The Great Equalizer?

“The Great Equalizer” is what Madonna called COVID-19 in March 2020. She claimed that the virus would not discriminate between people based on their wealth, age or intelligence.

Today, there is growing evidence that this claim is – at least partially – wrong. People with less income are by tendency less likely to be able to work from home. They have more underlying medical conditions and live in housing situations that do not allow for effective social distancing.

This map shows Germany’s districts ("Kreise") and maps the total number of cases against the average disposable household income. It thereby wants to contribute to a growing body of work that illustrates the socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19-pandemic.

The visualization includes case numbers until April 28th, 2021 and household income data for the year 2018. The data were classified using equal quantiles.

Created April 30th, 2021 by Jan-Luca Bauß.