

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: February 9, 2026  
 ATTENTION: Members, Medical Board of California  
 SUBJECT: Enforcement Program Summary  
 STAFF CONTACT: Sharlene Smith, Chief of Enforcement

Requested Action:

This report is intended to provide the Members with an update on the Enforcement Program at the Medical Board of California (Board). No action is needed at this time.

Central Complaint Unit:

For the second quarter of FY 2025-2026, the Board initiated complaints in the Central Complaint Unit (CCU) within an average of eight days which is within the timeframe mandated by Business and Professions Code section 129(b). The average complaint processing time in CCU is 168 days. During CCU's complaint review process, staff may need to request additional information from complainants, licensees, other licensees involved in patient care, obtain records from physicians and facilities, and, in quality-of-care cases, gather all information for review by a medical consultant. The Board may also need to obtain records by subpoena, which may delay complaint processing. The complaint processing time also includes time complaints are in the Complainant Liaison Unit (CLU).

CCU filled the vacant analyst position, and the employee started on December 2, 2025.

Program and Board staff share information about the Medical Consultant Program at outreach and professional events. Advertisements in the Board's quarterly Newsletter and on the Board's website continue with a focus on the need for licensed midwife consultants and physicians practicing in the following specialties:

- Colon and Rectal Surgery
- Neurological Surgery
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Pain Medicine
- Pediatrics (and all sub-specialties)
- Plastic Surgery
- Urology

Complainant Liaison Unit:

Since its launch on January 2, 2025, the Complainant Liaison Unit (CLU) completed its inaugural year. CLU remains fully staffed.

- From January 2, 2025, through February 3, 2026, CLU received a total of 1,969 referred cases.
- Of these, 1,518 complainants were invited to participate in interviews (participation is optional).
- 192 cases are currently pending interview offers.
- Staff have successfully re-established contact with 259 complainants whose complaints were pending closure due to the complainants' failure to respond to previous medical record authorization requests. Of those, 130 complainants returned signed authorization forms or provided information requested and their complaints were subsequently referred to CCU for processing.

As of February 3, 2026, the status of the 1,518 interview requests are as follows:

Interview Offered, awaiting response:	127
Accepted (Interview Scheduled):	9
Declined (Interview Declined):	51
Completed (Interview Conducted):	984
No Response (from Complainant):	347

Expert Reviewer Program:

As of February 2, 2026, there are 889 active experts in the Board's expert database. Interviews to fill a vacant analyst position in the Expert Reviewer Program are in progress. Information regarding the Expert Reviewer Program was shared at the California Association of Neurosurgeons Annual Meeting in Oxnard, California, January 16-19, 2026. The California Orthopedic Surgeon Association shared information regarding the Expert Reviewer Program in their newsletter. Management thanks Dr. Tolbert and Dr. Khalessi (Chair of Neurological Surgery, UC San Diego) for their support and facilitating this outreach opportunity, which was well received. Management also thanks Diane Przepiorski, Executive Director, for the California Orthopedic Association for publishing information to support recruitment efforts. These efforts promote the program and elicit interest in learning more about the Expert Reviewer and Medical Consultant Programs. Management and staff in the Expert Reviewer and Medical Consultant Programs continuously renew contracts, respond to inquiries, and publish ads in the Board's quarterly newsletter and on the Board's website, with a focus on the need for licensed midwife experts and physician experts in the following specialties:

- Addiction medicine with added certification in Family, Internal, or Psychiatry
- Family Medicine
- General Surgery
- Pain Medicine
- Plastic Surgery

Complaint Investigation Office:

As of January 1, 2026, the Complaint Investigation Office's (CIO) non-sworn special investigators have a unit caseload of 267 cases, which break down to approximately 41 cases per Special Investigator. Two vacant Special Investigator positions were filled following one retirement and one lateral transfer. CIO is fully staffed, and training for the two new Special Investigators is underway.

For physician and surgeon cases for the date range of October 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, CIO closed 43 cases. Additionally, 17 cases were referred to the Attorney General's Office:

- 16 criminal conviction cases
- 1 malpractice case

Discipline Coordination Unit:

Discipline Coordination Unit (DCU) Management are continuing to work closely with the analyst assigned to process Out of State Discipline cases to assist with reducing the age and pending caseload of this case type. As detailed in the statistical reports provided to the Board, the total number of Out of State Discipline cases pending is 131, with 17 cases aged one year or older.

Probation Unit:

The Probation Unit currently has four vacant probation monitoring positions, two in Sacramento and two in San Dimas. Interviews for all positions have been conducted. One position in Sacramento was filled, and the employee starts on February 17, 2026.

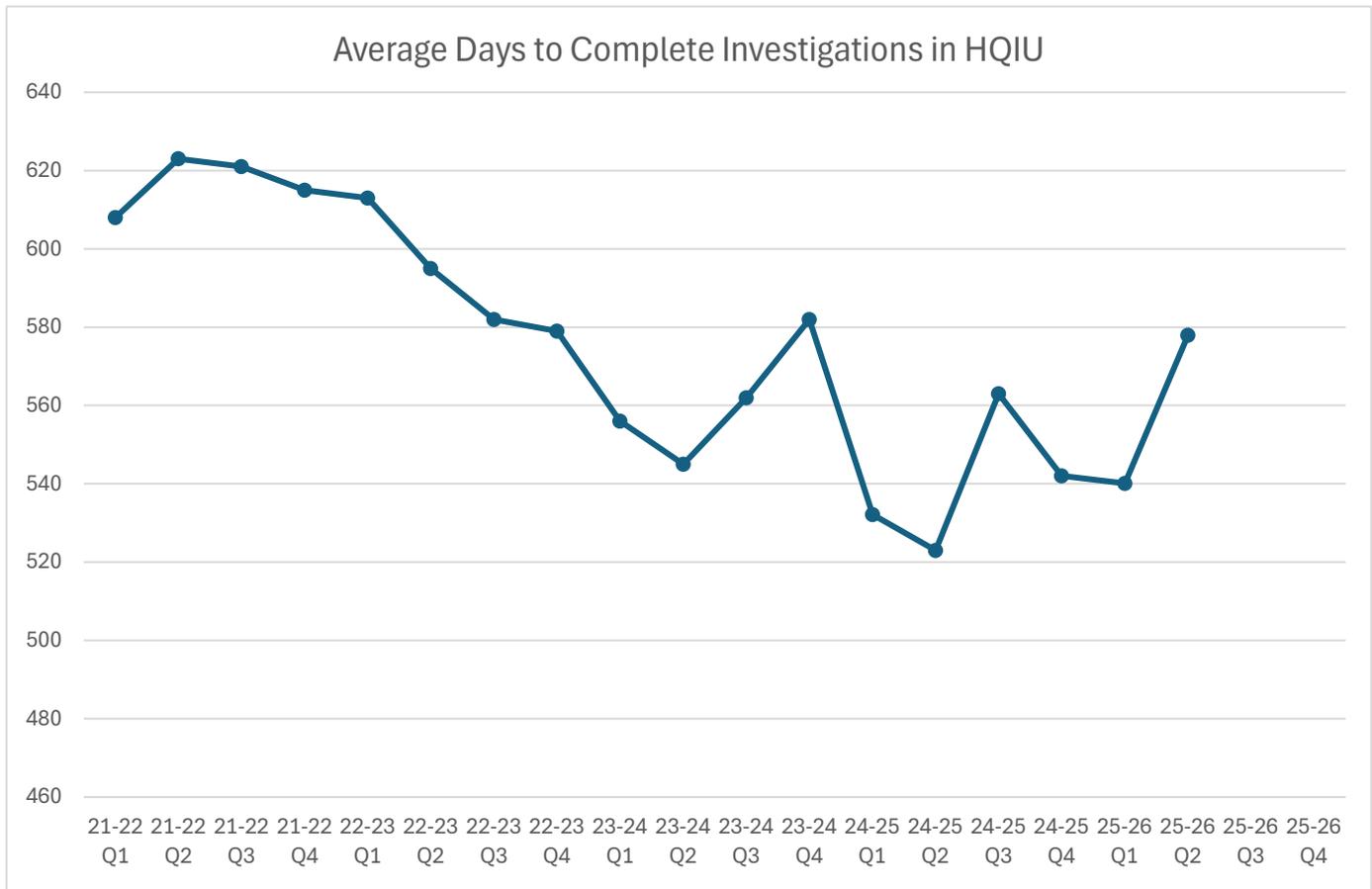
During the Second quarter of FY 2025-2026:

- 31 licensees were placed on probation
- 4 probationary licenses were issued
- 27 licensees successfully completed probation
- 2 probationers surrendered their licenses while on probation
- 1 citation was issued for probation violation
- 6 Cease Practice Orders were issued for probation violations
- 6 Petitions to Revoke Probation that were filed resulted in 1 surrender, 2 revocations and 3 licensees placed on an additional term of probation
- 2 Accusations/Petitions to Revoke Probation were filed

As of January 1, 2026, there are 551 licensees currently on probation, both in and out of state.

**Medical Board of California Enforcement Program  
Average Days to Complete Investigations in HQIU**

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 21-22</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 22-23</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 23-24</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 24-25</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 25-26</b>
Quarter 1	608	613	556	532	540
Quarter 2	623	595	545	523	578
Quarter 3	621	582	562	563	
Quarter 4	615	579	582	542	



Effective 7/1/18 investigation processing days are from the date the case was referred to HQIU until closure or referral (this does not include Complaint Unit processing days for complaints completed at HQIU). This includes post-investigation processing time by HQIU, and review time by the Attorney General and Board after the investigation is completed, which is an average of **95 days through December 31, 2025**. Includes physician and surgeon data only.

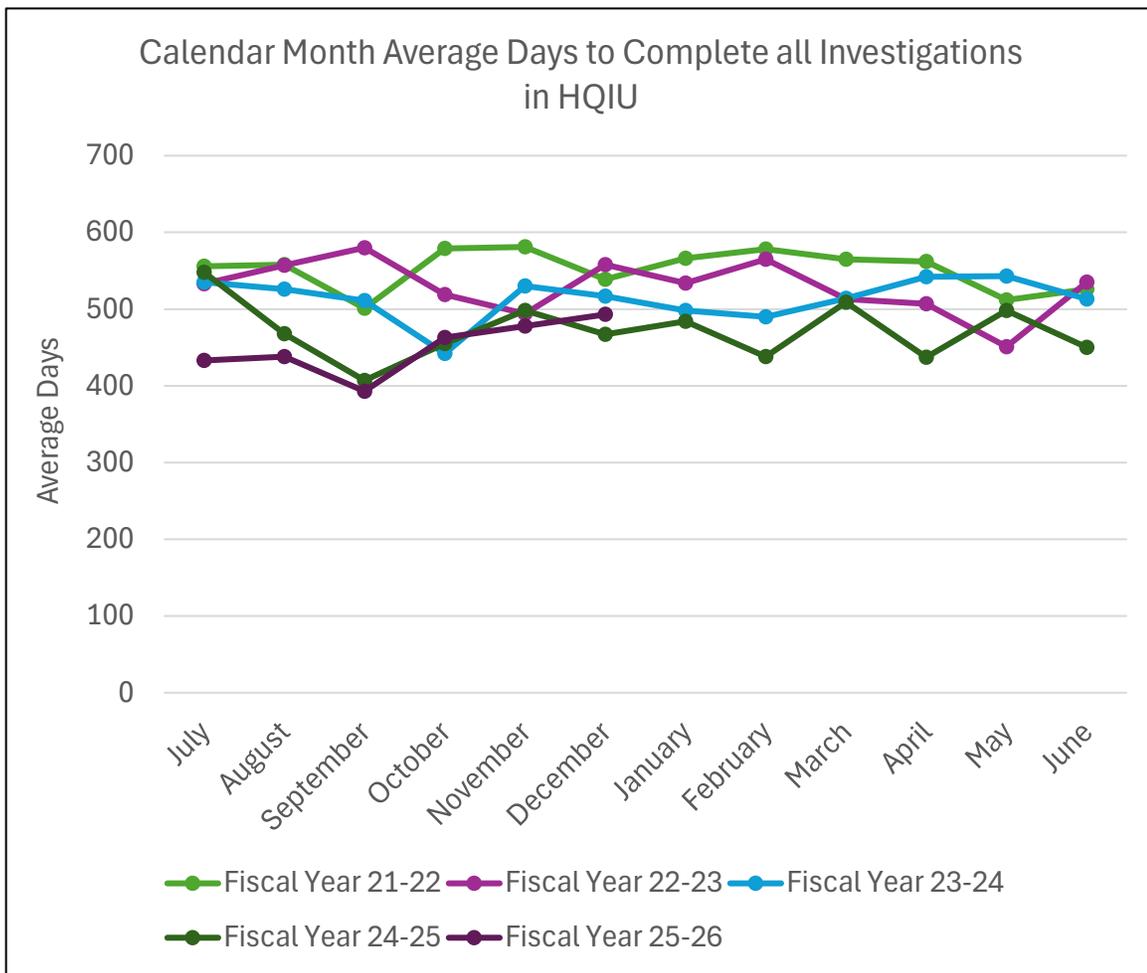
Average HQIU Investigation Days by Case Type

Case Type by Fiscal Year	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
Overall	615	579	582	542	578
Gross Negligence/Incompetence	632	621	588	496	470
Inappropriate Prescribing	714	634	598	594	668
Unlicensed Activity	636	577	538	513	528
Sexual Misconduct	580	490	540	536	422
Mental/Physical Illness	529	486	455	390	445
Self-Abuse of Drugs/Alcohol	445	469	521	383	307
Fraud	419	418	733	430	446
Conviction of a Crime	381	504	379	381	257
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**Medical Board of California Enforcement Program  
Calendar Month Average Days to Complete All Investigations in HQIU**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 21-22</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 22-23</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 23-24</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 24-25</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 25-26</b>
July	556	533	535	548	433
August	558	557	526	468	438
September	501	580	511	407	393
October	579	519	442	455	463
November	581	494	530	498	478
December	539	558	517	467	493
January	566	534	498	484	
February	578	565	490	438	
March	565	513	514	509	
April	562	507	542	437	
May	512	451	543	498	
June	526	535	513	450	



Monthly investigation processing days are from the date the case was assigned to an HQIU Investigator until completion of the investigation in the calendar month. Includes physician and surgeon, licensed midwife, polysomnographic program, physician assistant, doctor of podiatric medicine, and osteopathic physician and surgeon data.

**Pending Enforcement Caseload Summary<sup>1</sup>**

Data Current as of January 1, 2026

	0-3 Months	4-6 Months	7-9 Months	10-12 Months	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	Over 4 Years	Total by Group	Previous Quarter Data	Variance	% Variance
<b>Central Complaint Unit</b>	1,743	1,488	1,106	691	1,151	189	0	0	0	<b>6,368</b>	<b>5,157</b>	1211	23%
<b>Complaint Investigation Unit</b>	60	68	49	37	47	6	0	0	0	<b>267</b>	<b>261</b>	6	2%
<b>Health Quality Investigation Unit</b>	182	199	141	118	252	54	2	0	0	<b>948</b>	<b>980</b>	-32	-3%
<b>Completed Investigations Awaiting Disposition<sup>2</sup></b>	2	10	20	29	112	35	1	0	0	<b>209</b>	<b>242</b>	-33	-14%
<b>Citation and Fine Desk</b>	104	82	57	28	13	0	0	0	0	<b>284</b>	<b>239</b>	45	19%
<b>Out-of-State Desk</b>	32	35	26	21	14	2	1	0	0	<b>131</b>	<b>137</b>	-6	-4%
<b>AG Services<sup>3</sup></b>	20	22	14	5	8	3	0	0	0	<b>72</b>	<b>75</b>	-3	-4%
<b>AG-Pre<sup>4</sup></b>	145	53	17	27	56	25	2	0	1	<b>326</b>	<b>283</b>	43	15%
<b>AG-Post<sup>5</sup></b>	56	49	51	39	42	7	5	0	0	<b>249</b>	<b>262</b>	-13	-5%
<b>Total by Age</b>	<b>2,344</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8,854</b>	<b>7,636</b>	1218	16%

<sup>1</sup> Includes physician and surgeon data only.

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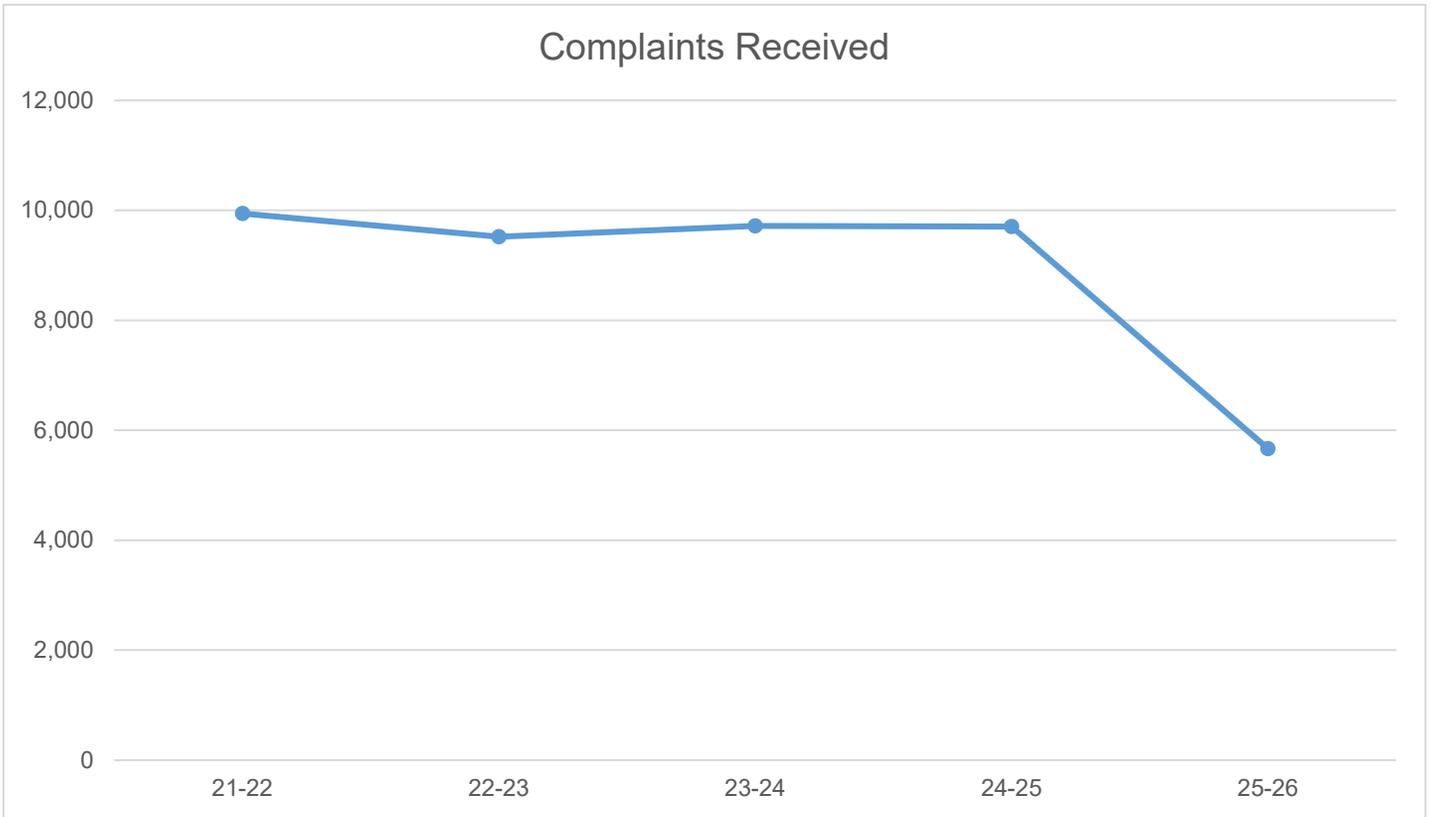
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\* Probation Monitoring caseload removed at the request of the Board.

**Medical Board of California Enforcement Program  
Physician and Surgeon Complaints Received**

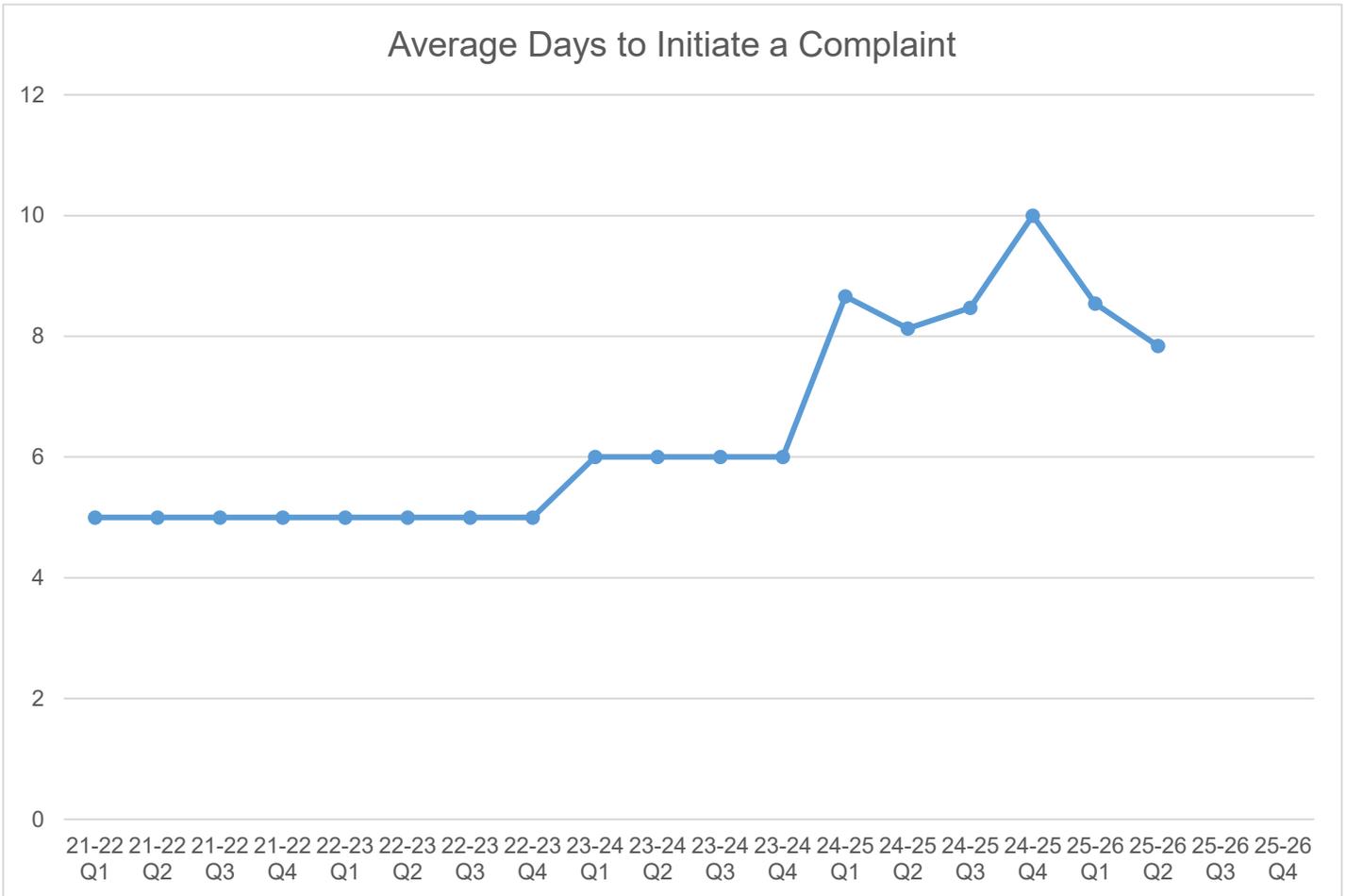
	<b>Fiscal Year 21-22</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 22-23</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 23-24</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 24-25</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 25-26</b>
<b>Volume</b>	9,943	9,521	9,715	9,707	5664 *



\* Complaints received by the Board through December 31, 2025.  
Includes physician and surgeon data only.

**Medical Board of California Enforcement Program  
Average Days to Initiate a Complaint in the Central Complaint Unit**

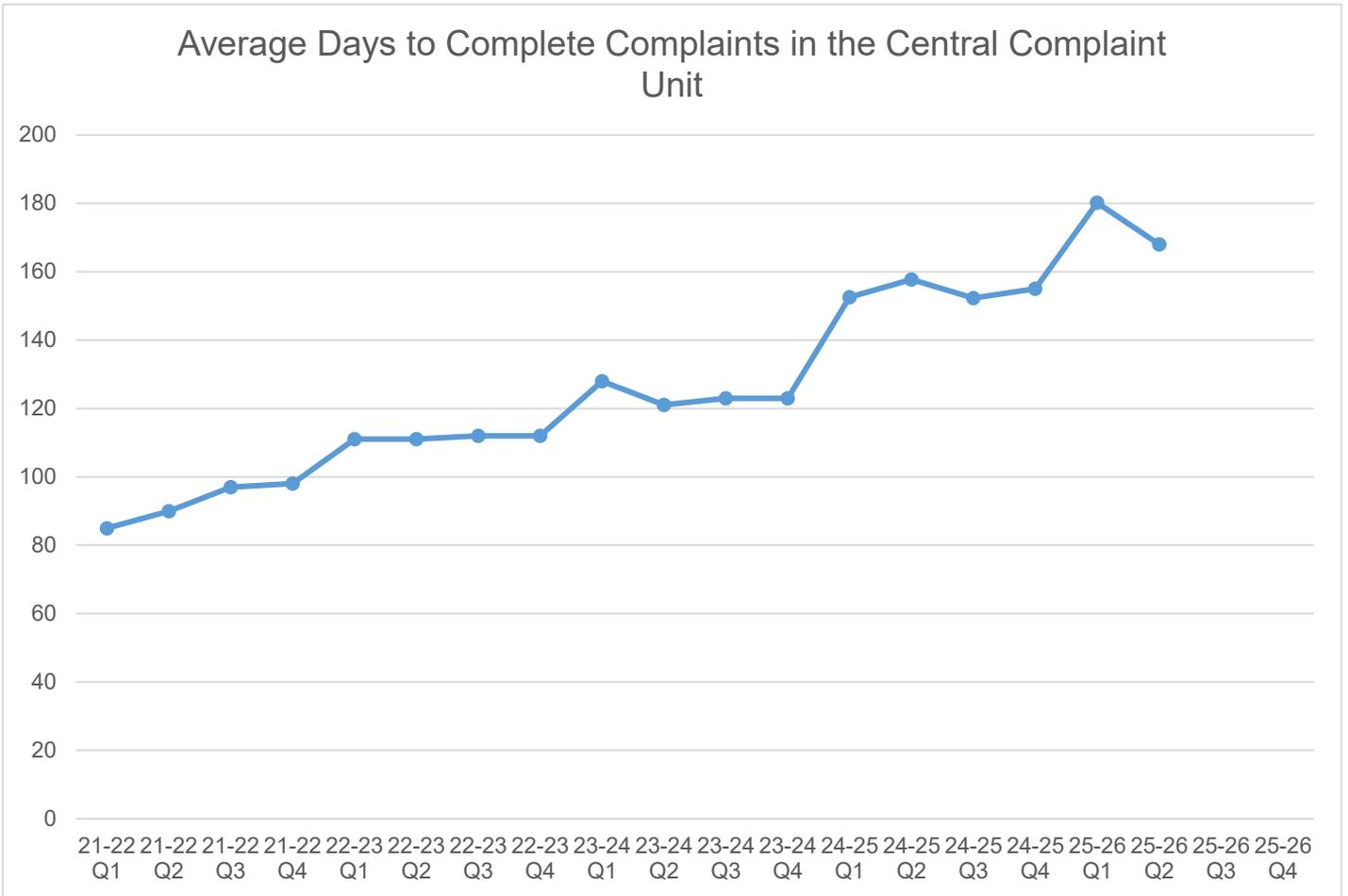
Quarter	Fiscal Year 21-22	Fiscal Year 22-23	Fiscal Year 23-24	Fiscal Year 24-25	Fiscal Year 25-26
Quarter 1	5	5	6	9	9
Quarter 2	5	5	6	8	8
Quarter 3	5	5	6	8	
Quarter 4	5	5	6	10	



Average Days to Initiate a Complaint in the Complaint Unit.  
Includes physician and surgeon data only.

**Medical Board of California Enforcement Program  
Average Days to Complete Complaints in the Central Complaint Unit**

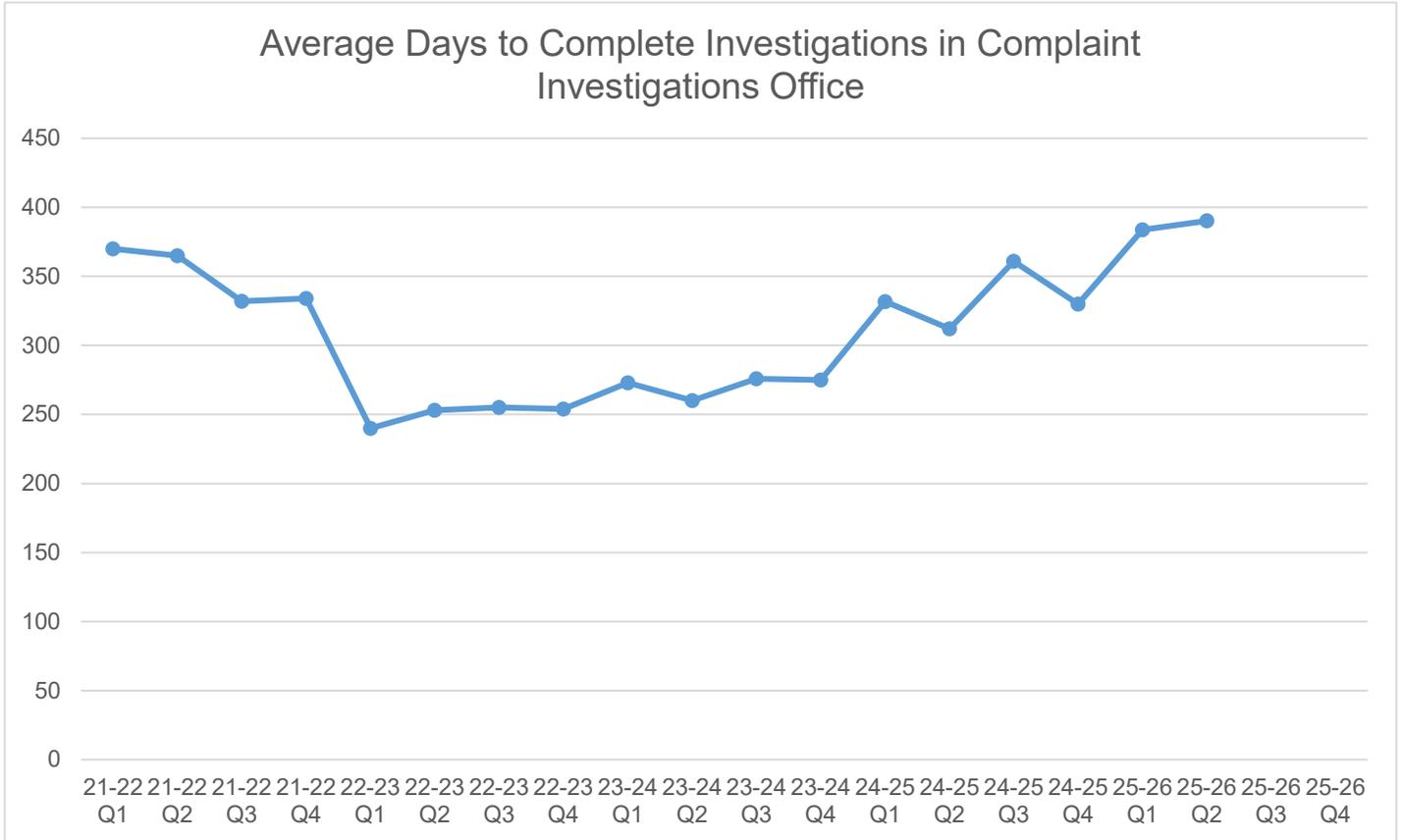
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Quarter 1	85	111	128	153	180
Quarter 2	90	111	121	158	168
Quarter 3	97	112	123	152	
Quarter 4	98	112	123	155	



Average Days to Complete Complaints in Complaint Unit includes complaints resolved by Complaint Unit and Complaint Unit processing days for cases completed at field investigation.

**Medical Board of California Enforcement Program  
Average Days to Complete Investigations in Complaint Investigations Office**

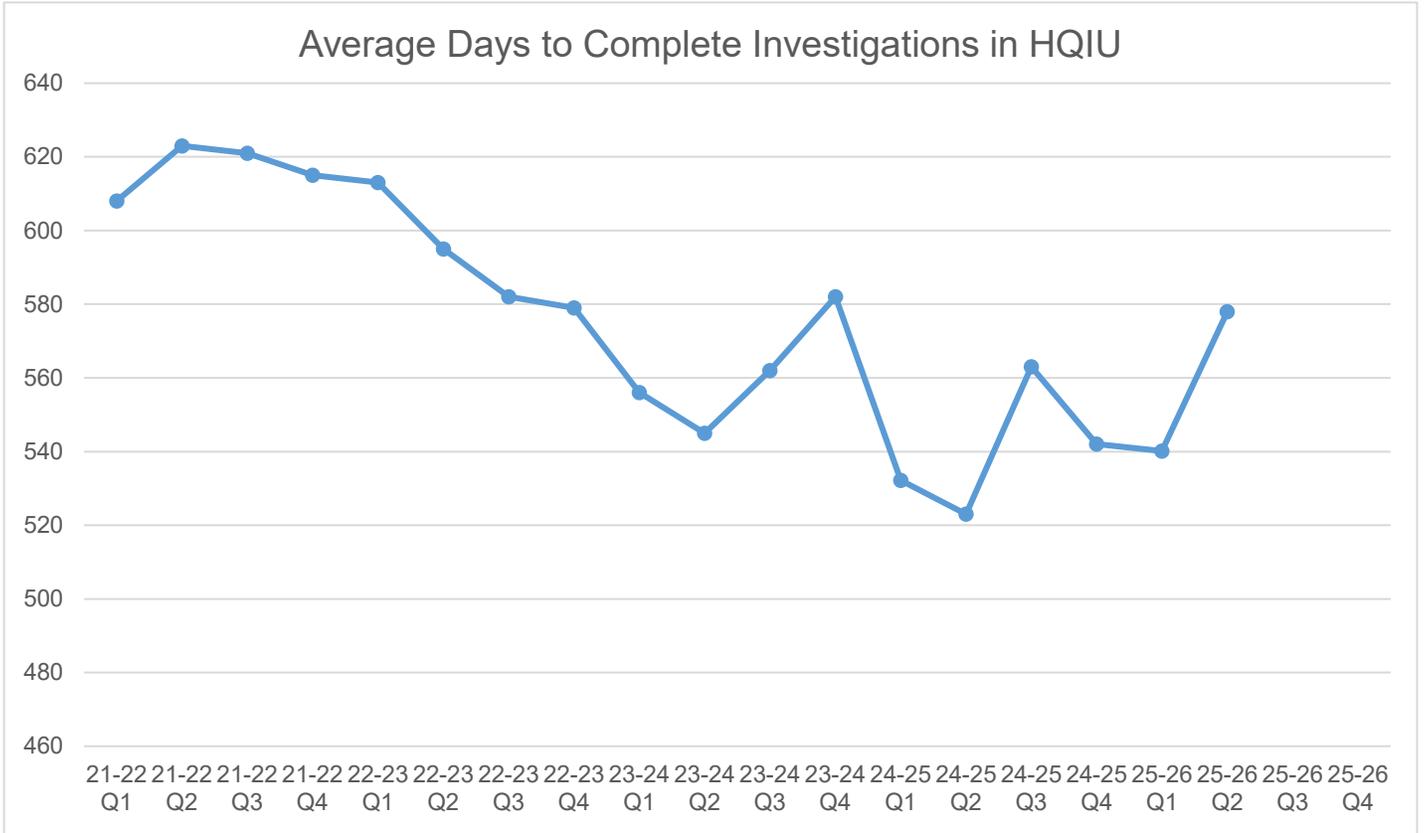
Quarter	Fiscal Year 21-22	Fiscal Year 22-23	Fiscal Year 23-24	Fiscal Year 24-25	Fiscal Year 25-26
Quarter 1	370	240	273	332	384
Quarter 2	365	253	260	312	390
Quarter 3	332	255	276	361	
Quarter 4	334	254	275	330	



Investigation processing days are from the date case was assigned to Complaint Investigation Office (CIO) Investigator by Complaint Unit until closure or referral (does not include Complaint Unit processing days for complaints completed at CIO). Includes physician and surgeon data only.

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**California Enforcement Program**  
**Average HQIU Investigation Days by Case Type**

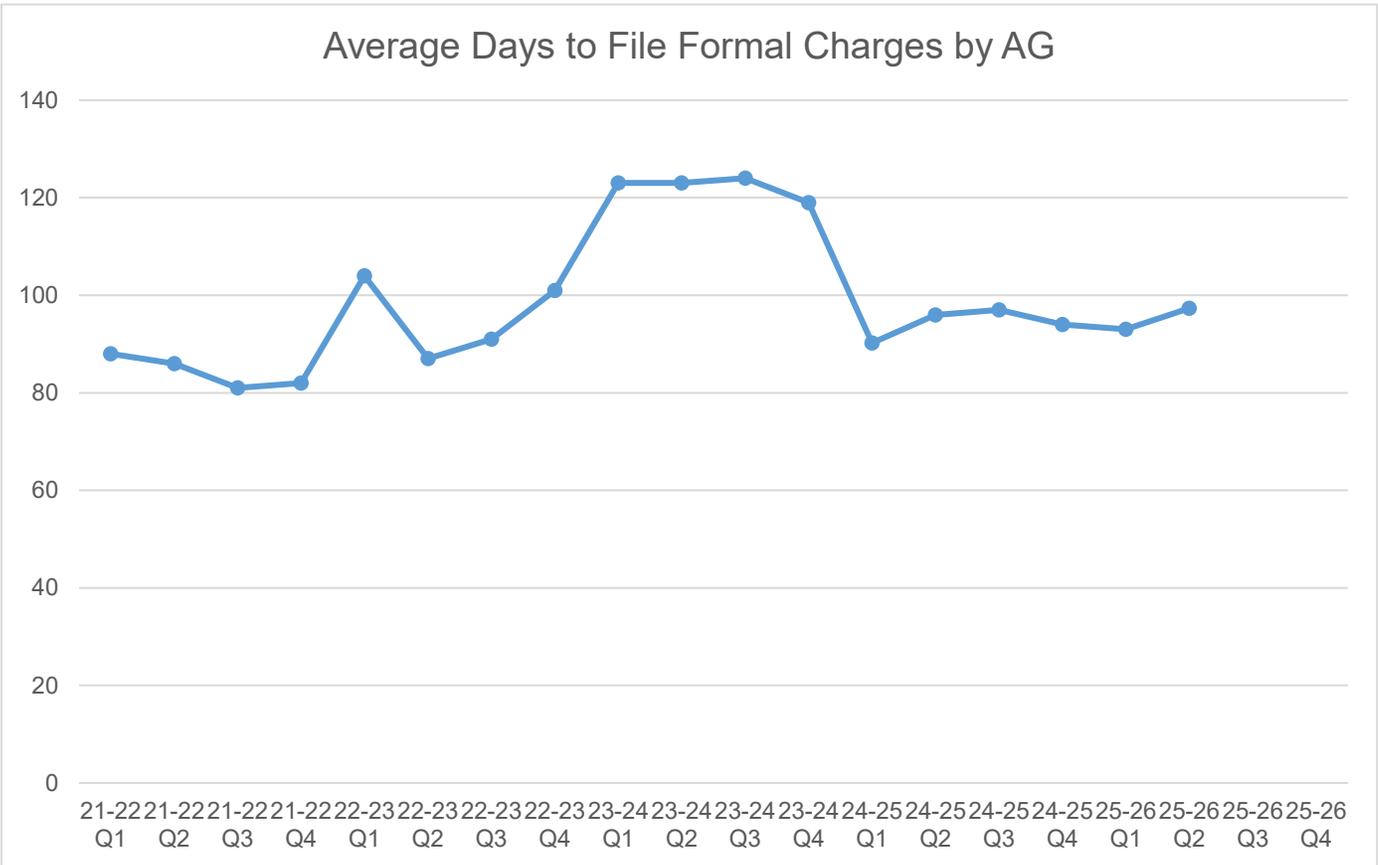
<b>Case Type by Fiscal Year</b>	<b>21-22</b>	<b>22-23</b>	<b>23-24</b>	<b>24-25</b>	<b>25-26</b>
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Agenda Item 6C

**Medical Board of California Enforcement Program**  
**Average Days to File Administrative Charges Prepared by the**  
**Office of the Attorney General**

Quarter	Fiscal Year 21-22	Fiscal Year 22-23	Fiscal Year 23-24	Fiscal Year 24-25	Fiscal Year 25-26
Quarter 1	88	104	123	90	93
Quarter 2	86	87	123	96	97
Quarter 3	81	91	124	97	
Quarter 4	82	101	119	94	



Average Days to File Formal Charges are the days from the date the case is referred to the AG's Office until formal charges are filed. Includes physician and surgeon data only.

Types of Outcomes	FY 25-26				
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
<b>Administrative Outcomes</b>					
License Revoked	5	9			14
License Surrendered (in Lieu of Accusation or with Accusation Pending)	25	28			53
License Placed on Probation with Suspension	2	0			2
License Placed on Probation	25	31			56
Probationary License Issued	5	4			9
Public Reprimand	45	41			86
Other Action	1	0			1
<b>Referral and Compliance Actions</b>					
Citation and Administrative Fines Issued	142	91			233

Types of Outcomes	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26
<b>Administrative Outcomes</b>					
License Revoked	36	36	23	37	14
License Surrendered (in Lieu of Accusation or with Accusation Pending)	106	89	102	88	53
License Placed on Probation with Suspension	7	4	2	5	2
License Placed on Probation	156	153	137	126	56
Probationary License Issued	14	17	10	11	9
Public Reprimand	118	76	97	98	86
Other Action	1	4	3	1	1
<b>Referral and Compliance Actions</b>					
Citation and Administrative Fines Issued	122	195	135	179	233

## ENFORCEMENT TIMEFRAMES

Fiscal Year	21-22 Average	21-22 Median	22-23 Average	22-23 Median	23-24 Average	23-24 Median	24-25 Average	24-25 Median	25-26 <sup>1</sup> Average	25-26 <sup>1</sup> Median
COMPLAINT PROCESSING	98	55	112	63	123	52	155	67	168	47
INVESTIGATION PROCESSING - MBC - CIO (Complaint Investigation Office)	334	251	254	210	275	240	330	282	390	324
INVESTIGATION PROCESSING - HQIU (Health Quality Investigation Unit)	615	633	579	563	582	556	542	524	578	569
<b>TOTAL MBC &amp; HQIU DAYS</b>	176	81	175	97	177	77	217	101	219	86
<b>TOTAL MBC &amp; HQIU YEARS</b>	0.48	0.22	0.48	0.27	0.48	0.21	0.59	0.28	0.60	0.24
AG PREP - Attorney General Preparation for Accusation/Petition to Revoke/Accusation & Petition to Revoke/Statement of Issues	82	62	101	81	120	94	94	80	97	83
POST - Accusation/Petition to Revoke/Accusation & Petition to Revoke/Statement of Issues	388	372	487	432	439	392	400	320	354	307
ACCUSATION DECLINED BY AG	57	36	63	38	58	36	66	40	125	104
<b>TOTAL AG DAYS</b>	478	449	577	514	539	475	514	434	458	414
<b>TOTAL AG YEARS</b>	1.31	1.23	1.58	1.41	1.48	1.30	1.41	1.19	1.25	1.13
<b>TOTAL MBC &amp; AG DAYS</b>	1167	1239	1343	1413	1261	1305	1,168	1,156	1,096	1,071
<b>TOTAL MBC &amp; AG YEARS</b>	3.20	3.39	3.68	3.87	3.45	3.58	3.20	3.17	3.00	2.93

Years calculated using 365 days per year

<sup>1</sup> Data through 12/31/2025.

Includes physician and surgeon data only.

**Pending Enforcement Caseload Summary<sup>1</sup>**

Data Current as of January 1, 2026

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P.O. BOX 944255  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2550

February 8, 2026

Medical Board of the State of California  
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200  
Sacramento, CA 95815-5401**RE: Attorney General's Office Quarterly Update, February 2026 Board Meeting**

Dear Board Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Attorney General's Office Quarterly update. Of note this quarter, the ninth Attorney General's Annual Report on Accusations Prosecuted for Department of Consumer Affairs Client Agencies was published on January 1, 2026. The report, issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 312.2, is available on the Attorney General's website at: <<http://oag.ca.gov/publications>>, as are the prior eight reports.

The Health Quality Enforcement Section works collegially and closely with Executive Director Reji Varghese, Deputy Executive Director Marina O'Connor, Chief of Enforcement Sharlene Smith, and their staff. We meet frequently with the Office of Administrative Hearings to assist in managing your administrative litigation work. We continue to work with the Department of Consumer Affairs' Health Quality Investigation Unit and your Complaint Investigation Office to litigate your filed Accusations matters and manage other legal services.

It is an honor and privilege to serve you. Should you ever have any requests for a presentation or would like to pose specific questions, we are always available to assist you.

Sincerely,

GLORIA L. CASTRO  
Senior Assistant Attorney GeneralFor ROB BONTA  
Attorney General