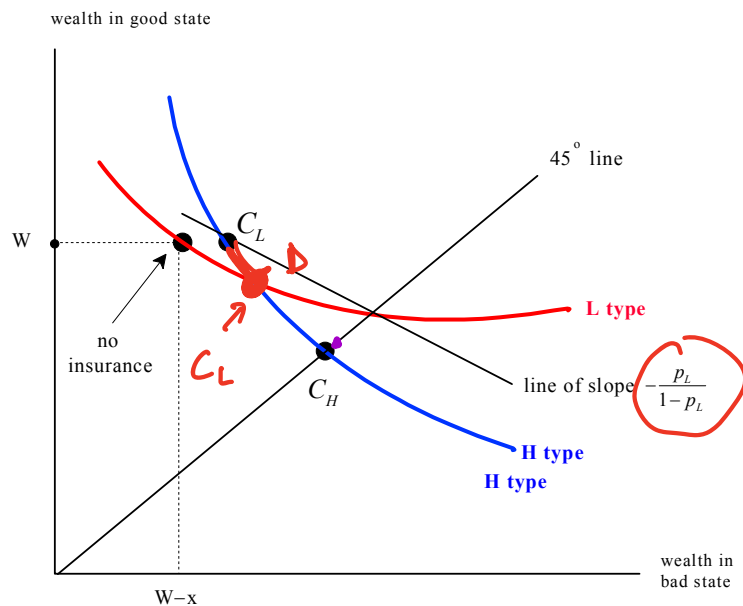


$(IR_L)$  must be satisfied as an equality.



$C_H$  must be a full-insurance contract

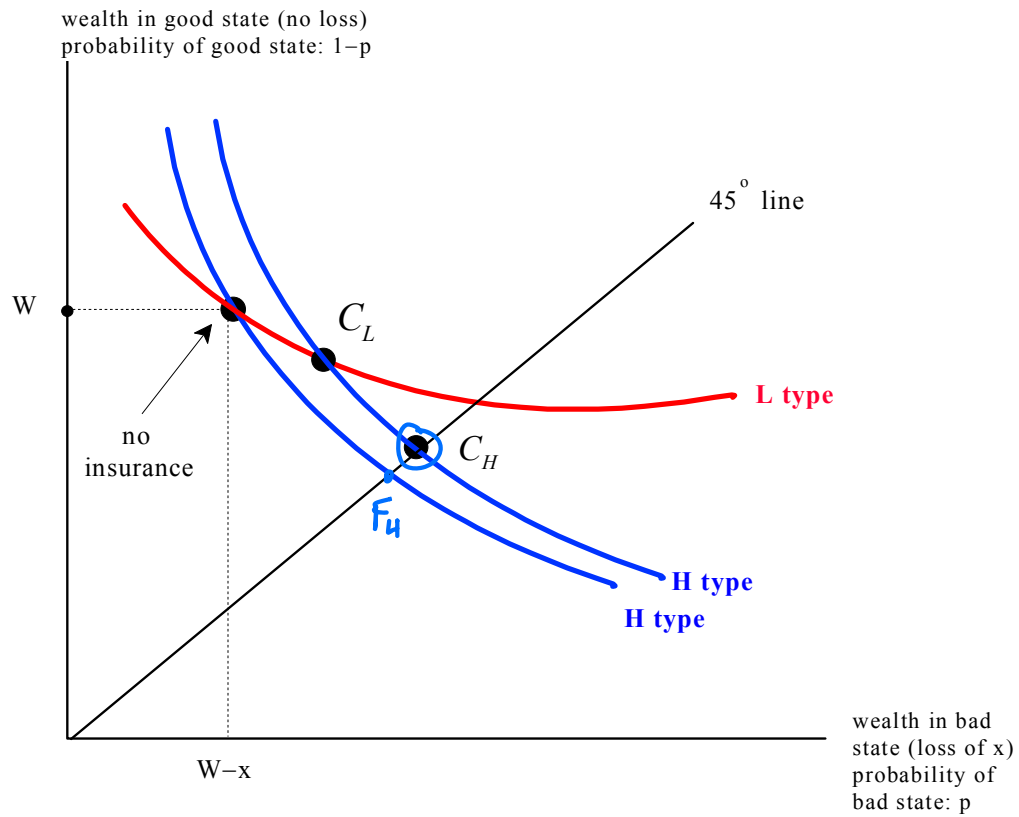
$C_L$  given by intersection of H-indiff. curve through  $C_H$  and L-indiff. curve through  $NI$

Special case :

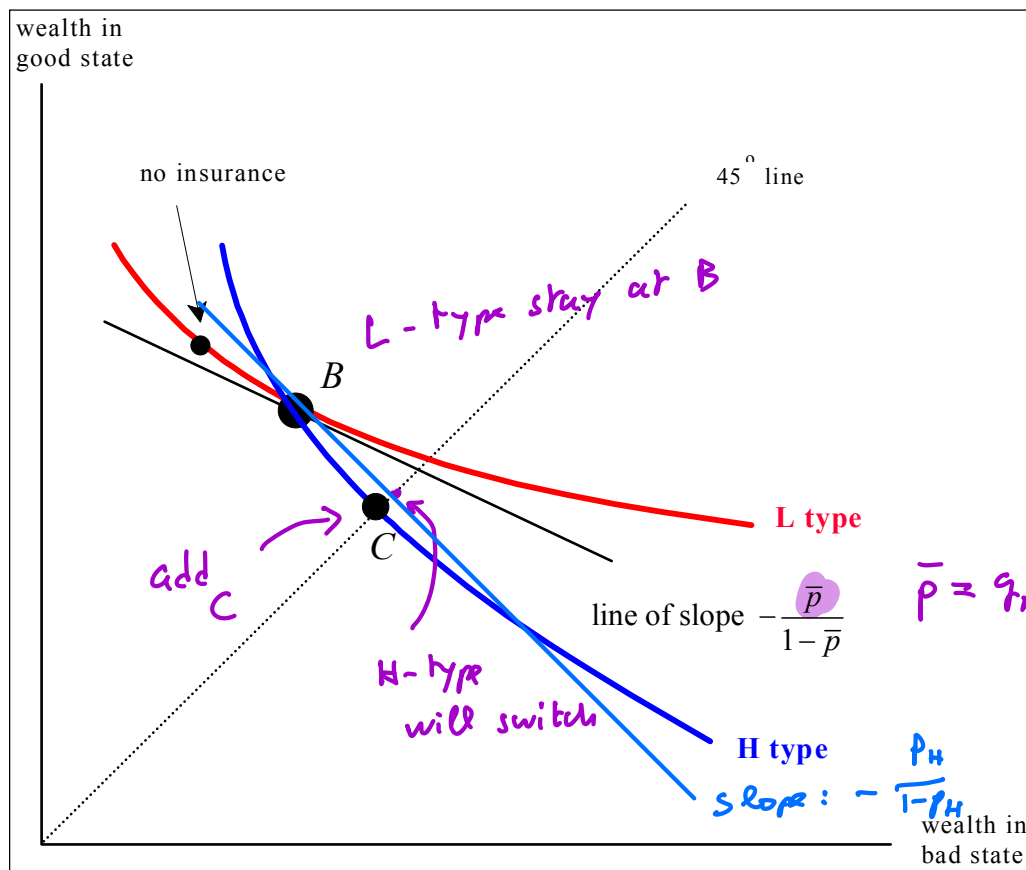
$$Optimal \begin{cases} C_H = (h_H^*, d_H = 0) \\ C_L = (h_L = 0, d_L = e) \end{cases}$$

$(IC_L)$  is not binding: it is always satisfied as a strict inequality.

## Option 1 is a special case of Option 3



**Option 3 yields higher profits than Option 2:  $\pi_2^* < \pi_3^*$**



**In conclusion, the monopolist will always choose Option 3, although in some cases (namely when  $q_H$  is close to 1) the outcome is the same as in Option 1.**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Max}_{h_H} \quad \pi_3 &= q_H N[h_H - p_H e] + (1-q_H) N[h_L - p_L (e - d_L)] \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & U(W - h_H) = p_H U(W - h_L - d_L) + (1-p_H) U(W - h_L) \\ & p_L U(W - e) + (1-p_L) U(W) = p_L U(W - h_L - d_L) + (1-p_L) U(W - h_L) \end{aligned}$$

Solution

$h_L(h_H)$

$d_L(h_H)$

H utility from  $C_H$

H utility from  $C_L$

L utility from NI

Page 2 of 4

$$\text{Max}_{h_H} \quad \pi_3 = q_H N[h_H - p_H e] + (1-q_H) N[h_L(h_H) - p(e - d_L(h_H))]$$

**EXAMPLE.**  $W = 1,600$ ,  $\ell = 700$ ,  $p_H = \frac{1}{5}$ ,  $p_L = \frac{1}{10}$ ,  $U(m) = \sqrt{m}$ .

$h_H^*$  is given by the solution to  $\sqrt{1,600 - h} = \frac{1}{5} \sqrt{1,600 - 700} + \frac{4}{5} \sqrt{1,600}$

$$h_H^* = 156$$

Thus under **Option 1** profits are:  $q_H N [156 - \frac{1}{5} 700]$

$\downarrow h_L^*$

Now **Option 3**. Let  $h_H \in [79, 156]$  be the premium for the full-insurance contract targeted to the  $H$  type To find  $c_L$  solve:

Fix  $h_H$  solve

$$\sqrt{1600 - h_H} = \frac{1}{5} \sqrt{1600 - h_L - d_L} + \frac{4}{5} \sqrt{1600 - h_L}$$

$$\frac{1}{10} \sqrt{1600 - 700} + \frac{9}{10} \sqrt{1600} = \frac{1}{10} \sqrt{1600 - h_L - d_L} + \frac{9}{10} \sqrt{1600 - h_L}$$

$$h_L(h_H) = h_H + 156 \sqrt{1600 - h_H} - 6,084$$

$$d_L(h_H) = 80h_H + 5460 \sqrt{1600 - h_H} - 219,260$$

We can solve the two equations in terms of  $h_H$ :

$$h_L(h_H) = h_H + 156\sqrt{1,600 - h_H} - 6,084$$

$$d_L(h_H) = 80h_H + 5,460\sqrt{1,600 - h_H} - 219,260$$

Then the monopolist will choose  $h_H$  to maximize

$$\text{Max}_{h_H} \pi_3 = q_H N \left[ h_H - \frac{1}{5} 700 \right] + (1 - q_H) N \left[ h_L(h_H) - \frac{1}{10} (700 - d_L(h_H)) \right]$$

This function is strictly concave and  $\left. \frac{d\pi_3}{dh_H} \right|_{h_H=79} = q_H N > 0$  and

$\left. \frac{d\pi_3}{dh_H} \right|_{h_H=156} = \frac{47}{38} q_H - \frac{9}{38}$ . This is negative if and only if  $q_H < \frac{9}{47}$ . Thus,

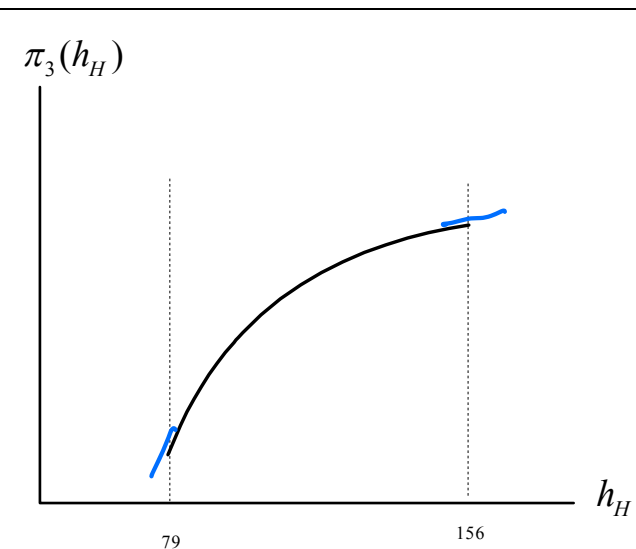


Figure 23a **OPTION 1**

$\boxed{q_H \geq \frac{9}{47}}$ : the optimal solution is to offer only the full insurance contract at premium  $h_H^* = 156$  (Option 1)

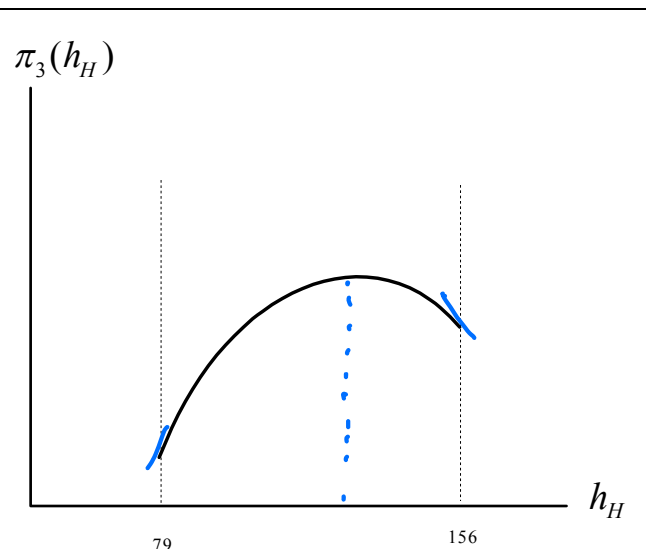


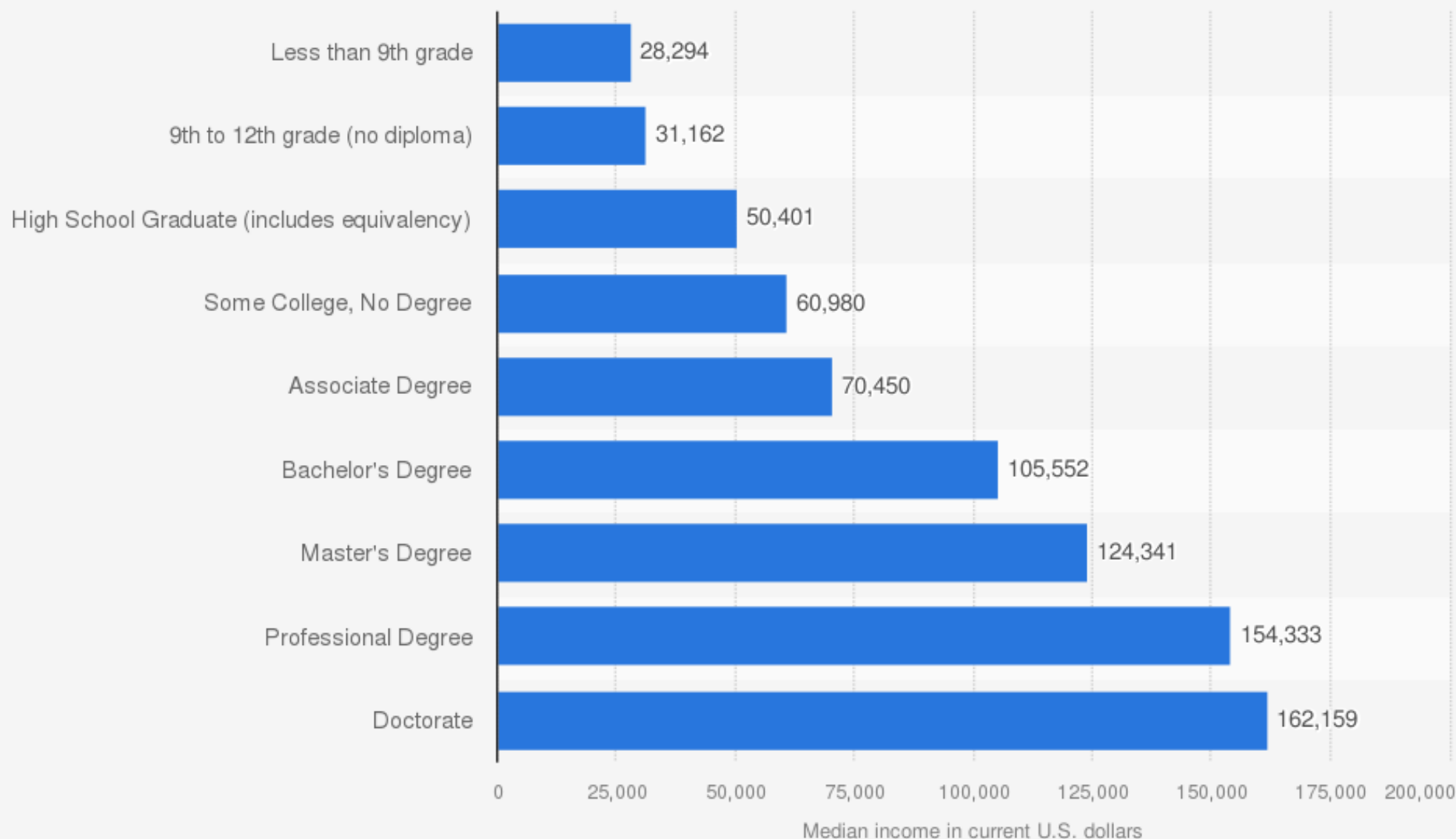
Figure 23b

$\boxed{q_H < \frac{9}{47}}$ : the optimal solution is to offer two contracts (Option 3)

## **U.S. median household income 2021, by education level**

Less than 9th grade	\$28,294
9th to 12th grade (no diploma)	\$31,162
High School Graduate	\$50,401
Some College, No Degree	\$60,980
Associate Degree	\$70,450
Bachelor's Degree	\$105,552
Master's Degree	\$124,341
Professional Degree	\$154,333
Doctorate	\$162,159

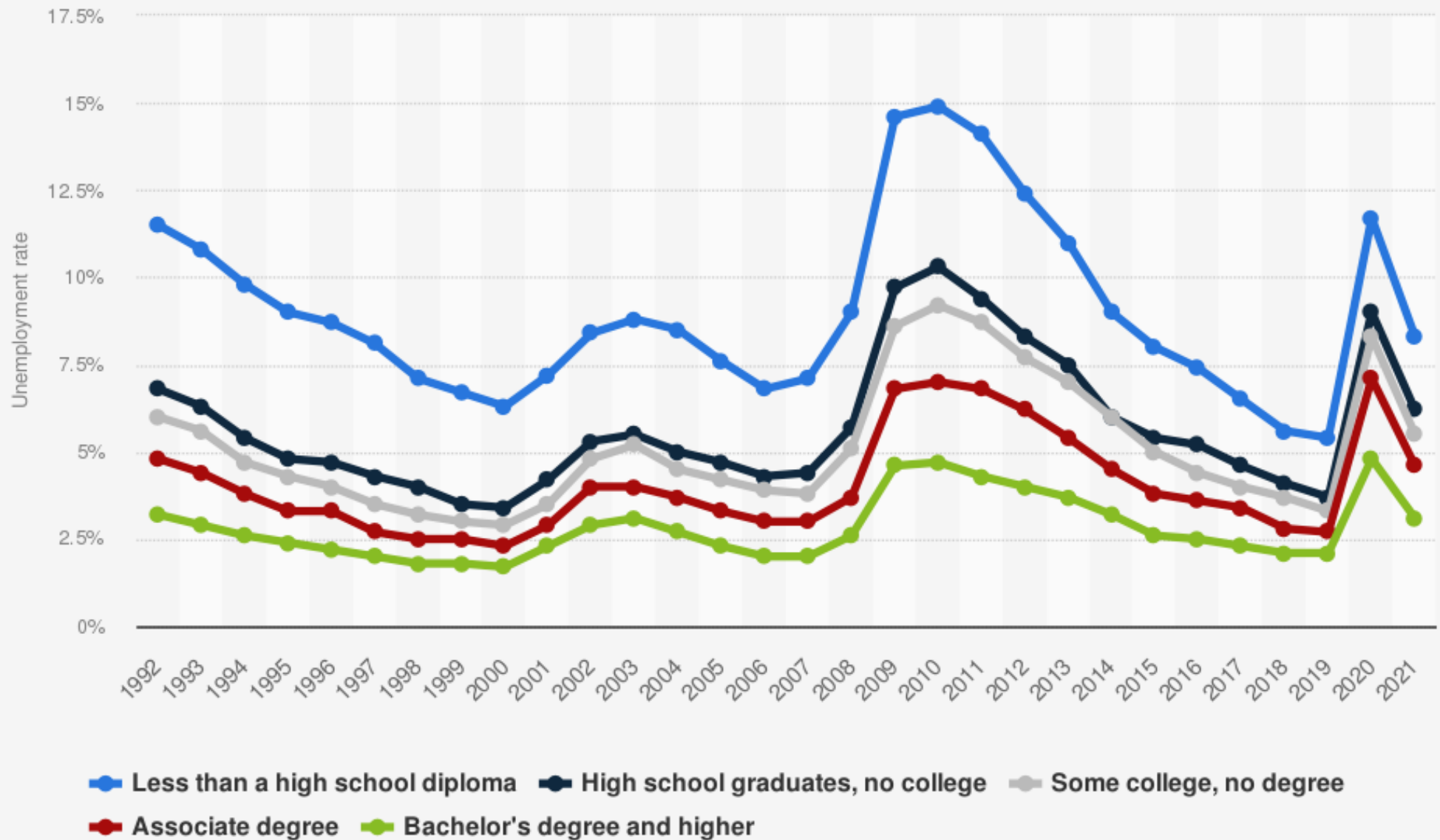
## Median household income in the United States in 2021, by educational attainment of householder (in U.S. dollars)



Source  
US Census Bureau  
© Statista 2022

Additional Information:  
United States; US Census Bureau; 2021

# Unemployment rate in the United States from 1992-2021, by level of education



Source  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
© Statista 2022

Additional Information:  
United States; 1992 to 2021; 25 years and older



Suppose that there are two groups of individuals:

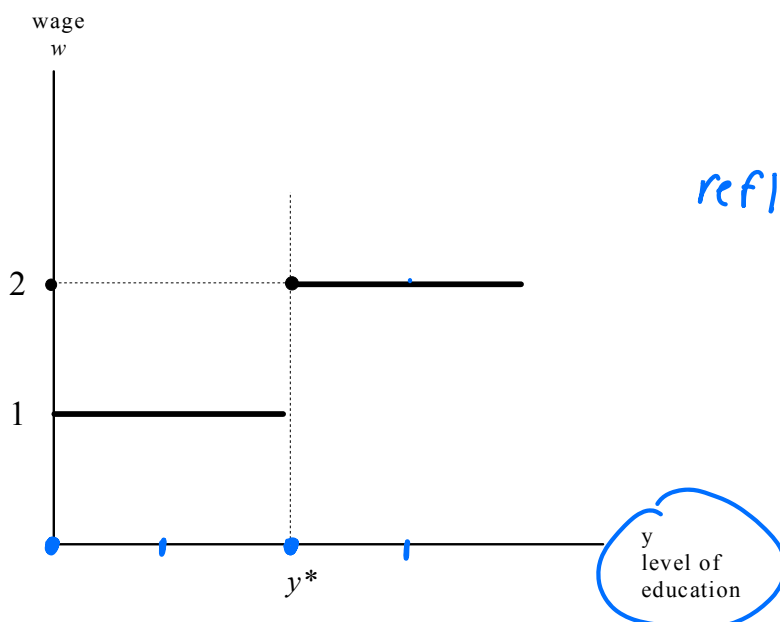
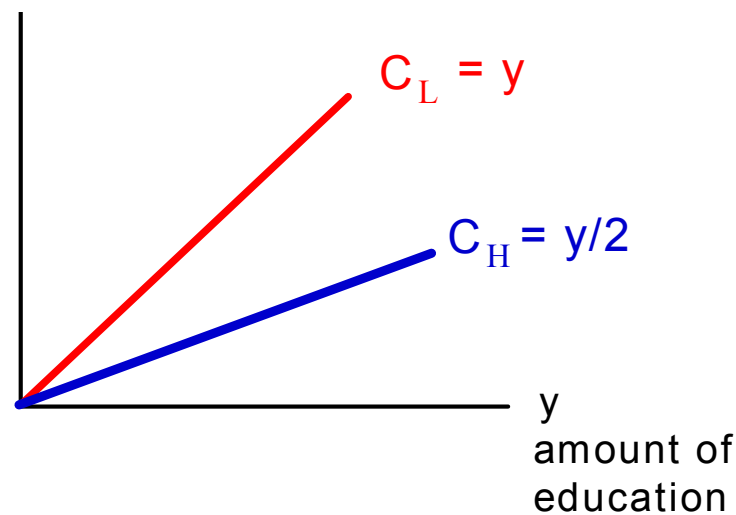
Group L	Group H
Marginal productivity = 1	Marginal productivity = 2
Proportion in population: $q_L$	Proportion in population: $1 - q_L$

*Constant, not a function of education*

with  $0 < q_L < 1$ .

*Constant*

Cost of acquiring  
education



*reflects wrong  
beliefs of  
the employer*

For a GROUP L individual

If choose  $y = 0$  get  $w = 1$

pay  $C = 0$

net wage =  $1 - 0 = 1$

will choose  $y = 0$

if  $1 > 2 - y^*$

$$y^* > 1$$

If choose  $y = y^*$  get  $w = 2$

pay  $C = y^*$

net wage =  $2 - y^*$

For a GROUP H individual

If choose  $y = 0$  get  $w = 1$

pay  $C = 0$

net wage = 1

will choose  $y^*$

if

$$2 - \frac{y^*}{2} > 1$$

$$1 > \frac{y^*}{2}$$

$$y^* < 2$$

If choose  $y = y^*$  get  $w = 2$

pay  $C = \frac{y^*}{2}$

net wage =  $2 - \frac{y^*}{2}$

$1 < y^* < 2$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} L \text{ choose } y = 0 \\ H \text{ " } y = y^* \end{array} \right.$

Separating signaling equilibrium

Can a signaling equilibrium be Pareto inefficient?

everybody  
 $y=0$

after government  
intervention

L-type :

before government intervention

$$y=0 \quad w=1$$

better off

$$U_L = 1$$

<

$$w = (1-q_H)1 + q_H 2$$

H-type :

$$y = y^* \quad w = 2$$

$$U_H = 2 - \frac{y^*}{2}$$

>

$$w = (1-q_H)1 + q_H 2$$

possible that

$$1 - q_H + 2q_H$$

$$q_H + 1 > 2 - \frac{y^*}{2} \quad ?$$

Starting point

$$1 < y^* < 2$$

$$2q_H + 2 > 4 - y^*$$

$$y^* > 2 - 2q_H = 2(1 - q_H)$$

⊕

1

$$\text{e.g. } q_H = \frac{1}{2}$$

Signal

can be changed

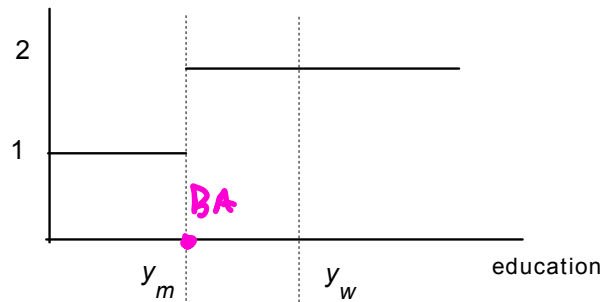
index

cannot be changed

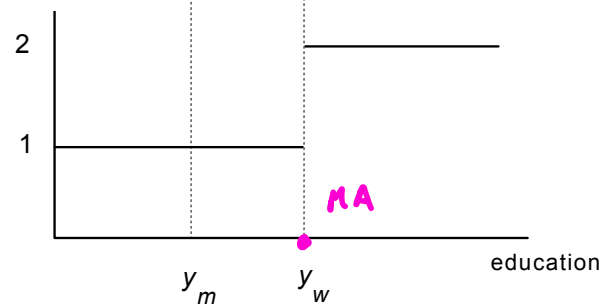
# Index vs signal

	Women, L	Women, H	Men, L	Men, H
productivity	1	2	1	2
proportion	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
Cost of acquiring $y$ units of education	$y$	$\frac{y}{2}$	$y$	$\frac{y}{2}$

wage schedule for men



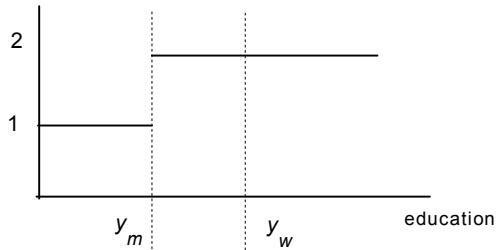
wage schedule for women



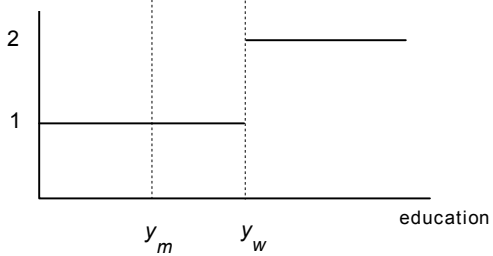
	Women, L	Women, H	Men, L	Men, H
productivity	1	2	1	2
proportion	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
Cost of acquiring $y$ units of education	$y$	$\frac{y}{2}$	$y$	$\frac{y}{2}$

### MEN's CALCULATIONS

wage schedule for men



wage schedule for women



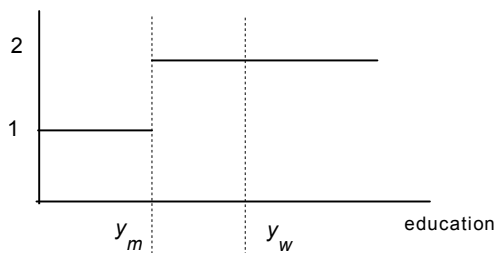
$1 < \gamma_m < 2$

- L men choose  $\gamma = 0$
- H men choose  $\gamma = \gamma_m$

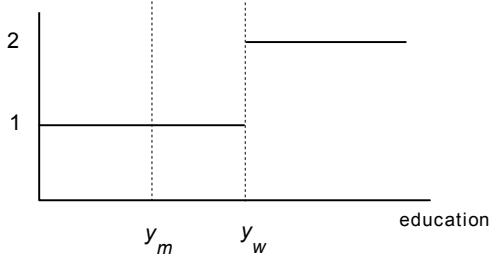
productivity	1	2	1	2
proportion	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
Cost of acquiring $y$ units of education	$y$	$\frac{y}{2}$	$y$	$\frac{y}{2}$

### WOMEN'S CALCULATIONS

wage schedule for men



wage schedule for women



$1 < \gamma_w < 2$

- L women choose  $\gamma = 0$
- H women choose  $\gamma = \gamma_w$

$$1 < \gamma_m < \gamma_w < 2$$