

Close-Up On Contact Lenses

If you wear contact lenses or are thinking about making the switch, you're in good company. Contact lenses provide clear vision to approximately **37 million Americans**.



Who's wearing contact lenses, anyway?

75%

of American adults use some type of vision correction



16%

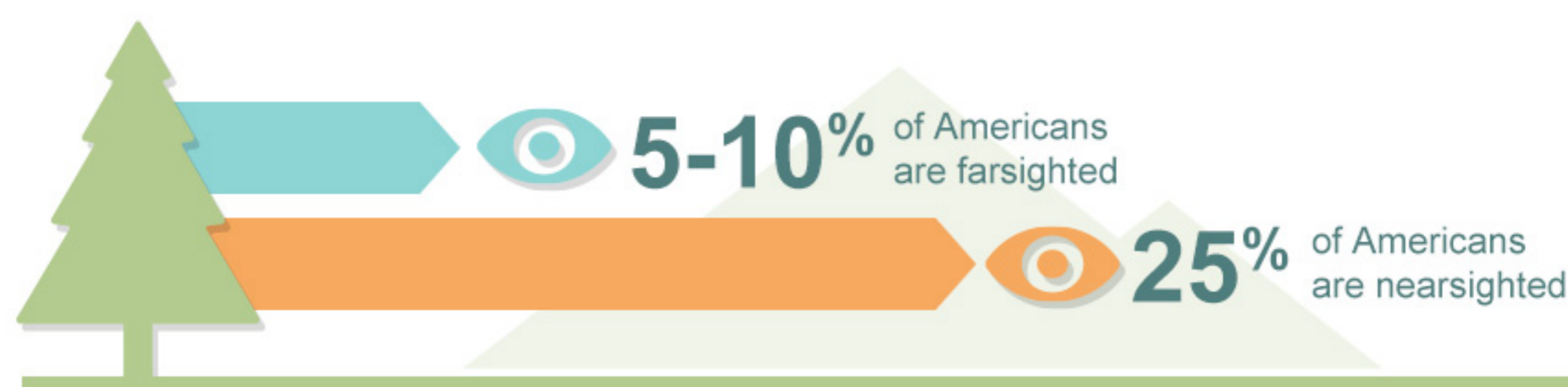
wear contact lenses full or part-time

64%

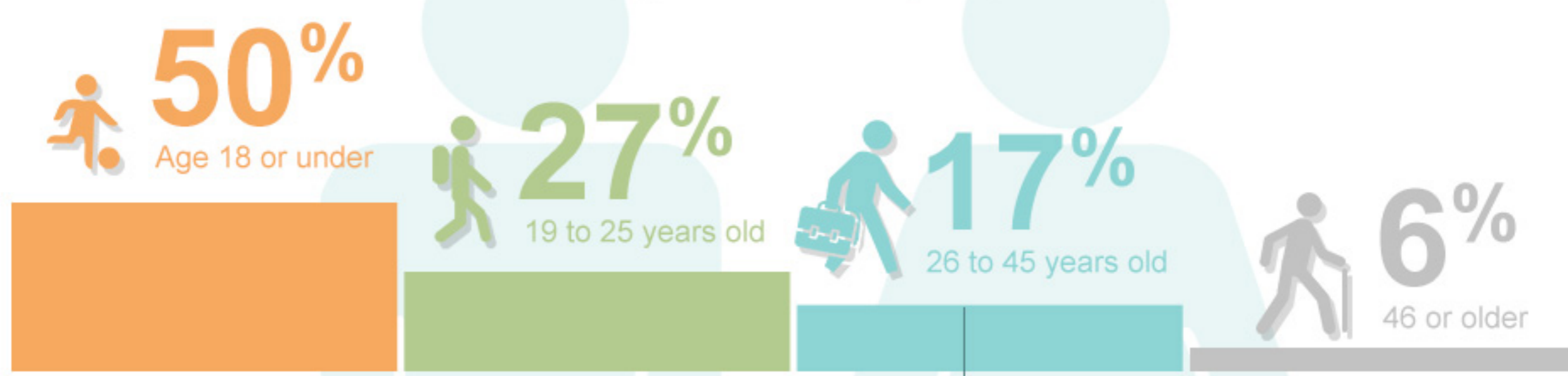
wear eyeglasses full or part-time

Seeing fuzzy?

You're not alone. Refractive errors like **myopia (nearsightedness)** and **hyperopia (farsightedness)** are pretty common.



Half of all contact lens wearers started wearing contacts by age 18



The average age of contact lens wearers is **31 years old**

33%

of contact lens wearers are male



67%

of contact lens wearers are female

Fun facts about contacts



Now some **extended wear silicone hydrogel lenses** can be worn day and night for up to 30 days and nights

Early glass contact lenses could only be worn for a few hours



500 YEARS OF HISTORY AT A GLANCE

Though they might seem a recent phenomenon, contact lenses actually go back a long way:



1508

The concept of contact lenses can be traced back to **Leonardo da Vinci**, who noted that when you stick your face in water, you see things differently

1887

The first successful contact lens was made from heavy brown glass



1938

The first all-plastic contact lens was made



1971

Soft contact lenses were approved by the FDA



1995

Disposable contact lenses were introduced



1999

Silicone hydrogel contact lenses became available in the U.S.

