in Utah and Idaho, unintended pregnancy rates were low (45 and 43), but intended pregnancy rates were unusually high (74 and 65).

In 2006, the median proportion of pregnancies that were unintended was 53%. In 29 states and the District of Columbia, more than half of pregnancies were unintended; in the remainder, 38–50% were unintended. Nearly two-thirds of pregnancies in Mississippi were unintended, while only about two in five of those in Utah and Idaho were.

In general, unintended pregnancy rates were relatively high in states with large urban populations, such as California, New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware, and in southern and southwestern states (Figure 1).

**Pregnancy Wantedness and Outcomes**

In every state, the proportion of unintended pregnancies that were mistimed was much larger than the proportion that were unwanted (Table 1). In nearly every state, roughly 65–75% of unintended pregnancies were characterized as mistimed, and 25–35% as unwanted. Only a few states fell outside these ranges: Unwanted pregnancies made up 21% of unintended pregnancies in Iowa and 23% of those in Utah, and they represented 37% of unintended pregnancies in Hawaii and New Jersey.

The proportions of unintended pregnancies ending in births and abortions varied widely. The median proportion of unintended pregnancies ending in birth was 58%, and the median proportion ending in abortion was 29% (the remainder ended in fetal loss). States where relatively low proportions ended in birth included New York (33%), New Jersey (36%), Connecticut (37%), Maryland (41%) and Massachusetts (41%). The states with the highest proportions of unintended pregnancies ending in birth were South Dakota (72%); Louisiana and Utah (71% each); and Arkansas, Kentucky and Nebraska (68% each).

**Trends**

Some evidence suggests an upward trend in unintended pregnancy rates between 2002 and 2006 (Table 2). Among the 34 states with data for both years, rates increased in 23 and decreased in eight; three states showed little or no change (1% or less). Eleven states had an increase of at least 10%, while only one state had a decrease of greater than 5%. The largest relative increases were in Maine (21%), North Carolina (17%), South Carolina (16%), Mississippi (16%), Minnesota (14%) and Wyoming (14%). These states also had the greatest absolute increases; the largest was in Mississippi (10 points). The greatest relative declines were in Michigan (8%) and Illinois (5%).

For 30 states, data were available for 2002, 2004 and 2006. Very little change (no more than 1.0 point every two years) occurred in Alaska, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana and New Jersey. A steady rise in unintended pregnancy rates appears to have occurred in nine states. In many other states, such as Maryland, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas and Washington, changes in the rates may primarily reflect year-to-year random fluctuations rather than steady increases or decreases. No states showed a consistent decline across the three time periods.