Using data from the National Longitudinal Survey, the German Socio-Economic Panel, the Canadian Intergenerational Income Data, and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics; this study finds a strong association between estimated intergenerational earnings elasticities and the age at which fathers and sons are observed. In all four data sets the age-elasticity relationship (which is positive for sons and negative for fathers) is especially strong among fathers; estimates are cut in half as the fathers' ages at observation increase by fewer than fifteen years. These effects are consistent with increasing earnings variance over the life cycle predicted by the human capital investment models of Mincer and Ben-Porath. Furthermore, an examination of published estimates of intergenerational earnings elasticities shows that controls for the average age of fathers explain about one-third of the variance among estimates.