


Chart 9: Posts & comments removed by Content Policy violation (January-June 2023)



Subreddits (aka Communities)

Bans

In the first half of 2023, there were 878,364 new communities created on Reddit. While many Reddit communities are valuable spaces for redditors to engage, Reddit admins ban communities that are found to be in violation of our policies, spam-related or lack active

moderation.

The decision to ban an entire community is never taken lightly, and can only be carried out by Reddit admins. From January to June 2023, admins banned 488,216 communities (newly created and existing) for content policy violations, representing close to a 50% decrease compared to the number of bans issued over the preceding 6-month period.

Spam-related bans constitute close to half of these bans, and the number of communities banned by admins for non-spam related violations is 223,273. These bans were largely due to communities being unmoderated (87.4%).

Moderator Code of Conduct

The [Moderator Code of Conduct](#) outlines our expectations for community moderators. Redditors can [flag to admins](#) instances in which moderators and/or subreddits might be in violation of the Code's rules. Admins conduct outreach when we determine that a moderator or moderator team has violated the Moderator Code of Conduct—whether it be for allowing policy-violating content, interfering or encouraging interference with other communities, inactive moderation, or other issues.

From January through June 2023, Reddit investigated 372 potential violations of the Moderator Code of Conduct, with an 83% actionability rate. As a result, 81 communities were banned. 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 finding no Code violations.

Chart 12 below details the breakdown of investigations by rule.

Quarantine

To keep Reddit open and diverse, Reddit admins have previously applied a [quarantine](#) to communities that, while not prohibited, may warrant additional scrutiny. However, in the first half of 2023, not a single community was placed in quarantine.

As the [Moderator Code of Conduct](#) helps mods and communities reinforce their norms and we continue working on strengthening alternative methods of enforcement at the community level, circumstances that may justify a quarantine are becoming less prevalent.

Chart 10: Subreddits created vs. banned (not including spam-related bans) (January-June 2023)

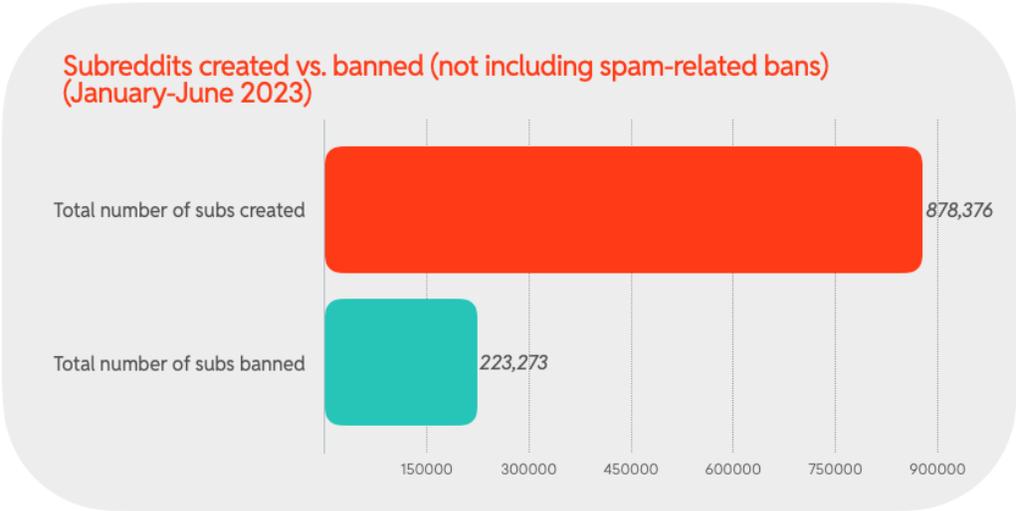
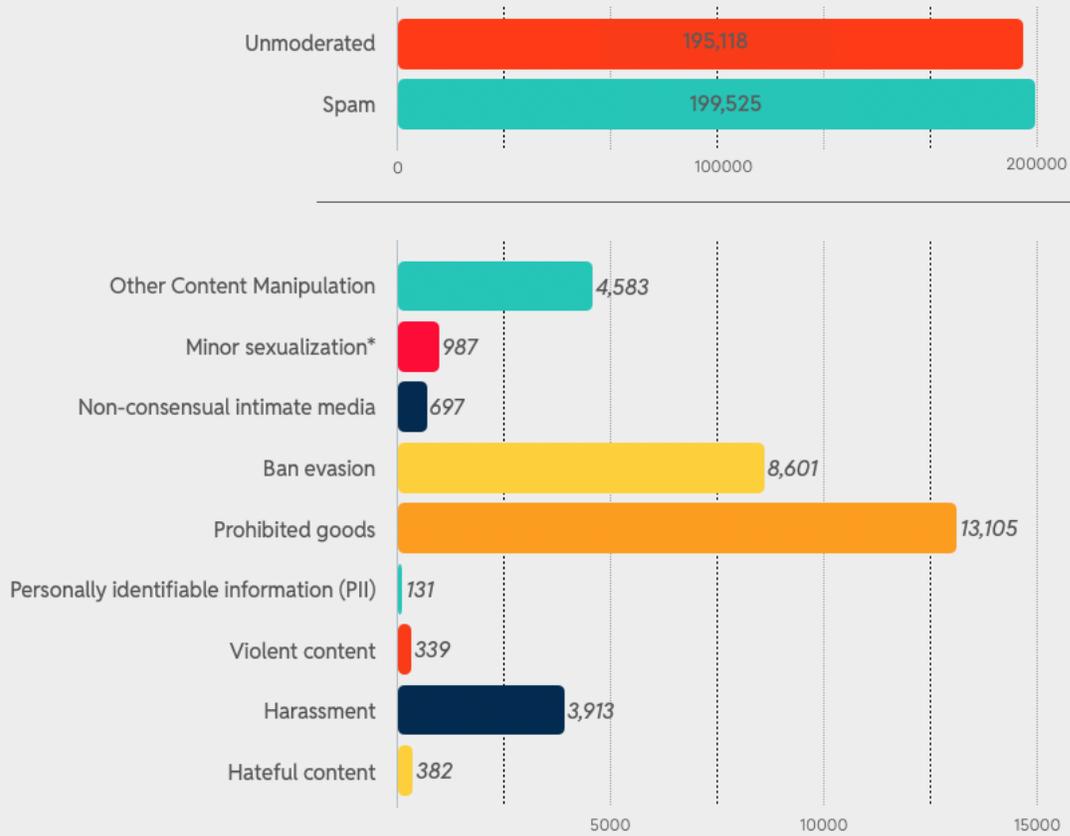


Chart 11: Subreddit ban reasons (January-June 2023)

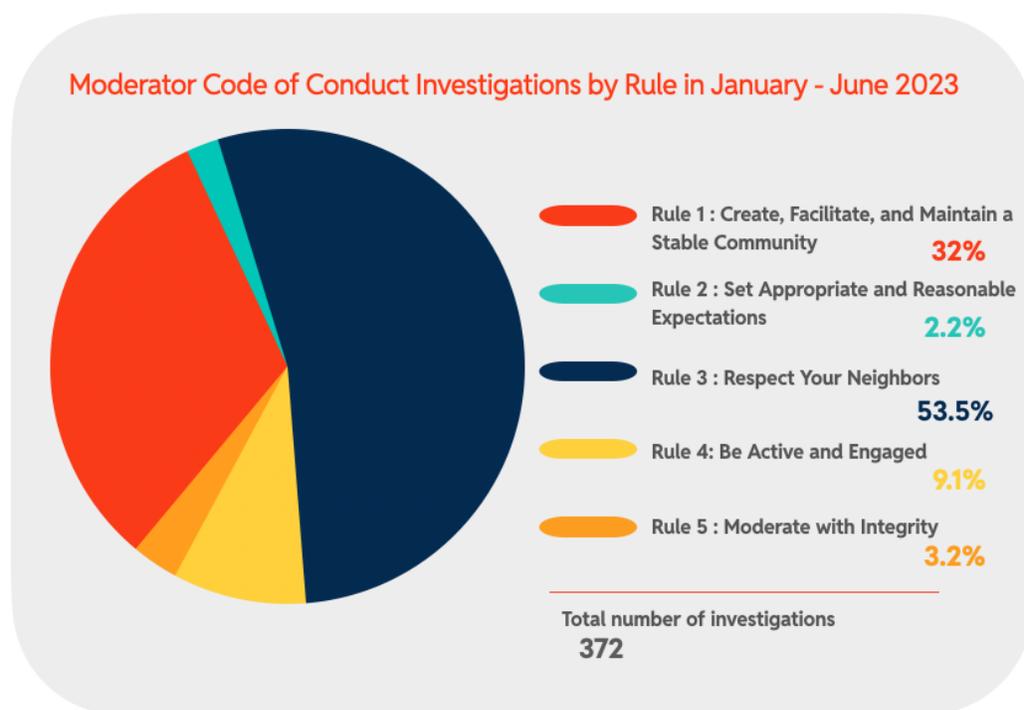
Subreddit ban reasons (January-June 2023)



This report marks the first time we are presenting this data on a half-year basis (instead of yearly) and therefore doesn't include the half-over-half variation. We will include trends in our next transparency report.

* Because of some historical limitations in our data, prior reports may have attributed some subreddit bans to violations of our rules against minor sexualization, when the bans were in fact a result of content manipulation. Due to improvements in our data, this six-month reporting period includes a more accurate breakdown of subreddit ban reasons.

Chart 12 : Moderator Code of Conduct Investigations by Rule (January-June 2023)



Private Messages

Private messages (PMs) are non-public direct messages sent between individual users that appear in an account's [inbox](#). Out of respect for user privacy, Reddit admins only review PMs that are flagged for potential violations 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.

Between January and June 2023, 472,984,011 PMs were sent on Reddit, and 1,629,561 were removed by admins. The vast majority of PMs that violated our Content Policy were initially flagged by Reddit's automated detection systems (98%).

Chart 13: PMs sent vs. reported/flagged vs. removed (January-June 2023)

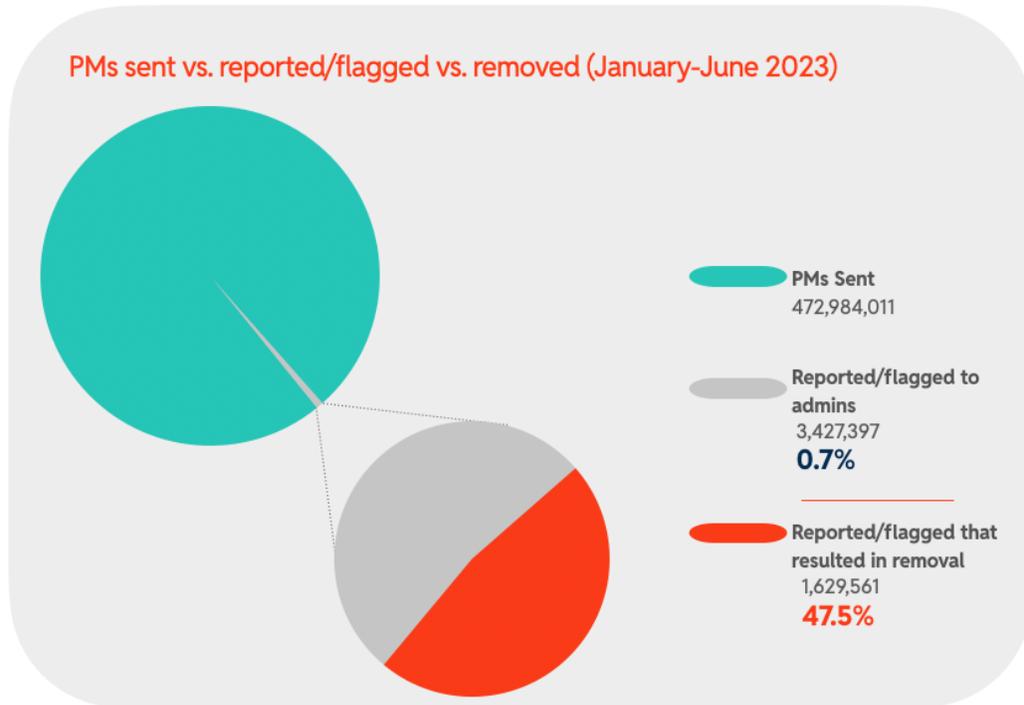


Chart 14 : Private messages - source of reports/flags (January-June 2023)

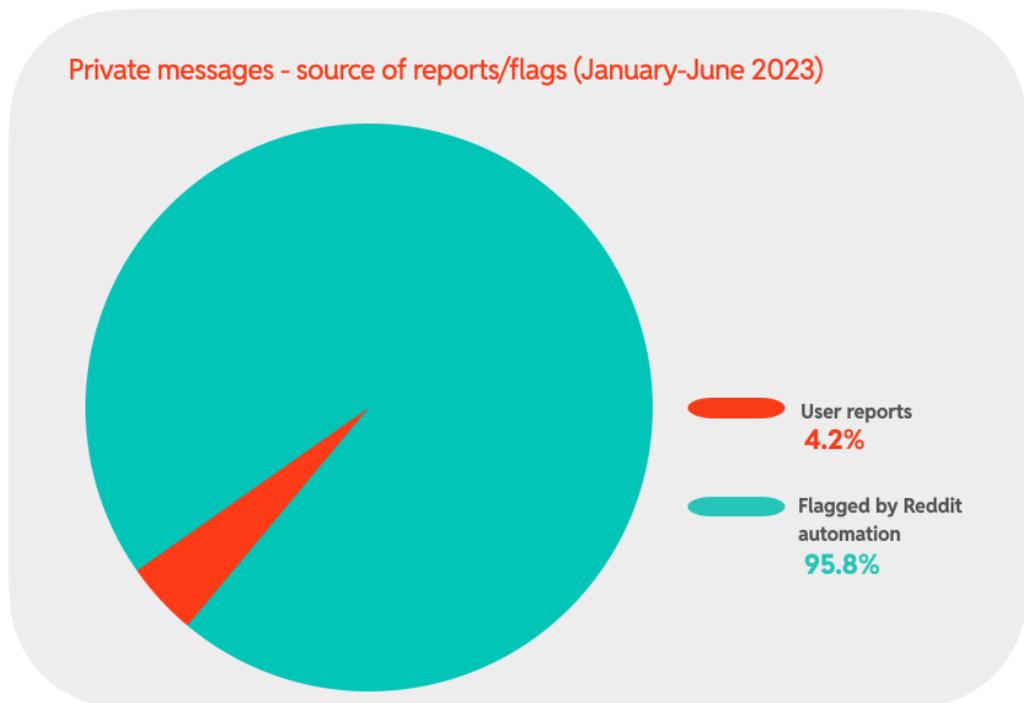
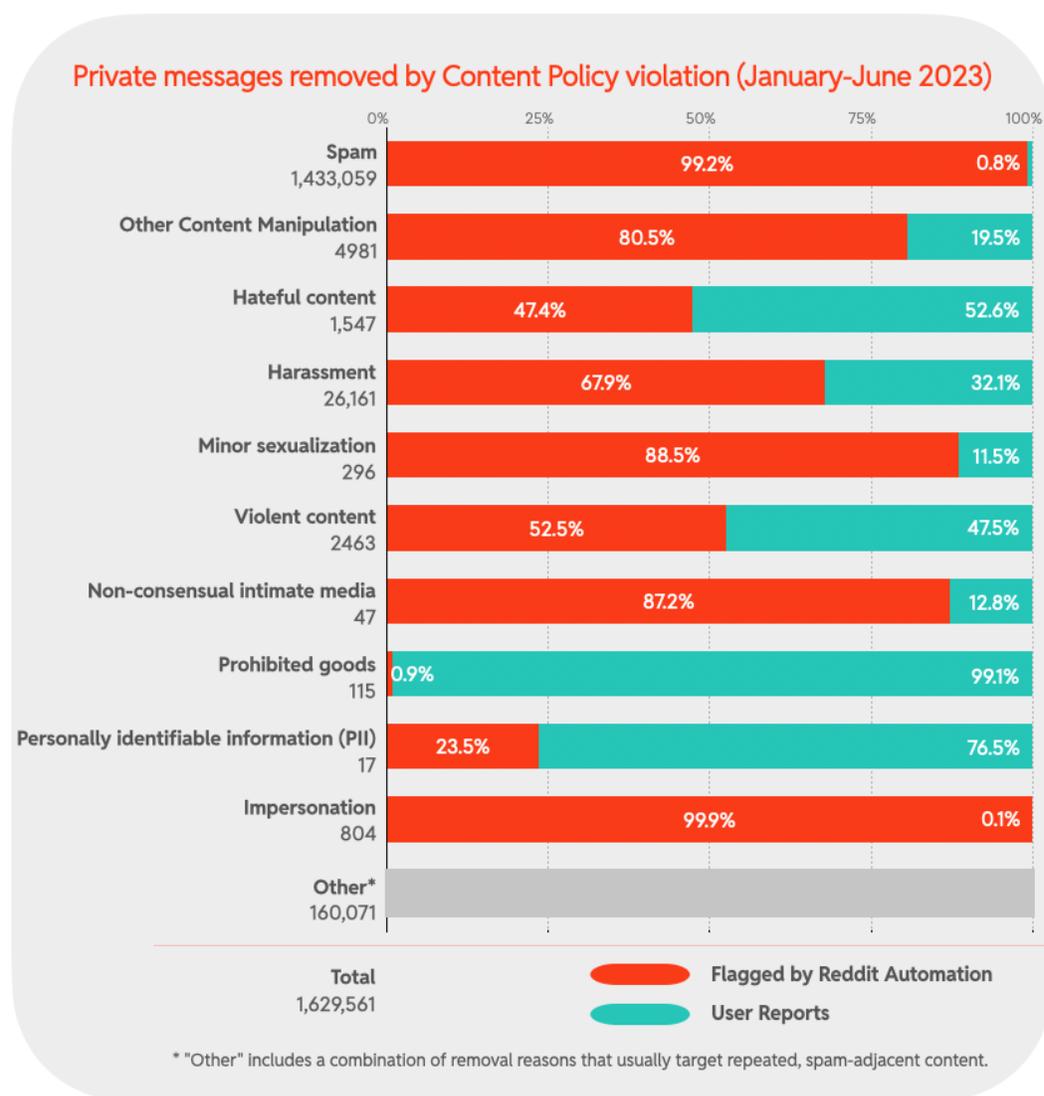


Chart 15: Private messages removed by Content Policy violation (January-June 2023)



Chats

Redditors can send requests to other users to start real-time conversations in group chats at any time. From January to June 2023 a total of 2,231,116,744 chat messages were exchanged.

119,894,888 chat messages were flagged by Reddit automation while 784,447 were reported by users for potential violations. These automated flags and user reports resulted in 1,548,389 accounts being temporarily and/or permanently suspended by admins. For more information, please refer to the "Account Sanctions" section below.

Chart 16: Chat messages sent vs. reported/flagged vs. account-level sanctions (January-June 2023)

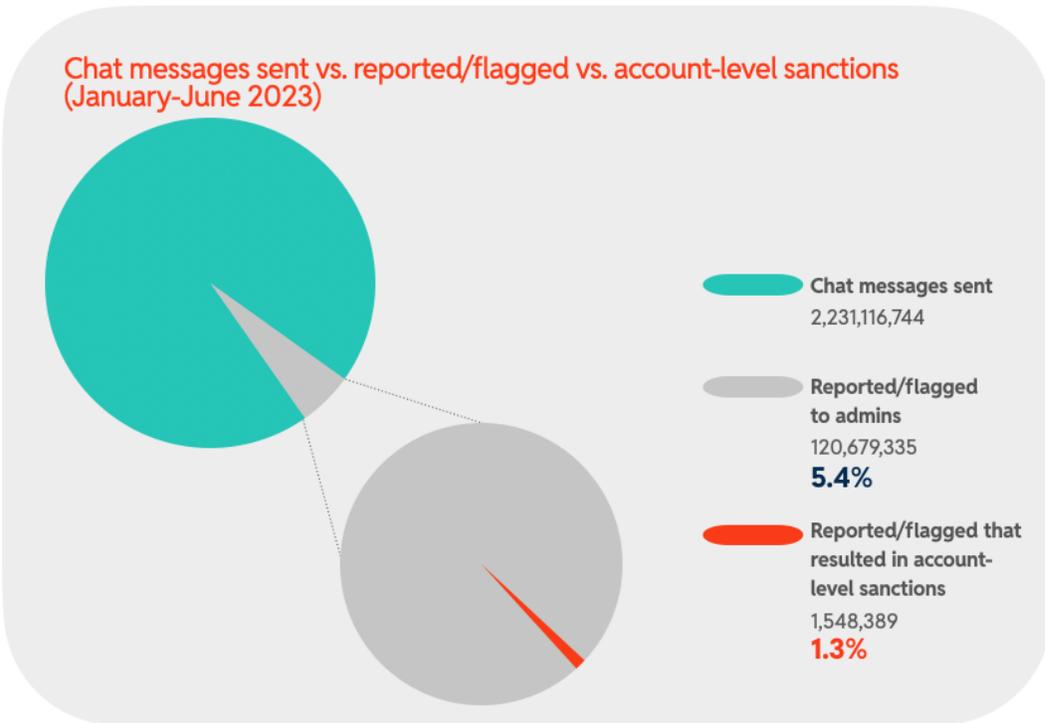
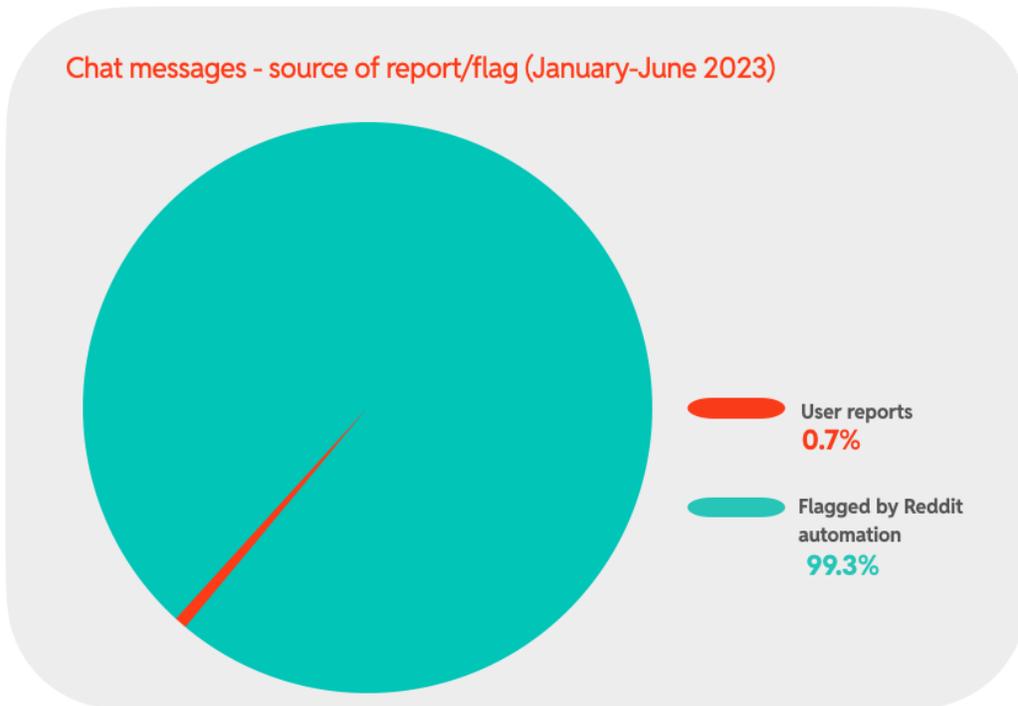


Chart 17: Chat messages - source of report/flag (January-June 2023)



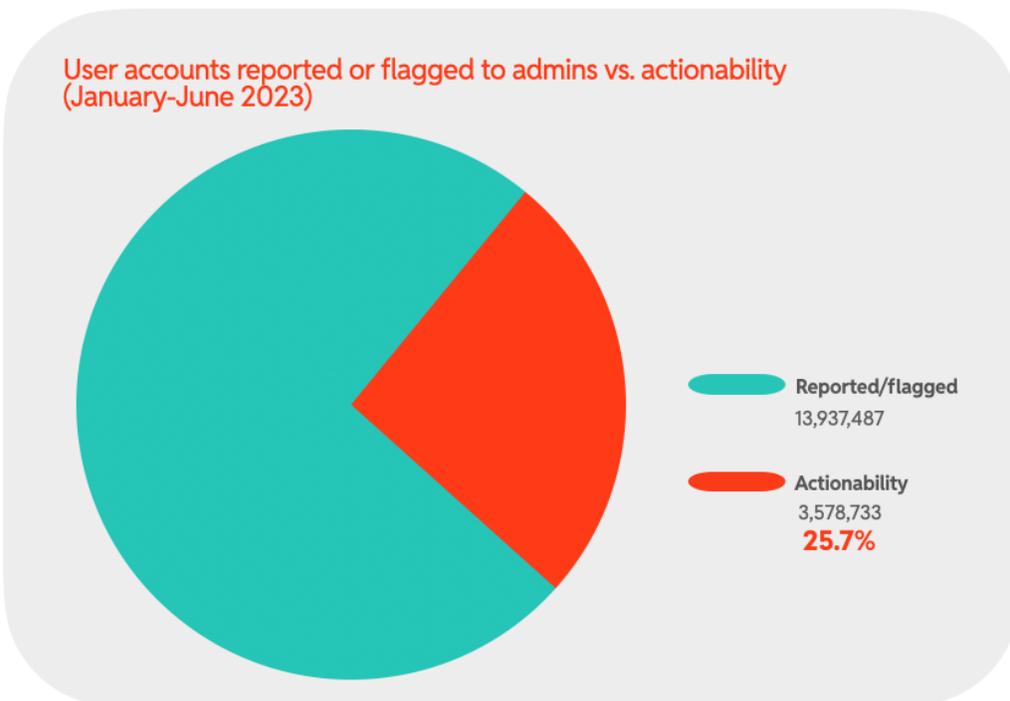
User Accounts

Account Sanctions by Reddit Admins

Reddit admins are responsible for ensuring that users adhere to the [Content Policy](#). Different types of account sanctions are applied for behaviors that violate a given policy, including: warnings, temporary suspensions of 3 or 7 days, and permanent suspensions (depending on the severity and number of previous violations).

From January to June 2023, admins handed out 3,578,733 temporary and permanent account suspensions. Note that multiple sanctions can be applied to a single account over the course of time.

Chart 18: User accounts reported or flagged to admins vs. actionability (January-June 2023)



In the first half of 2023, we saw a 23% increase (compared to the last half of 2022) in the number of accounts temporarily or permanently banned for ban evasion. The increase is tied to the launch of the [Ban Evasion Filter](#), a community safety setting that automatically filters posts and comments from suspected subreddit ban evaders in eligible subreddits. This new tool has helped admins incorporate mod feedback and signal when detecting and actioning bad actors.

In the graph below, account sanctions are organized by policy violations. We exclude content manipulation and spam from the data and corresponding analysis due to their outsized impact (72.7% of all account sanctions from January to June 2023), to allow for better representation of the other policy reasons for account sanctions. We also exclude sanctions pertaining to copyright and trademark violations, which are covered in the Legal Removals section below.

Chart 19: Account sanctions by Content Policy violation (not including content manipulation or spam) (January-June 2023)

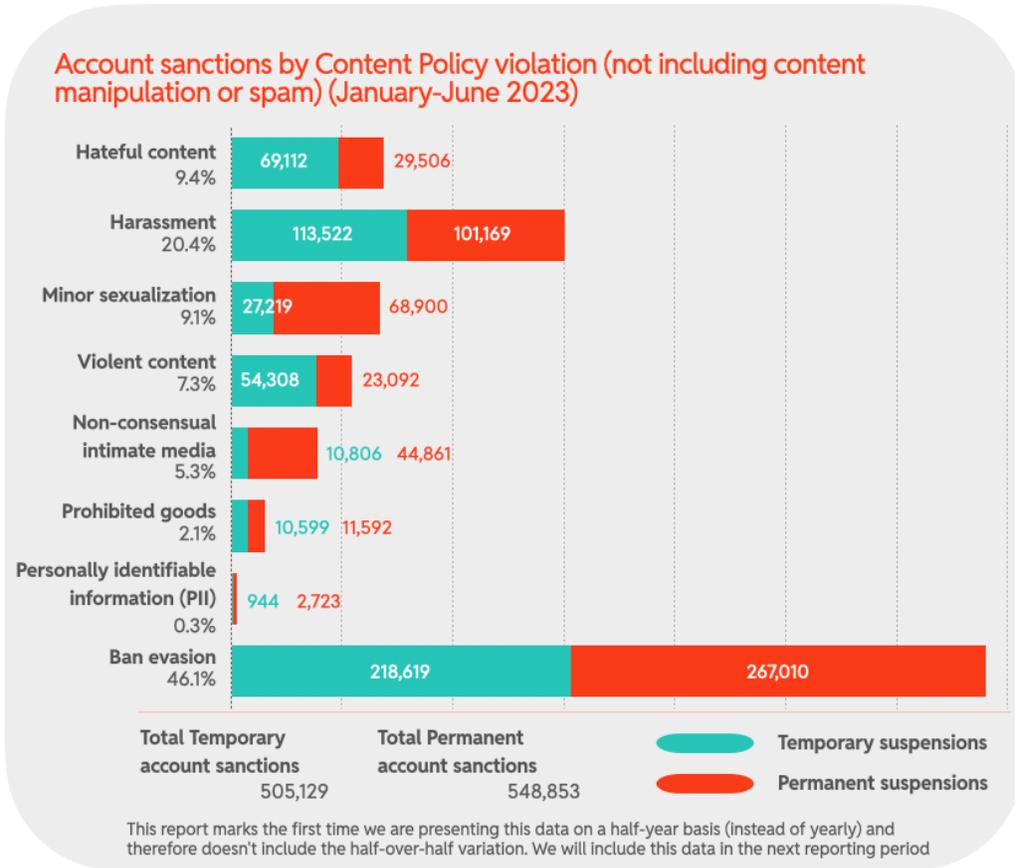
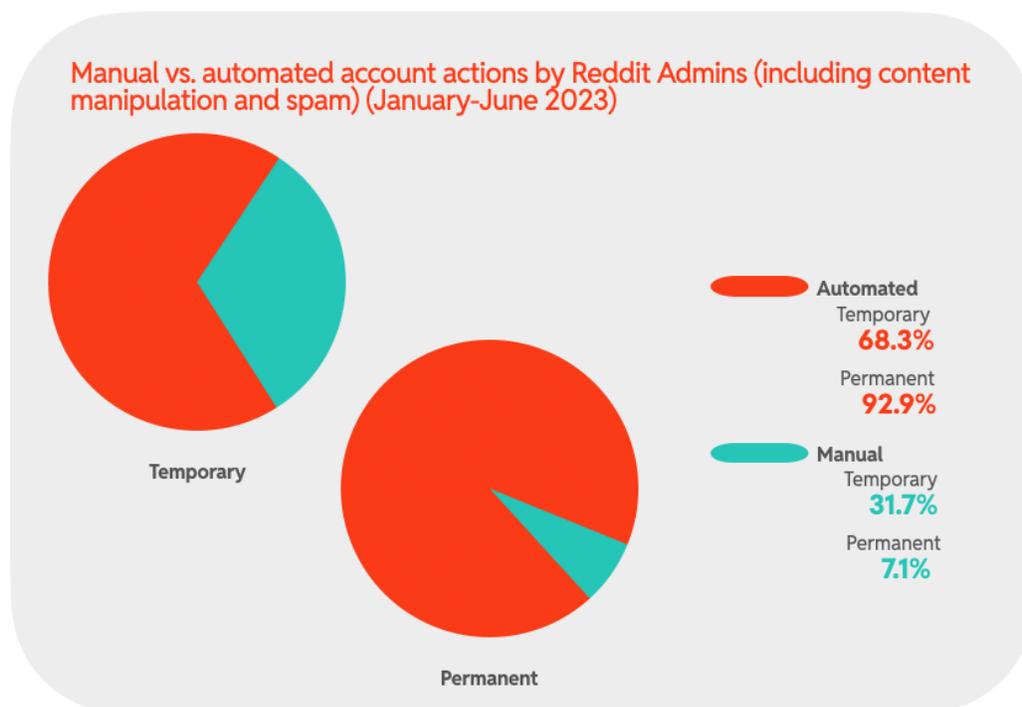


Chart 20 : Manual vs. automated account actions by Reddit Admins (including content manipulation and spam) (January-June 2023)



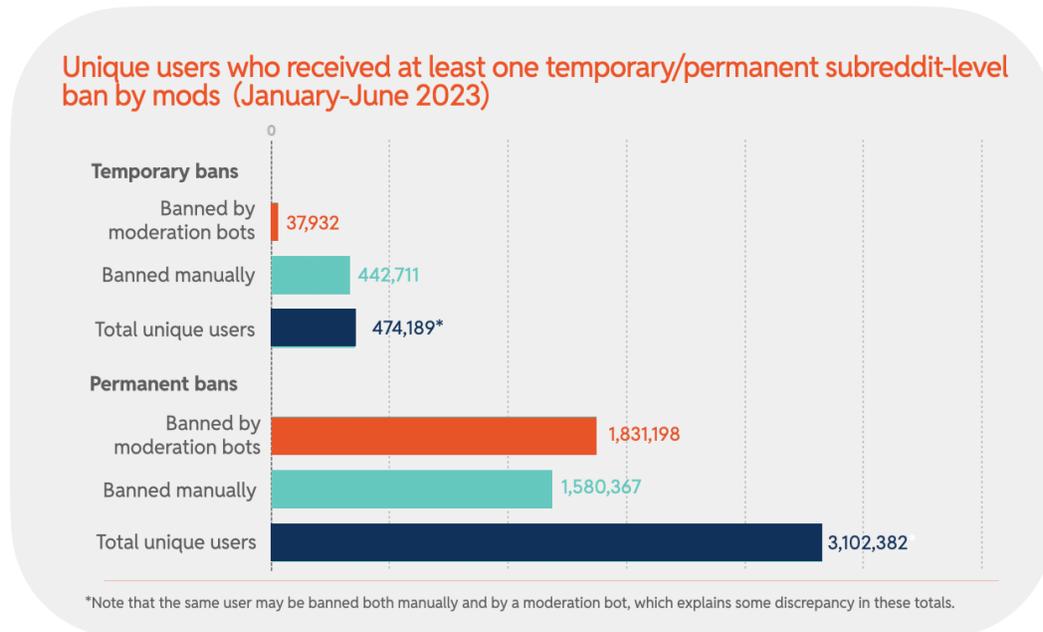
Automated permanent suspensions can occur for a variety of reasons, including:

- Spam: accounts that are initially identified and temporarily actioned as spam become permanent suspensions when certain behavior is verified during probationary period.
- 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 from their subreddits users who are not following their rules or are being otherwise disruptive to their communities. They can do this through automated tools or manual actions. While this ban can be temporary or permanent, it only applies to that specific community and not to the rest of Reddit.

Chart 21: Unique users who received at least one temporary/permanent subreddit-level ban by mods (January-June 2023)



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.

From January to June 2023, Reddit admins received 118,073 appeals of account-level sanctions issued by admins. This constituted an appeal rate of less than 1% of all account-level sanctions issued. The account sanction reversal rate remained fairly stable at 14% compared to the last reporting period.

Chart 22: Appeals of account-level sanctions issued by admins (January-June 2023)

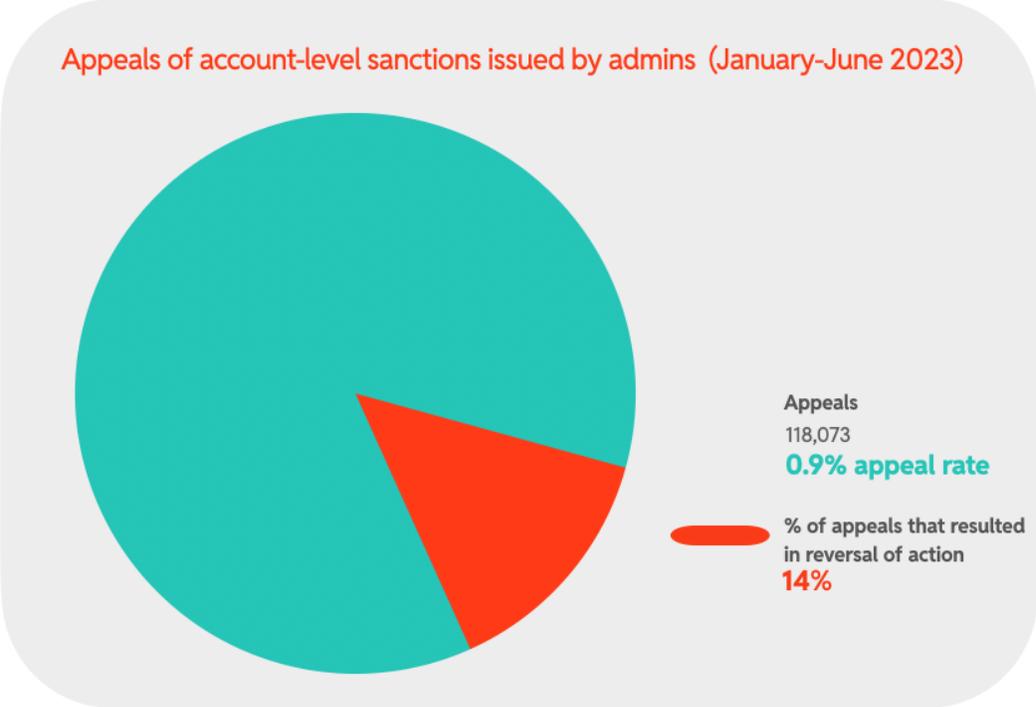
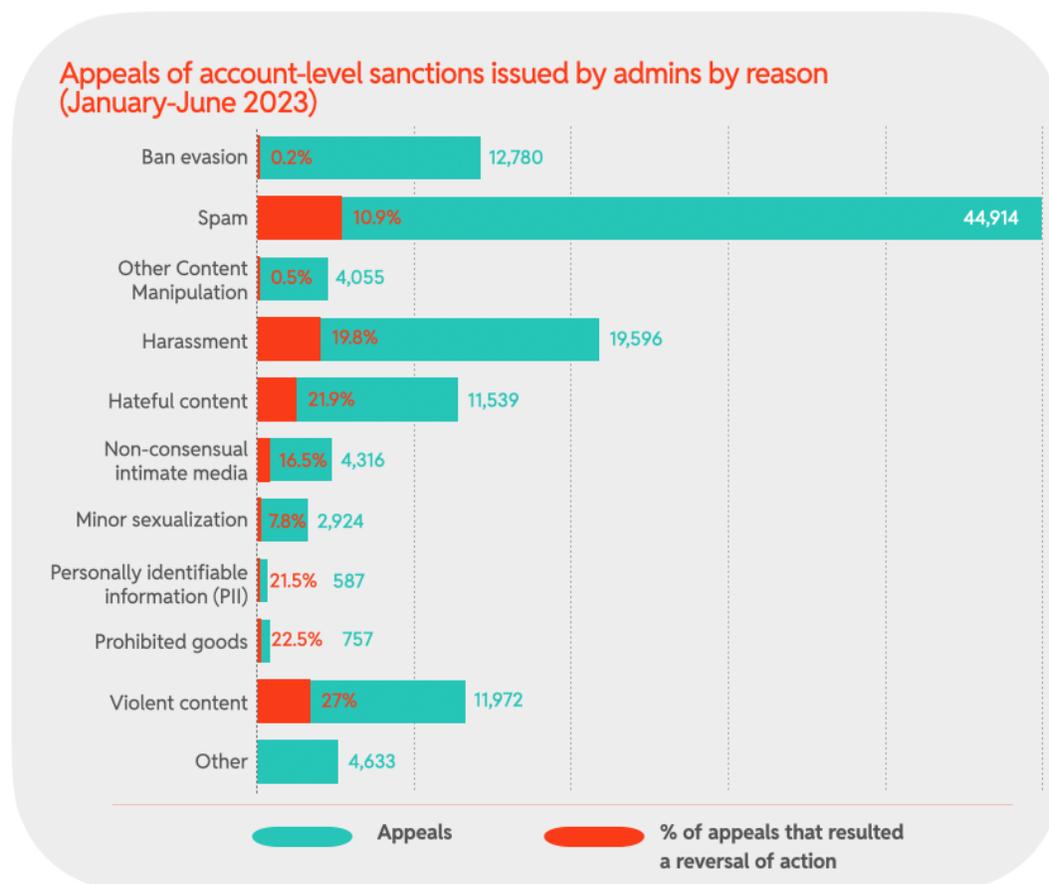


Chart 23: Appeals of account-level sanctions issued by admins by reason (January-June 2023)



Legal Removals

This section of the report covers legal removal requests received by Reddit from governments, law enforcement agencies, and private parties around the world between January 1 - June 30, 2023. We have also added a new section focused on how Reddit identifies and removes terrorist content on the platform.

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, seek more information, 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.

Process-wise, all reported content is first reviewed against our [Content Policy](#), and any violations are actioned by the appropriate team. When there are no underlying Content Policy violations but the content is otherwise determined to violate local law(s), Reddit may restrict access to the content in the reporter's country.

In the first half of 2023, Reddit received 152 requests from government and law enforcement agencies from 19 countries around the world to remove content from the platform, a 29% decrease in volume from the previous reporting period (July-Dec 2022). Our top requesters were India (29), Russia (22), Australia (19), United Kingdom (16), and South Korea (15). Collectively, these countries accounted for 66% of all government and law enforcement removal requests received during this reporting period.

The majority of content identified in government and law enforcement requests (83%) 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 submits the report. A small percentage of content (1.4%) was restricted locally (aka geoblocked) 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. We also post these requests on the [Lumen Database](#), unless we are legally prohibited from doing so.

Trends

- 29% decrease in volume of global law enforcement and government removal requests in comparison to the previous reporting period (July-Dec 2022).
- 3.4% increase in our rate of removal (a combination of Content Policy violations and geoblocking actions) in comparison with the previous reporting period.
- 45% of government and law enforcement removal requests received during this period resulted in the removal of content under our [Non-Consensual Intimate Media \(NCIM\)](#) policy

Notable Requests

Canada

We received a removal request from *Health Canada* relating to accusations of corruption and harassment that were being discussed in r/Canada and other local communities that sought the removal of 18 comments and the disclosure of associated user data. While a few comments were removed for violations of our Content Policy, the majority were left on the platform due to their newsworthy and public interest nature. No user data was disclosed in response to the request.

Malaysia

We received two requests from the *Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission* seeking the removal of a couple of posts that depicted the Malaysian National Flag ("Jalur Gemilang") edited to [resemble a rainbow LGBT flag](#). Given the implications of the requests on our users' speech interests, we declined to take action on the content.

Pakistan

We received three requests from law enforcement in Pakistan identifying 15 pieces of content as blasphemous. We declined to take action on the vast majority of the content flagged, in protection of our users' right to comment, debate, and express opinions on religion. We removed one post for violating our Content Policy, while three posts were either already removed by Reddit or deleted by the original poster at the time the requests were received.

Insights

Australia

Australia's *eSafety Commissioner* submitted 11% of all government and law enforcement removal requests received during this reporting period, resulting in a 100% removal rate for violations of our Content Policy (including 4% of reported content that was already removed at time of receipt). Reported issues included: the non-consensual sharing of intimate images and video (image-based abuse) (50%), sexualization of minors (20%), harassment (18%), and the posting of private information (12%).

India

86% of removal requests from India were "hybrid" requests, i.e. seeking both the removal of content and the disclosure of user data. 82% of content identified in these requests was removed for violations of our Content Policy (mostly NCIM violations), 6% was geo-restricted, and 12% we declined to take action on. No user data was disclosed in response to any of these requests. For more information please refer to the Information Requests section of this report.

Russia

We declined to take action on 59% of content identified in 22 unique requests received from *Roskomnadzor* during this reporting period. The majority of content we declined to remove was citizen journalism or political speech/commentary relating to the invasion of Ukraine.

UAE

We received 13 removal requests from the United Arab Emirates, resulting in 50+ accounts and two subreddits being banned for violating our policy against [transactions of prohibited goods or services](#). These were the first removal requests that Reddit received from the UAE.

Chart 24: Government and Law Enforcement content removal requests by country (January-June 2023)

Government and Law Enforcement content removal requests by country (January-June 2023)

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	19	100%	30	97%	3%	0%
Brazil	1	100%	2	100%	0%	0%
Belgium	1	100%	2	100%	0%	0%
Canada	2	100%	19	21%	0%	79%
France	5	80%	5	90%	0%	20%
India	29	90%	67	82%	6%	12%
Malaysia	3	33%	4	25%	0%	75%
Netherlands	1	100%	1	100%	0%	0%
New Zealand	4	100%	5	100%	0%	0%
Norway	3	100%	6	100%	0%	0%
Pakistan	5	100%	17	35%	0%	65%
Russia	22*	40%	22	41%	0%	59%
Singapore	3	100%	3	100%	0%	0%
South Korea	15	95%	33	91%	0%	9%
Taiwan	1	100%	2	100%	0%	0%
Turkey	3	100%	3	100%	0%	0%
United Arab Emirates	13	90%	63	97%	0%	3%
United Kingdom	16	100%	49	100%	0%	0%
United States	7	100%	23	100%	0%	0%
Grand Total	153	91%	356	83%	1.4%	15.6%

*We received 76 "duplicate" requests from Roskomnadzor during this period. Duplicate requests are identical requests submitted by the same agency more than once during the same reporting period. We didn't include these numbers in our overall tally because duplicates are not unique requests and their inclusion in the above table would artificially inflate the numbers.

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

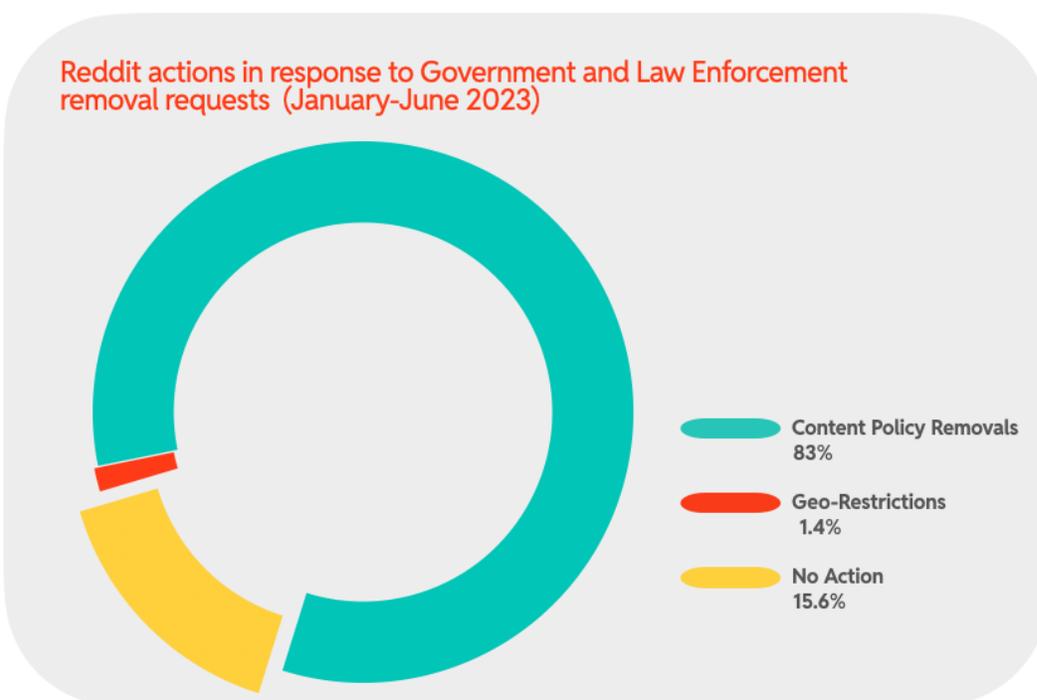
***reasons for no action include incomplete requests or requests where we asked for more information and the requester did not respond or follow-up

Chart 25: Content Removals by Content Type in response to Government and Law Enforcement removal requests (January-June 2023)

Content Types & Communities identified in Government and Law Enforcement removal requests (January-June 2023)

Type of content reported by Government and Law Enforcement	Removed for Content Policy violations	Geo-restricted in requesting country
Post/Comment	178	3
User	81	0
Subreddit	38	2
Grand Total	297	5

Chart 26: Reddit actions in response to Government and Law Enforcement removal requests (January-June 2023)



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

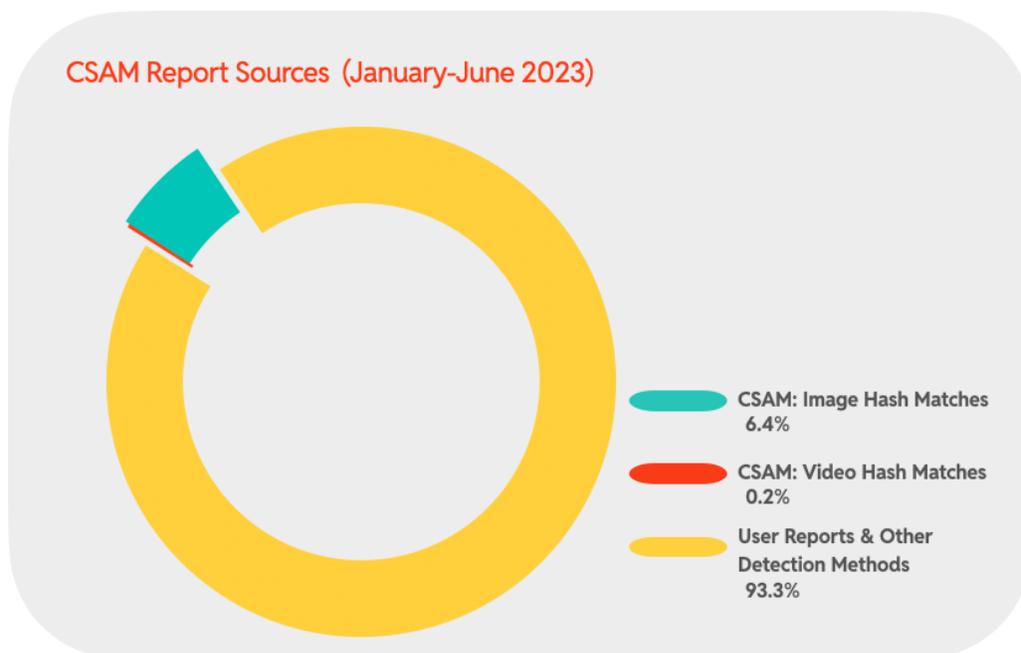
Reddit. We also take the steps required by U.S. law to report the relevant users/content to the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children \(NCMEC\)](#), and preserve relevant account data.

Between January and June of 2023, Reddit removed 149,084 pieces of content as a result of minor sexualization reports. We submitted 156,553 CyberTipline reports to NCMEC, an increase of 289% over the second half of 2022. This growth is a reflection of our continued investment toward enhancing detection methods and operational response capabilities.

During this reporting period, we detected a widespread spam campaign advertising off-platform distribution of CSAM content. Through a combination of hash-matching and other proactive detection methods, we were able to identify a ring of violative accounts and disrupt the spam campaign. These efforts resulted in the bulk reporting of over 20,000 NCMEC Cybertips.

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](#).

Chart 27 : CSAM Report Sources (January-June 2023)



Terrorist Content Removals

Reddit has zero tolerance for the dissemination of terrorist content on our platform. When we become aware of violative content, we remove it and take appropriate action against the account that posted it.

Reddit's [Content Policy](#) explicitly [prohibits content that glorifies, incites or calls for violence or physical harm](#), including content that promotes or supports the activities of terrorists or designated terrorist organizations. Violative content includes: material posted by terrorists or designated terrorist organizations and their supporters, expressions of affiliation or support for

terrorists or designated terrorist organizations, and glorification of terrorist acts. It also includes content that solicits or incites a person or group to participate in, commit, or contribute to terrorist activities.

In the first half of 2023, Reddit removed 173 pieces of content for promotion of terrorism. This resulted in 143 accounts also being permanently suspended from our platform.

Reddit utilizes a combination of automated technologies, user/community/external reports, and internal escalation processes to identify or flag potentially violative terrorist content on our platform. In the first half of 2023, 99% of potentially violative terrorist content was flagged by automation, resulting in a 25% removal rate. The vast majority of violative content was removed within 24 hours of human review.

More information about how Reddit fights the dissemination of terrorist content is available [here](#).

Chart 28 : Terrorist Content Report Sources (January-June 2023)

Source	% of reports/flags	Removal Rate
Potentially violative content flagged by automation	99%	25%
Other*	1%	100%

*user/community/external reports and/or internal escalation processes

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.

In the first half of 2023, Reddit received 99 legal demands from private parties seeking the removal of content and citing local laws. We removed 49% of content identified in these requests for violating our Content Policy and 5% was restricted locally in the requester's country. We declined to action 46% of content. Reasons for this include that it didn't violate our

Content Policy, or the request was somehow incomplete (e.g., we asked for more information from the requester and they didn't follow-up). Our top requesters were from the USA (52), Turkey (17), and India (7).

Included in these private party legal demands were 22 court orders seeking the removal of Reddit content for alleged violations of local law. We removed 52 pieces of content identified in these orders for violating our Content Policy and geo-restricted a further 13 pieces of content locally.

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).

Trends

- 22% decrease in the volume of legal removal requests submitted by private parties and lawyers compared to the previous reporting period (July-Dec 2022).
- 3% increase in geo-restrictions due to violations of local law (up from 2% to 5% compared to the previous reporting period).
- Increase in removal requests from the USA relating to commentary on allegedly outdated or inaccurate third party website press articles shared on Reddit

Notable Requests

- **Germany:** In response to a request from [Jugendschutz](#), we geo-restricted one post in Germany that violated local laws prohibiting depictions of violence (§ 4 Abs. 1 S. 1 Nr. 5 JMStV).
- **India:** We received a court order from the *High Court of Delhi* seeking the removal of four pieces of content for alleged copyright infringement (Copyright Act, 1957) and/or unauthorized redistribution of a movie. Three posts were removed in accordance with our [Copyright Policy](#) and one post was geo-restricted in India. Lumen posting: <https://lumendatabase.org/notices/34038510>

Insights

- **EU:** We received eight notice and takedown requests from solicitors/lawyers in EU countries citing alleged defamation in the context of negative product or business reviews. Reddit protects our users' right to engage in robust, genuine discussions about their experiences (provided they don't violate our Content Policy) -- as such, we declined to remove 66% of content identified in these requests.
- **USA:** 30% of private party legal requests from the US were submitted by a single law firm seeking the removal of content that mentioned their clients in the context of allegedly outdated or inaccurate third party website content shared on Reddit. We've seen an uptick in this type of removal request from the US during this reporting period -- resulting in 42% of content being removed for violating our Content Policy (e.g.

harassing comments or sharing of private information). The remaining content did not violate our policies.

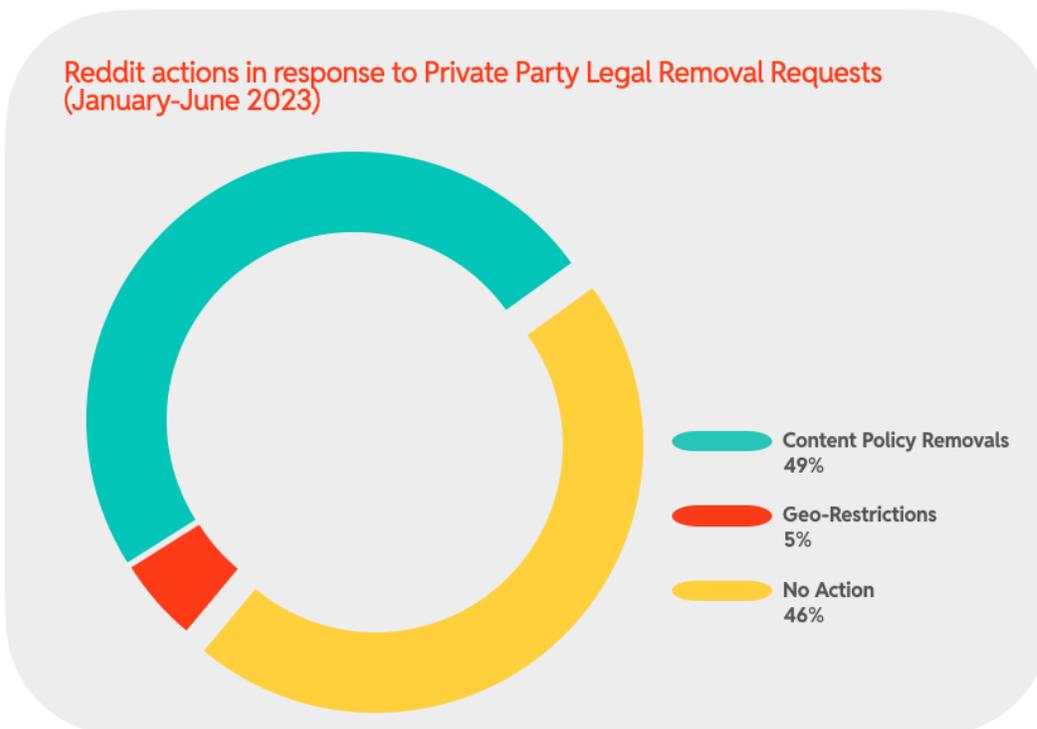
Chart 29: Private Party Legal Removal Requests - per Country (January-June 2023)

Private Party Legal Removal Requests - per Country (January-June 2023)

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*
Belgium	1	0%	1	0%	0%	100%
Brazil	1	100%	1	100%	0%	0%
Canada	2	0%	4	0%	0%	100%
France	3	0%	5	0%	0%	60%
Hungary	1	100%	1	100%	0%	0%
India	7	35%	40	12.5%	2.5%	85%
Ireland	1	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Italy	3	67%	3	67%	0%	33%
Japan	2	100%	2	100%	0%	0%
Latvia	1	0%	1	0%	0%	100%
Russia	1	0%	1	0%	0%	100%
Turkey	17	100%	66	83%	17%	0%
United Arab Emirates	1	0%	1	0%	0%	100%
United Kingdom	6	0%	9	0%	0%	100%
United States	52	46%	94	45%	0%	55%
Grand Total	99	54%	229	49%	5%	46%

*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 30 : Reddit actions in response to Private Party Legal Removal Requests (January-June 2023)



NetzDG

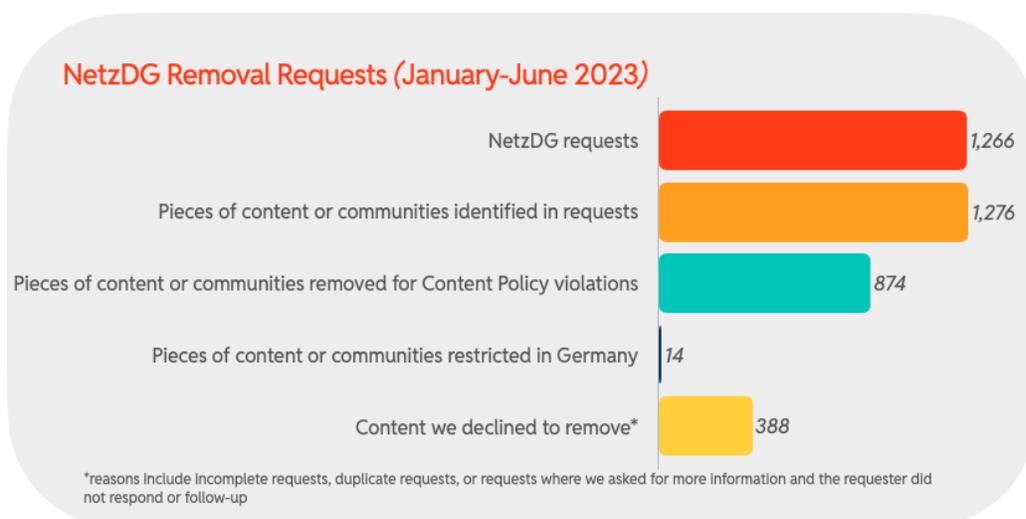
The Network Enforcement Act (“NetzDG”) is a German law that requires social networks with more than 2 million registered users in Germany to provide a complaint procedure for reporting content under specific sections of the German Criminal Code (“StGB”).

During the reporting period we received 1,266 requests from Germany citing alleged NetzDG violations. This represents an 18.8% increase in the volume of requests received compared to the previous reporting period (July - December 2022).

1,276 pieces of content were identified in these requests -- a 15.9% increase compared to the previous reporting period. 68.5% of this content was removed for Content Policy violations, 1.1% was geo-restricted in Germany due to violations of local law, and we declined to take action on 30.41% of the content.

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 31: NetzDG Removal Requests (January-June 2023)



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 because the notices were invalid. We also include data regarding content we reinstated after the original poster submitted a valid copyright counter notice or the rightsholder withdrew its copyright takedown notice.

When Reddit receives a valid copyright notice, we remove the violative content and notify the account holder. We accept and review takedown 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 January to June of 2023, we received 83,937 copyright notices seeking the removal of 949,208 pieces of content. We removed 676,982 pieces of content in response to those takedown notices (a 71% actionability rate).

Compared to the last half of 2022, we received 8% more copyright notices and 2% more pieces of content for review. Our overall actionability rate decreased by 10% compared to the last half of 2022 due to two key factors. First, we received a large volume of duplicate requests that repeatedly requested removal of the same pieces of content and were therefore not actionable. Second, we received numerous invalid notices from reporters containing large volumes of misidentified content.

Chart 32: Copyright notices (January-June 2023)

Copyright notices (January-June 2023)

Year	Number of Notices	Content Reported	Content Removed	Content Actionability Rate
January-June 2023	83,937	949,208	676,982	71%

Copyright User and Subreddit Bans

In appropriate circumstances, Reddit may permanently suspend users who are repeat copyright infringers under our Copyright Policy. Repeat infringement can also result in entire subreddits being banned, such as when an excessive amount of copyright violations occurs within a subreddit.

From January to June of 2023, Reddit permanently suspended 221 users and banned 571 subreddits for excessive copyright violations. Permanent user suspensions decreased by 89% and subreddit bans decreased by 66% compared to the last half of 2022.

The significant decrease in user and subreddit copyright bans occurred because many of these users and subreddits were already temporarily or permanently suspended for other content policy violations at the time of review. As Reddit's policies evolve, the overlap between copyright policy-violating users and content policy-violating users has increased, leading to more users being banned for content policy violations before a copyright review is performed.

Invalid Copyright Notices

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

A request may be 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

From January to June of 2023, Reddit rejected 40,603 copyright notices (a 48% rejection rate) and declined to remove 273,196 pieces of content because the notices were invalid.

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

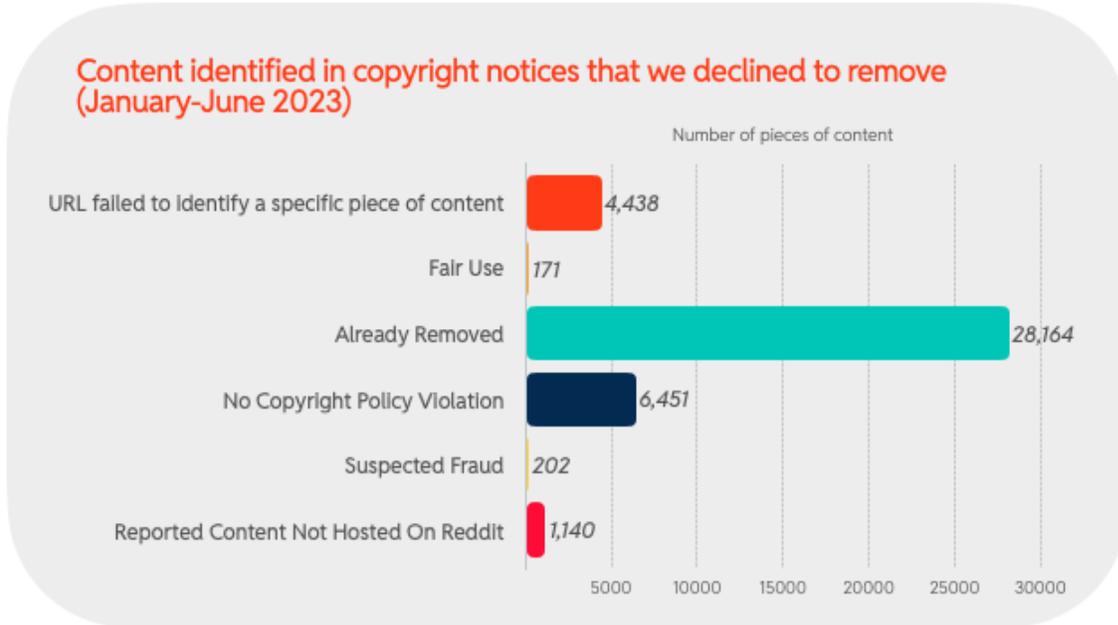
Notable Requests:

- Not Subject to Copyright Protection - We received a request to remove a post that displayed a screenshot taken from a video game. The reporter indicated that the reported content copied their idea to screenshot an exploitable glitch from the video game. [Ideas are not subject to copyright protection](#), so we declined to process the

notice.

- Copyrighted Work Not Found - A copyright notice targeted a post from a subreddit dedicated to snark discussion about social media influencers. The reported content was a text post that criticized the reporter's Instagram account. None of the reporter's copyrighted works from their Instagram account appeared in the reported content, so we declined to process the notice.

Chart 33 : Content identified in copyright notices that we declined to remove (January-June 2023)



Counter Notices and Withdrawals

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 withdraws their claim of copyright infringement.

Reddit complies with counter notices and withdrawal requests that are complete, and rejects those that are invalid.

From January to June of 2023, Reddit received 301 counter notices and 18 withdrawal requests. 13 counter notices were valid, resulting in the restoration of 97 pieces of content to Reddit. All 18 withdrawal requests were valid, resulting in the restoration of 153 pieces of content.

Trademark Removals

When Reddit receives a valid trademark infringement notice, we remove any violative content

identified in the notice.

From January to June of 2023, Reddit received 359 trademark infringement notices reporting a total of 5,392 pieces of content. Reddit took action on 50 notices and removed 63 pieces of content in response to these notices. Reddit also permanently suspended 17 users and banned 2 subreddits for excessive trademark violations.

The total number of trademark notices Reddit received decreased by 17% compared to the second half of 2022, while the amount of content reported increased by 25%.

Invalid Trademark Notices

When Reddit receives an invalid trademark notice, we reject the notice and decline to remove the reported content.

From January to June 2023, we rejected 309 trademark notices and declined to remove 5,329 pieces of content that did not qualify for removal because the notice was invalid.

Despite seeing record levels of content reported for potential trademark violations in the first half of 2023, the total amount of content we removed under our Trademark Policy decreased by 70% compared to the second half of 2022. Our content actionability rate decreased to 1.2% (from 5% in the second half of 2022) due to a large number of invalid trademark notices. However, our trademark notice actionability rate only decreased slightly to 14% in the first half of 2023 (from 17% in the second half of 2022). The low content actionability rate is due to increasingly large volumes of reported content per invalid trademark notice.

A request may be invalid for many reasons, including:

- Failing to include information sufficient to assess whether or not trademark infringement has occurred, such as failing to identify a valid, registered trademark
- Reporting content that does not make use of the trademark
- 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

Notable Requests:

- Fair Use - A skincare/cosmetics company requested the removal of a post that contained a critical review of one of their products. The company’s trademark appeared in the post title and post body to identify the company by name. The post used the trademark for the sole purpose of identifying and commenting on the product, and was therefore unlikely to cause consumer confusion as to the source of that product. Based on this, we declined to remove the content.
- Fair Use - We received a removal request from a brand reporting two subreddits for alleged trademark infringement. The subreddits used the brand’s trademark in the subreddit names similar to the format “r/[trademark]isbad.” The brand’s trademark was used in the subreddit names to refer to the brand and these uses were not likely to cause consumer confusion as to the subreddits’ affiliation. Reddit declined to take any action in response to the notice.

Information Requests

This section covers the volume of global information requests received during the first half of 2023, along with our rate of compliance and other insights.

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 warrant 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 (i.e. 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 warrant 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.

All requests for account information must be narrowly tailored, identify the account(s) at issue (e.g., u/name or email address), and specify the information sought (e.g., IP addresses).

Between January and June 2023, Reddit received 881 non-emergency legal requests for account information from global government and law enforcement agencies. This represents the highest volume of account information requests that Reddit has received over any six month period, and exceeds the total number of global requests for the entirety of 2021.

Reddit disclosed account information in response to 659 these global legal requests (74.8%), and these disclosures related to 1,645 accounts.

Of these global requests, the U.S. accounted for 666 requests (75.5%) of global volume, and Reddit disclosed data (in whole or in part) in response to 567 of these requests (85%).

Compared to the second half of 2022, global government and law enforcement requests for account information increased by 21% during this reporting period. Reddit's compliance rate grew to 75%, compared to 68% for the second half of 2022.

Chart 34: Global Government and Law Enforcement Agency non-emergency request volumes and compliance rate (January-June 2023)

Global Government and Law Enforcement Agency non-emergency request volumes and compliance rate (January-June 2023)

Country	Number of Requests	Compliance rate*	Identifiers** Cited	Accounts disclosed***
Argentina	1	0%	1	0
Australia	6	17%	19	2
Brazil	10	50%	12	6
Canada	16	69%	56	31
Colombia	1	0%	1	0
Cyprus	1	0%	1	0
Czech Republic	2	0%	2	0
France	7	57%	14	5
Germany	53	40%	76	34
Greece	3	0%	4	0
Hungary	4	0%	5	0
India	21	0%	46	0
Italy	3	0%	3	0
Mexico	1	0%	2	0
New Zealand	2	50%	10	2
Pakistan	1	0%	1	0
Portugal	2	0%	2	0
Serbia	1	0%	1	0
Singapore	5	0%	6	0
South Korea	1	0%	1	0
Spain	4	25%	4	1
Sweden	3	0%	4	0
Taiwan	1	0%	1	0
Ukraine	1	0%	1	0
United Kingdom	65	80%	82	63
United States	666	85%	1,778	1,501
Total	881	75%	2133	1645

* 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 Reddit is able to search by it.

*** If Reddit disclosed non-public account information (in whole or in part) in response to a legal request, that account is counted in the Accounts Disclosed column.

Global Identifier Breakdown

To provide more detailed insights into global requests for account information, we are including a breakdown of the types of identifiers specified in global requests, along with the number of accounts for which information was disclosed for each identifier type.

Chart 35: Global Identifier Breakdown (January-June 2023)

Global Identifier Breakdown (January-June 2023)

Country	Number of requests	Username identifiers requested	Accounts disclosed* based on username identifiers	Alternate identifiers* * requested	Accounts disclosed* based on alternate identifiers**	Subreddit info*** requested	Subreddit info*** disclosed (limited to a list of mod usernames)
Argentina	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	6	10	2	9	0	0	0
Brazil	10	9	5	3	1	6	0
Canada	16	38	31	18	0	0	0
Colombia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Cyprus	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Czech Republic	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
France	7	13	5	1	0	0	0
Germany	53	60	28	16	6	2	0
Greece	3	3	0	1	0	0	0
Hungary	4	5	0	0	0	0	0
India	21	24	0	22	0	22	0
Italy	3	2	0	1	0	0	0
Mexico	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
New Zealand	2	4	2	6	0	0	0
Pakistan	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Portugal	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Serbia	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Singapore	5	5	0	1	0	1	0
South Korea	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	4	2	1	2	0	0	0
Sweden	3	3	0	1	0	0	0
Taiwan	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ukraine	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	65	81	60	1	3	1	0
United States	666	1,146	1,010	630	491	28	2
Total	881	1415	1144	716	501	61	2

** If Reddit disclosed non-public account information (in whole or in part) in response to a legal request, that account is counted in the respective Accounts Disclosed column.

** Legal requests may specify alternate identifiers (such as email addresses, legal names, phone numbers, etc.) rather than Reddit usernames to identify accounts 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 Reddit is able to search by it.

*** Subreddit requests seek information about a community, rather than an individual account. When subreddit information is disclosed, it is generally limited to a list of the moderator usernames. In most cases, moderator information is publicly available and doesn't require legal process to obtain.

Types of Investigations

To provide more detailed insights into global requests for account information, we are now including details about the types of investigations associated with these requests as noted by law enforcement.

Chart 36: Investigation Types for Global Government and Law Enforcement Agency non-emergency requests (January - June 2023)

Investigation Types for Global Government and Law Enforcement Agency non-emergency requests (January - June 2023)

Type of Investigation	Type of Investigation
Child Safety (i.e. sexual exploitation of children)	427
Non Consensual Intimate Media (NCIM)	80
Violent crimes (i.e. murder, armed robbery, sexual assault, etc.)	33
Non-violent crimes (i.e. burglary, drugs, etc.)	34
Cybercrime (i.e. fraud, doxxing, illegal gambling, etc.)	34
National security related investigations (i.e. terrorism)	3
Self-harm	5
Other/unknown investigation types	265

User Notice for Government and Law Enforcement Agency Requests

Government and law enforcement requests are often subject to non-disclosure orders or user notice is otherwise prohibited. 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 19% of global government and law enforcement requests received between January and June 2023.

The following tables outline the number of users notified by Reddit in response to government and law enforcement agency requests for the first half of 2023.

Chart 37 : User Notice* for Government and Law Enforcement Agency Requests (January-June 2023)

User Notice for Government and Law Enforcement Agency Requests (January-June 2023)

Notice Type	Number of Legal Requests	Number of Users Notified
Pre-production Notice	68	99
Post Production Notice	58	89

*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 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 38 : U.S. Government and Law Enforcement Agency non-emergency disclosure requests by type of legal process (January-June 2023)

U.S. Government and Law Enforcement Agency non-emergency disclosure requests by type of legal process (January-June 2023)

Type of Legal Process	U.S. Subpoenas	U.S. Court Orders	U.S. Search Warrants	U.S. Pen Register / Trap and Trace Orders
Number of Requests	375	30	258	3
Compliance rate*	84%	73%	89%	0%
Username identifiers requested	756	32	355	3
Accounts disclosed** based on username identifiers	679	27	304	0
Alternate identifiers*** requested	239	31	360	0
Accounts disclosed** based on alternate identifiers***	350	8	133	0
Subreddit info**** requested	20	2	6	0
Subreddit info**** disclosed (limited to a list of mod usernames)	2	0	0	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.

** If Reddit disclosed non-public account information (in whole or in part) in response to a legal request, that account is counted in the respective Accounts Disclosed column.

*** Legal requests may specify alternate identifiers (such as email addresses, legal names, phone numbers, etc.) rather than Reddit usernames to identify accounts 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 Reddit is able to search by it.

**** Subreddit requests seek information about a community, rather than an individual account. When subreddit information is disclosed, it is generally limited to a list of the moderator usernames. In most cases, moderator information is publicly available and doesn't require legal process to obtain.

U.S. Requests Under a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)

Reddit may receive legal requests under a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT). The MLAT process enables non-U.S. law enforcement agencies to work with U.S. law enforcement to issue legal requests under U.S. law in order to “obtain evidence, information, and testimony abroad in a form admissible in the courts of” their own country. This means that any disclosed data may be shared with non-U.S. law enforcement in the context of a criminal investigation or related proceeding. Requests received under MLAT are subject to the same scrutiny and user notice policies as all other U.S. requests.

For the first time, Reddit is providing information regarding the number of requests received under MLAT. Of the 666 U.S. requests received between January and June 2023, six were issued pursuant to MLAT.

Chart 39 : U.S. Government and Law Enforcement Agency non-emergency MLAT requests (January-June 2023)

U.S. Government and Law Enforcement Agency non-emergency MLAT requests (January-June 2023)

Type of Legal Request	Court Order	Search Warrant
Requests received	4	2
Compliance rate*	100%	100%
MLAT Countries	United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Finland	Jersey, Finland
Username identifiers requested	3	2
Accounts disclosed** based on username identifierS	3	2
Alternate identifiers*** requested	1	1
Accounts disclosed** based on alternate identifiers***	1	2
Subreddit info**** requested	0	0
Subreddit info**** disclosed	0	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.

** If Reddit disclosed non-public account information (in whole or in part) in response to a legal request, that account is counted in the respective Accounts Disclosed column.

*** Legal requests may specify alternate identifiers (such as email addresses, legal names, phone numbers, etc.) rather than Reddit usernames to identify accounts 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 Reddit is able to search by it.

**** Subreddit requests seek information about a community, rather than an individual account. When subreddit information is disclosed, it is generally limited to a list of the moderator usernames. In most cases, moderator information is publicly available and doesn't require legal process to obtain.

United States Requests - State Breakdown

U.S. information requests are issued pursuant to federal or state/local law. Because of the constitutional (including First Amendment) implications of the disclosure of the content of communications in response to U.S. government and law enforcement requests, Reddit is providing additional details about content disclosures for U.S. legal requests. Content of communications includes public and non-public messages between users (including Private Messages and chats), information about a user's votes, posts, comments, and other information regarding the substance of a user's communications across Reddit. U.S. government and law enforcement agents must use a search warrant if they are seeking to compel disclosure of the content of communications.

Between January and June of 2023, Reddit produced account information (in whole or in part) in response to 88% of U.S. federal requests, and 82% of U.S. state/local requests. Reddit received the most total requests from government and law enforcement agencies based in New York, California, and Virginia.

Chart 40 : U.S. State/Territory Requests (January-June 2023)

U.S. State/Territory Requests (January-June 2023)

Originating State/Territory*	U.S. Federal Requests	U.S. Federal Requests: Non-Content Only Disclosures	U.S. Federal Requests - Content** Disclosures	State/local Requests	State/local Requests: Non-Content Only Disclosures	State/local Requests - Content** Disclosures
Alabama	0	0	0	6	1	3
Alaska	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	1	1	0	8	0	6
Arkansas	0	0	0	5	1	3
California	32	26	1	23	1	19
Colorado	1	1	0	4	1	3
Connecticut	1	1	0	1	0	1
Delaware	0	0	0	4	4	0
District of Columbia	21	16	2	1	0	1
Florida	10	9	0	27	13	9
Georgia	3	3	0	31	21	7
Guam	1	1	0	0	0	0
Hawaii	1	1	0	1	0	1
Idaho	2	1	1	3	0	1
Illinois	16	13	0	22	8	11
Indiana	5	3	0	8	4	4
Iowa	0	0	0	8	3	3
Kansas	2	1	1	5	0	5
Kentucky	0	0	0	7	0	6
Louisiana	2	2	0	9	0	8
Maine	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maryland	10	6	3	18	6	11
Massachusetts	1	1	0	1	0	1
Michigan	2	2	0	0	0	0
Minnesota	4	4	0	13	10	3
Mississippi	2	1	0	1	1	0
Missouri	6	6	0	2	1	1
Montana	1	0	1	0	0	0
Nebraska	2	2	0	4	1	3
Nevada	1	1	0	4	1	3
New Hampshire	1	1	0	7	2	4
New Jersey	5	4	0	29	13	7
New Mexico	2	0	1	0	0	0
New York	40	34	0	17	8	1
North Carolina	3	3	0	11	2	8
North Dakota	0	0	0	1	1	0
Ohio	7	5	2	20	8	7
Oklahoma	3	3	0	4	0	3
Oregon	3	3	0	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	6	2	0	8	2	4
Puerto Rico	2	1	1	1	1	0
Rhode Island	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	2	1	0	5	0	5
South Dakota	0	0	0	2	0	2
Tennessee	3	3	0	9	3	5
Texas	11	6	3	31	8	15
Utah	2	1	1	3	0	2
Vermont	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	37	34	3	16	9	6
Washington	4	4	0	9	1	6
West Virginia	0	0	0	4	0	4
Wisconsin	3	2	1	12	2	8
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	261	209	21	405	137	200

*For interstate agencies, geographic origin is attributed to the location of the requesting office.

Notable U.S. Requests

We go out of our way to prioritize user privacy and freedom of speech, particularly in the context of legal requests to unmask account holders. Here are some of the most notable requests we received between January and June 2023 where we pushed back based on these principles:

- Reddit received a subpoena seeking information on an account with strong indications that it belonged to a journalist and/or protest organizer. As a result of our objections, law enforcement withdrew the request.
- Reddit received a court order extending the non-disclosure period for a search warrant, despite the fact that law enforcement announced the investigation and related Reddit account to the public through the press. Reddit challenged the non-disclosure order in court; however, the court ultimately sided with law enforcement.
- Reddit received a search warrant seeking information on eight accounts. One of the accounts posted about a crime, while the other accounts were commenters who didn't appear to have any connection to the alleged crime. We negotiated with law enforcement and they agreed to limit the request to only the relevant account.

Fraudulent U.S. Requests

As noted above, Reddit carefully reviews all legal requests for account information to ensure that, among other things, they are properly issued and submitted by legitimate law enforcement agencies.

Between January and June 2023, Reddit identified 1 fraudulent non-emergency legal request. Reddit was able to independently verify that the request was fraudulent, and subsequently rejected it.

Reddit reported the fraudulent request to law enforcement for further investigation.

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 41 : U.S. National Security request volumes (January-June 2023)

U.S. National Security requests (January-June 2023)

Year	Report Period	Number of requests	Identifiers* Cited
2023	Jan-Jun	0-249	0-249
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 may specify alternate identifiers (such as email addresses, legal names, phone numbers, etc.) rather than Reddit usernames to identify accounts 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 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.

In the first half of 2023, Reddit received 204 emergency disclosure requests from law enforcement around the world, and disclosed limited account information in response to 70 (34%) of those requests.

During this period, Reddit received EDRs from 17 different countries and disclosed limited account information in response to requests from 9. We received our first EDRs from Hungary, Latvia, and the Netherlands.

The number of emergency disclosure requests decreased by 8.5% compared to the prior reporting period (225), and our compliance rate rose by 3% (from 31%).

Chart 42 : Emergency Disclosure Request volumes and compliance rate (January-June 2023)

Emergency Disclosure Request volumes and compliance rate (January-June 2023)

Country	Number of Requests	Request Compliance Rate*	Identifiers Cited
Brazil	1	0%	1
Canada	12	25%	14
Denmark	1	100%	1
Finland	2	50%	2
France	3	100%	3
Germany	1	0%	1
Greece	1	0%	1
Hungary	1	0%	1
India	4	25%	5
Latvia	1	0%	1
Netherlands	1	0%	1
Norway	2	0%	2
Singapore	2	0%	2
Sweden	1	100%	1
Switzerland	3	66%	3
United Kingdom	4	25%	5
United States	164	35%	168
Total	204	34%	212

* 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.

Fraudulent Emergency Disclosure Requests

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. Over the past few years, the tech industry has faced an increase in targeted attempts to obtain account information through fraudulent EDRs and impersonation of law enforcement officials.

Between January and June 2023, Reddit identified three fraudulent EDRs. In all cases, Reddit was able to independently verify that the EDRs were fraudulent and rejected the requests.

Reddit reported the fraudulent requests to law enforcement for further investigation.

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 January to June 2023, Reddit received 516 preservation requests from government and law enforcement agencies across the globe, representing a 26.5% increase from the prior six month period.

Chart 43 : Preservation request volumes (January-June 2023)

Preservation request volumes (January-June 2023)

Country	Number of Requests Received	Identifiers* Cited
Brazil	2	2
Canada	15	83
Costa Rica	2	4
Denmark	1	1
Finland	1	1
India	11	17
Ireland	3	3
New Zealand	1	2
Portugal	1	1
Sweden	2	2
United Kingdom	10	20
United States	467	1,720

*Legal requests may specify alternate identifiers (such as email addresses, legal names, phone numbers, etc.) rather than Reddit usernames to identify accounts 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 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) seeking disclosure of information for use in criminal defense and civil litigation.

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. Starting this year, Reddit will provide a more detailed breakdown of private party requests, including the identifiers specified.

Between January and June 2023, Reddit received 30 private party requests for account information from 4 different countries. Of these, 25 requests originated from the United States. Reddit disclosed account information in response to 10% (3) of these global requests.

Chart 44 : Private Party information request volumes and compliance rate (January-June 2023)

Private Party information request volumes and compliance rate (January-June 2023)

Country	United States	Germany	Canada
Civil Litigation Requests	20	3	2
Criminal Defense Requests	1	n/a	n/a
Other Private Party Requests	4	n/a	n/a
Compliance Rate*	12%	0%	0%
Username identifiers requested	79	2	12
Accounts disclosed** based on username identifiers	3	0	0
Alternate identifiers*** requested	55	4	1
Accounts disclosed** based on alternate identifiers***	0	0	0
Subreddit info**** requested	0	0	0
Subreddit info**** disclosed	0	0	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.

** If Reddit disclosed non-public account information (in whole or in part) in response to a legal request, that account is counted in the respective Accounts Disclosed column.

*** Legal requests may specify alternate identifiers (such as email addresses, legal names, phone numbers, etc.) rather than Reddit usernames to identify accounts 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 Reddit is able to search by it.

**** Subreddit requests seek information about a community, rather than an individual account. When subreddit information is disclosed, it is generally limited to a list of the moderator usernames. In most cases, moderator information is publicly available and doesn't require legal process to obtain.

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 January and June 2023, Reddit provided user notice for 28% of private party requests received during this period. We provided pre-production notice for 100% of private party requests that ultimately resulted in disclosure of account data.

Chart 45 : User Notice* for Private Party Requests (January-June 2023)

User Notice* for Private Party Requests (January-June 2023)

Notice Type	Number of Legal Requests	Number of Users Notified
Pre-production Notice	7	26
Post Production Notice	0	0

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

Notable Private Party Requests

Here are some of the most notable private party requests we received between January and June 2023 where we pushed back based on these principles:

- We received a request from a film production company suing an Internet Service Provider (ISP), alleging that the ISP didn't sufficiently prevent copyright infringement. The production company sought data associated with eight Reddit accounts, claiming that these account holders may have information relevant to the suit. Reddit objected to the request and successfully defended against the production company's motion asking the court to compel disclosure.
- We received a second request from the same film production company after we had already prevailed against them in court by asserting our users' First Amendment rights. The production company again sought to compel disclosure in court, and we again litigated the First Amendment issues and won.
- We received a request from an entertainment company under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), seeking information on the person(s) who leaked intellectual property. The legal process sought information related to a shared account. Reddit worked with the account holders and their attorneys, and, with their consent, limited disclosure to only data relevant to the case.

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.

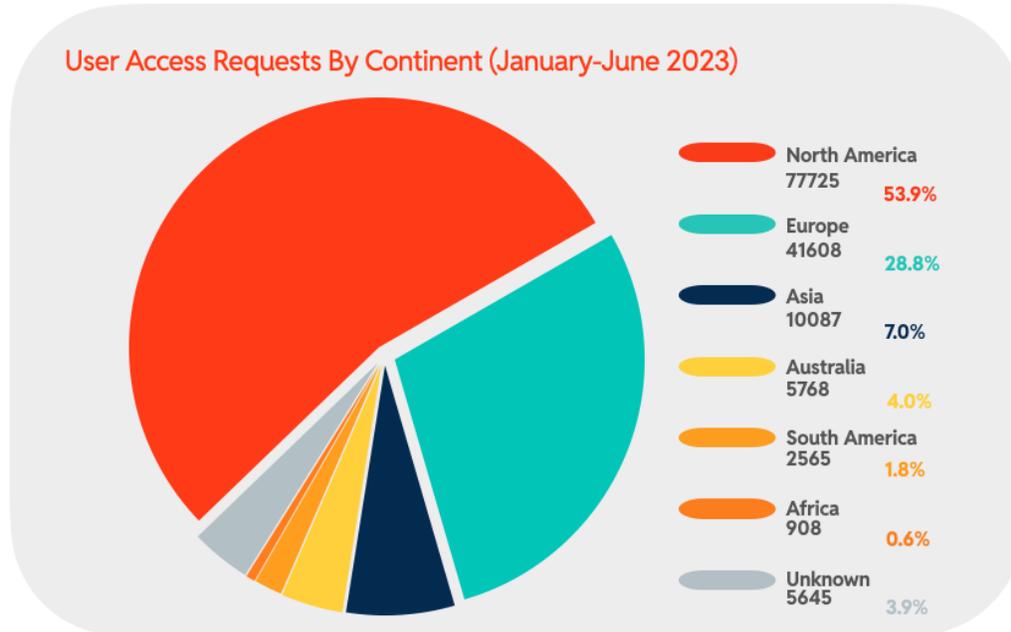
In the first half of 2023, Reddit received 144,306 access requests, a substantial 1169.3% increase over the 11,321 access requests received during the second half of last year.

This dramatic surge in access requests was driven predominately by Redditor protests staged in response to Reddit's API policy change. A number of moderators and users encouraged members of their communities to request their account information for user data mobility, and to create a compliance burden for Reddit.

The below tables show the global distribution of user access requests for the first half of 2023.

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

Chart 46 : User Access Requests by Continent (January-June 2023)



9. Appendix

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

- Transparency Report : Jan - Dec 2022 ([LINK](#)) ([PDF](#))
- Transparency Report : Jul - Dec 2022 ([LINK](#)) ([PDF](#))
- Transparency Report : Jan - Dec 2021 ([LINK](#)) ([PDF](#))
- Transparency Report : Jan - Dec 2020 ([LINK](#)) ([CSV](#))
- Transparency Report : Jan - Dec 2019 ([LINK](#))
- Transparency Report : Jan - Dec 2018 ([LINK](#))
- Transparency Report : Jan - Dec 2017 ([LINK](#))
- Transparency Report : Jan - Dec 2016 ([HTML](#))
- Transparency Report : Jan - Dec 2015 ([HTML](#))
- Transparency Report : Jan - Dec 2014 ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#))

Link to Quarterly Security Reports

- [Q1 2023](#)
- [Q4 2022](#)
- [Q3 2022](#)
- [Q2 2022](#)
- [Q1 2022](#)
- [Q3 2021](#)
- [Q2 2021](#)
- [Q1 2021](#)

Data available for download

- [2023 H1 Transparency Report 2023 \(PDF\)](#)