



February 26-27, 2026, Quarterly Board Meeting

Division of Investigation, Health Quality Investigation Unit Update to the Medical Board of California

HQIU currently has 12 Investigator vacancies, representing a 14% vacancy rate. Eight candidates are in the background process, with two in the final stages of psychological and medical evaluations. This reflects significant progress compared to February 2025, when HQIU had 26 Investigator vacancies. To expedite hiring, HQIU continues to screen new applications on a 30-day cycle for each office with vacancies.

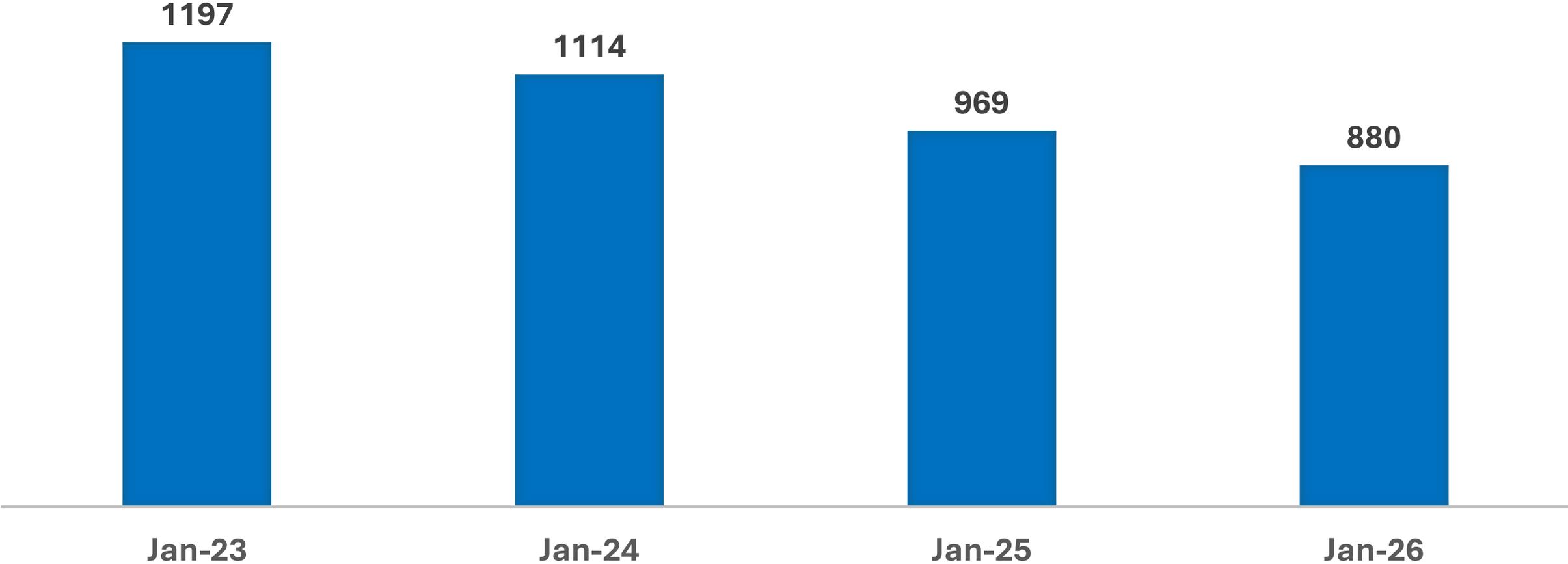
Last month, HQIU Medical Consultants came together for their bi-annual statewide meeting, an important forum for collaboration and professional development. The meeting featured a presentation on the Board's July 2023 Guidelines for Prescribing Controlled Substances for Pain, focusing on how the guidelines apply to complaint investigations and the role of the medical consultant. Additionally, medical consultants received guidance on strategies to improve expert review outcomes by providing more effective case assistance. These sessions were very well received and will continue on a bi-annual basis. They provide medical consultants with valuable opportunities to share ideas, identify efficiencies, and exchange best practices, strengthening the overall quality and consistency of HQIU's work.

In August, the DOI Training Unit successfully concluded its 2025 internal training academy, known as Mini Academy, for new investigators. This intensive four-week program is designed to immerse investigators in the specialized knowledge and skills required to conduct complex healthcare investigations. The curriculum covers a wide range of topics, including investigation types such as quality of care, mandatory facility reporting, sexual misconduct, impaired licensees, corporate unlicensed practice of medicine, and prescription drug cases—including the Board's July 2023 Guidelines for Prescribing Controlled Substances for Pain. Additional instruction includes medical records review, administrative subpoenas, working with medical consultants and expert reviewers, CURES and pharmacy investigations, surveillance and undercover operations, search warrants, interviewing, as well as report writing. The next Mini Academy is scheduled to begin in June.

HQIU has made measurable progress in reducing its pending caseload, specifically with cases over one year old. This improvement is reflected in the updated graph included in [Board item 11B](#).

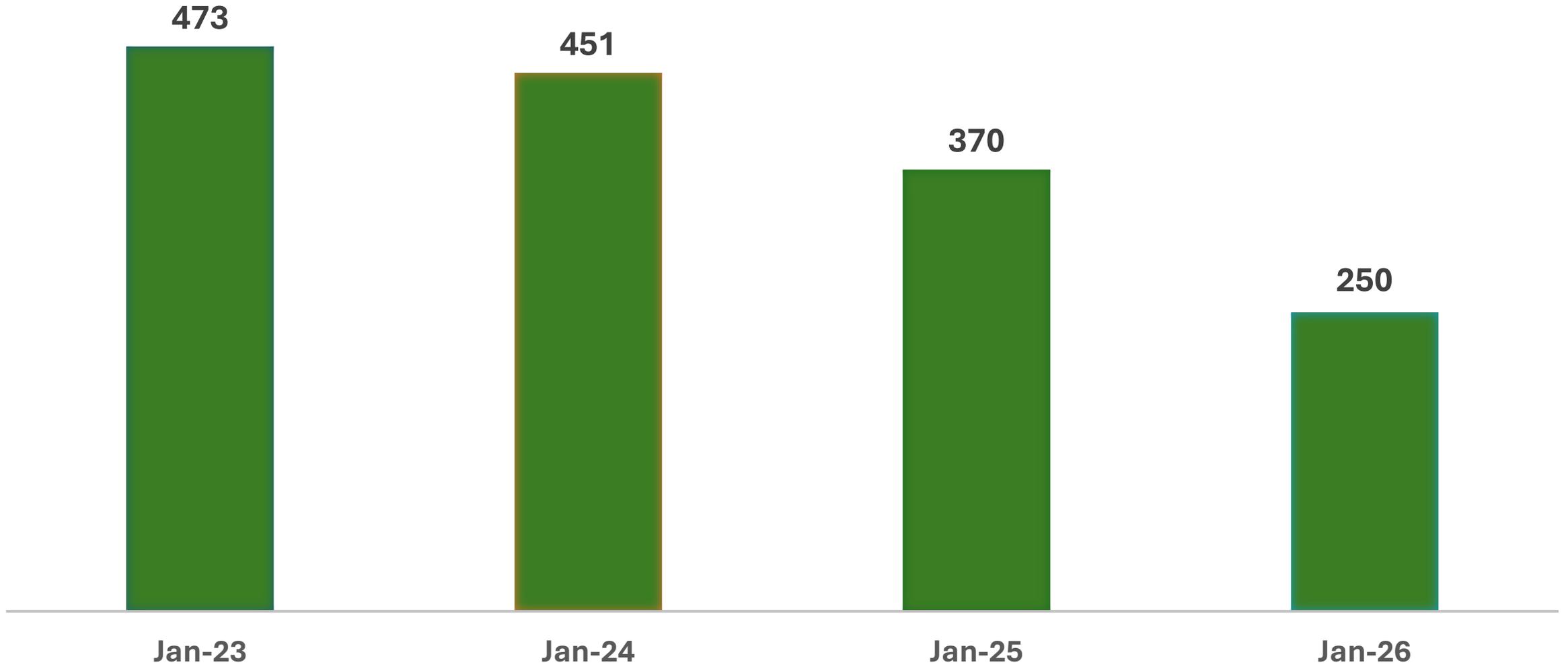
HQIU maintains regular meetings with Board staff and provides automated monthly reports detailing case status updates.

MBC Pending Investigations JAN 2023 – JAN 2026



Note - The counts shown are for MBC cases only.

MBC Investigations Over One Year JAN 2023 - JAN 2026



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