

AGEING VISION

From glaucoma to cataracts, incidence rates for a range of eye conditions worsen as people get older. An ageing population means a growing number of people will suffer from some form of sight loss in the future

Prevalence of sight loss or blindness by condition

Number of cases per 1,000 people in the UK

◆ 0 ◆ 0.1-5 ◆ 6-10 ◆ 11-20 ◆ 21-50 ◆ 51-100 ◆ 101-200 ◆ 201+ M = Male F = Female

AGE	DIABETIC RETINOGRAPHY		GLAUCOMA		AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION		CATARACTS		REFRACTIVE ERROR		OTHER	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
15-19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	2.2	0.1	0.1
20-24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.8	2.4	0.1	0.1
25-29	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.9	2.6	0.2	0.2
30-34	0.3	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.7	2.5	0.2	0.2
35-39	0.7	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.2	2.2	0.2	0.2
40-44	1.2	0.7	1.3	1	0	0	0.7	0.7	4.4	6.1	0.6	0.7
45-49	1.2	0.7	1.3	1	0	0	0.7	0.7	6.7	8.6	0.8	0.9
50-54	3.2	2.1	1.3	1.3	0	0	1.5	2	6.7	8.7	1	1.1
55-59	3.2	2.1	1.3	1.3	1	1	2.5	3.6	9.7	11.7	1.4	1.6
60-64	3.2	2.1	2.5	2.3	1	1	4.1	6	17.2	19.9	2.2	2.4
65-69	5.4	3	4.7	4.1	3.8	8.4	7.2	11.3	25.8	25.5	3.8	4.1
70-74	5.4	3	6.9	5	14.7	8.8	9.7	18	32.7	40	5.5	5.7
75-79	6.6	1.9	8	5.4	19	23.3	14.6	27.8	34.3	66.1	6.6	9.1
80-84	7.4	3.2	17.9	15.6	49.2	72.8	28.4	44.7	48.1	94.1	12.1	16.4
85-89	2	6.3	27.3	25.7	94.7	140.6	71.5	98.8	84.1	136.2	22.4	28.1
90+	0.3	3	9.6	36.6	191	265.6	114.4	119.2	76.3	250	31.3	41.8

1.6m

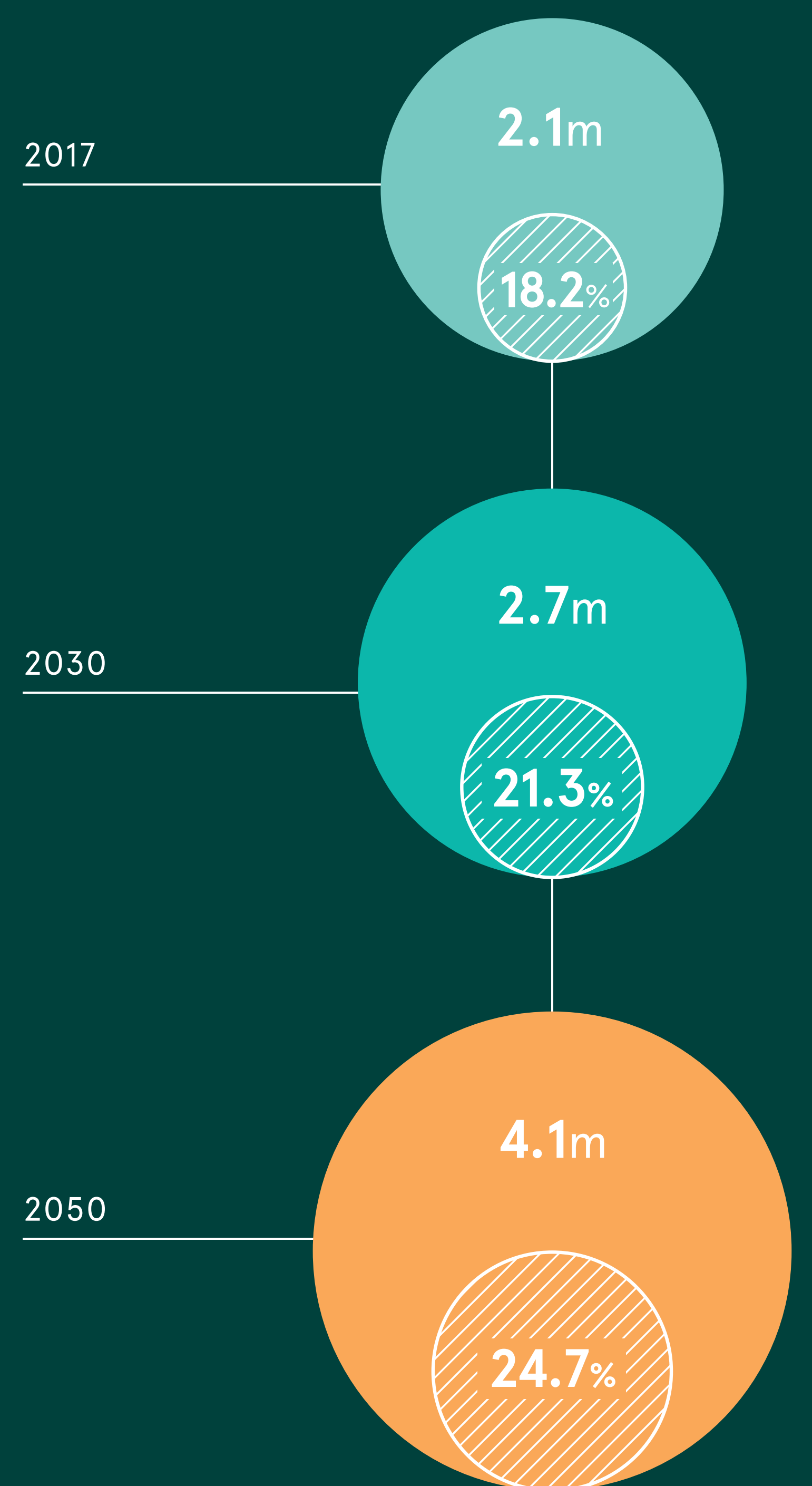
people aged over 65 in the UK are living with sight loss

80%

of the total number of people with sight loss or blindness are aged 65 or older

UK sight loss predictions

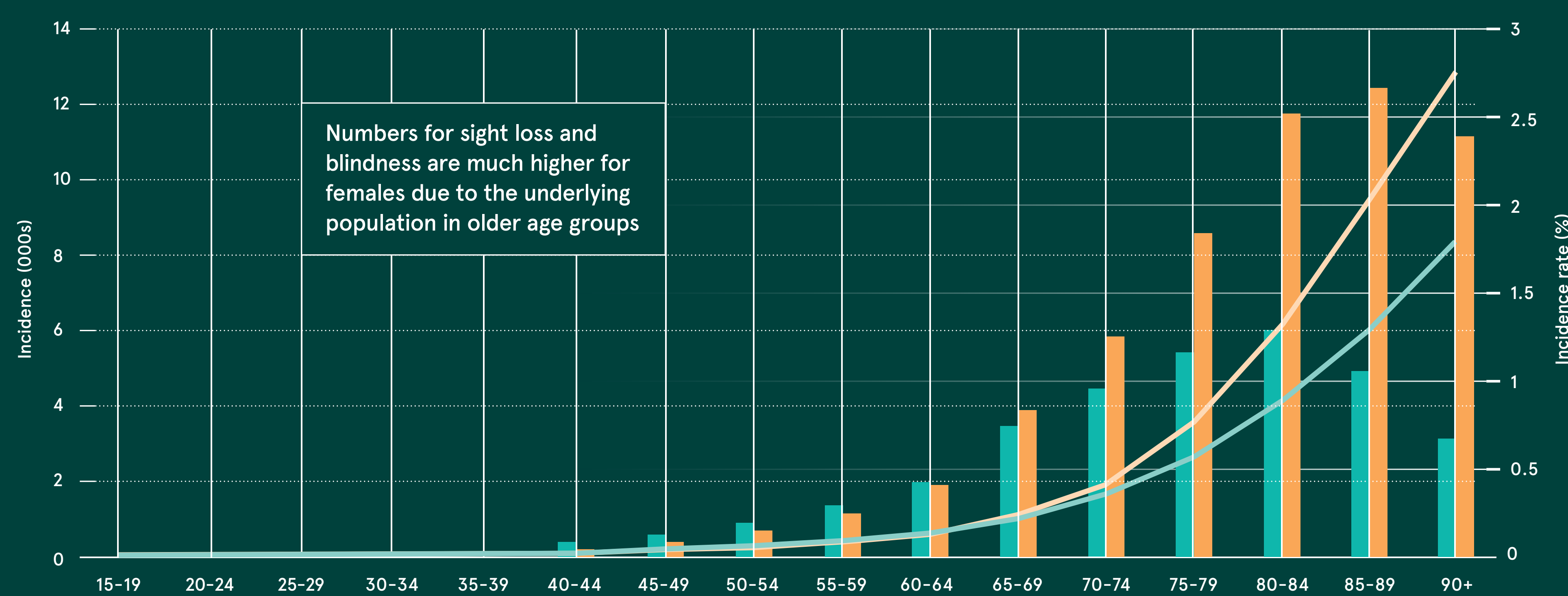
◆ Number of people living with sight loss
 ◆ Percentage of population over 65



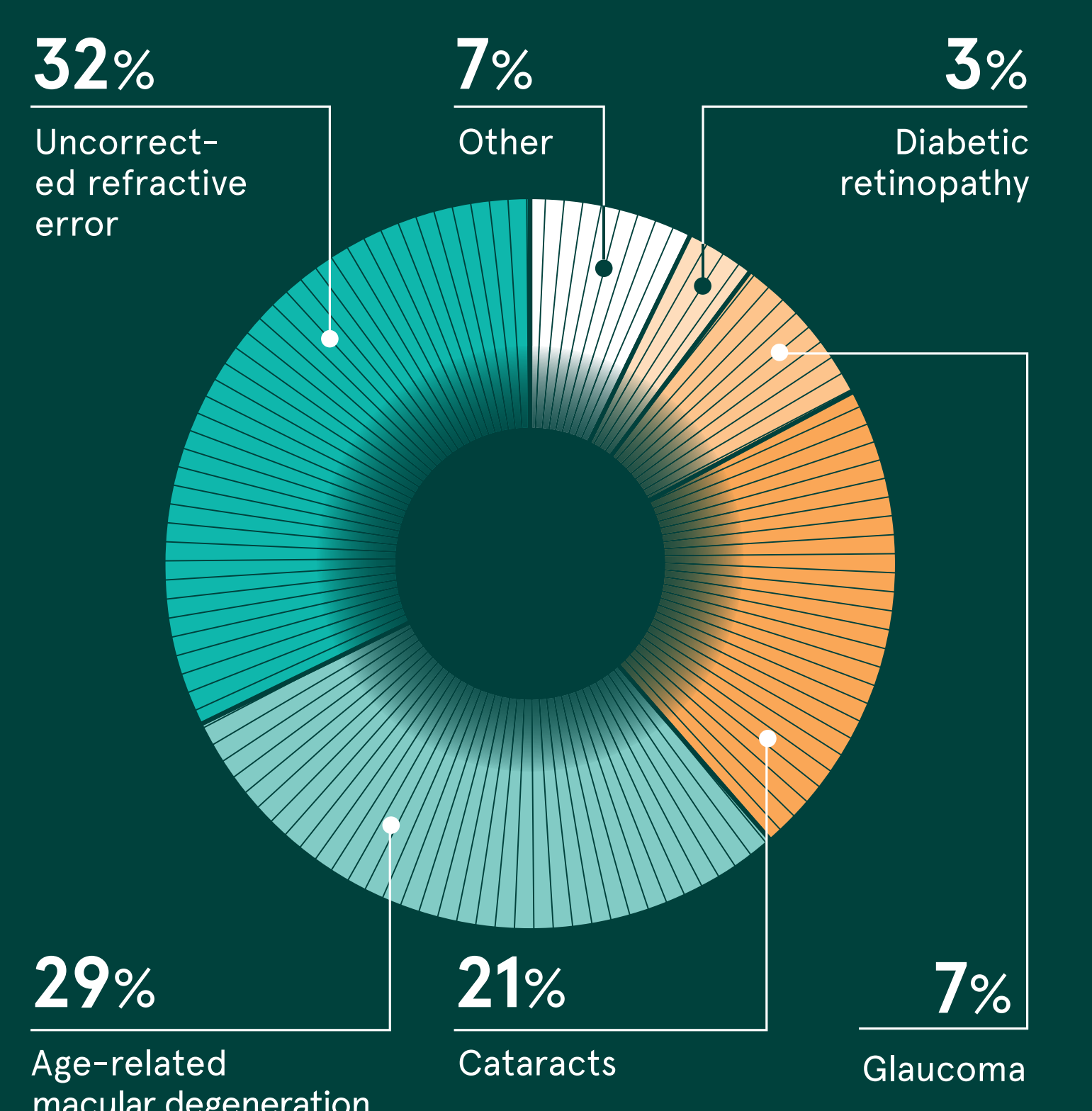
Number of people in the UK with permanent sight loss or blindness

Number in thousands and incidence per 100,000 people, 2016 to 2017

Incidence: ◆ Male ◆ Female Incidence rate: — Male — Female



Causes of sight loss for those aged 65 and over



Office for National Statistics/Royal National Institute of Blind People 2017