

Investments in Midwest health care startups double

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Ohio is leading all Midwestern states in money invested in health care ventures this year, according to a report released Monday.

The BioEnterprise Midwest Health Care Venture Investment Report said health care startups in Ohio attracted \$244.3 million so far this year. The deals include large financing such as \$65 million raised for Cleveland-based Athersys Inc., a biopharmaceutical firm, to go public.

Overall, the Midwest has seen \$726 million spent on 62 companies in the first half of 2007. That's up more than 100 percent from the first half of 2006, when \$286.6 million was invested in 49 ventures.

Minnesota, with \$126 million, and Indiana, with \$117.8 million, follow Ohio.

Baiju Shah, president of the Cleveland-based group that did the report, said East and West Coast venture capital firms are investing in Midwest companies.