Working Paper No. 746

Keep in mind

The series Working Papers on Economics is published by the Office for Economic Studies at the *Banco de la República* (Central Bank of *Colombia*). The works published are provisional, and their authors are fully responsible for the opinions expressed in them, as well as for possible mistakes. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Banco de la República or its Board of Directors.

AUTHOR OR EDITOR

Gerson Javier Pérez

In this paper I explore the potential link between Plan Colombia and violence with a new perspective. I focus the analysis only on the first three running years of the program (2000-2002) in order to avoid the overlapping effect with a security policy started in 2002/2003. This paper exploits the differential in the success of the program among the different regions to identify the potential side effects on homicides and violent deaths. Results show that, although consistently negative estimates, no-significant effects are observed on homicides. On the other hand, I found evidence of increases in the number of violent deaths for women living in urban areas, and an opposite negative effect for men living in rural areas. These findings are fully consistent across different specifications of the model, the cut-off end of the

program, and the classification of the regions' criteria.

The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and not necessarily of the Banco de la República, the Colombian Central Bank, nor of its Board of Directors. Any remaining errors are my own.