

Re: How long do World Bank retirees live?

This is an interesting result, but beware, this is not a normal distribution. Instead it is skewed towards younger ages. This has the effect of dragging the mean towards the skewed end (in this case younger ages). Try using the median instead, it will be more informative of the central tendency. In fact, the peak of the distribution is much closer to the 85 years that is expected.

So why is this distribution skewed? There are several reasons that come to mind. First, you say that someone reaching 65 today will live to approximately 85 years. Well, people reaching 65 today will not have had time to reach old age if the measurement is only of those who died in the last six years. There has not been enough time to populate the upper half of the distribution. Second, those who retired many years ago will have a shorter life expectancy.

When did these people retire? Certainly the man who made it to 104 years reached 65 at a time of lower life expectancy. So the data are actually multiple overlapping distributions, each one peaking at a different age. Once again, the distributions will be missing data for older people because they are still alive and well and are not contributing to the statistics.

In conclusion, there isn't anything wrong with World Bank retirees. They are likely living at least as long as the national average. But the distribution not normal and is skewed towards younger ages, so the median would be more informative than the mean.