

TikTok reels from multiple US government bans and lawsuits

Article

The news: Local governments are banning the use of **TikTok**, ostensibly to reduce security risks, and Indiana is filing two lawsuits against the company.

TikTok faces a deluge of complaints: Maryland Gov. **Larry Hogan** announced an emergency cybersecurity directive to prohibit the app's use, saying TikTok could be involved in

cyberespionage, government surveillance, and inappropriate collection of sensitive personal information.

- Negative sentiment against TikTok for fear of spying has led other state officials to ban the app on government devices and offices in **South Dakota, South Carolina, Nebraska, and Texas.**
- The **Transportation Security Administration (TSA)** and **US Armed Forces** have also prohibited the app on their devices, per [Insider](#).

Indiana's attorney general [filed two lawsuits against TikTok](#) over the safety of users' data and the platform's treatment of underage users—including how it exposes children to drugs, alcohol, profanity, and explicit material.

- One lawsuit accuses TikTok of falsely claiming it was appropriate for users between 13 and 17 years old.
- The second lawsuit alleges that users' data can be accessed by Chinese authorities.

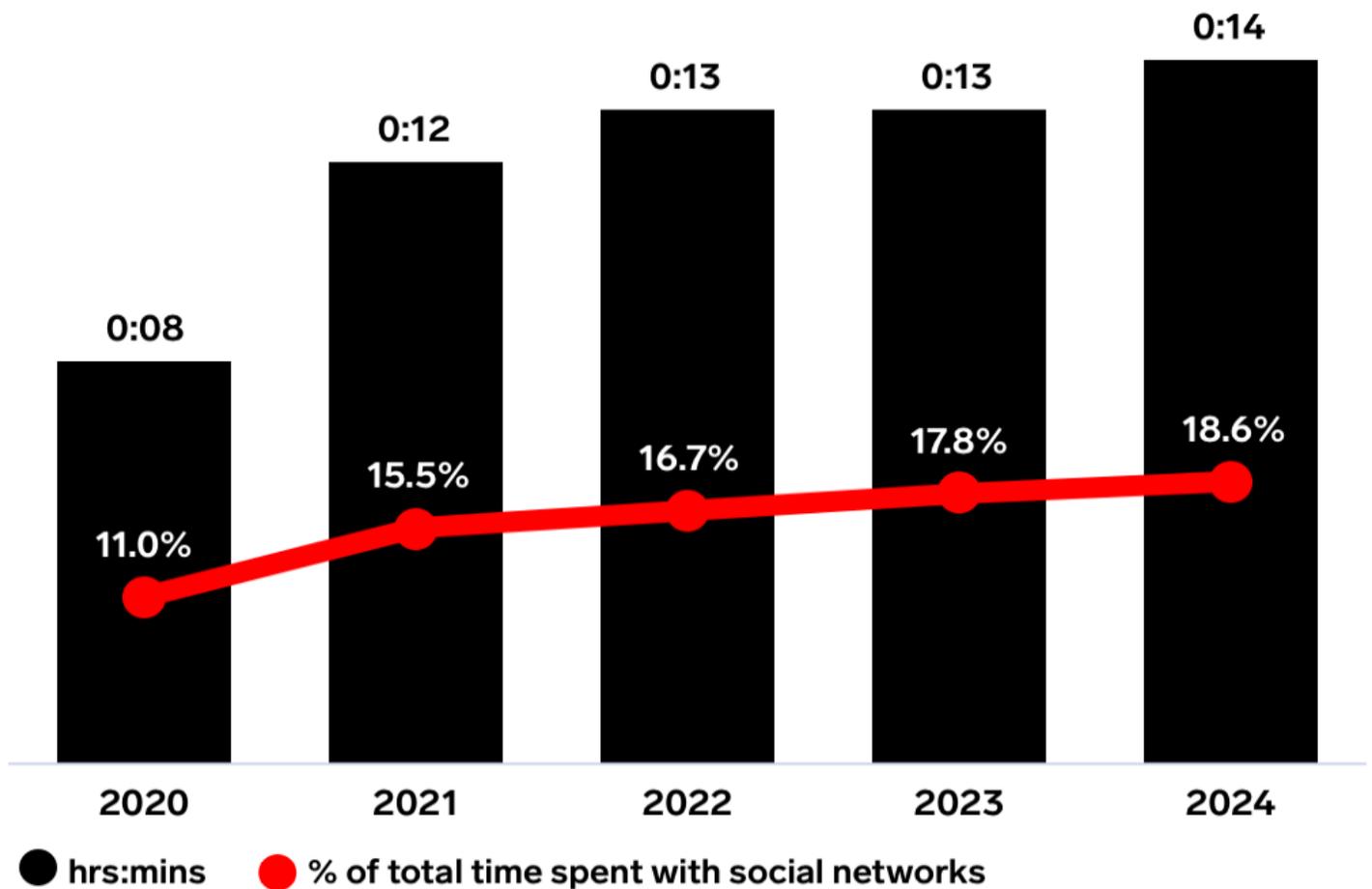
TikTok's response: "The safety, privacy and security of our community is our top priority. We build youth well-being into our policies, limit features by age, empower parents with tools and resources, and continue to invest in new ways to enjoy content based on age-appropriateness or family comfort," a spokesperson told Insider.

Possible outcomes: Continued reprisal against TikTok from US government agencies and local governments could expand into the public sector, with businesses, schools, and other organizations banning the app to safeguard user data.

- **ByteDance**, TikTok's parent company, will need to erase any suspicion of espionage, especially as it [negotiates a deal](#) with the US government.
- A permanent TikTok ban, while unlikely, would **benefit Meta, Instagram, YouTube, Snap, and other social media outlets.**

Average Time Spent per Day with TikTok

US, 2020-2024



Note: ages 18+; includes all time spent on TikTok; includes usage via any device

Source: eMarketer, April 2022

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