Consistency of model-derived λ estimates with empirical growth rates during initial exponential increase in disease incidence in 280 MSAs of the US. In each panel, the initial slope of the solid curve corresponds to λ (calculated as described in (20)), the crosses indicate empirical cumulative case counts, and the broken line is the model prediction based on MAP estimates for adjustable parameters of our compartmental model. The solid curve shows cumulative case counts had there not been any interventions to limit disease transmission. As can be seen, the initial slopes of the solid and broken curves are comparable. It should be noted that, in contrast with the posterior predictive plots, the y-axis here indicates cumulative (vs. daily) number of cases on a logarithmic (vs. linear) scale.















































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































